



Romans 5:17 (NIV)

For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of *grace* and of the gift of righteousness reign in *life* through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Staying Grounded in Grace Hebrews 12:15-29

Hebrews 12:15-29 (NIV)

"See to it that no-one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. See that no-one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son. Afterwards, as you know, when he wanted to inherit this blessing, he was rejected. He could bring about no change of mind, though he sought the blessing with tears. You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come ...to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven? At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, 'Once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens.' Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe."

I. An Unforgettable Error

Verse 15, 16 – "See to it that no-one misses the grace of God and that no bitter root grows up to cause trouble and defile many. See that no-one is sexually immoral, or is godless like Esau, who for a single meal sold his inheritance rights as the oldest son."

- The Root of Bitterness: *Hurt and Resentment*

- The Fruit of Bitterness: *Anger and Hostility*
- The Cure for Bitterness: *Repentance and Forgiveness*

Ephesians 4:31-32 (HCSB)

“All bitterness, anger and wrath, insult and slander must be removed from you, ...And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ.:

“It would seem that Our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea. We are far too easily pleased.”
– C.S. Lewis

II. An Unimaginable City

Verse 18-28 – “You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us be thankful, and so worship God acceptably with reverence and awe...”

- A Congregation of Joy and Freedom

“Come we that love the Lord and let our joys be known. Join in a song of sweet accord, and thus surround the throne.”
“We’re marching to Zion. Beautiful, beautiful Zion; We’re marching upward to Zion, the beautiful city of God.”
– Isaac Watts

- A Kingdom of Security and Gratitude

III. An Unsurpassed Encouragement

Verse 25 – “See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks. If they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, how much less will we, if we turn away from him who warns us from heaven?”

Matthew 7:24 (NIV)

“Everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock.”

