

GODLY FEAR
“OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE”

Page 1

INTRODUCTION

- A. READ BEFORE LESSON: (Exodus 19:16-20; then Exodus 20:18-21).
 - B. The writer continues his exhortations.
 - C. We are encouraged by all of these witnesses (Chapter 11).
 - D. Look to Jesus the author and perfecter of our faith.
 - E. Consider what Christ suffered. Our example:
 - 1. For the joy set before him....
 - a. Joy was not in shame, suffering and death...
 - b. But in what it would bring on the other side.
 - 2. Let us, as did Christ, look beyond the immediate sufferingTo the blessings that will come.
-

APPLICATION

- A. A CALL TO SERVE GOD ACCEPTABLY:
 - B. THIS EXHORTATION IS BASED:
 - 1. First, on the supreme example and complete sufficiency of Jesus Himself as the author (pioneer) and perfecter of our faith (vv 1-3).
 - 2. Second, on the positive purpose and profit of trials under the providence of a loving heavenly Father (vv 4-11).
 - 3. Thirdly, on the dangers of the greater (and even fatal) failure to which the slack and careless expose themselves (vv 12-17).
 - 4. Fourthly, on the amazing privileges of grace to be enjoyed under the new covenant (vv 18-24).
 - 5. Finally, on the impending and inescapable consummation of God's dealing with men (vv 25-29).
-

CONTRASTS

- A. That which was experienced by those under the Old Covenant (Ex. 20)
 - 1. Those things were earthly, visible, terrifying and forbidding.
 - 2. They stood in the presence of a tangible mountain and actual burning fire.
 - 3. The place was overshadowed by clouds and intense darkness and the violence of storm.
 - 4. The whole experience was so terrifying that the people asked that it might cease (Ex. 20:18).
- B. HOW DIFFERENT is the experience of drawing nigh to God in which we as Christians are called to share.
 - 1. These are heavenly, unseen, all glorious and all gracious.
 - 2. We come to the true mountain and city of God, where God actually dwells; to hosts of angels in festal array (v. 22).

GODLY FEAR
“OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE”

Page 2

3. To the church of the privileged with heavenly inheritance.
 4. To the all sovereign God as their Vindicator.
 5. And to Jesus as Mediator!
-

GODLY FEAR

- A. Review opening remarks about Exodus 20. Also vv 18-24 .
 - B. READ...MALACHI chapter One.
 1. Offer polluted bread upon the altar.
 2. “Ye offer the blind for sacrifice.
 3. “That which was taken by violence, the lame and the sick”
 4. “And sacrifice unto the Lord a blemished thing (1:14).
 - C. GOD’S RESPONSE:
 1. “Present it now unto thy governor, will be pleased”
 2. “I have no pleasure in you”
 - D. I AM GREAT KING SAYETH JEHOVAH OF HOSTS, AND MY NAME IS TERRIBLE AMONG THE GENTILES”
- “WHERE IS MY FEAR?” v. 6**
- E. Malachi describes a people who had lost their fear and respect for God - And their actions showed their lack of respect and reverence for Him.
 - F. All we need to do is ask....what happened to them?
-

GODLY FEAR

- A. An obvious lacking on the part of man today is for fear and respect for God.
 1. Just as with Israel - their life showed their lack of regard for God..
 2. Even so today....
 - B. It is not to suggest that we should be terrified of God...
 - C. BECAUSE GOD IS LOVE.
 - D. BUT WHEN Israel lost their fear and reverence for God they were destroyed.
 - E. We need to remember that not only is our God a God of Love - He is also **A CONSUMING FIRE** (Hebrews 12:29).
-