

20 – THE FINAL WARNING (HEBREWS 12:12-29)

I. The Call to Renewal (Hebrews 12:12-17)

A. Strengthen Yourself (Hebrews 12:12)

- In the face of being tired, they were to strengthen themselves.
- In the face of fear, they were to strengthen themselves.

B. Straighten Your Paths (Hebrews 12:13)

- They are to make an effort to make sure the path they are taking is straight.
- Making an effort in this area will not disable the weak, rather it will bring healing.

C. Pursue Peace (Hebrews 12:14a)

- They are to make an effort to pursue peace with everyone.

D. Pursue Holiness (Hebrews 12:14b)

- They are to make an effort to pursue personal holiness.
- This is due to the fact that they are aware that no one can see God apart from holiness.

E. Self-Examination (Hebrews 12:15-17)

1. Examine Each Other (Hebrews 12:15a)

- They are encouraged to watch over each other so that no one misses the benefits of grace.

2. The Issue of Bitterness (12:15b)

- They are to be aware of each other in case bitterness emerges in relationships.
- This bitterness will create trouble and cause believers to be corrupted.

3. Purity (Hebrews 12:16a)

- They are to be aware of each other in the area of sexual purity.
- They are not to follow the example of Esau.

4. The Example of Esau (Hebrews 12:16b-17)

- For personal gratification, Esau despised and sold out his standing.

Understanding Our Faith: The Letter to the Hebrews

- His actions resulted in his rejection.
- No amount of tearful pleading could bring about a change of his rejection.

II. The Warning (Hebrews 12:18-29)

A. The Old Covenant (Hebrews 12:18-21)

- The writer reminds them that they did not come to Mount Sinai.
- Fear marked the people as they approached the mountain.
- The mountain represents the old covenant.

B. The New Covenant (Hebrews 12:22-24)

- The writer reminds his readers that they have come into presence of the heavenlies.
- Their approach to the heavenlies was through Jesus the mediator of new covenant.

C. Don't Refuse Him (Hebrews 12:25)

- The readers are warned not to refuse the new covenant.
- Those who refused the old covenant did not escape the judgment of God.

D. The Final Judgment (Hebrews 12:26-27)

- The writer points out that there is a final judgment that is coming.

E. The Response of Believers (Hebrews 12:28)

- The readers are called to be thankful that they will receive the kingdom.
- They should serve God with reverence and awe.

F. The God of Judgment (Hebrews 12:29)

- God is a consuming fire, which reflects the nature of his judgment.