

Are you wondering what it means to be a Christian?

Jesus said, "All that the Father gives me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will never drive away" (John 6:37). Jesus also said, "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:44).

If you are feeling drawn to Christ, it is because God the Father is drawing you; it is not a desire we can or will create within ourselves. This also means that there is no sin too great to be forgiven, and no past too sinful to be overcome. You can trust Christ to receive you because it is God the Father who is drawing you to find true repentance and receive the gift of faith. You can know a new life in Jesus Christ.

We would love to talk and pray with you about this or any other spiritual needs you may have. Please see Pastor Mark or one of our elders after today's service to do so.

Are you interested in Baptism or Church Membership?

Please indicate your interest on the back of your Connection Card and Pastor Mark or one of the elders will be in touch with you this week to set up a time to meet with you.

EXHORTATIONS AND WARNINGS

Hebrews 12:4-29

Main Thought: In Hebrews 12:4-29, we discover some exhortations and warnings which we need to take seriously.

1. THE LORD _____ THOSE HE LOVES. (vv 4-13)

- 1) The struggle against _____ is real. (v 4)
- 2) The Word of God teaches that out of _____, God disciplines all His children. (vv 5-10)
- 3) God's discipline is _____ I but, in the end, produces a harvest of righteousness. (v 11)
- 4) Therefore, persevere in the _____ life and help each other. (vv 12-13)

2. FINISHING THE RACE _____ (vv 14-17)

- 1) Pursue _____ with everyone. (v 14)
- 2) Pursue _____ (v 14)
- 3) Make sure no one falls short of the _____ of God. (v 15)
- 4) Make sure no _____ roots grow up to cause trouble and defile many. (v 15)
- 5) See that no one is sexually _____. (v 16)
- 6) Don't follow the _____ example of Esau. (vv 16-17)

3. IF YOU HAVE TRUSTED IN JESUS, YOU HAVE NOT COME TO THE TERRORS OF THE LAW, BUT TO THE JOYS OF THE _____ (vv 18-29)

- 1) The _____ of the law. (vv 18-21)
- 2) The _____ of the new covenant. (vv 22-24)
- 3) The unshakeable _____. (vv 25-28)

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH GROUPS

1. Read Hebrews 12:4-29 and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal God's truth to you as you read.

2. What do you learn about God (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) from this passage?

3. What do you learn about human beings/yourself from this passage?

4. What verse meant the most to you? Why?

5. What didn't you understand in the passage? What answers did you find for your questions?

6. What application(s) for your life do you take away from this passage?

Digging deeper:

7. What do you learn about the Lord's discipline in verses 4-13?

8. What are some ways you can think of or have experienced that the Lord has disciplined His children?

9. What is the purpose and result of God's discipline in a believer's life?

10. What does it mean to be holy? How do we obtain holiness and pursue holiness in our lives? Why is it that "without holiness no one will see the Lord"?

11. What sinful behaviors are called out in verses 14-17 that make a person unholy?

12. Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion are used as spiritual metaphors in verses 18-27. What are the differences?

13. What exhortations are given in verses 28?

14. What does it mean that our God is a consuming fire?