

LIVING BY HOPE IN CHRIST

Lesson Aim: Teach the students to live by hope in Christ for the future, so they can endure in the present.

I. MODELS OF FAITH GIVE HOPE TO BELIEVERS – Heb 12:1-4

A. Be like the champions of faith – 12:1

1. Lay aside every weight. Love not the world or the things in the world. Love Christ and the things of Christ. You cannot love the world and love Christ, too.
2. Lay aside the entangling sin. Identify the sin that steals your love from Christ. Confess and forsake it. Do not let it cause you to stumble and ruin your testimony for Christ.
3. Run the agonizing race with endurance. Run the race with hope in the glory that you will receive at the finish line in Heaven.

B. Be like Jesus, the Author and Finisher of faith – 12:2-4

1. Keep focused on the hope of joy that you will receive when you arrive in Heaven. This will enable you to endure the “cross” you are called to carry – 12:2.
2. Despise the shame that worldly sinners cast in your face, knowing you will be exalted by Christ when the race is finished – 12:2.
3. Contemplate Jesus’ death to keep from growing weary and faint when sinners attack you – 12:3-4.

II. DISCIPLINE OF THE FATHER GIVES HOPE TO BELIEVERS – Heb 12:5-11

- A. God disciplines those that He loves – 12:5-6.** God does not seek your destruction, but He seeks your development. He wants you to succeed. Being loved by God gives **hope** to the believer.
- B. God disciplines His own children – 12:7-8.** God is very concerned about the welfare of His own children. Being a child of God gives **hope** to the believer.
- C. God disciplines His children to share His holiness – 2:9-11.** God’s holiness will produce the peaceful fruit of righteousness in you. Having the holiness of God gives **hope** to the believer.

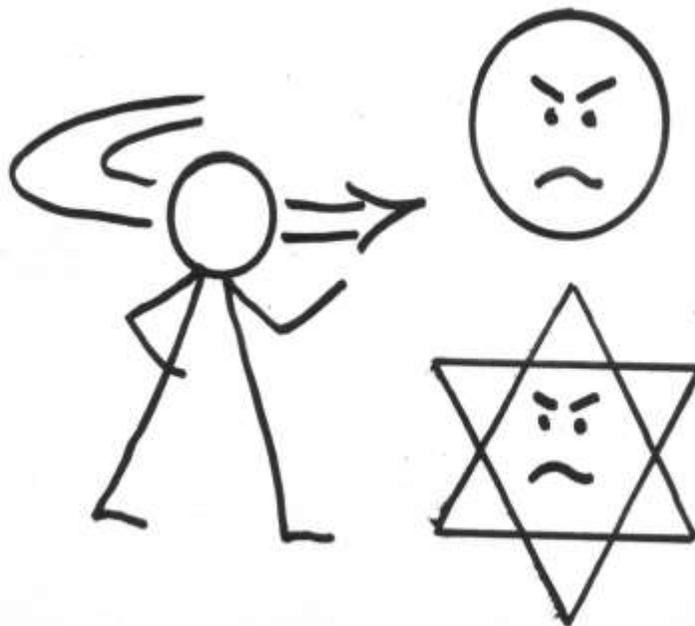
III. ACCEPTANCE OF DISCIPLINE GIVES HOPE TO BELIEVERS – Heb 12:12-17

- A. Strengthen the hands and knees – 12:12.** Determine to be strong in your spiritual race by hope in God’s grace, even when He disciplines you. Put your **hope** in God’s grace to make you strong.
- B. Straighten the paths – 12:13.** Remove things in your life that cause you to stumble in your spiritual race. Put your **hope** in God’s Word and obey His instructions to give you victory over sins.
- C. Seek peace and sanctification – 12:14.** Pursue peace with all men, and holiness in your life. Do not be disqualified in your spiritual race. Put your **hope** in God’s Spirit to give you peace and holiness.
- D. Spot trouble in the church – 12:15-17.** Watch out for the spiritual welfare of others in your church and with love keep them from sin. Put your hope in God’s love to make you a blessing to other believers.
 1. Watch so that no one falls short of the grace of God – 12:15.
 2. Watch so that no one is troubled by a bitter spirit – 12:15.
 3. Watch so that no one is immoral, or is godless like Esau – 12:16-17.

FIFTH APPEAL – 12:18-29: “Do not forsake the hope of God’s promises”

WE DISOWN GOD'S WORD

Hebrews 12:18-29



**WHEN WE FORSAKE THE HOPE OF HIS PROMISES
AND RETURN TO THE PLEASURES OF THE WORLD**

IV. MOUNTAIN OF GRACE GIVES HOPE TO BELIEVERS – Heb 12:18-24

A. Mount Sinai – 12:18-21; [Ex 19:10-25; 20:18-21; Dt 4:10-24]: This mountain is associated with the Old Covenant and God's law.

1. It could not be touched without being killed.
2. It burned with fire and was associated with darkness, gloominess and storm.
3. It was accompanied with the blast of a trumpet and the sound of a voice.
4. It caused terror and trembling, so the people would have a proper respect and reverence for God.
5. It revealed the holiness of God. The Old Covenant related with this mount showed the sinfulness of man and the great canyon that his sin created between him and the holiness of God.

B. Mount Zion – 12:22-24: This mountain is associated with the New Covenant and God's grace.

1. It is associated with the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.
2. It is where an innumerable company of angels will gather.
3. It is linked to the general assembly and Church of the first-born.
4. It is related to God, the judge of all.
5. It is allied to the spirits of righteous men made perfect [Old Testament and Tribulation saints].
6. It is related to Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, and His sprinkled blood. Jesus' sprinkled blood cries out for forgiveness and cleansing, which is better than Abel's blood that cries out for vengeance.
7. It reveals God's grace through the New Covenant. His grace bridged the gap between sinners and Himself, that was revealed by the law at Mt. Sinai. God's grace gives great **hope** to the believer.

V. PROVISION OF GOD GIVES HOPE TO THE BELIEVER – Heb 12:25-29

A. Message of God – 12:25-27

1. God will not allow anyone escape that refuses to heed His message. They did not escape when He spoke on earth and they certainly will not escape now when He speaks from Heaven – 12:25.
2. God will shake heaven and earth to remove all things that are contrary to His message. He shook the earth at Sinai, but the next time He will shake heaven and earth so only that which cannot be shaken will remain. Do not put hope in things that will be shaken and destroyed – 12:26-27.

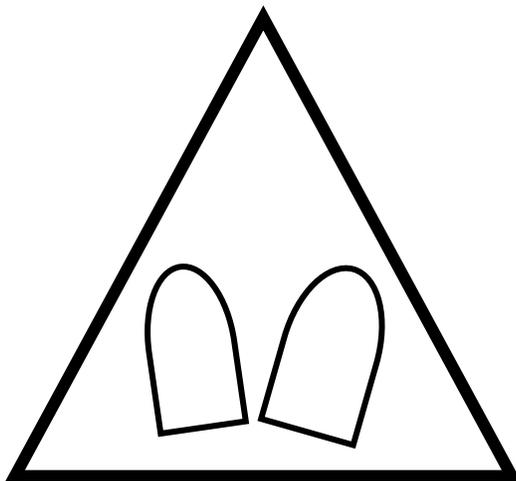
B. Kingdom of God – 12:28-29

God's kingdom cannot be shaken. Believers can put their **hope** in the Kingdom of God with confidence. Believers need to serve God with reverence and godly fear, because He is a consuming fire.

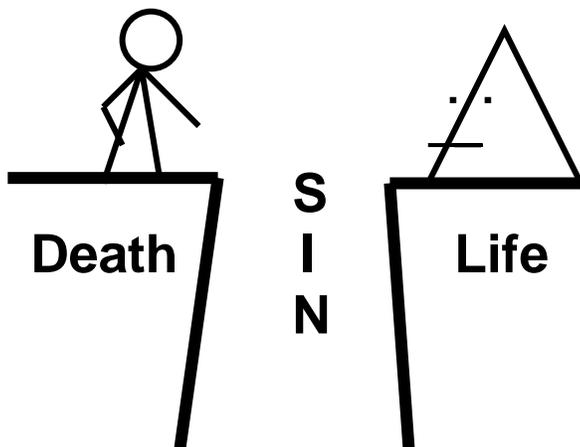
GRACE OF GOD

Hebrews 12:18-24

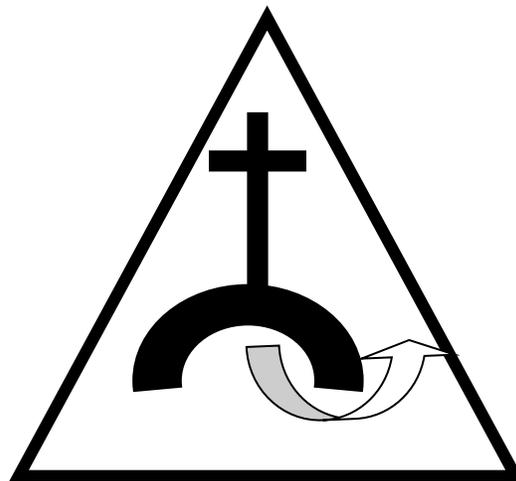
OLD COVENANT
LAW



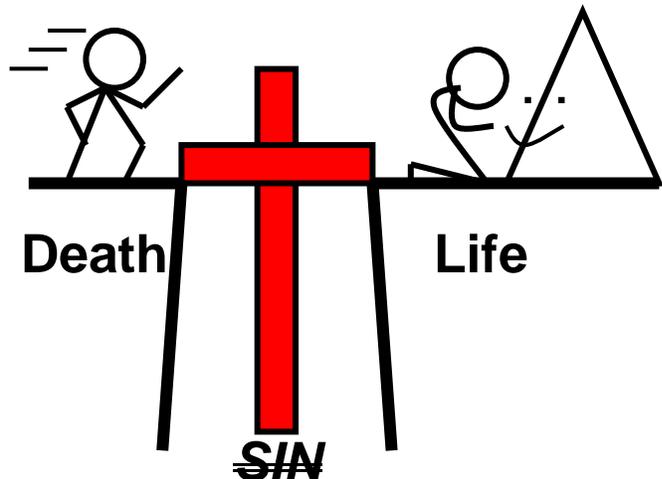
Mount Sinai



NEW COVENANT
GRACE



Mount Zion



GOD'S GRACE IS THE BELIEVER'S HOPE

GOD'S LAW REVEALS OUR SIN AND CONDEMNS US. GOD'S GRACE REMOVES OUR SIN AND SAVES US!!