FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
ROCHESTER

Sermon Discussion Guide
November 8, 2026

Refresh
Read Hebrews 12:18-24 to get the Scripture passage back in your mind.

Discuss
Pastor Mark mentioned four common responses to news or circumstances we face: anxiety, arrogance, anger, and apathy. Which of these do you find yourself most prone to, and why? What biblical truths can help us respond differently?

Pastor Mark contrasted the “near horizon” of our present circumstances with the “far horizon” of our eternal hope in Christ. Why is it so easy for believers to become consumed with what is happening immediately around them? What are some practical ways we can cultivate an eternal perspective without neglecting our present responsibilities?

Read Hebrews 12:18-21 and Exodus 19:10-20. What does the terrifying scene at Mount Sinai reveal about God's holiness and humanity's relationship to Him? Why is it important for Christians to understand the seriousness of God's holiness and the consequences of sin?

Hebrews 12:23 describes believers as those whose names are “enrolled in heaven.” Why did Jesus tell His disciples to rejoice more in their heavenly citizenship than in their ministry accomplishments (Luke 10:17-20)? How should knowing that our names are written in heaven influence our response to earthly successes, disappointments, and uncertainties?

Hebrews 12:24 says that Jesus' blood “speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.” What does this mean, and how does it help us understand the significance of Christ's sacrifice? How should the forgiveness and righteousness we have received through Christ shape the way we respond when others wrong us?