**A Christ centered life that cannot be shaken**

**Hebrews 12:25-29 – Folden FE – 9.21.24**

I love Quotes…Lots of people enjoy quotes because even though a person is dead, they still speak to us today…they still have an impact on us…Here are some of the Greatest quotes in human history…Ill give you the quote, and see if you know who said it….

* Give me liberty or give me death – Patrick henry
* The only thing we can fear is fear itself – FDR
* *“Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”* — Abraham Lincoln (1863, Gettysburg Address)
* *“I have a dream.”* — Martin Luther King Jr. (1963)
* *“That’s one small step for [a] man, one giant leap for mankind.”* — Neil Armstrong (1969)
* *“I think, therefore I am.”* — René Descartes (1637)
* *What we do in life echoes in eternity*… Maximus Decimus Meridius from the Movie Gladiator…

I love those quotes, they stimulate me to think about history and what was going on at the time and how it might impact the present and the future…but the reality is they have a fairly minimal impact on my life….when I go into a dark basement, I don’t repeat to myself…the only thing I have to fear is fear itself…when I am in a traffic jam and I am worried about being late I don’t cry out give me liberty or give me death….when I accomplish one of my 47 things on my todo list, I don’t yell out…that is one small step for man….

These quote don’t help me live a stable life amid the shaking of this world…

The question is when you think of the word of God….does it shake you and then give you stability….When you think of the Old covenant, the Old testament, the cloud of witnesses who lived by faith, what is the message that we are to receive, that we are to take away from Mount Sinai and Mount Zion….…What are we to listen to and remember from The blood of Able whose blood cries out and speaks to us without even a quote of His words….

How about Jesus…How does His word impact you...do you think about His testimony and what He has said…Does that impact your everyday life…does it impact the way you think about God, how you relate to others…and how you think about yourself…

You see, the word of God directs us to the person and work of Christ… Who gives us a stability that is more powerful than all the greatest quotes in human history combined….

So today as we continue our study in Hebrews, let’s consider

**A Christ centered life that cannot be shaken.**

Please turn in your bibles to Hebrew 12…our text today is Hebrews 12:25-29, but I want to start in verse 18 and the Mount Sinai and Mount Zion as the comparison leads into our text as we consider the ultimate shaking that is to come and the unshakable kingdom of Jesus Christ.

[not on ppt]

Hebrews 12:18–29 -18 For you have not come to *a mountain* that can be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, 19 and to the blast of a tru

mpet and the sound of words which *sound was such that* those who heard begged that no further word be spoken to them. 20 For they could not bear the command, “If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned.” 21 And so terrible was the sight, *that* Moses said, “I am full of fear and trembling.” 22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

 25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned *them* on earth, much less *will* we *escape* who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven. 26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.” 27 This *expression*, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. 28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

When we think about all the blessings of the new covenant…how Jesus is better than everything and how we are to fix our hearts on Him …the author is reinforcing that over and over and as he is getting to the end of the sermon…and right after the great encouragement of the blessings of the New Covenant…There is a last, final, strong warning to not turn away from Christ, but to be filled with gratitude and reverence and awe of Him…bc His kingdom is unshakable

So with that in mind, let’s consider….

**3 ways to pursue a Christ centered life that cannot be shaken**

1. **Listen to His Word**

**Hebrews 12:25** -25 See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if those did not escape when they refused him who warned *them* on earth, much less *will* we *escape* who turn away from Him who *warns* from heaven.

Hebrews is concerned that there are some who are considering going back to Judaism, and turning from Christ due to trials…When we study this book, we want to make sure to emphasize that those who are around the things of God can be enticed to fall away and go back to the security the world provides…

…and so the first thing to do when you listen to the word of God is….

* 1. **Do not refuse the message of Christ**

This has been the message throughout the book of Hebrews…

**Hebrews 2:1–3** -1 For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away *from it*. 2 For if the word spoken through angels proved unalterable, and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty, 3 how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard,

The law of God brought consequences…the nation of Israel had severe consequences and overwhelming blessings…if they listen to the word of God and obeyed Him, there was security and blessing…but there were grave consequences if they rejected the commands of the Lord.

The consequences of rejecting the message of Christ is greater…We see that the message of the Gospel…the message of Jesus Christ is so that people know the holy character of God, and how we all fall short…and How Jesus had to address our sin…that is the message that God has spoken to us in these last days through the good news about Jesus…

**Hebrews 1:1–4** -1 God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world. 3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power. When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4 having become as much better than the angels, as He has inherited a more excellent name than they.

The message of Hebrews is not only that Jesus is better than everything…but that he is the only way to be saved from the holy and just wrath that is to come…so part of listening to the word of God is then to…

* 1. **Seek refuge in the promised plan of God**

**Hebrews 4:14–16** -14 Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as *we are, yet* without sin. 16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

You were not allowed to draw near to God on Mount Sinai…if animals got to close they were to be killed…Fire from heaven descended and if people got too close to a holy God they would be consumed with fire.

But in the new covenant, in Hebrews we read about drawing near to His throne, being in His presence and not being consumed, but receiving mercy and grace and help in our time of need….That is what kind of a throne our King Jesus has…and that is why is it so special that we get to be a part of an unshakable kingdom.

In fact our king is not going to consume us but rather intercede for us…

**Hebrews 7:25** -25 Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

You see we deserve to be destroyed, we deserve His wrath…we need to have a healthy fear and reverence and awe of our holy God…but we also have to trust His plan and His goodness to save forever through who seek refuge in the shed blood of Christ….those who recognize they need someone to intercede on their behalf….

What that does is give us stability in the most terrifying storm…what that does is help us not have a focus on protecting ourselves each moment of each day….

You see a person focused on Christ who wants to live a life that cannot be shaken must ….

1. **Have an eternal focus**

**Hebrews 12:26–27 -**26 And His voice shook the earth then, but now He has promised, saying, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth, but also the heaven.” 27 This *expression*, “Yet once more,” denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, so that those things which cannot be shaken may remain.

This is a quote from Haggai…and we see that the earth will be shaken and all the nations and kingdoms that oppose the Christ will be shaken and overthrown and humbled…but it is very important to note that the heaven will also be shaken…there is a spiritual realm that we battle against…a spiritual realm that opposes Christ…and all that opposes Christ also will not stand.

What that means for us…is we need to have an eternal focus and….

* 1. **Look forward to the return of Christ**

This is going to be a wonderful thing for those who have confessed Jesus as their Lord and savior…

**Hebrews 9:28** -28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without *reference to* sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

However this is going to be a terrifying thing for those who do not live by faith in Who Christ is and what He has done…

**Hebrews 10:37–39** -37 For yet in a very little while, He who is coming will come, and will not delay. 38 But My righteous one shall live by faith; And if he shrinks back, My soul has no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.

There is destruction coming when Jesus returns, not as the suffering savior, but as a conquering king…this is intense to think about…but it is good for us to think and talk about the coming day of the Lord so we appreciate all the more the unshakable kingdom of God that we are a part of…

**2 Peter 3:10–13** -10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.

I love this passage, bc sometimes when we think about the end times, when we think about prophecy, we miss that the whole reason we are to have an eternal focus, is so that it impacts how we live in the present…

Since the heaven and earth is going to be shaken…what kind of people should we be?

People whose lives are marked with holiness and godliness…people who long for a new heaven and new earth where righteousness dwells…all the while seeking to as Heb 12:11 says yield the peaceful fruit of righteousness while we wait for our King to come and setup his unshakable kingdom.

So having an eternal focus means you…

* 1. **Seek to invest your life in what will last eternally**

When we stop and think…is what I am about to do or say going to have an eternal impact...or is it just going to get me what I want in the moment…is it just going to make me feel better for a little bit of time….scripture calls us to live lives that focus on eternal things…

**Matthew 6:19** -19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal.

People who don’t clamor after social status and wealth, but live as citizens of heaven storing up crowns to cast at Jesus feet.

**1 Peter 1:3–4** -3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 to *obtain* an inheritance *which is* imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

People who don’t focus on protecting themselves at all cost, but have a living hope that impacts them each day,…even and especially when wronged and when wronged greatly…

Many of the Hebrew Christians had a lasting testimony of having an eternal focus…

**Hebrews 10:34** -34 For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one.

Walking by faith means we trust a God we cannot see, who is working in a way we cannot fulling understand, and allowing us to go through trials that produce something in us so valuable we cannot comprehend….

**2 Corinthians 4:17–18** -17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

People who are not shaken don’t live governed by only what they can see…but rather than walk by faith in the God who is producing an eternal weight of glory in and through us….

To be a part of something that valuable and good means we are called to….

1. **Live with Gratitude toward God**

**Hebrews 12:28–29** -28 Therefore, since we receive a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable service with reverence and awe; 29 for our God is a consuming fire.

The Lord is sharing His kingdom with us…that is amazing…he is not just letting us live there,…we are going to rule and reign with Him….We actually get to receive a kingdom that will never end or be destroyed…the only proper response to that is gratitude that permeates your life…

We are to show gratitude as we…

* 1. **Rejoice in the New Covenant**

**Hebrews 12:22–24** -22 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to myriads of angels, 23 to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the Judge of all, and to the spirits of *the* righteous made perfect, 24 and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than *the blood* of Abel.

The blood of Abel condemns us…it speaks to us but not in a good way…the blood of Able reminds us of the sinfulness of mankind where we tend to destroy those who are in our way of getting what we want. That is why Mt Sinai is so terrifying…sinful man cannot be in the presence of a holy God and live.

The blood of Able speaks to us like a quote that should impact your life every day and that also reminds you that the blood of Christ speaks even better….that you actually get to draw near to a holy God through the blood of Christ that speaks on your behalf.

We are to rejoice in that and then…

* 1. **Hold fast to Jesus because He is better than everything**

**Hebrews 10:19–25** -19 Therefore, brethren, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through the veil, that is, His flesh, 21 and since *we have* a great priest over the house of God, 22 let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled *clean* from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. 23 Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; 24 and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, 25 not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging *one another;* and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

Your confession about what Jesus has done for you is the single most important part of you…the most significant aspect of your life is your confession that Jesus is your Lord and savior…it is so valuable, you are to hold fast to it and allow it to impact your daily life so that you walk by faith in who Jesus is and what he has done for you…because without your confession regarding Christ there is no eternal value or eternal assurance that we can possible have.

[Gospel] – if you don’t have a confession, you don’t have a testimony of when you placed your faith in Jesus dying on the cross for your sin…please talk to us…we want to help you receive Christ and then hold fast to Him.

When we see Jesus as that valuable each day…the proper response is to worship.

* 1. **Worship God with reverence and awe because Jesus’ sacrifice satisfied the consuming wrath of God**

When you look at Chapter 12 of Hebrews leading up to our response, notice that it is not simply gathering together to worship God in one place…but it is to serve Him and worship him wherever we are…

As you think about practically worshipping God…think about key things that have been laid out in Hebrews chapter 12…namely….

**Hebrews 12:1** -….. let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us…..

We worship God by begin honest about our desires that lead us away from Him each day, and we seek to put them off and calibrate our hearts to love him with all our heart, all our soul and all our mind…

**Hebrews 12:2** -2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith…..

He is our champion…He is the one we are to follow and fix our eyes on…we trust in His work rather than fixing our eyes on ourselves and our righteousness.

**Hebrews 12:3** -3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

Worship God with endurance…because you think about How he suffered for you….you are willing to not give up when it is hard to follow Christ…

**Hebrews 12:5** -5 …., do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reproved by Him;

Recognize that the Lord corrects his children regularly, and he wants to train his children constantly….So be humble and recognize He is going to discipline so that you might share in His holiness…worship him by agreeing with him that becoming more like Christ each day is good and worth it…

**Hebrews 12:12–13** -12 Therefore, strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble, 13 and make straight paths for your feet, so that *the limb* which is lame may not be put out of joint, but rather be healed.

Live in community where you care about the burdens of others in the body of Christ…seek to help and serve others who are week…seek unity so that the whole body can build itself up in love rather than tear each other down.

**Hebrews 12:14** -14 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.

Be a peacemaker…show your wisdom through your gentleness and reasonableness as James says…seek to focus on your sanctification and the fear of the Lord rather than exalt yourself over others.

**Hebrews 12:15** -15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;

Lastly be a person who focuses on the grace God has shown you…seek to go regularly to his throne of Grace…and then seek to be a conduit of that grace toward others…the alternative is to allow bitterness to not only take over your heart, but defile all those around you….

The fear of the Lord, reverence for the Lord helps us to see His amazing grace and can stop bitterness from growing from a self-focused heart.

My prayer is that this text helps all of us live with a focus on the word of God…where the scripture is the loudest voice we listen to and where we drink richly from the wisdom the Lord has for us.

I pray that we live with an eternal purpose, investing our lives, sacrificing our lives for what truly matters and what will last.

I pray we will be thankful people, that we are so excited about a holy God, who is a consuming fire…. making a way for us to be with him forever and not be consumed before His throne, but confident before His throne…

may we overflow with gratitude and then see each day and each circumstance as an opportunity to worship our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.

Let’s pray.

* Listen to the word
* Have an eternal focus
* Live with Gratitude toward God