

THE BOOK OF HEBREWS



15. A Call to be Holy

Introduction

What subjects did you study at school? Some subjects are mostly theory, but others more practical. Some children prefer the practical subjects, while others are better at the theory. The Book of Hebrews contains both theory and practical. The first nine chapters speak about the theory, or the truths about the Christian life, while the last four contain practical advice on how to live as a Christian. Let's be strong in both areas.

Scripture Reading: Hebrews 12:14-29

1. We must live a holy life v14-17

- ❖ Why is it so important to live a holy life? V14. See 1 Peter 1:15-16.
- ❖ What three sins do we particularly need to guard ourselves against according to these verses? V15-16
- ❖ What does it mean when it speaks about a 'bitter root causing trouble and defiling many'? v15
- ❖ Why are Esau's actions in v15-16 described as godless? See Genesis 25:29-34. What kind of person then, is a godly person?
- ❖ Esau regretted his actions, but why do you think his tears made no difference? 2 Corinthians 7:10, Genesis 27:34

2. Our God is a holy God v18-29

- ❖ What incident is v18-21 referring to? See Exodus 19:12-13
- ❖ We are now under the New Covenant. What warning is given to us in v25?

Often we take things lightly, as if God seems very different now. Perhaps you think that during the Old Testament times God was fierce, and you had to be careful lest he judge you, but now we are living in a time of grace. It is true that we are living in the time of grace, but God has not changed.

- ❖ What two reasons are given to show that the warning we are given is very serious?
- ❖ As we understand the holiness of God, how will it affect our attitudes, life and worship? V28-29

Consider

What changes do you need to make, so that your worship will be 'acceptable' to God?

Conclusion

'Holiness' doesn't seem to be a popular word today! The God we read about in the Old Testament was a holy God, and so is the God of the New Testament. Even though that was 2000 years ago, he is still a holy God. He still requires that his people are holy. It is not easy in an unholy, godless, secular world, but we have a High Priest who understands what we go through, and promises to help us in our time of need. Let's draw near to him daily, many times a day, to seek his power to live a holy life, for 'without holiness we will not see the Lord.'