

**TACOMA BIBLE PRESBYTERIAN
MORNING WORSHIP**

November 6th, 2022

MESSAGE: "What We Have Come To" (Pastor)

THE INTRODUCTION

STOP

PRAY

Psalms 119:169 Let my cry come before you, O LORD; give me understanding according to your word!

PROFIT

THE MESSAGE

THE OPENING

Hebrews 12:1-2 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, (2) looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Since the Creation—An Endless Crowd

Instructions for Those in the Crowd

Three Instructions

Lay aside every weight of sin—
Run with endurance—
Looking to Jesus—

Making Assessment

Philippians 3:12-14 ...I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. (13) Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, (14) I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

If Successfully Running

1 Corinthians 15:10a ...by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain.

On the Other Hand

Hebrews 12:6 ...disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

Help

Hebrews 12:14-15 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. (15) See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled;

Another Assessment

Endure the Lord's discipline by faith like a child of God—
Help struggling brethren—
Make straight paths for your feet—
Strive for peace—
Strive for holiness—
See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God—

BUT WHY?

Negatively

Hebrews 12:18-21 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest (19) and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. (20) For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." (21) Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

Stop and Consider

Finding Grace

AT SINAI VERSES AT ZION

When considered in themselves they (both) were magnificent and truly celestial; but when we come to the kingdom of Christ, the things which God exhibits to us are far above all the heavens. CALVIN

Exodus 19:9-25 And the LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I am coming to you in a thick cloud, that the people may hear when I speak with you, and may also believe you forever." When Moses told the words of the people to the LORD, (10) the LORD said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments (11) and be ready for the third day. For on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. (12) And you shall set limits for the people all around, saying, 'Take care not to go up into the mountain or touch the edge of it. Whoever touches the mountain shall be put to death. (13) No hand shall touch him, but he shall be stoned or shot; whether beast or man, he shall not live.' When the trumpet sounds a long blast,

they shall come up to the mountain." (14) So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people; and they washed their garments. (15) And he said to the people, "Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman." (16) On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. (17) Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. (18) Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. (19) And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. (20) The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. (21) And the LORD said to Moses, "Go down and warn the people, lest they break through to the LORD to look and many of them perish. (22) Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, lest the LORD break out against them." (23) And Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for you yourself warned us, saying, 'Set limits around the mountain and consecrate it.'" (24) And the LORD said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest he break out against them." (25) So Moses went down to the people and told them.

LAW THE HOPLESSNESS OF THE

The law was utterly unable by itself, and by strict observance of the rites thereof, to do that which was needful to be done, namely, to make the observers perfect. GOUGE

THE HOPE OF MERCY—FAITH

Psalms 51:1-4 **To the choirmaster. A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet went to him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. (2) Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin! (3) For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. (4) Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

SINAI AND THE LAW

Hebrews 12:18 For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest

The Touchable Mountain

Psalms 68:8 The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: *even Sinai itself was moved* at the presence of God, the God of Israel.

This is the second clause, in which he shows that the Law was very different from the Gospel; for when it was promulgated there was nothing but terrors on every side. CALVIN

The Terrors

The Trumpet

Hebrews 12:19 and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.

Deuteronomy 5:25-26 Now therefore why should we die? For this great fire will consume us. If we hear the voice of the LORD our God any more, we shall die. (26) For who is there of all flesh, that has heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of fire as we have, and has still lived?

Terrifying!

Hebrews 12:20-21 For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." (21) Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

Poor Beasts, Poor Men

If by chance an innocent beast approached, he commanded it to be killed: how much heavier punishment awaited sinners who were conscious of their guilt, nay, who knew themselves to be condemned to eternal death by the Law? CALVIN

Moses' Terror

Exodus 3:6 And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

It Was Still by Faith

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."

Romans 4:6-8 just as David also speaks of the blessing of the one to whom God counts righteousness apart from works: (7) "Blessed are those whose lawless deeds are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; (8) blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not count his sin."

ZION AND GRACE

Hebrews 12:22-24 But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, (23) and to the assembly 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 that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

A Brief Contrast

- The top of a bleak, bare mountain/a mountain on which stands a beautiful city
- The Sinai Wilderness/Heaven
- Blazing fire, gloom, darkness and a tempest/Innumerable angels in festal gathering
- All huddled away in fear—a company of sinners/All gathered together with the first born, just ones made perfect
- The sound of a terrifying trumpet/the voice of Jesus
- Blood justly required of/ Christ's Blood sprinkled on to justification

THE CONCLUSION

Stop

Instructions

Shedding

Titus 2:11-13 For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, (12) training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, (13) waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

holy in all your conduct,

Enduring

2 Corinthians 5:6-7 So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, (7) for we walk by faith, not by sight.

Fixed On Jesus

*The bride eyes not her garment,
But her dear bridegroom's face;
I will not gaze at glory
But on my king of grace.
Not at the crown He giveth
But on His pierced hand;
The Lamb is all the glory
Of Immanuel's land.*

Ephesians 5:24-25 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. (25) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Psalms 34:3-5 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together! (4) I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears. (5) Those who look to him are radiant, and their faces shall never be ashamed.

1 Peter 1:15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be