

**Pursue Peace and Holiness***Hebrews 12:14-24*

As we come to Hebrews 12:14-24, the writer gives the Hebrews, and us, some things that we, as followers of Christ are to pursue. We are to make every effort to be at peace with all people and to continue to grow in holiness. We pursue these things knowing that we are citizens of a heavenly Jerusalem. That truth, rightly understood can make all the difference.

**Opening Question:** What is one of your favorite mountain experiences?

**Read Hebrews 12:14-24**

1. The metaphors of Mount Sinai (i.e. the old covenant) and Mount Zion (i.e. new covenant) represent two different experiences of God (vv. 18-24)? How does the author describe the Mount Sinai experience of God (see also Exodus 19:12, 16-19)?
2. In verse 22 the author says that we “have come” (a perfect tense verb meaning an already accomplished fact with results in the present). In what sense have we already come to Mount Zion?
3. How does the author describe the Mount Zion experience of God?
4. The author presents these two metaphors as the basis for the commands he gives in 14-17. How does the truth of our Mount Zion experience with God serve to help us obey?
5. One of the things we are commanded to pursue is peace with all men (v. 14). What is your understanding of what this means?

Brian said:

Is there anyone right now in this church with whom you are not at peace? God is saying to you that you need to pursue peace with that person. Romans 12:18 says that as far as it depends upon you, seek to live in peace. Are you doing that? At a heart level do you even want it? Do you even think it is possible? If you don't really want it or if you don't really think peace is possible, let me encourage you to make your starting point prayer. Talk to God about the situation. Talk to Him about your heart. The reality is that prayer is probably where we need to start in any situation that we are facing.

6. Do you have any situations right now where you need to pursue peace with someone in the church (don't mention names!)? And if so, what might it look like for you to make every effort to pursue peace with that person?

Brian said:

The stakes are high. If the church is not characterized by peace in our relationships then when the world looks at us they won't see anything different. And they won't see any reason to come check it out because it will not look to them that we have anything to offer them.

7. Do you agree with this statement? Why or why not?
8. Another thing that we are to pursue is sanctification (i.e. holiness). What do you think this means?
9. Brian mentioned faith expressed through prayer (i.e. we depend upon God to do it), reflection on Scripture, and living in spiritual community as three helps in pursuing sanctification. Do you agree with this list? Why?
10. What do you sense is the main thing God is saying to you through this study?