

ACCEPTABLE WORSHIP—Hebrews 12:18–29 (CONTINUED)

Pastor Greg Stiekes

The author of Hebrews calls upon believers not only to be faithful to God, but most importantly to *draw near* to God in *worship*. In this wonderful text which draws together many of the theological themes of Hebrews, we are exhorted to “come to God” (vv. 18, 22), not to “refuse him” (v. 25), but to offer to God “acceptable worship” (v. 28). What is “acceptable” worship?

Formerly . . .

1. Worship that is grounded in new spiritual realities (18–24)

a. The Old Worship at Mount Sinai (18–22)

- (1) We have not come to something physical or temporal.
- (2) We have not come to something fearful.
- (3) We have not come to something aloof or inaccessible.

b. The New Worship at Mount Zion (22–24)

In contrast to the fearful worship at Sinai, believers have “come to” seven new spiritual realities:

- (1) To Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
- (2) To an innumerable company of angels in joyful assembly
- (3) To the church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven,
- (4) To the Judge who is God of all
- (5) To the spirits of righteous ones made perfect,
- (6) To Jesus the Mediator of a new covenant,
- (7) To the sprinkled blood that speaks better than (the blood of) Abel

2. Worship that bows to the absolute sovereignty of God (25–27)

Today . . .

3. Worship that is fitting for so great an object (28–29)

a. Joyful praise, for we have received an eternal kingdom.

b. Reverent awe, for our God is a consuming fire.