



# Come to Jesus

## A Consuming Fire



## Hebrews in a Nutshell

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 1:1** God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, <sup>2</sup> in these last days has spoken to us in His Son
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 4:2** For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they also; but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith in those who heard.
- **Hebrews 11:1** faith is the foundation of continuous hoping, conviction of deeds not seen ... <sup>6</sup> And without faith it is impossible to please Him
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:25** 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 shall we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven



## Two Dangerous Lies

1.) All truth is God's truth.

- <sup>NIV</sup> **Genesis 3:4** "You will not surely die," the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> "For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 11:14** ... Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Revelation 12:9** And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world



## Two Dangerous Lies

2.) God reveals himself through two books; the Bible and nature.

- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 2:5** that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.
- <sup>NIV</sup> **1 Corinthians 2:13** This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, expressing spiritual truths in spiritual words.
- "What wonderfully impressed us under the name of wisdom will stink in its very foolishness. What wore the face of power will prove itself the most miserable weakness. That is, what in us seems perfection itself corresponds ill to the purity of God"
  - *Calvin's Institutes (1.1.2).*
- Source: Inspiration of the Spirit vs reasoning of mankind
- Form: Objective written words vs subjective observations



## Sola Scriptura

- Scripture is the sole infallible source of authority for Christian faith and practice.
- “Scripture was the supreme authority over the church. It did not mean Scripture was the only authority. Luther, Calvin, and the other reformers used other authorities like reason and tradition. Yet the Bible was the supreme authority that ruled reason and tradition because Scripture alone was infallible precisely because it is God's word. All other authorities were fallible and must submit to Scripture.” - *The Gospel Coalition*
- “The whole counsel of God ... is either expressly set down in Scripture, or by good and necessary consequence may be deduced from Scripture: unto which nothing at any time is to be added, whether by new revelations of the Spirit, or traditions of men” - *Westminster Confession of Faith (1:6)*



## Follow Jesus, Pursue Holiness

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:1** Therefore, ... let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ... <sup>14</sup> Pursue ... holiness without which no one will see the Lord.



## Spiritual Complacency is Fatal

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:15** 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; <sup>16</sup> that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a single meal. <sup>17</sup> For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears.



## Esau's Misunderstood Privilege

- Esau's Privilege
  - Abraham's grandson
  - Grew up with special knowledge of God
  - Experienced God's richest blessings
  - Isaac's first born and favorite son
  - Rightful heir of family fortune
  - Rightful successor as covenant head
- Esau's Mistake
  - Esau thought his privilege brought him unshakable security but instead it only brought a higher level of accountability.
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:17** when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears



## Our Misunderstood Privilege

- Our Privilege
  - Born in Christian family or Dramatic Conversion
  - Baptized
  - Long time church member
  - Active in church
  - Know the Bible
  - Experienced God's richest blessings
- Our Mistake
  - <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 6:4** For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, <sup>5</sup> and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, <sup>6</sup> and then have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance,



## Spiritual Checklist

- <sup>NAS</sup> **2 Corinthians 13:5** Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!
  - Examine non work time:
    - worship
    - God's word (Bible reading and studying, Christian books, online messages, meditation and reflection)
    - prayer
    - social media, browsing web, television, movies
    - reading non-Christian literature
    - hobbies
  - This is a barometer not an equation.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 6:21** for where your treasure is, there will your heart be also... <sup>24</sup> "No one can serve two masters; ... You cannot serve God and X.



## Mount Sinai

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:18** For you have not come to a mountain that may be touched and to a blazing fire, and to darkness and gloom and whirlwind, <sup>19</sup> and to the blast of a trumpet and the sound of words which sound was such that those who heard begged that no further word should be spoken to them. <sup>20</sup> For they could not bear the command, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it will be stoned." <sup>21</sup> And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, "I am full of fear and trembling."
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Genesis 3:8** And they heard the *sound* [thunder] of the LORD God *walking* [coming] in the garden in the *cool* [wind] of the *day* [storm], and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.



## Mount Zion

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



## Greater Accountability

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:25** 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 shall we escape who turn away from Him who warns from heaven. <sup>26</sup> 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." <sup>27</sup> And this expression, "Yet once more," denotes the removing of those things which can be shaken, as of created things, in order that those things which cannot be shaken may remain. <sup>28</sup> 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; <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.



## Conclusion



## Christ is Our Life

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Colossians 3:3** For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. <sup>4</sup> When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Philippians 1:21** For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Matthew 10:38** "And he who does not take his cross and follow after Me is not worthy of Me. <sup>39</sup> "He who has found his life shall lose it, and he who has lost his life for My sake shall find it.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 12:4** You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood in your striving against sin;



## We Belong to God

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Ephesians 2:8** For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; <sup>9</sup> not as a result of works, that no one should boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **1 Corinthians 6:19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? <sup>20</sup> For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body.
- <sup>NAS</sup> **Hebrews 9:12** ... through His own blood, He entered the holy place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.



## A Consuming Fire

- <sup>NAS</sup> **Philippians 2:12** So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; <sup>13</sup> for God is the working one in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure.
- **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore, since we are receiving an unshakeable kingdom, let us continually have gratitude, through which we may worship God in a manner well pleasing with reverence and fear; <sup>29</sup> for our God is a consuming fire.
  - *Jesus should not be part of our lives, he should be our lives.*
  - *If Jesus is not Lord of all, he's not Lord at all.*