

The Church in an Unfaithful Nation in Crisis

Heb 12²² [You have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels,²³ to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect,²⁴ to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.²⁵ See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,²⁶ whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."²⁷ Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.²⁸ Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

* **We have been** applying the lessons of Babel from Gn 11. Today, we conclude by making application to the believing church in our own country.

* **I have chosen** Heb 12 as our sermon text, because it was written to Christians who were living in times of even greater _____ than we are.

* **What does the Spirit** say to them in so many words? (22-27)

* **The Spirit gives** them their marching orders, which boil down to _____ (28).

The Hebrew word for worship means to _____.

Mat 4¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"

Josh 24¹⁴ "Now therefore, fear the LORD, serve Him in sincerity and in truth, and put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD!"

Rm 12¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

* **Though it doesn't** seem like it, the Spirit is telling us how in times of crisis to _____ and become _____.

* **In times of** crisis, people turn to their _____. Christ shakes the earth so that peoples' true _____ are revealed, and all gods except for the Triune God are revealed to be _____.

Isa 45²⁰ "They have no knowledge, who carry the wood of their carved image, and pray to a god that cannot save. ...²¹ [T]here is no other God besides Me, a just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.²² Look to Me, and be saved, all you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other.²³ I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that to Me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall take an oath."

Phil 2⁹ Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow ...¹¹ and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

* **The foundational issues** are not politics and economics, but _____ and _____.

Ps 11³ If the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do? ⁴The Lord is in His holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven. His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

* **The foundation of** a nation is not its government or its founding documents, but the _____ that produced them.

* **In times of crisis**, people pay homage to their gods by sacrificing _____ and _____.

Where are they flowing in America today?

* **We must remember** the difference between patching the roof and pouring a new foundation. One we can do in D.C., the other is done in _____ and _____.

1Tm 3¹⁵ I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

Mal 3¹ "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. ... 4⁶ And he will turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse." (cf. Mt 11.10-11, 14)

* **The good news** is that it's not about what _____ can do. It's about what _____ can do.

Josh 6²⁰ So the people shouted when the priests blew the trumpets. And ... the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, ... and they took the city.

Mt 28¹⁸ "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

2Chr 16⁹ For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him.

* **Worship means confessing** Christ as Lord of all, including _____.

Rv 12⁵ She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. (cf. Ps 2.9)

* **If Christ isn't** Lord of the storm, then he can't _____ from the storm.

Ps 96⁹ Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness Tremble before Him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns"

* **Christ doesn't shake** the nations because he enjoys messing with people; He shakes the nations because he enjoys _____ people. (Isa 45.20-23)

* **Worship means being** _____ by Christ.

Ps 115⁸ Those who make [idols] are like them; So is everyone who trusts in them.

2Cor 3¹⁸ But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Rm 12¹ I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And do not be conformed to this [age (aion)], but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

* **Four key areas:**

1) _____

Hb 13¹ Let brotherly love continue.

2) _____

Hb 13⁴ Marriage is honorable ... and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

3) _____

Hb 13⁷ Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content

4) _____

Hb 13⁷ Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow