

TEXT SUMMARY

Our text, <u>Hebrews 12:25-29</u>, is the final paragraph in the main body of the letter. The writer closes his extended argument for the superiority of Christ with a warning about how we hear God's Word, a promise about what is to come, and a two-fold exhortation.

INTRODUCTION (OBSERVATION):

- 1. What is the warning that opens our text (v. 25)?
- 2. The promise is given in v. 26-27. What has God promised to do?
- 3. Our text closes with a two-fold exhortation. How are we to respond to the promise God has made (v. 28)?

DISCUSSION (INTERPRETATION):

- 1. In the English Standard Version, the opening warning uses the word "refuse." Some translations use an even stronger verb, "reject." How is refusing or rejecting God's Word different from neglecting God's Word, or is there a difference?
- 2. How does our text recall themes we saw at the beginning of the letter? (See Heb 1:1-2 and 2:1-3.)
- 3. People sometimes have trouble with the phrase "fear of God," as if we are speaking of the craven we experience with a bully.
 - What does the "fear of God" mean?
 - How is it a good thing to fear God?

DIVING DEEPER DISCUSSION GUIDE



SO WHAT? (APPLICATION):

- What are some of the ways you are tempted to "refuse to hear" (or "reject") God's Word to His people? The sermon mentioned three ways we can stiff-arm God in this regard:
 - Self-sufficiency: I don't need to hear from God because I've got things sorted on my own.
 - Despair: I have made such a mess of my life that I don't deserve anything but condemnation from God.
 - Complacency: I've already got my ticket stamped for heaven when I die, so it doesn't matter whether I listen to God now.

Does one of these resonate with you? Is there another way you are tempted to refuse to hear God's Word?

- 2. Our text (and the main body of the epistle) closes with a fearsome pronouncement: "for our God is a consuming fire" (v. 29). If this was all we knew about God, it would feed into the confusion about the fear of God discussed in the interpretation section above.
 - What does the fear of God look like in your life?
 - Can you think of a time when the fear of God saved you from grave error and sin?
 - Can you think of a time when a lack of the fear of God got you into deep trouble?

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