

The Great Motivation: The Two Approaches to God — The Old and the New Covenants Hebrews 12:18–24

1. *The first or old approach:* *The old covenant*

- a. Was an external worship
- b. Was to a holy, distant
God of judgment
- c. Was a reluctant,
fearful approach
 - 1) To the people

- 2) To the leaders

2. *The new approach:* *The new covenant*

- a. Is a spiritual and heavenly worship
- b. Is to the angels of God
- c. Is to the church of Christ
- d. Is to God, the Judge of all
- e. Is to the spirits of the righteous
already departed
- f. Is to Jesus, the Mediator —
to the sprinkled blood of Jesus

18 You have not come to a mountain
that can be touched
and that is burning with fire;
to darkness, gloom and storm;

19 To a trumpet blast
or to such a voice speaking words
that those who heard it begged
that no further word be spoken to them,

20 Because they could not bear what was commanded:
“If even an animal touches the mountain,
it must be stoned.”

21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said,
“I am trembling with fear.”

22 But you have come to Mount Zion,
to the heavenly Jerusalem,
the city of the living God.
You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels
in joyful assembly,

23 To the church of the firstborn,
whose names are written in heaven.
You have come to God,
the judge of all men,
to the spirits of righteous men made perfect,

24 To Jesus the mediator of a new covenant,
and to the sprinkled blood
that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Warning Five: The Danger of Refusing to Hear Jesus Christ — of Shutting One’s Ear to the Cry of His Blood Hebrews 12: 25–29

**1 *There shall be no escape whatsoever
for the close-minded***

- a. There was no escape
under Moses and the law
- b. Much more,
there will be no escape
under Christ and grace

**2 *God warns about a great shaking
and judgment of heaven and earth
in the future***

- a. To remove and change
the material elements
- b. To prove eternal elements

**3 *Think:
An unshakable kingdom
can be received***

- a. How:
By showing gratitude,
that is, by serving God
- b. Why:
God is a consuming fire

25 See to it

that you do not refuse him who speaks.
If they did not escape when they refused him
who warned them on earth,
how much less will we,
if we turn away from him
who warns us from heaven?

26 At that time his voice shook the earth,

but now he has promised,
“Once more I will shake not only the earth
but also the heavens.”

27 The words “once more” indicate

the removing of what can be shaken —
that is, created things —
so that what cannot be shaken may remain.

28 Therefore,

since we are receiving a kingdom
that cannot be shaken,
let us be thankful,
and so worship God acceptably
with reverence and awe,

29 For our “God is a consuming fire.”