

A Special Request  
(Hebrews 12:28-29)

Introduction:

1. These verses reveal some special information.
  - a. For one thing, a special blessing is mentioned in vs.28a -- we have received "*a kingdom which cannot be moved.*"
  - b. In vs.28c a special responsibility is mentioned in connection with this blessing -- serving "*God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.*"
  - c. A special warning is given in vs.29 -- "*God is a consuming fire.*"
  - d. Finally, a special request is made in vs.28b -- "*let us have grace.*"
2. We are emphasizing this special request for grace in our lesson.

Discussion:

- I. THIS REQUEST REQUIRES A PROPER UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT GRACE IS
  - A. Grace: kindness or favor that God extends to us, even though we do not deserve it ["unmerited favor"].
  - B. To help us better understand what grace is, let us consider:
    1. a demonstration of God's grace in Deuteronomy 7:6-8
      - a. The word "grace" is not found in these verses.
      - b. God demonstrated His grace when He chose the Israelites as His "*holy people.*"
    2. an illustration of God's grace in Luke 15:20-24.
      - a. This young man did not deserve any kind treatment from his father.
      - b. He decided to go home and ask to be made a servant (vs.18-19).
      - c. When he arrived, he received kindness he did not deserve -- his father received him back as a son.
      - d. This helps us to appreciate the statement in James 4:6: "*God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.*"
  - C. Now that we understand what grace is let us turn our attention to the fact that . . .
- II. WE BECOME SERVANTS OF GOD THROUGH GRACE
  - A. Before we can serve God faithfully in His kingdom, we must become God's servants, and we must become members of His kingdom.
  - B. The Bible teaches in Ephesians 2:8-9 that we are saved by grace through faith.
    1. We become God's servants when He makes us free from sin as we obey the doctrine delivered to us (Romans 6:17-18).
    2. This occurs when we are baptized into Christ (Romans 6:3-4).
    3. When we are saved God translates us into His dear Son's kingdom (Colossians 1:13-14).
  - C. We need grace to become servants of God in His kingdom; however, . . .
- III. WE NEED GRACE TO SERVE GOD FAITHFULLY IN HIS KINGDOM
  - A. (Hebrews 12:28) God's people are to serve Him "*acceptably with reverence and godly fear,*" and we need grace to do this.
  - B. We learn from Titus 2:11-14 that God's grace teaches us how to live.
    1. (vs.12a) We are to deny "*ungodliness and worldly lusts.*"
      - a. Some people think that God's grace allows us to live as we please.
      - b. However, this simply is not true (Romans 6:1-2).
    2. (vs.12b) We are to "*live soberly, righteously, and godly in this present world.*"
    3. (vs.14) We are to be "*a peculiar people, zealous of good works.*"
    4. (vs.13) This will allow us to look forward to the Lord's return.

Conclusion:

1. Have you become a member of God's everlasting kingdom?
2. If you have, are you serving God "*acceptably with reverence and godly fear?*"
3. Do you need to make a special request for God's grace?