

No Universalism

Hebrews 12:25

It is fashionable by more than a few Christian authors and theologians to speculate that every person will ultimately wind up in heaven. This verse seems to teach, however, something totally different.

I. Jesus and Moses are compared and contrasted by the author of Hebrews in this verse.

To the Hebrew, nobody was better than Moses. To the Hebrews, Moses was the great lawgiver! This book is written to Hebrew Christians who were being pulled back to the Old Covenant by others. In vs. 18-24 two mountains (the Old and New Covenants) are compared and the latter is superior! In this verse, the writer contrasts two speakers, or if you will, two Mediators—Moses and Jesus.

- A. Both Moses and Jesus were Israelites (descendants of Jacob whose other name was Israel).
- B. Both of them were saved from death from two kings who wanted Hebrew children dead.
- C. Both their families were sent to Egypt for protection, and both men were “called out of Egypt.”
- D. Both rejected the possibility of becoming rulers in this world (Egypt and the world kingdoms).
- E. Both Moses and Jesus “mediated” between the Israelites and the true God of heaven.
- F. Both were sent from a mountain to speak on behalf of God (Mt. Sinai and Mt. Zion).
- G. Both were lawgivers to the Hebrews, speaking commandments from God.

The Mosaic Law (the Ten Commandments and all the Old Covenant commands) was for Hebrews. The Law of Christ, called The Royal Law, is a commandment from God for all time and all people. “A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 13:34).

II. Jesus speaks to us love by giving Himself in death (shedding His blood) that we might live.

When somebody hears the Good News that God came to earth (Emmanuel), and took upon Himself human flesh, and died at Calvary, becoming sin for us and tasting death in our place, and when that person believes the Good News, an amazing thing happens within them—the Law of God is written, “not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone, but on tablets of human hearts” (2 Corinthians 3:3, NASB-77). We believe in the message of God’s grace and trust Christ! You can believe in God, but it is the message of God’s love for the world through sending His Son that is THE GOOD NEWS. It is also the very thing that delivers sinners from their sin (He is Jehoshua). In the Old Covenant, Abel was murdered and his blood spoke justice and vengeance to God. In the New Covenant, another Abel was murdered (Jesus) and his blood speaks forgiveness to God.

III. Jesus and Moses speaking and a sinner’s response to them are contrasted in this verse.

“See to it that you do not refuse Him who is speaking” (see v. 24 - It is Christ’s death that speaks).

- A. Refusing to listen to Moses who spoke the Law from Mt. Sinai meant harsh consequences.
 - Read Leviticus 20. The adulterer was put to death. The child who rebelled against his parents was stoned. The person who practiced witchcraft was stoned. The person who violated the Sabbath was put to death. The Law which Moses spoke had very harsh consequences indeed. The point is not that the penalties were just (they were), but that the penalties were severe.
- B. Refusing to ignore Him who speaks from heaven means all the more you will not escape.
 - This is the point of the writer of Hebrews. The message of Christ is a message of God’s grace. Yet, if you ignore Him who came from Zion to speak to us the fulfillment of the Law, you will not escape. The literal language, “much rather we will not escape who turn away from Him.”
 - 1. It is utterly impossible to believe in universalism with verses like this.
 - 2. It is utterly impossible for you to escape the judgment of God without faith in Christ.