

# **WHO'S THE GREATEST?**

*(Letter to the Hebrews)*

Pembroke Bible Chapel  
Mark Floyd – 2008 Sep 14  
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## **WARNING: DON'T STOP LISTENING !**

(Hebrews 12:14-29)

### PURSUE PEACE (14-15)

- Seek to behave in a way that is “set apart” from the sinful ways of this world. (*1 Peter 1:15-16*)
- Pursue peace, and show others the undeserved favour that God has shown you. (*Romans 12:17-21*)
- Beware of bitterness in your heart against others. (*Ephesians 4:31-32*)

### LEARN FROM ESAU'S MISTAKES (16-17)

- He valued the gratification of his flesh more highly than God's spiritual blessings. (*Genesis 25:29-34; Philippians 3:18-19*)
- He blamed others for his problems, finding no place for self-judgement and repentance. (*Genesis 27:36*)
- His heart became filled with jealousy, hatred and revenge. (*Genesis 27:41*)

### CHOOSE YOUR MOUNTAIN (18-24)

- The Law was given at Mt. Sinai – it produces fear, because it condemns sinners (*Romans 3:19-20*)
- Symbolically, Mt. Sinai is not the final destination – Mt. Zion (Jerusalem) is the place of rest for all who seek God by faith. (*Galatians 3:24; Hebrews 3:16-19*)

### ARE YOU LISTENING TO GOD? (25-29)

- God speaks to us through His Son; if we turn away from Christ, we will face the place of God's judgement on guilty sinners. (*Hebrews 1:1-3; 2:1-3*)

## Are YOU Listening?

Have you heard God's words to you? The Bible teaches us that every person is guilty of deeds that are worthy of God's judgement. The scriptures also teach that the God of love and grace has provided one way to forgiveness and escape from His condemnation – through faith in Jesus Christ (Romans 3:23-24; 6:23). Have you turned a “deaf ear” to God? If so, you are facing a consuming fire. Accept Christ as your Saviour and the assurance of sins forgiven.

As Christians, we will all face trials, including human conflict. We may find ourselves at odds with relatives, neighbours, co-workers or even fellow churchgoers. When this happens, it is natural to become wearied and discouraged. One thing to watch out for is when we react to conflict like the unbelieving world does. During times of trouble, we need to persevere in our faith, while pursuing peace and putting off hatred and worldly tactics of revenge and “one-upmanship”. Beware of bitterness that may brew in your heart – abide in the grace of God, showing forgiveness and unmerited favour to those who have trespassed against you. Simultaneously, we need to examine ourselves in self-judgement and “own up” to any wrong we have committed during the conflict. Throughout life's difficulties, we must be mindful to treasure the blessings of Christ over the temporary and fleeting pleasures of this world. In Christ, we have a place where we cannot be shaken.

*“Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good”  
(Romans 12:21)*