

**The Book of Hebrews  
Session Eleven  
Doug Seed**

**Chapter 12**

**Verse 1** – The “great cloud of witnesses” is the believers mentioned in Hebrews 11. “witnesses” – same word as “good report” of 11:2, 39. “we also” – refers to “let us run” not to being compassed about with the great cloud, as Old Covenant saints were not “also” compassed about. “race” – *agon*, an athletic contest. “weight” – bulk, mass, superfluous flesh, an encumbrance. “sin” – the old nature. “easily beset” – cleverly, deftly entangling. “patience” – endurance, a second wind.

**The race has been won – we must finish the course.**

**Verse 2** – “looking” – away from all else. “author” – beginner, forerunner. “finisher” – completer, perfecter. “the joy set before him” – his resurrection and the salvation wrought for mankind, bringing many brethren unto glory. “is” – has sat down. He finished and won the race!

**Verse 3** – “consider” – analyze by way of comparison. “contradiction” – *antilogia*, opposition the Messiah endured from the human race in word and deed. “wearied” – tired, sick. “faint” – to lose heart. “minds” – *psuche*, souls, innermost part of your being.

**Verse 4** – “resist” – to stand against. “striving” – to fight agonizingly against. We will never come close to enduring anything like Jesus did.

**Verses 5 – 11** – God’s encouragement to take heed to the reproof and correction offered. “chastening” – *paideia*, to raise up a child, the whole training and instruction of a young person. Doctrine, reproof and correction – not punishment. Translated “nurture” in Ephesians 6:4. Used in verses 5, 7, 8 and 11 as a noun “chastening.” Used in verses 6, 7, 9 (“corrected”) and 10 as a verb “chasten.” 8x’s in 6 verses.

**Verses 5, 6** – quoted from Proverbs 3:11, 12.

**Verse 7** – “if” erroneously supplied. Should read “It is chastening you are enduring.” “endure” – to remain under the instruction

**Verse 11** – “yield” – pays back a return. “exercised” – *gymnazo*, to train, to practice gymnastic exercise. Exercising yourself in light of reproof and correction pays the return of the peaceable fruits of righteousness. Proverbs 6:23 – “...reproofs of instruction are the way of life.”

**Verse 12** – “lift up” – to restore to straightness, reinvigorate. “feeble” – used in Matthew 8:6 as “sick of the palsy,” weak of limb, paralytic.

Verse 13 - “straight” – smooth, even. “lame” – limping. “turned out of the way” – dislocated.

Verse 15 – “fail of” – fall from. Galatians 5:4. “spring up” – germinating.

Verses 16, 17 – “repentance” – to change one’s mind. Esau tried to change Isaac’s mind, but Isaac believed God, according to Hebrews 11:20. (see page 195, So Great A Cloud Of Witnesses, by E.W. Bullinger)

Verses 18-21 – Mt. Sinai is where Moses received the Old Covenant. “Ye are not come” (verse 18) is contrasted with “but ye are come” (verse 22) to Mt. Zion, i.e. Jerusalem, where Christ offered the perfect sacrifice for mankind’s sins, thereby bringing about the New Covenant. This Covenant will be totally fulfilled in the New Jerusalem.

Verses 22 – 29 – THE HOPE: THE FINAL PARADISE ADMINISTRATION

Verse 22 – “are come” – the figure of speech *heterosis* of tense – one tense exchanged for another. An absolute future reality is stated in the present tense to emphasize the certainty of the future event. Third use of the word “city” in Hebrews. The others: 11:10, 16; 13:14. Our hope, ultimately, is the hope of all other believers. The New Jerusalem is described in Revelation 21:1-5.

Verse 23 – “general assembly” – *paneguris*, its only use in the Bible. A great festival, national gathering, festal celebration of great joy and victory. Used of the Greek Olympic Games. Victors received and displayed their rewards and crowns. A solemn and sacred event in honor of their gods.

### The Festal Assembly (v.23)

The Kingdom of God (v.29) in the heavenly  
Jerusalem(v.22)

Who is present:

- God, the Judge of All – v.23
- Jesus, the mediator of the New Covenant – v.24
- an innumerable company of angels – v.22
- the Church of the firstborn ones – us! – v.23
- the just men made perfect in the resurrections – v.23

Verse 28 – GRACE!!! The Book of Hebrews is given to bring these Christian believers of a Hebrew background to the Administration of the Grace of God – the Church Epistles.

