"Holding on to the Unshakeable"
Hebrews 12:18-29 (NIV)
August 10, 2025

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 to death." 21 The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear."

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. 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, to the spirits of the righteous 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.

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."

On this journey called life, things happen that shake us up.
Situations; incidents occur that would, if they could, rattle us;
Shake us; make us unstable and unsure – Even unsure of who we are and what we are to be about on this journey called life.

And somehow, if we are not planted; firm and secure,
Then we will inevitably be shaken, so much so, that *after* the shaking, we will not be able to stand.

(examples)
A literal earthquake like the one near Russia a couple of weeks ago;
A diagnosis of cancer;
A stroke, heart attack, or another devastating health event;
sudden death;
broken relationships; financial hardship, loneliness; depression; despair.

Things happen every day to remind us of what's really important in life and tell us to wake up and know what time it is;

Events occur every day that remind us that life is precious and time is short;
And it is incumbent upon us and absolutely necessary to hold on to the unshakeable.

This letter to the Hebrews is a spiritually based homily;
a Christological exposition;
a short sermon that exalts Christ and the Christian faith.

It reveals to us the divine and human nature of Jesus, and tells us that through the death and resurrection of Jesus, a new covenant with God was ushered in.

It draws the distinction between the old covenant and the new covenant;
Between the Law and grace;
Between Moses and Jesus;

It draws a distinction between Mt. Sinai and the heavenly Jerusalem;
Between the divine judge and the Mediator of the new covenant.
Between warning and hope;
And between shakable and unshakable things.

For God says, *[25] See to it that you do not refuse him who speaks.*
Church, we cannot escape the voice of God.
The voice of God that calls us;

The voice of God that bids us to come and die to ourselves and then commissions us to go preach; teach and heal in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

When God speaks, we can run but we can't hide.
How many of you played hide and seek when you were a child?
Have you tried playing it with God?
Guess who wins every time?

When God speaks, we *must* give God our undivided attention.

[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.

This is the *divine* voice that stood on nothing and caused all things to be;
The same voice that created the heavens and the earth that was without void and form;
The same voice that said, Let there be light, and there was light.

Let us hear God's voice, this morning, speaking to us.
Yes, it's impossible to escape the Heavenly Judge, who will shake the foundation of created reality.

But we have consolation today, thanks to Jesus Christ.
Because of Jesus, we have a new covenant; a new promise; a new relationship; a new life.

Consolation; peace in knowing that we already possess something that's unshakable.

We have a kingdom, in which we offer our reasonable service and sacrifice to God.
The Kingdom of God!

V. 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."

What are you saying?
Don't put your hope and trust and faith in this world.

I've got news for you if you didn't already know.
This world will forsake you, lie on you, stab you in the back and kick you when you're down.
Don't hold on to things that are transient; that are here today and gone tomorrow.

Don't hold on to houses and cars that will lose their value;

Don’t hold on to money and stocks that are not real and have pseudo-value;
Don’t even hold on to people, who are fallible and will disappoint you.

When life gets rough and you are barely holding on; hold on to Jesus, who will also hold on to you.
When your arms get tired and you become weary of holding on, Jesus will still hold on to you and won’t let go.

Hold on to Jesus.
As the gospel song says,
“He’ll never let you down. He’s that kind of friend.
He'll walk right in front of you
to always protect you
(so the devil can't do you any harm).
If within your heart you take Him in,
New life will begin, (He's) that kind of friend.”
.
Finally, hear the words of one of my favorite hymns.
Hold to God’s Unchanging Hand

1. Time is filled with swift transition,
   Naught of earth unmoved can stand,
   Build your hopes on things eternal,
   Hold to God’s unchanging hand.
   - Refrain:
     Hold to God’s unchanging hand,

Hold to God’s unchanging hand;
Build your hopes on things eternal,
Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

2. Trust in Him who will not leave you,
   Whatsoever years may bring,
   If by earthly friends forsaken
   Still more closely to Him cling
3. Covet not this world’s vain riches
   That so rapidly decay,
   Seek to gain the heav’nly treasures,
   They will never pass away.
4. When your journey is completed,
   If to God you have been true,
   Fair and bright the home in glory
   Your enraptured soul will view.
   - Refrain:
     Hold to God’s unchanging hand,
     Hold to God’s unchanging hand;
     Build your hopes on things eternal,
     Hold to God’s unchanging hand.

May you be encouraged today, that no matter what happens in your life, hold on to the loving, caring and protective hands of God and God will hold on to you.

Hold on to the unshakeable through faith, prayer, hope, and perseverance and God will surely see you through.

Let the Church say, “Amen.”