

I. Greener Grass

A. The grass is always greener on the other side of the fence

1. "Refers to the way we tend to look at other people's lives and other things that we don't have in general through rose colored glasses."
2. "Comes from the idea of looking at a neighbour's lawn and seeing it as better looking, healthier and overall greener than your own when in reality you're just ignoring anything negative about it and downplaying everything positive about your own."¹

B. We have been waiting almost 2000 years for our savior to come and get us

1. We really have only been waiting as long as we have been Christians
2. But my 24 years of Christianity can sometimes feel like almost 2000
3. We tend to look around the world and see all the "great" things other people have and do

C. Many of us may want to incorporate worldly habits into our Christianity to satisfy our desires

D. I want to remind us of the Kingdom we now live in and the home that awaits us

II. The Old Assembly

A. Hebrews 12:18–21 (ESV);¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them.²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned."²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear."

B. The author takes the event at Mount Horeb (the beginning of the Old Law) and reminds them where they came from

1. Exodus 19:10-19
2. Could you imagine the scene at the mountain?
 - a) Don't touch the mountain
 - b) Don't let your animals touch the mountain
 - c) Consecrate yourselves and remain pure
3. Moses tells us that everyone was very scared
4. Exodus 20:18–19 (ESV);¹⁸ Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off¹⁹ and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

C. This is how the Law began!

1. There are 613 laws in the Old Covenant given in the first 5 books of the Bible
2. There are 248 "do's" and 365 "don'ts"
3. You can see the focus of the Law; do good, don't do evil
4. Galatians 3:19 (ESV); Why then the law? It was added because of transgressions, until the offspring should come to whom the promise had been made, and it was put in place through angels by an intermediary.

¹ "The Grass Is Always Greener on the Other Side of the Fence." *Urban Dictionary*. N.p., 03 Sept. 2005. Web. 14 Feb. 2017.

5. "The great service of the Law was to demonstrate that all people are sinners (even the Jews), a fact many of them were loath to admit."²
- D. What is our "old assembly?"
1. We came out of the world
 2. 1 John 2:15–16 (ESV);¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.
 3. From the earliest parts of our Christianity we should have been encouraged, and even admonished, to put away the desires, passions, and pride of the world
 4. There is nothing in the world that can offer us eternal life!
- E. The old assembly holds nothing but sin and death
- III. The New Assembly
- A. Hebrews 12:22–24 (ESV);²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,²⁴ and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- B. The author says, "you have come" and lists a number of things connected with the phrase "and to"
1. Mount Zion
 2. The city of the Living God
 3. Innumerable angels
 4. The assembly of the firstborn
 5. God
 6. The Spirits of the righteous made perfect
 7. Jesus
 8. Jesus' blood
- C. Mount Zion
1. The old law began at Mount Horeb, an alien mountain in a foreign land
 2. The new at Mount Zion, the poetic name for Jerusalem
 3. Isaiah 2:3 (ESV); and many peoples shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
- D. The city of the Living God, the heavenly Jerusalem
1. The distinction is made between the worldly and the heavenly
 2. What is the heavenly Jerusalem?
 3. Revelation 21:1–3 (ESV);¹ Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

² Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on Galatians 3:4". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". <http://www.studylight.org/commentaries/bcc/galatians-3.html>. Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.

4. Revelation 21:9–10 (ESV); ⁹ Then came one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues and spoke to me, saying, “Come, I will show you the Bride, the wife of the Lamb.” ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great, high mountain, and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God,
- E. Innumerable angels in festal gathering
 1. What role do angels play in salvation?
 2. That would take up a number of lessons so I will not get into it here
 3. Luke 15:7 (ESV); Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.
 - F. The assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven
 1. The church!
 2. Enrolled — to enter into a list, to register
 3. John talks about the book of life, that those who obey the Gospel of Jesus have their names written in the book of life (Revelation 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27)
 - G. God, the judge of all
 1. It is interesting that the author uses this particular character of God — a judge
 2. Maybe he is trying to get them to understand that no matter what they believe God is in control and will judge everybody in the end
 3. Maybe this is the reason for the order... God, those who have died in the Lord, Jesus and His blood
 - H. Spirits of the righteous made perfect
 1. Several scholars (including Coffman) say these are those who have died in the Lord
 2. I think this is all Christians, alive and dead
 3. We all have immortal spirits and only Jesus makes us righteous
 4. The only way we are made perfect is through Jesus and His blood
 - I. Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant
 1. This is the thrust of the whole book — the new covenant is better than the old
 2. Why would anyone leave the new covenant and go back to the old?
 3. Why would we leave Christ and go back to the world?
 4. Matthew 16:25–27 (ESV); ²⁵ For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. ²⁶ For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul? ²⁷ For the Son of Man is going to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay each person according to what he has done.
 - J. The Sprinkled blood
 1. This references the inauguration of the tabernacle (Exodus 29)
 2. Moses sprinkled blood on the altar and Aaron and his sons to consecrate them
 3. This blood does not cry out in anguish highlighting Cain’s sinfulness
 4. This blood covers us, cleansing and sanctifying us, calling us to sinlessness
- IV. Enrolled
- A. Whatever you left behind, don’t go back, it is not worth it
 - B. The covenant we have with God through Christ is far better than anything anyone else can offer
 - C. It is sinfulness versus sinlessness
 - D. The grass is greenest in Heaven!