“The Church of the Firstborn”  
Heb. 12:18-24

Introduction:
A. “You have not come …” (vv. 18-21) Versus “You have come …” (vv. 22-24)
B. Christians have come to the “church of the firstborn(ones)”?
   1. Church made up of the firstborn, like “church of the Thessalonians” (cf. 1 Thess. 1:1)
   2. Firstborn had special privileges under O.T.
   3. Firstborn were set apart to God. (Cf. Ex. 13:2; 22:29).
   4. Firstborn were redeemed from death. (Ex. 34:20).
C. In this lesson we ask three questions about coming to the church of the firstborn:

Discussion:
I. What Does One Come to?
   A. List in vv. 22-24.
   B. Not to “organized religion.”
      1. Not to some denomination - unscriptural.
      2. Not to some local church - scriptural.
   C. But, to a special relationship with God with honor and privileges.
      1. Becomes one of the redeemed/sanctified (Like firstborn of OT).
      2. Becomes one enrolled in heaven (v. 23; cf. Rev. 20:12, 15; 21:27)
      4. Becomes one of the reconciled. (Eph. 2:16; Eph. 1:23).
      5. Becomes member of the one body. (Cf. 1 Cor. 12:13; Eph. 4:4).
      6. Becomes a child of God (1 John 3:1)
   D. To a kingdom that cannot be moved. (V. 28; cf. Dan. 2:44)

II. How Does One Come to It?
   A. By recognizing Christ’s authority. (Vv. 24, 26; Matt. 28:18).
   B. By submitting to His authority. (Matt. 28:19,20).
      2. Commitment to observe all things. (Matt. 28:20).

III. What Does One Do after He Has Come?
   A. Continues to hear Christ (vs. 25, 28).
   B. Lives in constant obedience. (1 John 1:7-9).
   C. Joins local church - God’s only “organized religion” (Cf. Acts 9:26).
      1. Many of these churches (under one authority) (1 Cor. 4:17; 7:17).
      2. Join in collective or organized worship. (Heb. 10:25; Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11-14).
      3. Join in collective funds & work done by these funds. (1 Cor. 16:2).
      4. Join in collective discipline (1 Cor. 5).
      5. Submit to common oversight, will and judgment.

Conclusion:
A. Obey Christ.
B. Enjoy privileges of being a firstborn.