

“ROOT OF BITTERNESS”

Hebrews 12:14-17 Pursue peace with all men, and the sanctification without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God; that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled; 16 that [there be] no immoral or godless person like Esau, who sold his own birthright for a [single] meal. 17 For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for repentance, though he sought for it with tears. (NASB)

1. PEACE AND PURITY MUST BE PURSUED. (14)

A. Pursue peace with all men.

Romans 12:18 If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men.

Matthew 5:9 "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

Constant outward conflicts poison the inner tranquillity of the soul.

Seek peace at all times, and purity at any price.

B. But never pursue peace at purity's expense. Peace might mean compromise but purity never can. Purity (holiness) is indispensable to salvation.

Matthew 5:8 "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

1 Thess. 4:7 For God has not called us for the purpose of impurity, but in sanctification.

2. PROBLEMS OF PROCRASTINATION. (16)

A. Immorality sets in.

B. Godlessness occurs.

C. Contempt for ones heritage results.

3. A PLACE FOR PENITENCE IS PROHIBITED. (17)

A. God rejects us when we reject Him.

B. The place for repentance is poisoned.

C. Desire with tears cannot wash the poison out of our lives.

4. PERSISTENCE MUST BE PRACTICED. (15)

A. Lest anyone should fall away.

We keep pace with God's grace or fall away from it.

B. Lest a blight come into our souls.

a. Down in our heart of hearts lies the offense.

Matt. 15:8-20; 12:33-37

b. Trouble, much trouble is caused.

c. It also defiles us; we become unholy.