

Grace vs Bitterness (Grace Wins...) - Hebrews - Week 44

Root of Bitterness

Deuteronomy 29:18-19 so that there may not be among you man or woman or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the Lord our God, to go and serve the gods of these nations, and that there may not be among you a root bearing bitterness or wormwood; and so it may not happen, when he hears the words of this curse, that he blesses himself in his heart, saying, 'I shall have peace, even though I follow the dictates of my heart'—as though the drunkard could be included with the sober.

- *“The writer references Moses’ warning not so much for the sake of the person himself - he is an obvious unbeliever and will perish - but for the sake of the effect such a person can have on the genuine believers while he mixes among them under the pretense of being a believer himself. They can become defiled, and encouraged to lax living and compromise.”* David Gooding Commentary

2 Peter 3:17 You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked

Esau

- *“In Jewish history, the birthright belonged to the firstborn son in a family simply by right of birth and consisted of three things: 1) ruler of the household under and for the father, 2) priest of the family, and 3) the reception of a double portion of all the father's goods. Although a firstborn son did nothing whatsoever to come into possession of the birthright, he could conduct his life in such a manner so as to forfeit the birthright. He could not forfeit his position as firstborn in the family, but he could forfeit the rights of the firstborn.”* Arlen Chitwood Commentary on Hebrews
- *“By God’s gracious providence, Esau was Isaac’s eldest son and so held the birthright. If there was anything at all in the promises of God to Abraham and Isaac, then the firstborn son’s inheritance rights were an exceedingly valuable thing. But to Esau they meant virtually nothing...To barter his God-given birthright for a bowl of stew to pacify his momentary hunger pains - God brands it as profanity. He despised his birthright and all things sacred with it...Esau was saying, in effect: ‘As for all those promises for the future, you can have the lot, Jacob, if you like. As far as I’m concerned, one bowl of stew now is worth more than all those promises for the future.’”* David Gooding Commentary