

## THE BIBLE VIEW

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### One Man and God

*Author Unknown*

Over 160 years ago in 1857, Lanthier, living in New York City, boarded a horse-drawn streetcar to go to his office on Fulton Street. On the way downtown, he read the morning paper. The news he read was that the country was in the grip of an economic depression. In those days, they were called “panics”.

Businesses were closing down, one after the other. Wages were down. Thousands of people were walking the streets, out of work. Conditions were profoundly disturbing. Lanthier, along with many others, read these pessimistic and alarming reports and was worried.

Lanthier was not a great captain of industry, nor was he a great figure in politics. He was only a simple clerk in a Fulton Street office. What made him different was he was a man who believed in prayer. Under the impact of the gloomy news in his morning paper, he got an inspiration.

That same day he sent a note to all his business acquaintances telling them, that beginning the next day, there would be a daily prayer meeting in a certain office on

Fulton Street, at noon. He hoped that each of them would attend.

For his first prayer meeting, he arranged 20 chairs in a circle. That first day only one chair was filled; its occupant was Lanthier himself. That did not discourage him. Alone, he prayed that there might be a tremendous change in him and in America. The second day, a few friends joined him. The next day, all 20 chairs were filled.

Day after day, those men met and prayed together. Soon a similar prayer meeting was started on Wall Street; then one on William Street; then another on Broadway. The movement spread like wildfire to other parts of the country: Boston, Philadelphia, Denver, the south, and the west coast.

Prayer groups sprang up everywhere. Soon there was a great religious revival and with it came a new upsurge in the moral and spiritual life of the people. It was followed by an era of sound prosperity and progress.

It was one of the greatest demonstrations of the power of united prayer and faith that this country had ever witnessed. It all began with one man, an everyday clerk, who released the tremendous power of prayer. Lanthier's achievement was a demonstration of an age-old principle that you can change your life, that I can change mine, and together we can change the world around us. All we need to do is to get hold of God in prayer, or better still, let God get hold of us.

***“He who would be a mover of the world must not be moved by the world.”*** *Author Unknown*

## **Selling Out Cheap**

*Bill Brinkworth*

*“And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom. And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.”* Genesis 25:29-34

Because of his hunger, Esau sold his future. His price for his birthright was a bowl of beans and a piece of bread. He sold out cheap! Hebrews 12:16 calls the trade, “profane.”

He sold his birthright to his younger brother, Jacob. Esau was given that birthright because of no merit of his own. It was the providence of God that he was born first and given its benefits. However, it was his poor decision that gave it all away. His birthright consisted of: priestly rights, respect as head of the household when his father died, family decision-maker over all other family members, and a double portion of his father’s goods when the father died. All this he gave away.

All can have the birthrights due members of the family of God. Some have given it all away for eternally, insignificant reasons. Here are a few reasons why many have not been saved and been born into the family of God to receive an eternal birthright:

- “I don’t want to change religions. Our family has always been this religion, and we’ll stay this religion,”
- they have not read their Bible and do not know God’s way to Heaven,
- they think there are so many in their religion that they could not possibly all be wrong,
- because they do not want to give up their sin to obey the Lord, and many more excuses.

In an eternity in Hell, the excuses for not being born again will not seem important. Eternal birthrights get traded cheaply.

Others may have been saved, but they may have traded what they could have as a Christian for something else of far lesser value. What God wants us to have is always more beneficial than what one could get from this world. Here is a partial list of what many have given up:

- a reputation as an honest person. For whatever reason, a lie had been told, and it cost its teller the trust of many people.
- a direct prayer-line with God, because one was tempted and fell into sin. Participation in sin breaks fellowship with God. Unconfessed sin has kept many

from having a good relationship with God and having the ability to get answered prayer.

- the building of character and learning what God wanted them to learn. Perhaps they developed their lack of character because they cheated on a test, and never learned how to study and not quit. Maybe patience was traded for quick solutions to a need.
- blessings of God, because one would not trust Him by faith. Not giving of a tithe may have cost a person seeing how God could make the other 90% of their salary go farther. Faithfulness in church attendance may have been traded for going to a baseball game on Sunday, and now they wonder why God has not directed their life.
- a future with a spouse-for-life, because one was too impatient to wait on God's timing.
- a future of being used by God, for the temporary things of this world. God has big plans for you, but sometimes those plans are traded for doing what you wanted to do.
- an opportunity to get instructions from God that would change one's life, but because they never read the Bible, they never got them.

Like Essau, too many have made bad decisions. They traded something of great eternal value for a shiny, worthless trinket this world had offered them.

# The Believer's Alphabet

*Author Unknown*

**A**lthough things are not perfect;  
**B**ecause of trials or pain;  
**C**ontinue in thanksgiving;  
**D**o not begin to blame;  
**E**ven when the times are hard;  
**F**ierce winds are bound to blow;  
**G**od is forever able;  
**H**old on to what you know;  
**I**magine life without His love;  
**J**oy would cease to be;  
**K**eept thanking Him for all the things;  
**L**ove imparts to thee;  
**M**ove out of “Camp Complaining”;  
**N**o weapon that is known;  
**O**n earth can yield the power;  
**P**raise can do alone;  
**Q**uit looking at the future;  
**R**edeem the time at hand;  
**S**tart every day with worship;  
**T**o “thank” is a command;  
**U**ntil we see Him coming;  
**V**ictorious in the sky;  
**W**e’ll run the race with gratitude;  
**X**alting God most high;

**Y**es, there'll be good times and yes, some will be bad, but,  
**Z**ion waits in glory, where no one is ever sad.