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THE BIBLE VIEW

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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 for 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 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. He gave all that away.

All can have the birthrights due to 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.
- 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 are traded cheaply.

Others may have been saved, but they may have traded their birthrights 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 has 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 for a need they had, rather than waiting on the Lord to provide.
- Blessings of God, because one would not trust Him by faith. Not giving of a tithe may have cost a person's 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, or why their children do not think it is important to go to church.
- A future with a spouse-for-life because one was too impatient to wait on God's timing and "shacked up" with someone, rather than waiting on God to provide them a mate.
- A future of being used by God for the temporary things of this world. God has big plans for many, but sometimes those plans were traded for doing what

they wanted to do rather than what God wanted them 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 Esau, too many have made bad decisions. They have traded something of great eternal importance for a shiny, worthless trinket this world offered them. In the end, they find themselves unfulfilled, empty, and with little purpose, all because they would not wait on God's provision for their life.

“But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.” *Isaiah 40:31*

Patience

Horne, 1871

- Patience is the guardian of faith, the preserver of peace, the cherisher of love, and is the teacher of humility.
- Patience governs the flesh, strengthens the spirit, sweetens the temper, stifles anger, extinguishes envy, and subdues pride.
- Patience bridles the tongue, restrains the hand, tramples upon temptations, endures persecutions, and consummates martyrdom.

- Patience produces unity in the church, loyalty in the state, harmony in families and societies.
- Patience comforts the poor and moderates the rich.
- Patience makes us humble in prosperity, cheerful in adversity, and unmoved by calamity and reproach.
- Patience teaches us to forgive those who have injured us and to be the first in asking forgiveness of those whom we have injured.
- Patience delights the faithful and invites the unbelieving to church.
- Patience also adorns the woman and improves the man.
- Patience's countenance is calm and serene as the face of Heaven unspotted by the shadow of a cloud, and no wrinkle of grief or anger is seen in its forehead.
- Patience's eyes are as the eyes of doves for meekness and on its eyebrows sit cheerfulness and joy.
- Patience's mouth is lovely in silent security. It is often silent, as its voice is only heard by God.
- Patience is never in a hurry and waits on God.

“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him.” Psalm 62:5

Wait on the Lord

Author Unknown

Not so in haste, my heart;
Have faith in God and wait;
Although He lingers long,
He never comes too late.

He never comes too late;
He knoweth, what is best;
Vex not thyself in vain;
Until He cometh, rest.

Until He cometh, rest;
Nor grudge the hours that roll;
The feet that wait for God
Are soonest at the goal.

“Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”

Psalm 27:14

Wait

George Muller

You need never take a step in the darkness of doubt. If you do, you are sure to make a mistake. Wait, wait, wait until you have God's light on your direction.

Remember, it is the Lord Jesus that is your counsellor. He will be in your particular case and will direct you. If you

patiently wait, expectantly wait, you will find that the waiting is not in vain and that the Lord will prove Himself a counsellor both wise and good.

“Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.”

Psalm 25:5