

"AFTERWARDS"

INTRODUCTION

- I. There are several scriptures in the Bible where some things are either GOOD or BAD, but "AFTERWARD" things change.
 - A. A few passages illustrate this. Matt. 21:28-30; Mark 4:17
 - B. Jesus illustrated how opposite conditions can prevail "afterwards." John 16:20-21
- II. The idea that circumstances can so change, **that** the "afterwards" can be *sorrowful* OR *joyful*, and all significant "afterwards" MAY become unchangeable in time or eternity.
 - A. Satan's "afterward" is to offer so-called joyful things first, and keep the worst for last.
 - B. God's "afterward" is to take the sorrowful things of life, and give something "afterward" GOOD in this life, and then into eternity itself.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, let's consider SATAN'S "AFTERWARDS".

- A. Satan offers many pleasures in this life (sinful pleasures) that can only be momentary, but bring no **real** or lasting pleasure. Heb. 11:24-25; Luke 8:14
 1. Eeaa's carnality illustrates this principle. Heb. 12:17
 - a. Esau's hunger had caused him to give up his future inheritance and family blessings for a few moments of enjoyment.
 - b. Later, when he changed his mind and wanted the blessing back, it was too late, and the giver of the blessings (his father) could NOT change the choice Esau had made, no matter how many tears Esau shed before him.
 2. The rich man's joy of sumptuously living likewise had it's "afterward." Luke 16:19-25
- B. Satan wants people to find his kind of happiness in the world of sin (even in some religious pleasure, that makes them "feel good"), but in the end, as they leave this life and enter into eternity, he will bestow **his** "afterward". Prov. 20:17; cf Prov. 14:12; Rom. 6:23; Jas. 1:12-15

II. 2nd, let's consider GOD'S "AFTERWARDS".

- A. God offers some "better" than the enticements of Satan, but then saves His "best" for last, in HIS "afterwards."
 1. God can bring good things to one who is rebuked for sin. Prov. 28:23
 2. God can turn the sorrows of persecution into a state of rewards. Matt. 5:11-12; Mark 10:29-30
- B. God's guidance, through His word, will bring joy in eternal glory. Psa. 30:5; 2 Pet. 2:9-17; cf Matt. 25:21

CONCLUSION

- I. Whose "afterwards" awaits YOU?
 - A. Satan's afterward's await you IF you find full pleasure in his ways in this life.
 - B. God's afterward's await you if you obey His will and live for Him. Heb. 5:8-9
- II. If we can assist you in hearing of your faith in Christ, repentance of sins, and desire for baptism for the remission of sins, we extend the invitation to you to respond while we stand together and sing the song of encouragement.

Don Tarbet