

GOD'S "AFTERWARD, BLESSING, REJECTED"

INTRODUCTION

I. In Heb. 12:15-17, Paul speaks of GOD, AFTERWARD, BLESSING and REJECTED. (Read carefully).

A. Paul warns that Christians "not fail" of the grace or favor of God. v. 15

1. Then, he gives the example of Esau who **did** fail of his father Isaac's favor. vs.16-17

2. Esau rejected his father's blessing, but was himself rejected BY his father.

a. Esau had sold his birthright to satisfy his extreme hunger. (Gen. 26:27-34)

b. Now, when he later wanted the blessing from his father, he was rejected. (Gen. 27:1-38)

c. Esau sought his father's change of mind, though he sought it with tears, but it could NOT be, for it had already been given to one who possessed the birthright.

B. There are several prophetic things set forth in the passage, that we need to consider.

II. Now, let's examine God's "afterward," His "blessing," and His "rejection."

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, God has His "afterward" IN THIS LIFE.

A. His afterward is **good** in behalf of His "firstborn."

1. Obedience to God for **any** sinner brings forgiveness of sins, fellowship with God, and the hope of everlasting life.

2. There are many providential blessings that Christians enjoy. Rom.8:28; Jas. 5:11; Job 42:10-17

3. Rebuking a brother or converting the lost brings joy "afterward." Prov. 28:23; Luke 15:7

B. God's afterward is **not good** for the wicked in this world.

1. The "afterward" of laziness is poverty. Prov. 20:13

2. The "afterward" of drunkenness is often incurable alcoholism, death and loss of soul. Prov. 20:1; 23:31-35

3. Crime often leads to civil punishment and imprisonment.

4. Those who practice adultery have an unpleasant "afterwards" in this life. Prov. 6:20-35 (Read and discuss in detail if desired).

II. 2nd, God has His "afterward" IN THE NEXT LIFE.

A. God has eternal life promised for those who are heirs of Christ, and are His "firstborn" ones. Heb. 12:23

B. Those who are born again are the "spiritual" firstborn ones, as heirs with Christ, the Son of God. Gal. 3:26-29

III. 3rd, God has an "afterward" that is UNCHANGABLE.

A. Esau sold his birthright, and wanted it back, but it had been given to another, and could not be changed or altered.

B. Those who reject God in this life will find that God's warnings that we have now, and the verdict He gives in the judgment day, will be unchangeable, or unalterable.

1. Even some religious people will learn that their religious life was "vain," as they did not become "heirs" and "firstborn" ones in this life. Matt. 15:9; 7:21-23; John 12:48

2. On the judgment day, the wicked (even who did “believe” in God and Christ), will hear their eternal fate, which cannot and will not be given to non-firstborn ones. Rom. 2:4-6, 7
 - a. God’s judgment will be fair and just. Matt. 7:21-23; Jude 14.
 - b. God is just in punishing the one’s who “reject” Him, for His word is unchangeable and gives warning to the living, as they are held responsible for the word of God. 2 Thess. 1:6; John 12:48
3. The verdicts on the judgment day will bring mixed reactions.
 - a. The heirs will be told to “enter” the **joys of the Lord**. Matt 25:21
 - b. The lost will undoubtedly “weep” for their loss, as Esau did his. Matt. 25:30

CONCLUSION

I. The Bible is filled with some who **did** and **did not** reject the blessings of the firstborn.

A. The Old Testament record tells of some who will undoubtedly admit to their mistakes.

1. What about Eve? (Discuss)
2. What about the wicked in Noah’s day? (Discuss)
3. What about the wicked men in Sodom in Lot’s day? (Discuss)
4. What about Cain who killed his brother? (Discuss)
5. What about Esau, who’s rejection is the basis for today’s lesson? (Discuss)

B. The New Testament also tells about some who were blessed and some who were rejected or will be rejected.

1. What about Judas? (Discuss)
2. What about Stephen? (Discuss) cf Rev. 2:10

II. What will be God’s “afterward” for you if the world should end tomorrow?

A. Will there be a “blessing” for you”

B. Will you be “rejected”?

Don Tarbet