

Hebrews
(Lesson 17)

Introduction:

1. The third section of Hebrews (ch.11-13) emphasizes "the superiority of the Christian faith."
 - a. (ch.11) Faith is explained and illustrated.
 - b. (ch.12) God's people are exhorted to persevere by:
 - 1) running the race with "patience" (vs.1-3)
 - 2) enduring God's chastening (vs.4-13).
2. (12:14-17) Various instructions are given that relate to perseverance.

Discussion:

- I. (vs.14) GOD'S PEOPLE MUST PURSUE PEACE AND HOLINESS
 - A. Peace must be pursued (Romans 12:18; 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:13b).
 - B. Holiness must also be pursued (1 Peter 1:13-16).
 - C. Those who fail to pursue peace and holiness will not see the Lord (Matthew 5:8).
- II. (vs.15a) GOD'S PEOPLE MUST NOT COME SHORT OF HIS GRACE
 - A. It is possible for a child of God to fall from grace (Hebrews 3:12; 4:1).
 - B. Reasons why some fall from grace include:
 1. tribulation (Matthew 13:20-21)
 2. seeking to be justified by the law of Moses (Galatians 5:4)
 3. loving the world (2 Timothy 4:10a).
 - C. The condition of those who come short of God's grace is described in Hebrews 10:26-31.
- III. (vs.15b) GOD'S PEOPLE MUST NOT BE TROUBLED AND DEFILED BY ANY ROOT OF BITTERNESS (Romans 12:17-21; Ephesians 4:26-27)
- IV. (vs.16-17) GOD'S PEOPLE MUST NOT BE LIKE ESAU
 - A. God's people must avoid:
 1. fornication (Hebrews 13:4)
 2. being profane.
 - B. Esau was a profane person.
 1. (vs.16b) He sold his birthright for a meal (Genesis 25:29-34).
 2. (vs.17) Later, Esau was unable to receive the blessing reserved for the firstborn.
 - a. Jacob received the blessing (Genesis 27:18-29).
 - b. Esau was unable to receive it (Genesis 27:30-40).