



Perfecting Hope and Our Inheritance

Lesson Fifty-Four • Hebrews 12:15-17

The Fifth and Final Warning

One of God's sovereign means to ensure true believers will persevere to the end and inherit the blessings of their future salvation.

(12:14) **Positive** exhortation ends with a simple but profound warning.

(12:15-17) **Negative** exhortation ends with a sobering and powerful warning with an example.

Don't Fall Short of Our Future Inheritance and Finish Like Esau!

1. Make Sure No One Among Us **FALLS SHORT** of Our Future Inheritance.

"See to it that no one comes short..." (11:15)

➤ Our responsibility is to **ONE ANOTHER** as we run together. (12:15a)

1. Be "**OVERSEERS**" of one another like your pastors oversee you.

Responsibility of Our Church Overseers

"See to it" the job gets done by "making sure" everyone does their part. (1 Peter 5:1; Hebrews 13:7, 17)

Responsibility of Us as Church Members

"See to it" everyone finishes the race by "making sure" no one falls short or fall away.

2. Answer the call to "**EVERY** member ministry" to one another. (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:12-22)

Every believer is a **runner**. Every runner is a **member** running together as a local church.

Running together requires making sure **NO ONE** falls behind and eventually falls away. (3:12; 10:24)

➤ Our responsibility is to not fall short as **SONS** of God. (Hebrews 2:10-13; 4:1-3)

Image of God: Male & Female	Birthright of the Firstborn Son & Bringing Many Sons to Glory!
Unique Relationship with God.	Unique Relationship with the Father due to Firstborn Birthright .
Unique Representatives for God.	Unique Representative of the Father with a Double Blessing to Share with the Family.
Unique Rule Like God Over Creation.	Unique Rule Like the Father Over His Household as a Future Inheritance .

Don't miss the connection with the Wilderness Generation that fell short of their future inheritance! (4:1-2)

"Therefore, while the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us fear lest any of you should seem to have failed to reach (= come short of) it. For good news came to us just as to them, but the message they heard did not benefit them, because they were not united by faith with those who listened (and obeyed!)." ESV

2. Make Sure No One Chooses to Be Eternally **CURSED** Instead of Eternally Blessed.

➤ Cursed by falling short of God's future **SALVATION** and His present **MEANS** of grace.

"See to it that no one comes short of the grace of God;" (v. 15a)

Three Explanations of the "Grace of God"

1. **INITIAL** saving grace? *Not likely.*
2. **FINAL** saving grace? *Very likely!* Grace in Hebrews (7x): 2:9; 4:16; 10:29; 12:15; 13:9, 25
3. **MEANS** of saving grace? *This Too!*

“While we may think of the grace of God in an evangelistic sense, this is not the author’s focus here. He is speaking of the ongoing grace of God, which believers experience through the preaching of the Word and the Christian disciplines. In this context of the new covenant community, the readers were called to watch over one another—from the weakest brother to the strongest—so that all in their midst would grow in holiness and obtain the grace of God.” – Albert Mohler

“The ‘grace of God’ would encompass all He has done in sending His Son to die on the cross for our sins and the new era of salvation that has resulted.” – Grant Osborne

- Cursed by becoming a root of **BITTERNESS** that suddenly springs up to defile many.

“See to it...that no root of bitterness springing up causes trouble, and by it many be defiled;” (v. 15b)

Background: *The Heart Idolator in Deuteronomy 29:18-19*

- Cursed by being an **IMMORAL** and **GODLESS** person.

“See to it... that there be no immoral or godless person...” (v. 16a)

3. Make Sure No One Ends Up Like **ESAU: The Example of a Bitter Root that Fell Short!**

OT Background: *Genesis 25:21-34, esp. v. 34; 27:1-41, esp. vv. 34, 38*

- Don’t follow Esau’s example! (v. 16-17a)

1. His **CHARACTER:** *Idolatry, immorality, and godlessness.*

“that there be no immoral or godless person like Esau,” (v. 16a)

Idolatry: *Genesis 25:27-34 (Sold the Birthright); 27:31-41 (Sought the Blessing Too Late);*
Immorality: *Genesis 26:34-35; 28:1-9; cf. 24:1-3, 37; 28:1, 6-8; Godlessness:* *Genesis 26:34-35; 28:1, 6-8*

2. His **CHOICES:** *Sold His firstborn birthright to God’s covenant inheritance for a single bowl of beans.*

“who sold his own birthright for a single meal.” (v. 16b; Genesis 25:27-34)

3. His **CONSEQUENCES:** *Sought God’s blessings after it was too late with a heart that wanted the blessing more than the Blessor!*

“For you know that even afterwards, when he desired to inherit the blessing...” (v. 17a; Genesis 27:31-41)

- Don’t think anyone of us will escape! (v. 17)

1. Such a person will be **REJECTED** by God in the end.

“he was rejected,”

“And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.” Hebrews 11:6

2. Such a person will find no place for **REPENTANCE** before God in the end.

“for he found no place for repentance,” (v. 17c)

*Esau showed **worldly regret** when it was too late to get the blessing, but never **godly repentance** when he first lost the birthright!*

3. Such a person will be plagued by **REGRET** knowing God has been just in the end.

“though he sought for it with tears.” (v. 17d)

Make Every Effort to Pursue Our Future Inheritance Together, While Making Sure None of Us Falls Short of God’s Final Salvation!

Jesus is our Pioneer and Perfector who has made sure we will not fall short, so don’t and make sure others don’t as well!

- Encourage and exhort one another all the more as the finish line approaches and our future inheritance lies ahead!
- Imitate the right examples! Social media, podcasts, and books are filled with deconstructing “believers” who have abandoned the church but still claim to be Christians and worship a “Jesus” made in their own image.
- Don’t be deceived by the Deceiver: You can be blessed with many blessings in this life, and even outwardly be “a good Christian,” and still miss out on God’s eternal blessings that are only received by persevering faith with perfecting hope!
- Don’t be deceived by sin: You cannot persist in habitual sin and become apathetic toward His means of grace (e.g., the local church, gathered worship, spiritual disciplines) and think you will be saved in the end.