

"THINGS WE NEVER GET OVER"

Hebrews 12:17

This is a very unusual text tucked away in the book of Hebrews, which states he found no place of repentance. Though he sought it carefully with tears. This was a thing that he never got over.

I might first of all challenge your thinking with the idea that there are some things that can be mended. Some thing that we get over. For example, some diseases. Or a broken leg will mend, and we'll get over that. Or take poverty, through hard work and labor, many people overcome poverty. Because of opportunity and because of hard work. Ignorance is something that a person may get over if he will take the time to read and to use the educational opportunities that are available.

Broken fellowships - a man may get over that. For example, Jacob who had broken fellowship with God, went back again to Bethel and there living with his people, led himself to a good relationship with God. This is something that a man can get over.

Broken marriages. Many times these are mended and people get back together again. I remember marrying a couple that had been married 17 years, separated for two years, and then re-married them. There are some things that we can get over.

A broken life - an individual who has wasted his life like a prodigal. And can always arise and come back to the father and find pardon and happiness, and begin a new life.

Broken friendships can be mended. Jesus tells you how to do that in the New Testament. If you should come to the altar with some gift and remember that

you have some hard feeling against some person, he said place your gift down and go and mend that friendship, and broken friendship which you have - and then come and present the offering along with your life. So this is something that you can get over and will change.

Now on the other hand there are some things that we are uncertain about. We have uncertainty in our minds about whether or not we will ever get over some things. But it is tragic that so many are uncertain about God's certainties. And I remember reading the story from the little magazine "NOW" it went like this, the residence of Uncertain Texas are no longer uncertain as to whether or not they will live in uncertainty. That is because the results of an election held to incorporate the town have been decreed valid by a county judge. The town of Uncertain is located northeast of Marshall, on the banks of Caddo Lake, near the La. border. Judge Ray said the town of Uncertain is certainly a town under Texas statutes. And he will call an election to elect a mayor and a marshall and five alterman.

It is going to be somewhat confusion - when a resident of Uncertain visits a distant city. And is asked for his place of residence. And he answers Uncertain. The inquirer might say, surely you know where you reside. And the Texan replied, yes, I'm certain that I live in Uncertain.

But speaking of that which is spiritual, many times people live in uncertainty. And that is where multitudes live - they are uncertain about their condition before God. They are uncertain about God's way of salvation. They are uncertain about their eternal destiny.

King Solomon asked his son Rehoboam - hath not I written to thee excellent things

There are people who fear the guilt of this sin. Have you such anxiety. Then I would say to you that you have not committed this. Because there would be no anxiety at all in your heart.

Some time ago in that 18 mile an hour wind that passed up the Chesapeake Bay and the Dixie Lee capsized. We are told that a man came through with his boat that had been on an excursion for seafood. And was able to rescue a number of the passengers. But all of them were not rescued. But in this sermon, I want to talk to you about the lifeboat of the Gospel. And we cry out over the Sea that there is room for all. That somehow Jesus Christ, might bring this very hour to you, out of the floods of sin and plant you on the deck of a glorious Gospel prayer.

I want to call your attention to the fact that there are sins those which may be pardoned, or in some respect irrevokeable. And you can find no place for repentance. Though you seek it carefully with tears. Esau had a birthright given him. In olden times it meant not only in temporal but in spiritual blessings.

One day Esau took his birthright and traded it off for something to eat. We say the folly of that. Let us not be too severe upon him. For some of us have committed the same folly.

After he had made the trade, he wanted to get it back. Just as though, you tomorrow morning - might get up and take all of the money that you have in the house and go down to the restaurant. And in a moment of recklessness, you are hungry. You put it all on the counter, and you say now give me a plate of such and such of food. And you make an exchange.

Now that was the one that Esau made. He sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. And he was very sorry about it afterwards. But our text says he found no place for repentance though he sought it carefully with tears.

There is an impression upon the mind of almost every person who listens to me that somewhere in the future there will be a chance where he can correct all of his mistakes.

Live as we may, if we only repent in time - God will forgive us. And then all will be as well as though we have never committed the sin.

But in this message tonight, I would like to point out to you that there are some things where repentance is unsuccessful. Where things that we have done wrong will always stay wrong. And even though we may seek a place of repentance, we may not be able to find it.

Esau like Cain stands out in the word of God as a (beacon of warning) Like the mask of a ship sunken off of Cape Hatteras - still you may see the mast over the overwhelming tide. But it is there.

Privilege was inherited. Esau was the first born. And so by birth he had the opportunity of becoming heir. This was a marvelous opportunity because of natural birth. And this was true in Bible lands.

This privilege was despised by Esau. what profit is this birthright to me.

Gen. 32. It could be no profit to him and he esteemed other sensual things of more importance. The pottage to him was the chief thing in that moment. He allowed his appetite to over rule the highest instinct of his nature. And first of importance was not to put the kingdom of God first.

The privilege was lost. He sold his birthright in Gen. 25-33. Deliberately parted with it as a thing of no value. There are always plenty of the Jacob sort about - who are ready at any cost to others, to make personal gain out of their spiritual stupidity. The heart is never more deceitful than when it covets the things which are seen and temporal, and let slip those things which are eternal. It is a bad bargain to sell the spiritual for the natural.

In our text in Hebrews, V. 15 and 16 we have reference here to Esau who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. In his pursuit for peace and happiness, this made clear and brought trouble. There are two or three warnings within those two verses.

Hebrews leads up to our text with some Solomon words -

V. 13

① Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God. We know that it takes diligent watchfulness. With others as well as ourselves, we are all overseers of each other.

The word rendered failed - means literally to fall short. It implies not the throwing away of something. Which has at one time been possessed, but the failure to attain that which has been pursued or the failure to arrive in time. If we would guard the peace of the church, we must look diligently, lest there be those who fall short of the grace of God. And have not a sense of his provisions.

② The second warning is looking diligently lest any root of bitterness springing

up troubles you. And thereby, many be defied. Deut. 29:18. This has to do with the unconsecrated attitude. By and by the seed which was under the ground, take root. But still it is hidden, then suddenly it springs forth. Bitterness enters into the assembly of believers. Thus the failure of one effects many. It causes trouble at first and then defiles, disrupts. And there must be diligent watch. Achan did not suffer alone.

③ The third thing is to look diligently lest there be any fornicator. Or profane person as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. Now this signifies unfaithfulness to God. There are some who do not dethrone or keep under the old man. And bitterness enters into the church. The result is some who do not follow after peace but after fornication. Fornication need not be described. Esau's profanity however requires some consideration here. As you describe Esau's act, it makes it apparent that to be profane does not denote a note of blasphemy of deity. Or the vain use of the divine name in our speech.

The Greek word here has to do with (trampling upon something) in connection with it's use. Here signifies trampling upon a divine given privilege.

It is an (indifference) to the things of God. Esau cared more for temporal things. For the satisfaction of its senses - than he did for eternal things.

The account of Esau's profane act which issued from his profane attitude is written in Gen. 25. God had ordained that Jacob and not Esau was to have the blessing. Esau was the first born and as such expected the blessing of his father which carried with it not only the right to a double portion of his father's estate but the privilege of being the head of the family, and thus the priest.

So in this case the blessing of Isaac embraced the favor of being an heir in the

covenant of Abraham. Esau coming in from the field hungry, smelled the pottage that Jacob had cooked. And asked for some. Jacob made a bargain with Esau - food in return for the birthright. Esau had explained, "I am at the point of dying. And what profit shall the birthright do me. This, in this, Esau was profane. In the first place, he was not at the point of death. He was simply hungry.

Second, even had he been about to die, had he had a devotion to God and spiritual appreciation, he would have suffered death rather than to reject his place of privilege.

His whole attitude was earthly and sensual. He was indifferent to the things of God. He was an unholy man.

V. 17 - For ye know how that afterwards, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected. And he found no place of repentance.

The account of Esau's remorse is recorded in Gen. 27:34-40, after his hunger was satisfied. Esau realized what he had lost. Though only in part we suspect, the part of the blessing that carried with it the material gain.

He came crying to Isaac, seeking his father's blessing - but too late. It had been given to Jacob. Isaac recognized the divine hand behind this. And would not change the blessing, rather concerning Jacob. Yea, that he should be blessed. V. 33.

This Hebrew passage tells us that Esau was rejected. For he found no place of repentance. For he found in his father no place for a change of mind though he

blessings zealously with tears.

It was not that Esau himself could not repent. He could have repented but he may even have done so sincerely. But it was more likely that he simply suffered remorse for what he had lost through hasty action.

Neither was it repentance that he sought with tears. But he sought the blessing. Esau desired that his father should repent. So that Isaac would invoke the blessing upon him. That he had given to Jacob. But it was too late. It was a thing that he was never to get over. Esau had fallen short of the grace of God.

It may be asked, what has all of this to do with the subject under discussion. Esau's experience is a well known illustration, of the danger in neglecting the attitude of the heart. If we are to cultivate peace and holiness we must shun lack of faith, bitterness of mind, sin and indifference to the things of God. The whole passage carries a solemn warning.

One who has been enlightened and who has had the privilege of the new covenant, introduced to them through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now let us think a little while about this unsuccessful repentance. There are some things that are done wrong that may stay wrong. There may be some things that you know about.

I. THE WILD OATS OF YOUTH

Now many times there may have been a misspent youth. With many mistakes and

people can think back to college days and high school days. Think back when they neglected even their studies in school. How they didn't work on chemistry or math, or some other subject. And because of the mistakes they made at their times, these mistakes of folly, it will always be there. Now we may be sorrow about it all of our days. Can we ever get the advantage that we have had. We attended to those duties in our early life.

Why a man wakes up at 40 years of age and finds that his youth has been wasted. And he strives to get back that early advantage. Can he get back those days - the days of boyhood. The days of school days, the days when he was under his father's roof.

He says if only I could get those times back again - how I would improve them. My friend, I say to you tonight, you will never get those days back again - they are gone, gone, gone.

You may be very sorry about it and God will forgive you so that you may at last reach Heaven. But you will never get over some of those mishaps and days of wild oats that you have planted. That have come to your soul as a result of your neglect. Of the early duties in life.

You may try to undo it. But you cannot undo it.

When you had a boy's arm, and boy's eyes. You should have attended to those

*A lady engaged in washing her upstairs windows hand out too far & fell
sanding squarely in a garbage can -
Passing Chinese butlerman looked - Shryggel said "American very wasteful
woman good for 10 yrs yet."*

Here is a man who says I am 50 years of age. I do wish I could get over these

habits of indifference and character which I have. When did you get them. At 20,

or 25 years of age. You cannot shake off the habit now - they hang on to you and they will hang on to you until the very day that you die.

If a man through a long force of evil conduct undermines his physical health and then he repents of his evil, the Lord may pardon him but that does not bring back his good physical condition.

There are some things that we never get over.

Think if you paid attention to those who disciplined you while you were in school. You had disagreements with your parents, with educators, and others. I remember a novel story that came out of the hills of Ga. Some years ago a school superintendent had difficulty in finding the right teacher. For an unruly, one-room country school. The children had driven away three successive instructors. Because only one man applied for the post, he was appointed. But when the desperate superintendent met him, he was filled with miss givings. How would this lean and frail teacher ever handle his over grown charges. On his first visit to the problem school, to his delightful surprise, the superintendent found everything in perfect order. His new school master was flourishing and happy. He even gained weight. How did he do it. And so he blurted out his admiration. This school he says, has had the greatest discipline problems for years. And now these children seem to behave perfectly. It seems a miracle. Tell me how you did it.

Smiling, modestly, he replied. Oh, it was not too difficult. I must admit they were pretty unruly when I first came. But anytime one of them misbehaved, I just ate his lunch.

Now his method was no doubt effective. But that was one man of discipline who went about the business of trying to teach children and young people how to do right. Even though it hurts for a little while.

So these things that happen in youth, many times, are things that people never get over. For example, I read about a minister of the Gospel, and somebody asked him where are you preaching now. He says, I'm not preaching - I'm suffering from the physical effects of early sins. I can't preach now - I am sick. Here is a consecrated man but he mourned bitterly over his early sins. But that does not arrest the sins and the influence of his body.

The simple fact is that men and women often take 20 years of their life to build up incomes that take all the rest of their life to break down.

You talk about a man beginning life at age 21 and a woman beginning at age 18. No, in many respects, that's the time when life has already closed in. In 9 cases out of 10 all the questions of eternity have been decided before that. You talk about a majority of men getting their fortunes between 30 and 40, they get or lose their fortunes when they are 10 to 20 years of age. And that is before most people think that life is beginning. Life is closing. And the next 50 years of life will not be of as much importance to him as the first 20.

Now why do I say this? If any man will look back in retrospect, you know that is the way it is. And I say it for the benefit of young men and young women. I want you to understand that eternity is wrapped up in this very hour. But the sins of youth we never get over. And you are now fashioning the mold in which your great future

is going to run. And this gives to you the life of all young people. The light on the subject that you need not to shrink away from. Think about it - young person. Even the sin of last night, or the sin of tonight, or the sin of tomorrow. It may be reaching out over 10,000 years. Yes, over the great unending eternity. You may after awhile say, I am very sorry. Now I am 30 years of age and I do wish I had never committed those sins. What does that amount too.

God may pardon you. But undo those things, you never will - you never can.

II. NEGLECTFUL PARENTS

There are many parents who neglect their responsibilities. And the mistakes that you make as a parent many times you never get over. There are fathers and mothers who begin to educate their children too late. By the time they get to be 10 or 15 we wake up to the mistakes and we try to eradicate this bad habit of a child.

The father or mother who admits that the first 10 years of a child's life - and does not make an eternal impression for Christ, will never make it. The child will probably go on with all the disadvantages which might have been avoided by the parents faithfulness. Now you see the mistake that father and mother makes that puts off for life, or late life, following Christ.

Here is a man who at the age of 50 says, I must be a Christian. He gives his heart to Christ and he sits in the house of prayer every night. None of us can doubt

it. He goes home and he says, here I am 50 years of age. I've given my heart to the Saviour. Now I am going to establish a family altar. And you ask him what he is going to do. And then you asked him where are your children. Well, he would say one is in N. C., one is in California. One is in N. Y. And here you are 50 years of age and you are going to establish a family altar. Well, you say it is better late than never. But alas, why didn't you do it 25 years ago - when you were 25.

In Switzerland, they have a picture in one of their shops, that impressed one's mind that pictures an accident that happened on the side of a Swiss mountain. A company of travelers with guides went up to some very steep places -- places but what few travelers attempt to go up. They were as all travelers are, fastened together. With cords at the wrists, at the waist, so that if one slips the rope which would hold him, the rope fastened to the others. Passing along one of the most dangerous points, one of the guides slipped and they all slipped down. But after awhile, one more muscular than the rest stuck his heels into the ice. But the rope broke and down hundreds and thousands of feet, the rest went.

From that picture, you can see the families that are bound together by ties of affection. In many cases, they are walking upon a slippery place in the worldliness of sin.

The father knows it, the mother know it, they are all bound - all together.

After awhile, they begin to slide down farther and farther. And the father becomes alarmed and he stops. And he plants his feet on the rock of ages. He stops. But the rope breaks. And those that have been tied fast to him by moral and spiritual influences go over.

There is such a thing as coming to Christ soon enough to save ourselves.
But not soon enough to save others.

How many parents wake up to the later part of life to find out their mistakes.

The parents say, I have been too lenient.

I have been too severe in the discipline of my child. If I had the little ones around me again, how different I would do.

You will never have them around again - the work is done.

The bent to the character is given, eternity is decided.

I say this to the young parents, those who are 25, 30, and 35 years of age.
I would have my family altar tonight.

How do you suppose that the father felt as he leaned over the couch of his dying son, and the son said to him, father, you have been very good to me. You have given me a fine education. You placed me in a fine social position. You have done everything for me in this world, but father, you never told me how to die. Now I am dying and I am lost.

III. THE UNKINDNESS DONE

There are some things that we never get over - some of the wild oats that you sow

in your youth. Some of the mistakes you mistake in parenthood. And now some of the unkindnesses you have done.

DeWitt Talmadge said that when he was a boy, his mother used to say to him - you will be sorry for that when I am gone. And I remember just how she looked sitting there with a cap and specks and the old Bible in her lap. And she never said a truer thing than that for I have often been sorry since.

While we have our friends with us, we say unguarded things that wound their feelings. Feelings of those that we ought to give nothing but kindness too.

Sometimes parents without even questioning will give a child a spanking. A little child will fall and come in covered with dirt and dust. As though that is not disaster enough, then she whips him.

But after awhile she might say, if only I could give back to him kind words. Those unkind deeds. If only I could recall them. But you cannot get them back. You might bow down over the grave of a loved one, and you might cry and cry, and cry. But your tears will not be an answer. I saw a young woman ride to the cemetery and get on her knees over a grave. And when she rode away on her bike, she was using her handkerchief.

The stars shall be plucked out of their sockets. But these influences will not be torn away. The world will die but there are some wrongs that are going to be immortal. The moral of which is take care of your friends while you have them. Why

be scoulding all the time.

Some day you will wish you had. Very soon you will - perhaps it may be today or tomorrow. Yes, while you have a firm hand, you can be very very determined.

And someday there will be carved in a little slab - our Willie or our Charlie - and you might go to that grave and seek a place of repentance.

IV. LOST OPPORTUNITIES OF DOING GOOD

These are some things you'll never get over. Have you ever thought about the times in your life when you have had the opportunity to do some good. And you failed to do it. You wasted that opportunity. And you just felt like something slipped away.

I don't know, I feel sometimes that on the Lord's Day when we go away feeling, after we have dealt with some religious there, some sermon or message - to go away feeling. I wish that I had been more successful with it. I wish that somehow I could have made that a little more clear.

I wonder how it is with you. If you take a certain number of bushels of wheat and scatter them over a certain number of acres of land. You'd expect a harvest in proportion to the amount of seed scattered.

Think about tonight about the spiritual harvest that is going to be reaped.

How has it been with you. You may make resolutions for the future. But the past opportunities are gone. It is a long procession of years that have gone by. What about the future years. What about the present moment. What about the day when the archangel trumpet is going to wake the dead. And here is Esau, he has sold his birthright. And there is not wealth enough in the treasurehouse of Heaven to buy it back again.

What does that mean - it means that if you are going to get any advantage out of this Lord's Day, you'll have to get it before the hands on this clock move around to 12 tonight. It means that every moment of our life is moving. And it is moving in a straight line from eternity to eternity. And we shall find no place of repentance though we seek it carefully and with tears. Because we did not take advantage of these lost opportunities to do good.

V. WE HAVE LOST THE OPPORTUNITY OF USEFULNESS OF WITNESSING

There comes a time when we can do a good thing for Christ. And it comes only once. In ordinary circumstances you may say to a person - believe in Christ. And he will say, you mind your business and I'll mind mine.

There is a time on the farm when you plant the corn and the seeds and you sow them. You let that time go by and the farmer will ring his hands because he knows that there will be no harvest. He has not planted.

We have religious meetings on every Lord's Day. And you say, here is an opportunity to worship I must do it. But you are silent.

Someday you try to get back these opportunities - you cannot find them.

It is like the fleece that Gideon watched. You take it in your hand and the dew that came down, and you cannot find it. It is gone forever. The opportunity for personal repentance, when it passes away - you may hunt for it. But you cannot find it.

You can fish for it but it will not take the hook.

You may dig for it but you cannot bring it up.

Remember what I am telling you - it's this -- there are some wrongs and sins that can never be corrected. And if you let an opportunity of salvation go by you, as much as an inch, you are apt to miss it.

I want to say to those tonight that here is a glorious birthright. Esau was not so rich as yours. And if you sell it once, you will sell it forever. The world wants to buy it. And let me tell you who it is. It is Satan. He wants to buy it. You listen to him. And he will take it away from you.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan caused Eve to partake of that fruit. And she has eaten of something that she was never to get over. Sin was to become a part of the human race. And since that fall - it has always been there.

Why do I tell you these truths tonight. Well, I have stood before you year after year telling you these things. Some people have yielded their hearts to God.

And a glorious crop of souls have been reached. But this audience, even now, immortal men and women all need to be prepared for the great future. I could talk to you tonight about the pearlie gates. The walls of precious stone. The crown of light. And those who have no preparation for that land and those who are on the wrong road. And I have stood here Sunday after Sunday persuading you to give up your sin and seek God.

I remember a story of a lad on the Arctic some years ago. The lad, Stewart Holland. A vessel crashed into the Arctic in a fog. And it was found that the ship must go down. Some of the passengers got off in the life boat. Some got off on rafts. But 300 went to the bottom. During all of those hours of calamity, Stewart Holland stood at the (signal gun). And it sounded across the sea. Boom! Boom! The helmsman forsook his place. The engineer was gone. And some fainted. Some prayed. Some blasphemed. The powder was gone. And they could let off the signal gun no more. The lad broke in the magazine and brought out more powder. And again the gun boomed over the sea.

My friends, I think of many of you tonight in immortal peril. Sickness will come down after awhile upon you. Death will come down upon you. Judgement will come down upon you. Eternity will come down upon you.

Some have taken the warning and have gone off in the life boat. But others are not making any attempt to escape.

So I stand with this signal gun of the Gospel sounding the alarm - beware, beware. Now is the accepted time. "Now is the day of salvation." The wrath will come. Boom! Boom! Jesus waits. He stretches out his arms to all and cries in his tenderness. Come unto me all ye that are weary and are heavily laden. And I will give you rest.

May the Lord help you to accept the mercy and to hear his message - that your soul may live.

door was closed - story of Virginis - unable to enter - now get over

man hospital - stopped in his room
& asked "What attack" - He said no -
Sincerely

Told me of his family - wife & one child
Business

you have things out
of focus -
look at God!

I have God for a second change
in unsuccessful new change
Too late!!