

The Bulwark

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BUYER'S REMORSE

More likely than not, all have suffered "buyer's remorse". The excitement that accompanies getting something that is new. However shortly after making the purchase, there arises at first a little surge of regret which can build into an emotional tsunami of remorse. Questions arise internally, did I really need this? Is it worth the time and energy expended to scrimp and save to be able to purchase it? Remorse, which is defined as being, "a gnawing distress; self-reproach." Stated another way, "how could I have been so foolish?!"

Consider Esau for a moment. You don't think he felt "buyer's remorse" after his decision to sell his birthright in order to purchase a "single meal" as seen in Hebrews 12:15-17 (see also Genesis 27). When he finally came to his senses, it was too late. Clearly he suffered the pangs of that decision for the remainder of his days.

In the third chapter of Genesis, record is found of arguably the first case of "buyer's remorse". The dynamic centers around a "crafty" serpent, who concocts a ruse to entice Eve. The serpent said, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?' And the woman said to the serpent, From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; but

from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it; lest you die.' And the serpent said to the woman, 'You surely shall not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil'" (Genesis 3:1-5)



Eve bought what the serpent was "selling", hook, line and sinker. She then was able to influence Adam to partake. With one fell swoop, sin entered into the world. The consequences of their decision has far reaching ramifications. The remorse for their decision was on full display as seen expressed in verses seven and eight. The first thing they did was to hide from God, for indeed their eyes were opened. They knew they didn't become like God, far from it.

God inquired of Adam, "Where are you?" (Genesis 3:9) It is not as if Adam was really able to conceal self from God, but perhaps God wanting Adam to acknowledge where he stood in relation to God. Regardless, Adam, as well as Eve were called into account. Each sought to affix blame elsewhere, Adam had the temerity to ultimately fix the blame on God, because after all God had given him "the woman" (see Genesis 3:12)

Sin has consequences. "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23) While there are indeed consequences, as evidenced in the noted passage. However, God out of His bountiful mercy, grace and love has provided a way to rectify the sins of mankind. The precious blood of His Son. "Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift!" (2Corinthians 9:15)

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and delivered Himself up for me." A life of celebration not remorse. (wbe)

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