

Roots Of Bitterness

Introduction. Hebrews 12:15 says, "Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled." A "root of bitterness" was a poisonous plant. The Hebrews call every species of poison a bitter, and although the "root of bitterness" is used in Hebrews 12 metaphorically for a man holding false doctrines, there are a lot of "roots of bitterness" which can cause us to be hurt, resentful, and discouraged as we try to live as Christians.

I. ***Failure To Convert***

- A. Acts 13:45-46.
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:6.
- C. 2 Timothy 4:1-4.

II. ***Failure Of Professed Christians***

- A. Jeremiah 9:8.
- B. John 12:1-6.
- C. 2 Timothy 4:10, 16.

III. ***Sickness And Tragedy***

- A. Job 1:20-22; 2:7-8.
- B. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18.
- C. 1 Peter 4:12-16.

IV. ***Offenses***

- A. Luke 17:1-4.
- B. Ephesians 4:31-32.
- C. Matthew 18:15-17.

V. ***Discipline***

- A. 2 Thessalonians 3:6, 14-15.
- B. Titus 3:10.
- C. 2 Corinthians 2:6-11.

VI. ***Restraints Of God's Word***

- A. Titus 2:12
- B. Matthew 19:9.
- C. 2 John 9-11.

Conclusion. During World War II, Zinaida Bragantsova of Ukraine was sitting by the window sewing. Suddenly she heard a whistling noise. Then she was struck by a blast of wind. When she came to, her sewing machine was gone, and there was a hole in the floor. She told people there was a

bomb in the floor, but she couldn't get any officials to check out the situation. So she moved her bed over the hole and lived with it for the next 43 years.

Then, one day, phone cable was being laid in the area and demolition experts were called in to probe for buried explosives. "Where's your bomb, Grandma?" asked the smiling army lieutenant of Bragantsova. "No doubt, under your bed?" "Under my bed," Bragantsova responded dryly. Sure enough, they found a 500 pound bomb. After evacuating 2,000 people from surrounding buildings, the bomb squad detonated the bomb. Bragantsova moved to a new apartment.

Many people live as if they have a bomb under their bed. They cover up a terrible secret, a great hurt, a seething anger while everyone goes on about their business. But no one is truly safe until the bomb is uncovered and removed. The same can be said about roots of bitterness.