Selling One's Birthright

(Trading the Eternal for the Temporal)

Genesis 25:27-34

I. Esau sold his birthright.

What is a birthright?

This was a special honor usually given to the oldest son in the family.

A. We are told that Esau *despised his birthright.*

- (v. 34) *Esau despised his birthright*

1. He traded something of much greater value for something of far lesser value.
2. He sacrificed the enduring on the altar of the immediate.
3. Esau's decision was based upon his physical appetites.

B. We are told Esau was a profane person.

- Hebrews 12:15-17

❖ Esau was impulsive, unholy, and was a *live-in-the-now* lifestyle person.

II. As children of God, we have a birthright.

A. The believer has an inheritance due to his birthright.

- I Peter 1:3-4
- Colossians 1:12
- Ephesians 1:13-14
- Romans 8:16-18

❖ Our inheritance is contrasted to what the world offers.

1. Rewards in heaven are better.
   - Hebrews 10:34

2. Rewards in heaven are eternal.
   - II Corinthians 4:17-18
3. We are told to store our treasures in heaven.
   - Matthew 6:19-20

B. The believer can sell his birthright. How?

1. By trading heavenly rewards for earthly treasure.
2. By living for the temporal rather than the eternal.

C. How can the believer avoid selling his birthright?

1. By longing for (desiring) the eternal over temporal
   - Colossians 3:1-2
2. By laboring for heavenly rewards rather than earthly treasures
   - John 6:27
3. By Living by faith
   - Hebrews 11:24-27

   a. Refusing what the world offers (v. 24)
   b. Choosing the eternal over the temporal (v. 25)
   c. Esteeming heaven's rewards of greater value than the material things of this earth. (v. 26)