



The Planter

"The seed is the word of God", Luke 8:11



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The Struggle of Bitterness Adam Faughn

A number of years ago, Leah and I visited one night of a Gospel Meeting where her parents are members. The speaker got up and told those gathered that, as of that morning, he had not been sure what he was going to preach on for the lesson that night. Then, he said, he went to the local Wal-Mart and said something to the effect of, "Everywhere you look, people are just bitter."

So, we heard a sermon on bitterness.

It is very rare to hear a sermon on that topic, but it is a subject that needs to be addressed at times. The New Testament does not shy away from making it clear that bitterness is a sin.

If that's the case, then what is it?

The word translated "bitterness" (pikria) had to do with something that was bitter to the taste, so it was used metaphorically for having a spirit or inner disposition that was bitter toward someone.

W.E. Vine, in describing the word, points out that, while the sin is inward, it eventually displays itself outwardly. He wrote, "[Bitterness] denotes an inward attitude of resentment, a harsh disposition producing bitter words."

In Ephesians 4:31, Paul wrote that bitterness is among a list of things we are to put away from us as believers in Jesus.

"Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice."

That passage is vital to our understanding of this word because, for many people, we think that being bitter is just being mad at someone, but notice that "wrath" and "anger" are both also mentioned here. Anger is typically thought of as more of a heated moment.

Bitterness is much harder to deal with. It is an inward disposition that skews how I view someone, how I talk about someone, and how I will deal with (or refuse to deal with) someone.

Ouch.

John Chrysostom, writing likely in the late 300s, said, "Nothing so estranges men from one another as bitterness."

But the Bible, of course, gives the strongest challenge—and command—concerning this sin. In Hebrews 12:15, the writer of that great book warns us against allowing a "root of bitterness" in our lives. If it is there, he says, it will spring up "and cause trouble."

Then (and read this very thoughtfully) he adds: "By it many become defiled."

What's the hardest part about a root? You can't see it.

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July 26, 2026

Sunday Morning

Opening Prayer Justin Glaze

Closing Prayer Joseph Tucker

Scripture Reading Tim York

Sunday Evening

Opening Prayer Dan Logan

Closing Prayer Adam Cordell

Remember in prayer:

Chris Travis, Mike Short, Rick Davison, Amanda Fletcher, Joan and Steve Henry, Ayla Alexander, Kenleigh Bailey, Luke Keller, Jill Spears, Wally Booker, Norene O'Kelly, Don Duncan, Joe Chambers, Bill and Billie Nolen, Stefan Hoglund.

Oak View Nursing Home: Betty Floyd.

Funeral services for **Sammy Wyers** will be Monday at the Winfield Church of Christ. Visitation will be at the building from 1:00 till 3:00 pm; Funeral service will be at 3:00 pm.

Our Summer Series speaker this Wednesday night will be **Denny Howell** speaking on the subject of "Samson- The Flawed Deliverer"

Our **20th Annual Singing** is this Friday night; 7:00 – 8:30 pm; the refreshments sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

We will have our **Fellowship Meal** next Sunday after our morning services, then our 1:00 pm Kids Sing and Singing and Devotional.

Record for the week of July 19, 2026

10 am	11 am	5 pm	Wed	Contribution
90	84	82	79	\$3596.45

Too many Christians are walking around with bitterness rooted in their heart. They view a brother or sister through skewed lenses. They struggle to see anything good that a fellow Christian does. They can't let a compliment come out of their mouth toward that person, and if they hear one, they will immediately "correct" it by reminding you of some character flaw that person has.

In the Bible in which I take notes, I have a quotation beside Hebrews 12:15. (I'm sorry to say that I forgot where I got this quote from (so, if you know, please let me know so I can give proper credit.) See if this doesn't make you think:

"If we are not careful, we can let [bitterness] overtake us. If you let it continue to take root and become overgrown, it can choke out the good things in life. In the end, it does more damage to you than to those who have hurt you."

And the scariest part is, those who are bitter scarcely realize it is happening.

Bitterness has taken root.

And the only way to get rid of it is, well, to get rid of it! Root and all.

Bitterness is not something that can be worked on easily. It is not something that will just go away over time.

It must be removed from the root. Fully. Completely. Totally.

If not, I am living in sin. And if that is true, my everlasting soul is endangered.

Is it easy? No! This can be a tremendous struggle. But the rewards are a clearer mind, a heart that is more ready to forgive, a more positive view of my fellow Christians...

...and heaven.

Elders:

Steve Fletcher, Hugh Glaze, Dan Logan, Tim York

Deacons: Justin Glaze, Carter Logan, Adam Morgan, Jerry Reaves

Minister: Hugh Glaze

Song Leader: Adam Morgan