

INSTANT GRATIFICATION

Ponder: I want what I want, and I want it now!

Scripture: "By faith Moses, when he became of age, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin" (Hebrews 11:24, 25, NKJV).

An old adage says, "Good things come to those who wait." In this era of entitlement, many are unwilling to wait. Why save up for that car when I can get financing stretched out five years or longer? Why wait to pay cash for what I want when I can have it right now by putting it on my credit card? It's called "Instant Gratification," and it is epidemic in America. It's the reason so many are turning to people like Dave Ramsey to help them learn to live within their means.

Aside from money matters, not many are willing to deny themselves today in order to enjoy eternal blessedness when this earthly life is over. By contrast, Moses could have maintained a lavish, pampered lifestyle as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. To his credit, however, he chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt." Why did Moses make that difficult choice? "He looked to the reward" (Hebrews 11:26).

The catalyst for Moses' choice was his observation of the condition of his fellow-Hebrews. Moses himself records that "he went out to his brethren and looked at their burdens" (Exodus 2:11). Witnessing the abject misery they endured must have broken his heart, especially when he thought of his parents (if they were still living) and of his siblings, Miriam and Aaron. Moses certainly knew that taking his stand with the Hebrew people would bring suffering upon himself as well, for the inspired text specifically says he "chose" such suffering (Hebrews 11:25).

Moses walked by faith. Instead of enjoying instant gratification, he "esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt" (11:26a), knowing that blessings far greater than anything Egypt could offer awaited him in eternity.

Satan still offers the passing pleasures of sin right now. God still offers an incorruptible, undefiled, unfading inheritance in Heaven. Which will you choose: instant gratification, or an infinitely greater treasure later?