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(:14) Pursue / Strive = Go After / Catch up with (active imperative) e.g. Police in hot pursuit: apprehend

- Context = one time believers leaving the faith (re. imminent return, giving up, going back...)
 - Causing hassles among them & a return to worldly living
- Pursue Peace (tranquility) with all (alt. = apathy/hostility)
 - (cf. :15) Tension in the church is a contradiction
 - Saved by same Savior, filled w/same Spirit, share the same forgiveness, same future...
 - What a shame when believers allow hard feelings to drive their decisions & set the pace...
 - It tells on you: Tells the world/church that grace has not captured your heart...
- Pursue Holiness (sanctification) ≠ self-imposed sinless perfection; = a set apart life
 - Set apart from the world, to the Lord
 - A confession of faith is evidenced by a conversion of life: IOW - Grace works
 - (:14b) see the Lord ≠ salvation; = recognizing His presence & influence in everyday life...
 - (Matthew 5:8) *Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.*
 - W/o a determined effort to pursue a set apart life, you won't know what it's like to be in fellowship w/Jesus; continuous sense of His presence & the encouragement that brings...
- It's grace that drives you to that peaceable, set apart life.

(:15) (How) Looking (watching) out (active participle) that anyone fail to catch up w/the grace of God.

- Review: Justice/Mercy/Grace - re. the cross
- Warning: if ≠ pursue, apprehend grace = 1) root of bitterness, 2) trouble, 3) defiled
 - Root of bitterness (Deut. 29:18-20) = unbelief
 - Trouble (hassles & heatbreak due to abandoning faith (e.g. kids walking away))
 - Defiled = polluted (ie. w/sin, worldliness, unbelief) - "many" = domino effect
- Apart from the grace of God you can't know the peace of God or do the work of God.
 - And the result of that is unbelief & a polluted church that defiles many; inside/outside of the church.

(:16-17) Esau = example of falling behind re. grace

- (Genesis 25:29-34) = despised what his father intended to give him;
 - Traded a life time of blessing for a bowl of stew; forever to indulge his flesh.
 - Esau ≠ motivated by his father's desire & intent to give him everything he ever wanted.
 - IOW, he fell short of grace; never caught up with it.
- (:17) (Genesis 27:34-41) In the end, Esau regretted giving away his birthright, but he never had a change of heart (repented).
 - He was devastated that he didn't get the stuff he thought he was in line for. But he was never sorry for the pain he caused his father.
 - He was so caught up in his self-centered, narcissistic, "it's all about me" mindset, that it never dawned on him how much his father loved him & wanted to give him everything.
 - He never caught up with grace. He never let grace capture his heart.