

The Epistle of Paul the Apostle to the Galatians

Sunday, January 14, 2018 Pastor Tom Gang

In last week's text the apostle Paul showed that living by the _____ of God naturally produces righteousness in the daily life of every believer. By contrast the _____ forcibly extracts morality from the dark nature of the flesh which revels in human effort. Therefore, as Christians, we must stand fast in the liberty that made us free, remembering the law holds us in bondage. Sooner or later living life bound to a stringent set of laws will fail miserably leading only to despair and ultimate judgment. In today's text we are challenged to walk in the Spirit and _____ to fulfill the lust of the flesh. This admonition comes with detailed instructions to insure our success.

EVERY BELIEVER'S BATTLE – GALATIANS 5:16-21

1. The two opposing natures of the believer – Galatians 5:16, 18

a. The Spirit

- The path to a successful Christian life

Walk in the Spirit – To live every single day in a close relationship with God in _____ (Ro. 8:26), _____ what the Bible says (2 Peter 1:21; 1 Thess. 2:13), especially when it goes against what we think we should do or what we would rather do

- The effect of being led by the Spirit

If ye be led of the Spirit, ye are _____ under the law – If we are led daily by these things instead of our own concepts, we do not need any set of moral laws as they will come naturally to us from God's Spirit (Ro. 8:14-17)

b. The flesh

- The path to misery and a failed Christian life

The _____ of the flesh – While this is a deep _____ for sinful moral behavior (verses 19-21), it also includes anything and everything that may appear good, but takes the place of our relationship and time with God—career, hobbies, sports, art, music, education and knowledge, human relationships, electronic devices and activity, etc. (Ro. 8:5-8)

2. A raging daily battle – Galatians 5:17

a. The flesh _____ against the Spirit

- The flesh “greatly desires” what the Holy Spirit despises

- b. The Spirit is against the flesh
- The Holy Spirit desires what the flesh avoids

c. The battle

- These are contrary the one to the other
- So that ye cannot do the things that ye would

You will do the works of the one you are yielded to; whichever one you are yielded to will cause you to do the opposite of the other

You cannot do the things of the opposite when yielded to the other

3. The enemy of the believer – Galatians 5:19-21

a. The works of the flesh – verses 19-21a

- Sensual sins

Adultery – A marital transgression; a violation of the marriage bed in thought or deed

Fornication – A wrongful physical explicit sexual act

Uncleanness – A filthiness of heart and mind that defiles a person; the desire for dirt

Lasciviousness – Debauchery; a depraved mind; a deep desire for any wrong vices

- Superstitious sins

Idolatry – Covetousness; loving anything more than God; bowing down before any idol

Witchcraft – Sorcery or any occult activity; ungodly rebellion; the use of mind altering drugs

- Social sin

Hatred – Hating others to the causing of divisions; the willful despising of another person

Variance – Always in disagreement, dissent; causing and looking for disputes

Emulations – Not satisfied, improper competition; imitating others or following the crowd

Wrath – The desire to impose harm upon another; undue injury or destruction

Strife – Causing trouble, discord, fighting and rivalry

Seditious – Treasonous behaviour, thinking that violates God; causing divisions in the church

Heresies – Teaching or believing things that are contrary to what the Bible clearly says

Envyings – A deep desire to have what someone else has; holding a grudge, unforgiveness

Murders – Unlawful killing; the thoughts of hating someone so bad you wish they were dead

Drunkenness – The effects of alcohol; overindulgence; under the complete control of anything

Revellings – Taking pleasure in unruly behavior; constant partying

And the such like – Any irresponsible behaviour, laziness, slothfulness, or unfaithfulness

b. The result of fulfilling the lust of the flesh – verse 21b

- Doctrinally – no _____ in the Kingdom of God
- Practically – Those who are lost will perish so why choose to behave like them? Ro. 8:1-15

4. The practical conclusion

- Every day all believers are in a raging battle. Yielding daily to the Spirit will cause you to live a life of victory which is _____ to God. Fulfilling the lust of the flesh will result in the feeling of separation bringing pain, sorrow and death