

“The Obvious Characteristics of Believers and Non-believers”

Galatians 5:16-24 October 25, 2020

Galatians Series- Living the Gospel in the Power of the Spirit

Context- The gospel that Paul preached was received directly from Jesus. Anyone, including an angel from heaven, that contradicted the gospel of grace through faith in Jesus was to be eternally condemned. The Galatians, by their own personal experience, had come to faith and received the Holy Spirit through God’s grace without following the law first.

Therefore, the rest of their spiritual life should be lived by faith and the Holy Spirit and not be rooted in OT law keeping. Paul now moves on to prove this by showing the background of God’s covenant with Abraham prior to Moses. The Law came after God’s promise to Moses and was to last **until** Jesus arrived. Everyone who expresses faith have become heirs of God’s original promise. Paul moves from biblical and logical argument to personal friendship based on integrity and mutual love. We are reminded again that we are not under the law which is a form of slavery. We are **free** children, like Isaac, through the Spirit. If you seek to trust in the law, you are cut off from Christ and salvation. We need to be aware of those that seek to hinder us from trusting in the grace of the cross. Obedience is the natural fruit of faith in the gospel of grace which is led by the Holy Spirit. As we rely on Him moment by moment, we will not be fleshy.

Background Texts: Ezek 36:26-27; Jer 31:31-34; Rom 8:1-14; Matt 7:21-23

LESSON 1- The Christian life is characterized by WAR

- A. The war involves yielding to the flesh or the HOLY SPIRIT (Gal 5:16-18; John 3:3-5; **6:63; Romans 8:2, 11**; 1 Cor 3:16)
- B. The war involves recognizes the serious WARNING (Gal 5:19-21; 1 Cor 6:9-10; Eph 5:3-5; **Col 3:5-8**; 1 Thess 4:3-7)
- C. The war involves an honest evaluation of how we are LIVING (Gal 5:22-24; 1 Cor 13:1-7; thoughts, words, actions, relationships?)

Theological Application:

- 1.** *God reminds us that the conflict is real and will stay real until we are redeemed from these sinful physical bodies. We have not yet attained (Phil 3:12).*
- 2.** *In order to gain victory, we must moment by moment rely and OBEY the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. We are without excuse.*
- 3.** *In addition, we must be diligent, but patient with ourselves (1 John 3:20). This is a marathon and not a sprint.*
- 4.** *If you are lacking spiritual growth away from sin and into the fruit of the Spirit, you need to ask whether you are truly in the faith (2 Cor 13:5)*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciple