

WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016-2017

THEME: CREATION AND SALVATION

UNIT THREE – THE CHURCH IS BORN

“THE UNQUESTIONABLE EVIDENCE OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE”

Sunday School Lesson No. XIII– February 26, 2017
Presented by Rev. Frank Davis, III – Pastor-Teacher



Lesson Text: Galatians 5:16 – 6:10

Required Reading: Galatians 5:2 – 6:18

Memory Text: Galatians 5:22-23, *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”*

Reliable Resources: Precepts for Living by UMI; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Word Search 10 Electronic Library; Libronix Electronic Library; H. L. Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Key Words of the Christian Life by Dr. Warren Wiersbe; Galatians Commentary by Lehman Strauss; Butler’s Analytical Bible Expositor

INTRODUCTION

Beloved, we come to the final lesson in this Galatians series. We have witnessed the Apostle Paul’s convictions and contentions with respect to God’s assuring commitment to those who are justified by faith. Paul has withstood the undermining Jews (Judaizers) from Jerusalem who sought to undo the Lord’s work of justification by grace through faith. He made it crystal clear that anyone who determined to leave the grace of God in order to follow the deeds of the law for justification was foolish (Galatians 3:1) or as I see it, “They’ve just lost their minds!” Now we conclude the epistle with words of admonition as to how the believer should practice walking under the umbrella of God’s justification, by faith without the deeds of the law!

According to Dr. Warren Wiersbe, “Paul turns now from argument to application, from the doctrinal to the practical.” Paul seeks to give the practical applications of the contrast between legalism and liberty. The believer who lives by the Holy Spirit has no condemnation. Why not? Because the righteous law of God has been totally fulfilled by Jesus Christ at Calvary. By faith the believer has received this and is now sealed and safe through God’s Holy Spirit living in and leading them. (Read Romans 8:1-4). The question is, “Who is leading your life?” Christ’s Spirit or some religious renegade or set of rules? Remember Galatians 2:20, *“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”* “..the life which I now live...” When we surrender our lives under Jesus Christ, it is no more I but Christ that lives through us.

Anticipated Power Points:

- The Effects of a Holy Spirit-Led Life. Galatians 5:16-20
- The Evidence of the Spirit-Led Life. Galatians 5:21-26
- The Effectiveness of the Spirit-Led Life. Galatians 6:1-10

“THE UNQUESTIONABLE EVIDENCE OF A TRANSFORMED LIFE”

LESSON OUTLINE

I. The Effects of a Holy Spirit-Led Life. Galatians 5:16-20

In these verses a very real truth is manifested: We can’t have it both ways! In other words, walking according to the rules of the flesh and of the Spirit is impossible. Everything about the human will to do things by common sense theology is opposed to the Spiritual theology of the Lord. Note verse 17, *“For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.”* The ways of the flesh are described by C. S. Keener and InterVarsity Press, “Flesh is human weakness and mortality, and means the best (or worst) anyone can do in himself or herself. Because flesh has nothing in common with God’s power, one can be either a person of the Spirit (a Christian) or a person of the flesh (one who runs his or her own life without depending on God); one cannot have it both ways. (5:16-18)”

I have come to the conclusion, with Paul, that we must choose a side – the flesh or the Spirit, but we can’t have both. In verses 19-21, Paul describes the manifestation of fleshly fellowship. It may start with good intentions, but always ends in disaster!

II. The Evidence of the Spirit-Led Life. Galatians 5:21-26

A. Past Evidence. vs. 21

Paul's previous discussion was to render the verdict that those who lived according to the natural man, gave no evidence of a Spirit-controlled life. Their lives were controlled by the ways and means of the natural man.

The inherent nature we are born with has no power to fulfill laws, rules, or any such like. Why? Because of its nature being totally inclined to the weakness of flesh and blood. This nature cannot please God because it is a part of mankind's fallen nature inherited from Adam and Eve after the curse (Romans 3:10-12). Therefore, the fruit of the past life in the flesh gives evidence of its utter failure.

B. Present Evidence. vss. 22-23

The present evidence of a Spirit-controlled life is explained in these verses. Paul calls it the "Fruit of the Spirit." Notice, not *fruits* (plural) but *fruit* (singular). This fruit, or present evidence blossoms out of the love of God which abides and directs the believer through the Holy Spirit. "The fruit of the Spirit is the outward evidence that a person has been genuinely saved." Dr. David Jeremiah lists the fruit in three categories.

"1. Upward Qualities of the Spiritual Man (Gal. 5:22a)

Love – Eph. 5:2 – the power that moves us to respond to someone's needs with no expectation of reward. I Cor. 14:1

Joy – Not determined by happenings but only found in Jesus Christ. John 15:11

Peace – From a root word that means to 'bind together,' John 14:27; Heb. 12:14

2. The Outward Qualities of the Spiritual Man. (Gal. 5:22b)

Longsuffering is the calm willingness to accept situations that are irritating or painful. (Luke 23:34; Col. 3:12)

Kindness in this verse describes the ministry of Jesus in Titus 3:4 and Eph. 4:32

Goodness – Moral excellence that is characteristic of Jesus. (Acts 10:38; Col. 6:10)

3. The Inward Qualities of the Spiritual Man

Faithfulness – A quality that describes loyalty and trustworthiness (I Thess. 5:24)

Meekness – power to keep yourself in check (Matt. 11:29)

Temperance – self-control is the quality of restraining passions and appetites."

Beloved, if there is no fruit of the Spirit of God, it is because the Spirit is not present in that person. Paul's words in Romans 12:1-2 sum up the Spirit-led life of a believer!

C. Perpetual Evidence. Galatians 5:24-26

Paul describes the Spirit-led life as having perpetual evidence. Not sometimes but at all times, this life is directed by the Spirit of God because (a) The natural man has been crucified with Christ. vs. 24 (Galatians 2:20). (b) The life lived through the Spirit is continually lived in the Spirit day by day. vs. 25. (c) The Spirit-led life only seeks to glorify God and never the flesh. vs. 26

III. The Effectiveness of the Spirit-Led Life. Galatians 6:1-10. We close this unit with how effective the Spirit-led life is:

A. It affects how we see others in the church. vss. 1-2

We seek to lighten loads rather than add more burdens on our brethren. Matthew 23:4. It's about restoration and not condemnation. Galatians 5:13, "*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.*"

B. It affects how we should see ourselves. vss. 3-5

A Spirit-led life is one that takes personal inventory on a regular base so it views the lives of fellow saints, regardless of their conditions. (I Corinthians 10:12; John 13:34). We who are Spirit-led should seek a fellow saint's restoration without shining a light on our good deeds. "*If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain.*"

C. It affects how we practice our stewardship. vss. 6-10

1. The way we share. (vs. 6). We will remember those that teach us tangibly and not stingily.

2. The way we serve. (vss. 7-8). We are encouraged to serve honestly and sincerely because God knows our motives and intentions. He'll reward accordingly!

3. The way we stand. (vss. 9-10). We are to stand steadfast and not wavering, but take advantage of every opportunity to serve our Lord by serving our brothers and sisters in the faith primarily, and serve others as opportunity presents itself.

CLOSING

Jesus said in Matthew 7:20, "*by their fruits you shall know them.*" Beloved, what do people really know about us? What evidence have we given them to determine who we really are? An inspection of our fruit should tell them everything they need to know about us and the God we serve! Galatians 5:22-23, "*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*"

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LOOKING AHEAD:

March 5, 2017

I John 4:7-19

Please join us each Wednesday noon at Bibleway as Pastor Davis teaches the Sunday School lesson.