

GALATIANS 5:16-26

REVIEW...

- **1ST - GALATIANS 1:1-2:21 - PAUL PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE GOSPEL OF GRACE...**
 - The message of the Gospel - Grace and Peace through the cross of Jesus...
 - Having been saved by Grace - why try and grow in Jesus through the Law...
- **2ND - GALATIANS 3:1-4:31 - THE GOSPEL OF GRACE IN LIGHT OF THE LAW OF MOSES..**
 - Anyone who follows the Law/works - is under a curse - **Deuteronomy 27:26**
 - Grace (*the Promise to Abraham*) came 430 years before the Law...
 - The Law was given to reveal our sin - show us a need for a savior - Jesus...
- **3RD - GALATIANS 5-6 - THE APPLICATION OF GOSPEL OF GRACE IN OUR DAILY LIVES...**
 - Two commands - stand in the liberty we have in Jesus / Do not get wrapped up in bondage
 - If we go back to 'rules' - Jesus profits us nothing - and we are still in debt to God!
 - But if we abide in Grace we are righteous by faith - working through love!
 - Paul warned the church not to be 'cut off' in their race...
 - Those who taught legalism were trying to trip up the believers...
 - Paul told them to kick them out - because a little leaven spreads quickly...
 - Instead they were to lovingly share the message of Grace with others!

THE SPIRIT VS. THE FLESH... (3 THINGS)

- **1ST - THE BATTLE INSIDE OF US... VS. 16-18**
 - We are all made up of 3 parts – Spirit / mind / and body...
 - Spirit – the only part of us that is eternal...
 - Body – the flesh – the physical body we live in...
 - Mind – where we make our choices and decisions – either the Spirit or the flesh
 - Defining the flesh or body...
 - The physical desires/needs of men – representing the sinful nature of man...
 - Has no desire to please God – serve God – it only thinks about its momentary needs...
 - Does not think about the consequences for its actions – only momentary pleasure
 - Defining the Spirit...
 - Dead before we were saved - born again when we believed in Jesus...
 - The eternal part of man – the knowledge of God placed in the heart of a man...
 - Understanding life is about far more than momentary needs and pleasure...
 - Recognizing the consequences – both temporary and eternal – for actions...
 - Desires to please and serve the Lord in both actions and thought...
 - The war over our mind - do we obey our flesh or our spirit...
 - Every decision we make is influenced by this battle....
 - **Our minds are literally a battleground for the control of our actions...**
 - **Do we choose to live for pleasure/the moment – or do we live for the Lord...**
 - **The flesh says I am hungry – and have no food – so I will steal food to eat...**
 - **The Spirit says it is wrong to steal – trust in the Lord to provide for our food**
 - **The Spirit says to get up in the morning and spend time with God in His Word...**

- The flesh says keep sleeping – you can always read your Bible – buas lang
- o How do we overcome our flesh...
 - The first place we often look – rules – we think they can keep us from sin...
 - We know keeping rules cannot save us – we cannot be perfect...
 - **Romans 3: 20** – “By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight...”
 - But we think perhaps once we are saved – rules can keep us from sin...
 - Go to church twice a week / pray every day / read a Bible chapter every day...
 - Then I will be able to avoid sin – live for Jesus – and follow Him...
 - As if having been saved by Grace – our good works can now keep us from sin!
 - But the flaw in looking to rules - is we are still depending on our flesh...
 - Depending on OUR convictions / OUR ability / OUR strength to keep us from sin!
 - The problem is we are NOT dependable - we are sinful - and we will fail...
 - We can promise ourselves we are not going to give into THAT sin again...
 - But it only takes one moment of weakness - one opportunity - and we fall again!
 - The problem is not our rules - the problem is our heart...
 - The rules are all good things – and we might even do them - for a few days...
 - It is not that we do not want to do the right things – we cannot do the right things!
 - **Romans 7:15** - “I want to do what is right, but I do not... Instead, I do what I hate.”
 - My problem is my heart/desires – I am the problem – I sin because I want to!
 - Why do I do what I know is sin – because I want to – no one forces me...
 - Why do I not do what I know is good and right – because I do not want to...
 - And I cannot change my heart – how can I change what I want...
- o If we walk in the Spirit - we will not fulfill the desires of our flesh...
 - I fear many people come to the ‘battle against sin’ woefully unprepared...
 - They come depending on themselves – then are confused when sin wins the battle...
 - We constantly fall into sin in life - because we bring ‘sticks to a gunfight’...
 - So how do we overcome our desires - how do we change what we ‘want’...
 - By the Power of the Holy Spirit - who can change our desires and our wants!
 - Walking in the power of the Holy Spirit...
 - The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sin before we believe in Jesus - **John 16:7-8**
 - The Holy Spirit come to live within us when after we receive Jesus - **John 20:22**
 - The Holy Spirit is also the gives us the power to overcome the flesh/sin...
 - Saul was a man with a tainted history - murderer - never really used by God...
 - Until he was filled with the Spirit - **Acts 13:9** - and his name was changed to Paul...
 - Filled with the Spirit he became one of the greatest men used by God in history!
 - Perhaps you have a reputation - your name carries a lot of baggage with it...
 - God wants to fill you with His Spirit - give you a new name - change your heart!
 - How do you get the Power of the Spirit - just ask...
 - **Matthew 7:7** - “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find...”
 - Not just once – but over and over and over again for - asking for the Holy Spirit
 - **Luke 11:13** - “Your heavenly Father [will] give the Spirit to those who ask Him.”
 - You need gas to run a car - but you need to keep filling that car up with gas...
 - We need also need to be daily filling up on the Holy Spirit to overcome our flesh!
 - The result of being filled with the Spirit...

- **II Corinthians 4:7** – “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”
 - If we are full of ourselves - our flesh - then we will have a defeated life in Jesus...
 - But when we are emptied - not depending on ourselves - full of Jesus - Holy Spirit...
 - Then we will find God changes our hearts - our desires - we will find victory over sin
 - Not that we can no longer do the things we used to ‘want’ to...
 - We will no longer have the desire - instead we will ‘want’ to live for Jesus!
- **2ND - THE WORKS OF THE FLESH... VS. 19-21**
 - Take a long hard look at your life - and see if you are following the Flesh or the Spirit...
 - **II Corinthians 13:5** - “Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine...”
 - If we are still acting like (*or worse*) than the world around us - where is Jesus...
 - If you are wondering where your walk with the Lord is - examine yourself...
 - Do we live in willful sin - ignoring the conviction of the Holy Spirit in our lives...
 - Or are we forgiven by grace - not living for sin - but living our lives for Jesus!
 - Paul gives a list of ‘works’ - that show we are following our flesh - 4 categories...
 - 1st - Sexual sin - is evidence of a life dominated by the flesh...
 - Adultery - any sexual relationship outside of the bounds of marriage...
 - Fornication - *pornia* - where we get the word pornography - images of women...
 - Uncleaness - thinking about sex - fantasizing about women in your mind...
 - Lewdness - living only to talk about sex / green jokes / inappropriate comments...
 - **A life that is dominated by sexual sin - is a life that is dominated by the flesh!**
 - 2nd - Not putting God first...
 - Idolatry - putting anything before God in our lives...
 - Which leads to trusting in things other than God to save us in times of trouble...
 - **Horoscopes / faith healers / superstitions / palm reading / witchcraft...**
 - **It is playing with the demonic - opens you up to the powers of darkness...**
 - **Putting our trust in men – circumstances – demons - rather than in God...**
 - 3rd - In our personal relationships...
 - Hate / quarrelling / outbursts of anger / murder - whether in action or in the heart
 - Jealousy / envy - wanting what others have - feeling like we deserve it more...
 - Selfishness - putting our needs before the needs of others...
 - **A self-centered life - is a life dominated by the flesh!**
 - 4th - Drunkenness and partying - are evidence of the flesh...
 - Some get drunk to forget their sin - rather than come to God and repent...
 - Others go to parties / discos to enjoy the moment - with no thought for tomorrow...
 - Not a complete list - just good examples of the Flesh...
 - **We know we are walking in ‘the flesh’ – because of what is on our mind...**
 - **If we are ‘in our flesh’ – we will be dominated by the ‘desires of our flesh’...**
 - **Momentary pleasures / anger / pride / lust / hate / bitterness / jealousy...**
 - **All the while ignoring the things of God - the Word / prayer / fellowship**
 - The result of walking in ‘the flesh’ – we will not inherit the Kingdom...
 - Meaning those who do these things will not go to heaven!
 - **If we say we are Christians – but still live like the world – do we really have faith...**
 - **We can call ourselves Christians – but if we are continually sinning – are we...**

- Our lives after we believe in Jesus should be different – changed...
- **James 2:17-18** – “So you see, it isn’t enough just to have faith. Faith that doesn’t show itself by good deeds is no faith at all—it is dead and useless...”
- Not to say that we never sin - but those who practice these things...
 - **I John 3:9** – “Whoever has been born of God does not [continue to] sin...”
 - As believers – if we sin – there should be remorse – confession – repentance...
 - If there is no remorse – no repentance for sin – there is good reason for concern...
 - We cannot say we are saved and continue to live in unrepentant sin!
- **3RD - THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT... vs. 22-26**
 - o It is not the works of the Spirit - but the fruit...
 - We create the ‘works’ of the flesh - they come from our own sinful desires...
 - But the ‘fruit’ of the Spirit is something that God creates in us - it is from Him!
 - You cannot make yourself a Godly man - it is the result being connected to Jesus...
 - **John 15:5** - “Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing.”
 - o The fruit of the Spirit...
 - There is only one fruit - Love...
 - Notice it does not say the ‘fruits’ of the Spirit - but the ‘fruit’ of the Spirit...
 - THE fruit is Love - you know you are walking in the Spirit when there is Love...
 - Most importantly - a Love for God - **Deuteronomy 6:5**
 - But almost equally important - a love for others - **Leviticus 19:18**
 - The evidence of walking in Love - 8 examples...
 - Joy - happiness is based on your circumstances...
 - o If you find P100 on the ground - it makes you happy - free money...
 - o If someone sees you pick it up and says it is theirs - you are now sad...
 - o Joy is far deeper - it is not based on your circumstances - you are ‘Joyful’ in Jesus!
 - Peace - Because you are forgiven - no longer living in fear of the judgment of God...
 - Longsuffering and kind - because we are fighting for people’s eternal salvation...
 - o The people we are reaching out to - are currently working for our enemy - satan...
 - o That means they will say and do many hurtful things to us...
 - o Rather than react - we need to be longsuffering - and show them kindness...
 - o Because it is the goodness of the Lord that brings them to Jesus - **Romans 2:4**
 - Goodness - A life defined by doing good things - upright in heart and life...
 - Faithfulness - People do not question our integrity - we finish what we start...
 - Meekness - We understand it is not about our ability - it is all about Jesus!
 - Self-control - We do not let our passions / desires drive our life - Jesus is in control!
 - If we are walking in the Spirit we no longer have a need for rules...
 - Because we have a changed heart - and do not need rules to tell us what to do...
 - We are already doing all the right things - bearing good fruit - by the power of the Spirit
 - We have crucified our flesh - with its passions and desires...
 - If we are ‘in the Spirit’ – we will be full of the ‘things of the Spirit’
 - Eternal perspective – heaven / loving God & others / pleasing the Lord...
 - Desiring to be in the Word of God / spend time talking to God - prayer...

- Not caught up in the pleasures of this world - instead desiring to please God!