

## THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

### "Works Of The Flesh"

Gal. 5:19-22

#### Introduction

1. Anything which smacks of "works" is out of harmony with the thrust of this wonderful epistle. It opposes grace, faith, and the Spirit!

2. The choice, therefore, by the Holy Spirit of the term "works" for the energies of the flesh is very salty indeed.

3. Throughout the practical section of the epistle, Paul has pointed out the diametrically opposed principles of "Spirit" and "flesh". How infinitely blessed to "walk by means of the Spirit." To unleash that which comes from the "flesh" is to release a series of unrighteous situations which are diabolical. Mark these works of which every heart is capable and from this convenient outline:

#### 1. MORAL WORKS

These include:

- a. Fornication. This is a reference to habitual immorality. Prostitution and harlotry.
- b. Uncleaness. This is a reference to moral impurity of whatever guise.
- c. Lasciviousness. This is a reference to open and wreckless contempt of propriety.

NOTE: God heads the list of sins here with those which defy moral well being amongst people. How neglectful of these men are today! Surely, any prayerful consideration of the points here spell the lie to current moral standards!

#### 2. THEOLOGICAL WORKS

These include:

- a. Idolatry. This is the recognition of false gods or the replacing of the true God.
- b. Witchcraft. This is the secretive tampering with the powers of evil, e.g. spiritualist mediums, curious arts, and use of medicines!

NOTE: These sins refer to both open and covered rejection of the one true God of Glory!

### 3. SOCIAL WORKS

These include:

- a. Hatred. Enmities; opposed to love.
- b. Variance. Expression of enmity; strife.
- c. Emulations. Jealousy; self assertions.
- d. Wrath. Explosions of inward feelings.
- e. Strife. Factions; party-making.
- f. Seditions. Standing apart which results in taking sides.
- g. Heresies. Sects; schools of opinion; organized parties.
- h. Envyings. Feelings of ill-will; deprive one of what he has.

NOTE: The advance to climax in these works is evident. The intensity of their awfulness is patent at every turn. The wreckless manner in which many neglect these important matters ought to stir up the prayerful heart vigorously.

### 4. PERSONAL WORKS.

These include:

- a. Drunkenness. Excessive indulgence in strong drink. Term "excessive" used only to point out that medicinal uses are allowed. Bible is against drink!
- b. Revellings. Consequences of drunkenness. The concomitant of drink! Parties.

NOTE: Nowhere in our Bibles is the personal debauchery of drink supported. Let those who seek refuge in Christ's wine-making or other so called "disputed" passages take care what they would "make" the Bible teach.

### Conclusion

Any who really desire to be "led of the Spirit (v. 18) will shudder to think that their own flesh is capable of such horrible sins as described here. The point is: any who practise (present tense) such things will have consequences too terrible to think about - exclusion from the kingdom of God. Amen.

NOTES: