

THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

"The Fruit of the Spirit"

Gal. 5:22, 23

Introduction

1. Every believer is engaged in a warfare. This is both external and internal. There is no Biblical salvation without the conflict!
2. The burden of the practical section of this Epistle is that the flesh (self) and the Spirit (God) are contrary the one to the other. Christian growth is in large measure, the continual higher positioning of the Spirit over the flesh. At last in Glory, the flesh is forever defeated and overcome.
3. The flesh can only work, hence it has works (5:19-21). The new life in Christ is effected by the Spirit and - issues in fruit. This is what real life produces! It is what the dynamic of the Spirit within bears. Observe this unified fruit!

NOTE: The listing of these marvelous issues of the Spirit of God in the life is due to one's organic union with the Spirit. These are produced in the believer by the Spirit. Oh, to be yielded to HIM!

1. FRUIT - - related to MENTALITY. v. 22.
Here are three items which concern the deepest and most absorbing occasion.
 - a. Love. This is the moving principle of all the rest. It is the prevailing element of true Christianity. It is NOT manufactured; it is a quality produced by organic union with the Spirit! Rom. 5:5.

b. Joy. Here is holy cheerfulness. Not the mock up of a hypocrite, but the expression of the Spirit. Rom. 14:17; I Thess. 1:6. The triumphant overflow of a Spirit-filled believer.

c. Peace. Here is a God-given state of quiet, calm, repose, absence of discord. It is a certain perfect relationship where everything is moving in its appointed place. When experienced, it affects both mind (thought life) and heart (emotions). Phil. 4:6, 7. All aspects of peace are involved.

2. FRUIT - - related to SOCIETY.

a. Longsuffering. It connotes patient endurance under injuries inflicted by others. Concerns ill-treatment long continued. It suffers long!

b. Gentleness. The benevolence and sweetness which characterizes one's disposition with others. It is active and exposes itself in self-abandonment. Means kindness and the term "gentleman" gives the sense. Readiness to forgive and relieve.

c. Goodness. Somewhat like previous word, but urges that disposition to oblige. It concerns the activity more than the spirit of things. Combined with gentleness, it gives a blessed Spirit - wrought benevolence!

3. FRUIT - - related to ACTIVITY.

Here are some general principles of Christian conduct as related to the problems of the world.

a. Faith. This is fidelity. It is something on which persons may rely. It really stretches toward God in trusting in His promises and mercies and toward men in counting upon one as trustful.

b. Meekness. Here is a quality which expresses equanimity of spirit that is neither elated nor cast down because it is not occupied with self. It is not weakness. Hard to define, but denotes the idea of the spirit which, when reviled does not revile again. It bears under loss.

c. Temperance. Here is a mighty word to conclude the list. It is self control, self restraint. It concerns all issues of life and is not to be restricted to strong drink.

Conclusion.

Paul's final word is this:

Against the fruit of the Spirit, there is no law for restraint. All here is constrained by the Spirit. Oh, to be controlled by Him. To see this life so full of beauty and wholesomeness is a wonder to this sad and sinful world and a pleasure to Him Who has redeemed us unto Himself.

Amen.

NOTES: