

## THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

### "Works of the Flesh"

Galatians 5:19-20

#### Review

1. There is NO salvation from sin except through faith in the substitutionary death of the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection from the dead. This is the expressed testimony of the Bible (Rom 3:23, 24).
2. Once a person is saved from his sins before the holy God, the power to live the saved life is to walk by means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (cf. Ro. 8:9; Gal. 5:16).
3. To "walk by means of the Spirit" means to stop quenching the Holy Spirit (i.e. saying no to Him) to stop grieving the Holy Spirit (i.e. allowing unconfessed sin in one's life), to stop yielding your members (i.e. giving yourself to unrighteousness), but to positively yield once and for all to God (i.e. yourself and your members to righteousness).
4. These explicit directions are given in the Bible so that no one will be ignorant of "how to be saved" and "how to live the saved life." Meanwhile, the "old man" (also referred to as "the flesh" or "sin") remains inside of the believer. This opposes the "new man" created by one being "saved." So as the new man seeks to walk by means of the Spirit, the old man antithetically opposes. The believer must, by the power of the Holy Spirit follow the directions to live day by day, moment by moment triumph over the old man. Failing to do this, the "saved" person will demonstrate the "works" of the old man (i.e. works of the "flesh," "sin"). What are these works? Read the "instruction Book" i.e. the Bible. Here's what it says about the "works" of the flesh.

1. Some are IMMORAL works.

These include:

- a. Adultery

While this word is not found in some MSS, others include it. This vice refers to an immoral sexual act committed with one other than one's spouse. It is "single adultery" when one of the two is married, "double adultery" when both are married. This act is a moral crime in the Bible (Mt. 15:19; Mk 7:21; Jn 8:3).

- b. Fornication

This sinful act is distinguished from adultery in that it is committed by unmarried persons. It may be referred to as prostitution or harlotry. Note: This is the term used in the exception clauses of Mt. 5:32; 19:9, hence giving credence to the biblical position of no divorce and no remarriage (cf. the experience of Joseph and Mary in Mt. 1).

- c. Uncleanness

This refers to both physical (Mt. 23, 27) and moral (1 Thess. 2:3) uncleanness.

- d. Lasciviousness

This is an archaic term for wantonness, shameless outrages on public decency. It is a climax to the pervious three words about immorality (Mt. 7:22; Ro. 12:13; Col. 3:5; Eph. 4:19; 1 Pet. 4:3).

**NOTE:** It is incredible, but obviously true, that the fleshly sins initially recorded are all heinous sorts of base sexuality. These are summarily deplored by the Word of God!

2. Some are RELIGIOUS works

These include:

- a. Idolatry

While some would plead innocence of this sin, it is a very common modern sinful act. It refers

to occupation with anything that takes the place of the true and living God and His Word.

- b. Witchcraft

The Greek word here relates to pharmaceutical items, hence drugs. It is only found here and Rev. 18:23 in the N.T. It relates to traffic with the dead, hence, sorcery (cf. Deut. 18:9-12).

3. Some are SOCIAL works

These include:

- a. Hatred

This is personal animosity, enmities and is opposite to love (cf. 1 John 3:15).

- b. Variance

Quarrelsomeness is meant. The word expresses rivalry or discord. It is the expression or articulation of hatred.

- c. Emulations

To get the admiration of others and to excel others. Relates to jealousies.

- d. Wrath

There is probably nothing wrong with strong emotions, but this suggests explosions as a result of such feelings. Anger is associated with this term (Eph. 4:26). Jealously smolders in the heart and breaks out in this.

- d. Strife

Here is party spirit at its worst for it refers to the canvassing of hired partisans. Suggests taking sides for or against party leaders (cf. 2 Cor. 12:20).

- f. Seditious

The Greek term means splits in two, hence divisions. Only used here and Ro. 16:17 where the believer is told to turn away from those who cause divisions.

- g. Heresies

This is the actual choosing of a party or sect (cf. Acts 5:17). A sect is a division matured or established. Check out these last seven words and see the discernable climax.

- h. Envyings

This is a feeling of ill will. It is the opposite of being content (cf. Heb. 13:5). Envy was to deprive another of what he has; jealousy the thing for itself (see Prov. 14:30).

- i. Murderers

Some MSS omit this term, but it surely is a "work" of the flesh!

4. Some are PERSONAL works.

- a. Drunkenness

Social drinking is not an option for the believer (cf. Ro. 14). Drunkenness is categorized as a sin of the flesh NOT a disease (cf. Luke 21:34; Ro. 13:13).

- b. Revellings

Having a "good time," a drunken sexual orgy. Found only here, Ro. 13:13; 1 Pet. 4:3 in the N.t.

**Postview** Some horrible sin may not have been mentioned in the above list. It is covered by "and such like." Paul, by the Spirit, had previously mentioned these matters (I told you in time past.). Repetition and reminding is the duty of God's servants! Moreover, anyone who practices these dreadful acts (habitual practice is the significance of the verb) will not (future indicative) inherit God's kingdom (cf. 1 John 3:10). Consider carefully the "works" of your flesh! Yield to the Holy Spirit.