

Christ Set Us Free:

A Study through the Book of Galatians

Evidence of Failing to Live According to the Spirit, Galatians 5:16-21

God is a God of promises, promises made and promises kept

God made and kept His promises to Abraham

God kept His promises by first declaring Abraham righteous on the basis of faith

The Law demonstrated how sinful we really are

The Law taught us our need for the Good News of Jesus Christ

The Law functioned as a temporary measure to get us to Christ

When Christ came, He completely fulfilled the Law

Christ also died for our inability to keep the Law

His life, death, and resurrection provides righteousness for any person on the basis of faith

The Mosaic Law has now completed its task

In Christ all believers are set free from the obligation to the Mosaic Law

Now in Christ, we live in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit

The New Testament provides the ethical standards for Christians so that we can verify to ourselves and to others if the behavior really is Spirit led behavior

Sometimes people will argue that we are still obliged to the Mosaic Law for our ethical behavior. They claim that Paul's main point only deals with the issue of saving faith. That Paul is not addressing the ethical life of the believer once they are saved, but merely addressing the means by which a person is saved.

However, the primary argument that is made is if we say the Mosaic Law is no longer in force, then Christians can do whatever they want. Which is exactly the argument that Paul addresses here.

He does so, because this is the argument used by the Judaizers in Paul's day. They are arguing that if Gentiles are not compelled to follow the Mosaic Law then they will do whatever they please.

Galatians 5:16-17 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh (sinful nature/human nature). For the flesh (sinful nature/human nature) sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh (sinful nature/human nature); for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.

Galatians 5:18-21 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. Now the deeds of the flesh (sinful nature, human nature) are evident...

Evidence that we are walking by the Spirit

First, thoughts, motives, words, and actions that are not consistent with the Spirit

Second, thoughts, motives, words, and actions that are consistent with the Spirit

Galatians 5:19-21 which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Palm Sunday and the triumph of Jesus

Matthew 21:9 The crowds going ahead of Him, and those who followed, were shouting, "Hosanna to the Son of David; Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest!"

Assumption for the crowd was militaristic or nationalistic

Free us from the Romans

Free us from the corruption of religious leaders

Bring back the golden years of David

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Sins involving sexuality: immorality, impurity, sensuality

Romans 8:5 For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit.

Sins involving idolatry and the occult: idolatry, sorcery

I John 5:21 Little children, guard yourselves from idols.

Sins involving the destruction of unity: enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envying

Ephesians 4:1-3 Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, showing tolerance for one another in love, being diligent to preserve the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

Sins involving a wasteful life: drunkenness, carousing

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