

The Epistle to the Galatians

STUDIES 1 - 10

STUDENT MANUAL

Stephen Nemeth Lectures

The Epistle To The Galatians

Studies 1 - 10

Student Manual

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Stephen Nemeth Lectures

INTRODUCTION TO THE EPISTLE

STUDY 1

Scripture Portion: Galatians 1:1-5

Paul's letter to the churches at Galatia was written in A.D. 57. He made two missionary journeys to Galatia. It was during one of these that he founded the churches there.

When he preached the gospel, the Holy Spirit blessed the spoken word, souls were saved and churches were formed. Men and women who had been living in idolatry were brought to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and were born again by the Holy Spirit.

But, Paul was a pioneer missionary. He was always on the move, preaching in new places and planting new churches. Consequently, he did not have time to stay very long with those who professed conversion under his ministry.

After he had laboured in Galatia for a comparatively short while, he moved on into other fields of service. It was probably while he was in Macedonia -

Acts 20:1-3 -

that some very sad news reached him. False teachers had entered the churches in Galatia.

They were misleading the believers there with false doctrine. In order to enforce their erroneous teaching, they had set out to attack Paul and were endeavouring to prove that he was not an apostle at all. Therefore, all his teaching lacked authority.

When Paul heard this news, he was deeply concerned. He immediately sat down and wrote this letter, with his own hand.

Galatians 6:11 -

To Paul, doctrine mattered more than men's opinions. Revelation was far more important than mere human speculation. What was the false teaching which was being propagated in the Galatian churches?

Judaizing teachers, claiming authority from Jerusalem, were endeavouring to place the Gentile Christians in Galatia in bondage again to the Law. They were telling them that, unless they did certain things, they could not be saved. One particular thing they needed to "do" was to be circumcised.

Galatians 5:1-6 -

These false teachers “wanted to substitute external badges for inward faith; legal bondage for Christian freedom; observance of practices for holiness of heart”.

Dr. C. I. Scofield once said, “We have most of us been reared and now live under the influence of Galatianism.” How true that is - for very many professing Christians seem to think that salvation depends upon good works or upon rites and ceremonies.

This is a glorious epistle. It is “the most profound, condensed and powerful argument ever expressed in writing”, Martin Luther said. “The Epistle to the Galatians is my Epistle. I have betrothed myself to it. It is my wife!”

Let us notice four things as we study the first five verses of chapter one, which constitute the apostle’s introduction and salutation.

1. THE WRITER IS DESCRIBED.

Please read, and notice the following:

Galatians 1:1-2 -

Galatians 6:11 -

Paul was the writer.

There is no doubt about this for we have his signature upon the letter. It was customary in those olden days to commence a letter with one’s name.

Paul tells us that he wrote the epistle with his own hand. He had not dictated it for someone else to write. He had written it himself. How this reveals his heart of love and his deep concern for those believers in Galatia!

Paul declares himself to be an Apostle.

He is careful to state this because these false teachers were questioning his apostleship. The word “apostle” means “messenger” or “sent one”. How was Paul made an apostle?

Galatians 1:1 -

Only God can make messengers. In -

Acts 26:15-18 -

we read of the occasion when God called this man to be His messenger.

c. Paul associates himself with the brethren who are with him

when he sends this Epistle.

The apostle was always glad to recognize his fellow-labourers in the gospel. This is, in itself, an indication of this great man's real humility.

Paul addresses his Epistle to "the churches of Galatia".

There is only one Church, but there are many local assemblies of born again people - "churches".

2. THE SAVIOUR IS REVEALED.

In **Galatians** there are over forty references to the Person of Christ. In these first five verses, the Lord Jesus is revealed in a fourfold aspect.

1. His Names are mentioned.

Galatians 1:3 -

Paul writes of Him as "the Lord Jesus Christ", "Jesus" = "Saviour", "Christ" = "Sanctifier", "Lord" = "Sovereign". Give Him His full title!

b. His Nature is indicated.

Galatians 1:1 -

He is linked with God the Father - "Jesus Christ, and God the Father....."

Galatians 1:3 -

the same thing happens again. "God the Father, and.....our Lord Jesus Christ". Our Lord Jesus Christ is God the Son in a unique sense. We are "children of God by faith in Christ Jesus".

Galatians 3:26 -

But He is the Son of God. He always has been and He always will be "God the Son".

3. His Sacrifice is declared.

Galatians 1:4 -

Notice that His sacrifice was -

- (1) *voluntary - "gave Himself".*

- (2) *substitutionary* - “for our sins”.
 - (3) *redeeming* - “that He might deliver us from this present evil world”.
 - (4) *triumphant* - “according to the will of God”.
4. His Resurrection is emphasized.

Galatians 1:1 -

We read here that our Lord Jesus died, but He rose from the dead. He was raised for our justification.

Romans 4:25 -

He is alive.

Hebrews 7:25 -

Why does Paul mention the Lord’s resurrection? Because these false teachers claimed that Paul could not be an apostle because he had not seen Christ alive. But Paul had seen Christ alive.

Acts. 9:3-6 -

3. THE GREETING IS CONVEYED.

When we send a letter, if it is a friendly letter, we include a greeting, a salutation. Paul did this.

Galatians 1:3 -

He wished for his friends “grace” and “peace”. These are two blessings which you and I need most of all. This is not so much the grace which saves as the grace which keeps.

2 Corinthians 9:8 -

2 Corinthians 12:9 -

This is not so much peace with God -

Romans 5:1 -

as the peace of God -

Isaiah 26:3 -

Philippians 4:6-7 -

These are the blessings we need: grace and peace!

4. THE LORD IS PRAISED.

The apostle concludes his introduction and his salutation with the words, “God and our Father, to whom be glory for ever and ever”. And then he says, “Amen!” “So be it!”

Surely we say the same!

NOTES

THE PURE DOCTRINE OF THE GOSPEL

STUDY 2

Scripture Portion: Galatians 1:6-12

Martin Luther says that, when Paul visited the Christians in Galatia, he taught them “the pure doctrine of the gospel”. The word “gospel” appears over and over again on the pages of the New Testament.

Matthew 11:5 -

Mark 1:1 -

Luke 4:18 -

Romans 1:15 -

1 Corinthians 1:17 -

1 Corinthians 9:16 -

Philippians 1:5 -

Compare with -

Acts 20:24 -

Romans 10:15-16 -

2 Corinthians 4:3-4 -

Ephesians 1:13 -

Revelation 14:6 -

This word “gospel” occurs no less than ten times in Galatians.

By comparing these references, we are able to set out the teaching they bring before us.

THE GOSPEL IS GOOD NEWS FROM GOD TO MAN.

The word “gospel” means “good news” or “good tidings”. The good news of the gospel is summarized in -

John 3:16 -

It is important to include -

John 3:17 -

The devil would have men believe that the gospel is bad news; that God sent His Son into the world to condemn the world, but, in this, he is wrong. The gospel is the best news that has ever come to this poor old world. It declares a great act of God - something very wonderful that God has done for mankind.

Read **John 3:16** again, then compare with -

Romans 1:16 -

1 Corinthians 15:1-4 -

The gospel is such good news because -

It is the news of salvation - pardon, purity, peace, power and Paradise - to all who will receive it.

It is a free offer.

- c. It is for all.
- 4. It is undeserved.
- e. It is offered, received and experienced by believing, that is, by faith alone.

THERE IS ONLY ONE TRUE GOSPEL THOUGH THERE ARE MANY FALSE GOSPELS.

This, of course, was the burden of the apostle’s letter.

He had preached the true gospel to these Christians, then false teachers had come in and had led the young believers astray by teaching “another gospel”.

Compare verses -

Galatians 1:6-9 -

This “other gospel” which had been preached to the Galatians by these false teachers was a counterfeit gospel.

The marks of a counterfeit are similarity without reality or validity. The world today is full of “other gospels”, false gospels.

Read what Jesus said in -

Matthew 7:15 -

Read what Paul said in -

1 Timothy 4:1-3 -

2 Timothy 3:1-5 -

These false gospels may be gathered under three headings:

1. Romanism, which for the Gospel substitutes the Church, Mariolatry (the worship of Mary), angel worship, the confessional, salvation by merit and by works.
2. Ritualism, which says that we can only be saved if we conform to certain rites and ceremonies, such as being baptized, confirmed, circumcised, etc.
- c. **Rationalism**, which substitutes man’s opinions for God’s truth. It denies the authority of the Word of God and substitutes character and works for the gospel of salvation.

THE GOSPEL IS TRUE BECAUSE IT IS NOT MAN-CONCEIVED BUT GOD REVEALED.

Read what the apostle says in -

Galatians 1:11-12 -

Where did the gospel come from? If it is of man, it is like man - frail, faulty and unreliable. But if it comes from God, it is God-like - reliable and authentic. Compare -

Romans 1:1 -

The words “gospel of God” literally means, “the gospel out of God”. God is the Author, the Source of the gospel. This means that the gospel is not a religion but a revelation. It is not something which begins with man and endeavours to reach God. It is something which begins in the heart of God and has been revealed to sinful man.

Paul tells us that he received his gospel from God.

Compare -

Galatians 1:11 -

1 Corinthians 15:3 -

The gospel was not Paul’s gospel. It was not a man-made system but a God-revealed salvation.

It is therefore true to say that, while every religion is comparative, Christianity is superlative, for it is unique. It stands alone. It is the only true revelation from God and of God.

No wonder Paul so ardently defended the true gospel!

4. STRONG CENSURE IS BROUGHT AGAINST THOSE WHO DO NOT PREACH THE GOSPEL.

Galatians 1:7 -

They are described as those who “pervert the gospel”. Read what the apostle says of them in -

Galatians 1:8-9 -

This is very strong language, but is it too strong? No!

What a dreadful thing it is to impart wrong information, especially when this may bring damnation to the soul instead of salvation.

Often, when preachers do this, we say, “Yes, but they are very sincere! They are good men. We must be tolerant. We mustn’t be critical!” But there is only one gospel. It is a very solemn thing to preach and teach any substitute.

It is against the law of the land to offer quack medicines to the public. How much more serious it is to offer a quack gospel which has to do not only with the bodies of men but with their eternal well-being!

When “another gospel” is preached, we must always denounce it.

Jude 3 -

5. THE GOSPEL MUST BE PREACHED.

Compare -

Galatians 1:8-9 -

Galatians 1:11 -

Galatians 1:23 -

Galatians 2:2 -

Galatians 4:13 -

There are three main reasons why the gospel must be preached.

1. Because we are commanded to preach the gospel.

Matthew 28:19 -

2. Because it pleases God -

1 Corinthians 1:21 -

3. Because, if we fail to preach the gospel, we are hiding the way of salvation from those who are lost and who can only be saved by hearing and believing the gospel.

1 Corinthians 9:23 -

The gospel, of course, must be preached not only by lip but by life.

Compare -

Luke 8:39 - (“show”) -

Mark 5:19 - (“tell”) -

6. THE GOSPEL IS FOR ALL AND MUST BE PREACHED TO ALL.

Isaiah 45:22 -

Compare -

Luke 2:10-11 -

Romans 10:11-15 -

How urgent the need is to take the gospel to every creature.

Mark 16:15 -

7. THE GOSPEL IS OFTEN PREACHED IN INFIRMITY AND IN MUCH WEAKNESS.

Paul tells us in -

Galatians 4:13 -

that, when he preached the gospel to these Christians in Galatia, it was with much “infirmity of the flesh”. How often God’s servants preach in weakness.

It is never easy to preach the gospel for we have a powerful enemy. Frequently, men do not want to hear the gospel. In addition to this, those who preach often have to overcome physical handicaps.

When we preach, however, let us always remember that it is the message that counts.

O that we might get this message out to the dying, perishing millions!

Ephesians 6:18-20 -

NOTES

NOTES

A GREAT APOSTOLIC TESTIMONY

STUDY 3

Scripture Portion: Galatians 1:13-24

Paul was a great theologian and a great preacher, but he loved to give his testimony because he knew that there was a tremendous power in the word of personal testimony. Testimonies can never take the place of preaching and teaching the Word.

1 Corinthians 1:21 -

But the personal testimony of God's people empowers the word that is preached. Every converted person should be willing to tell what the Lord has done for him or her.

Psalm 107:2 -

Acts 4:20 -

There are, however, good and bad testimonies. What are the marks of a good testimony?

*#1 - It should be **SHORT** and to the point.*

The much used advice is very good - "Stand up, speak up, and shut up!"

*#2 - It should ring with **ASSURANCE**.*

Read the testimony of the man who had been born blind and compare with -

John 9:25 -

2 Timothy 1:12 -

*#3 - It should be **UP-TO-DATE**.*

There is a value in telling what the Lord has done for us in the past. But, most of all, we must tell that He is our living, day-by-day Saviour.

*#4 - It should be **CHRIST-CENTERED**.*

We must obviously speak about ourselves and of what the Lord has done for us. But let us be careful to give Him all the glory.

John 3:30 -

*#5 - It should be **ABSOLUTELY TRUE**.*

It is easy to add just a little more to our story each time we tell it. And this is wrong! A sincere, heart-felt burning word of testimony will do more to convince men and women of the power of the gospel than all the arguments and reasoning in the world.

It was partly because of this that Paul gave his testimony in this letter to the Galatians. The judaizing false teachers who had come into the Church, were questioning the apostle's authority and his right to call himself an apostle.

So Paul told them of the Lord's dealings with him. He gave his testimony. This is recorded in **Galatians 1:13 - 2:14**.

Let us ask Paul to give us his testimony in everyday language.

“As a young man, I was religious, yet I was spiritually lost, blind and dead.”

Paul tells us this in -

Galatians 1:13-14 -

Twice he speaks of “the Jews’ religion”, that is Judaism. Saul of Tarsus had a very strict, religious upbringing. He was familiar with all the teachings, the rites and ceremonies and the traditions connected with the Hebrew economy.

Acts. 26:5 -

Yet, in spite of all his religious background and his religious convictions, Saul was an unsaved, spiritually dead and blind man.

There are many people like that - religious, but lost.

2. “I was absolutely sincere in thinking that Jesus Christ was an imposter, that Christianity was a false system, and that Christians were deluded. I did all I could to persecute those who loved and followed the Lord.”

Galatians 1:13 -

It must have grieved Paul to have to write this.

Wherever he had heard of Christians, he had turned upon them, made havoc of them and had devastated them with the fury of an invading army.

He really thought he was serving God.

Acts. 26:9-12 -

Is there any hope for a man like this? Yes, there is!

1 Timothy 1:12-15 -

The grace of God, which arrests and transforms a man like this, is still the same, is still available and is still operative.

3. “Suddenly, while I was persecuting God’s children, a miracle took place!”

Galatians 1:15-16 -

These verses tell us how the Lord graciously broke into the life of this man. We have a fuller account in -

Acts 26:13-16 -

Notice four things that God did in accomplishing Paul’s salvation, and that He still does for all those whom He saves by His grace.

“He separated me.”

Galatians 1:15 -

Notice when the Lord separated Paul, and compare -

Jeremiah 1:5 -

Romans 8:29 -

Ephesians 1:3-4 -

Ephesians 2:10 -

Those of us who have been saved by God’s grace can rejoice in the wonderful truth that the Lord has loved us and purposed our salvation from eternity past.

b. “He called me by His grace.”

Galatians 1:15 -

Acts 26:14 -

amplifies this for us.

What wonderful grace it was that wrought the miracle in Paul. But what wonderful grace it is that has wrought a similar miracle in every sinner saved by grace!

3. “He revealed His Son in me.”

Galatians 1:16 -

Notice the preposition “in”. Should it not be “to”? We read in -

Acts 9:3-5 -

that the Lord Jesus revealed Himself to Saul of Tarsus. But, having revealed Himself to him, He also revealed Himself in him. A Christian is one who has received the Lord Jesus into his life.

John 1:12 -

2 Corinthians 13:5 -

Galatians 2:20 -

Colossians 1:29 -

d. “He commissioned me to my life work.”

Galatians 1:16 -

God wanted Paul to be a foreign missionary.

Are we doing the work that God has planned for us to do?

4. “Immediately after my conversion, I went into the desert to be alone with God.”

This is indicated in -

Galatians 1:16-17 -

Why does Paul tell us this? He is emphasizing the fact that, after his conversion, he did not go up to Jerusalem to meet the other apostles, to be “accredited” by them as an apostle. He had already received his apostleship from God.

We know very little of what actually happened during these three years in Arabia, but it is generally thought that they were years of quiet waiting upon God and preparation for his life work.

Isaiah 28:16 -

5. “After I left Arabia, I returned to the scene of my conversion.”

Galatians 1:17 -

How moved the apostle would have been as doubtless he met again some of those Christians whom, in earlier days, he had persecuted!

It is great when God’s children go back to their friends and give a clear testimony as to what the Lord has done for them.

6. “Then I had wonderful fellowship with Peter, James, Barnabas, Titus, John and many others.”

Compare -

Galatians 1:18-19 -

Galatians 1:22 -

Galatians 2:1 -

Galatians 2:9 -

All these servants of the Lord accepted the fact that Paul was an apostle. Christian fellowship is a most wonderful thing!

7. “From the moment the Lord saved me, I set out to make Him known to as many people as possible.”

If you read through Galatians and, indeed, all his other Epistles, you will be impressed with the burden which rested upon the heart of this man to make Christ known to as many people as possible in the quickest possible time.

1 Corinthians 9:22 -

NOTES

JUSTIFICATION: BY FAITH OR BY WORKS?

STUDY 4

Scripture Portion: Romans 5:1-11

The question asked in -

Job 25:4 -

is a tremendous one. How can man, who by nature is sinful -

Romans 3:10 -

the enemy of God -

Romans 5:10 -

condemned -

John 3:18 -

and living under God's wrath -

John 3:36 -

be justified with God?

To be justified means to be made righteous and acquitted and cleared from every accusation.

God has provided and offered to man a method whereby He is able to look upon him as if he had never sinned at all.

How can man be justified with God?

There is only one way and that is God's way. Right through human history, man has substituted his own way, a false way, a way that has seemed right but that most certainly leads to disappointment and death.

Proverbs 14:12 -

Let us examine -

Man's way -

a false way, the way of human works, of doing, or merit, of law-keeping, of trying. Many say, "If I do the best I can then God will accept me."

God's way -

the true way, the divinely-provided way, the way of faith in the Person and the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, through whose death and resurrection alone we can be justified.

God says, "I will accept you the moment you trust in My Son and in His precious blood."

Now compare two clear illustrations of man's way and God's way of justification.

**#1 - We read of two men who each brought
an offering to the Lord.**

Genesis 4:1-7 -

Cain brought the works of his hands. His offering was rejected.

Abel brought a sacrifice. His offering was accepted.

Cain's way was the way of human works, which is not acceptable to the Lord.

Jude 11 -

Abel's way was the God-appointed way through the shedding of blood.

Hebrews 9:22 -

***#2 - We read of two men who went into
the temple to pray.***

Luke 18:9-14 -

The Pharisee was resting entirely upon his good works. He was not justified before God.

The publican was deeply conscious of his sin. He asked God to be propitiated for him, the sinner. In praying this prayer he indicated his trust and faith in Another who had shed His blood for him.

1 John 4:10 -

This man was justified because he was not depending upon his own works but upon the finished work of Another.

How up-to-date these two portions of scripture are! People today are either relying upon their own works for justification and acceptance before God, or they are relying upon the Lord Jesus and His finished work. It is either justification by works or by faith.

How many rely upon church-going, prayer-saying, charity, service, etc., and some upon confession to a priest, doing penance - works, works, works!

This is man's way and it is not acceptable to God.

Turn to the **Epistles** to the **Romans** and to the **Galatians**. See what the apostle Paul says in relation to this matter of justification. Look up and study the references carefully. Notice that, in each one, it is clearly stated that we are justified by faith and not by works.

First, Romans -

Romans 3:20-22 -

Romans 3:26 -

Romans 3:28 -

Romans 4:5 -

Compare -

Acts 13:38-39 -

Ephesians 2:8-10 -

Titus 3:5 -

Second, Galatians -

Galatians 2:16 -

Galatians 3:6-8 -

Galatians 3:11 -

Galatians 3:13-14 -

Galatians 3:22 -

Galatians 3:24 -

Galatians 3:26 -

1. THREE REASONS WHY JUSTIFICATION CANNOT BE BY WORKS.

Because by nature and by practice, we are sinful.

Therefore we are incapable of producing any works that are acceptable to a holy God.

Isaiah 64:6 -

Compare -

Galatians 3:10 -

James 2:10 -

If we are to be saved by works, by keeping the Law, we must give perfect obedience. We must keep the Law fully, in every point. But we are absolutely incapable of doing this! "Not the labour of my hands can fulfill Thy law's demands....."

Even if we could keep the Law from now on, what about our past sins?

Ecclesiastes 3:15 -

Because if we could be justified by works then Christ's coming, His death and blood-shedding were wholly unnecessary.

Galatians 2:20 -

Here we read that "the Son of God.....loved....." us and gave Himself for us. He died upon the cross as our Substitute.

But see what it says in -

Galatians 2:21 -

If we did not need a substitute then "Christ is dead in vain".

If I could be saved by Law- keeping and by works, then why was it necessary for the Lord Jesus to die for me at all?

Compare -

Galatians 5:2 -

Galatians 5:4 -

- c. Because justification by works would be grossly unfair, unjust and inconsistent with the character of God.*

Imagine two young fellows.

One is brought up in an ungodly home and, from earliest childhood, is taught to do evil. The other is brought up in a godly home and, from earliest childhood, is trained to love the Lord.

Which fellow stands the better chance of being justified - if justification could be obtained by good works?

Obviously, the second. But would this be a fair method?

No - and it is not God's method!

2. THREE REASONS WHY JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH ALONE, PLUS NOTHING!

1. Because this is God's prescribed plan and method for justifying sinners.

All the above scriptures indicate this most clearly.

To them can be added many other such as -

John 3:16 -

John 5:24 -

Romans 1:16 -

Romans 10:9-10 -

All these are summed up in -

Galatians 3:11 -

If I am to be justified, then it must be in God's way. ".....it is God that justifieth".

Romans 8:33 -

2. Because this method alone is consistent with the grace of God.

Romans 3:24 -

Titus 3:7 -

Here we read that we are "justified freely by His grace".

But, what is grace?

Grace is the boundless love and mercy of God which is bestowed freely and fully upon undeserving sinners.

The very principle of grace is that the gift offered is absolutely free, that it cannot be purchased or worked for.

Ephesians 2:8-10 -

If justification were by works, then the grace of God would be rendered void.

- c. Because millions of sinners have proved that the faith method of justification is effective.*

They have cast away all reliance upon their own works.

They have trusted alone in Christ's atoning blood and have been justified.

In Romans 5:1-11 -

the apostle gives us seven results of justification.

Please look them up!

Upon what are you trusting for justification for salvation? Upon yourself, your own works and efforts?

Or, have you put your whole faith and confidence and trust in the Lord Jesus and in Him alone?

NOTES

NOTES

THE CROSS IN GALATIANS

STUDY 5

Scripture Portion: 1 Corinthians 1:17-25

What is meant by the expression “the cross”?

Read and compare -

1 Corinthians 1:18 -

Philippians 2:8 -

Philippians 3:18 -

Colossians 1:20 -

It does not refer to a silver ornament, nor to an emblem which is often seen upon a church tower, nor to a crucifix. Neither does it refer to the burdens and troubles which we have to bear and which are sometimes referred to as “our cross”.

“The Cross” is an expression that gathers up and contains the great fact and significance of the death of our Lord Jesus Christ upon Calvary. Another Bible term is “the blood”.

Ephesians 2:13 -

1 Peter 1:19 -

1 John 1:7 -

Revelation 12:11 -

This expression refers to the unique nature of the sacrifice that Christ Jesus made for us upon the cross.

The “cross” and the “blood” are interchangeable terms. Both refer to His death and to the great purpose and significance of that death.

It is historically true that the Lord Jesus died upon the cross, but why did He die? What does His death mean to the believer?

The following seven key words, with the references, will answer that question.

SUBSTITUTION.

On the cross the Lord Jesus died for us, bearing away our sin in His own Body. We are told this in -

Galatians 1:4 -

The words to underline are, “who gave Himself *for our sins.....*”.

Our sins have incurred the penalty of sin which is death.

Ezekiel 18:4 -

Romans 6:23 -

But in order that we might not die, the Lord Jesus took our place and died in our stead.

Look up and compare -

Isaiah 53:5-6 -

2 Corinthians 5:21 -

1 Peter 2:24 -

IDENTIFICATION.

On the cross, not only did the Lord Jesus die for us, but we died with Him. This truth is contained in -

Galatians 2:20 -

The death of Christ upon the cross was God’s judgment upon the old creation. The Lord Jesus died as our Representative. Thus we, who formed a part of that old creation and who now believe in Him, died with Him.

This is what the apostle meant when, looking back to the cross, he wrote, “I have been crucified with Christ.....My old sinful self was nailed to the cross.”

Notice how clearly this truth is brought out in -

Romans 6:2 -

“.....we that are dead to sin.....”.

Romans 6:3 -

“.....baptized into His death.....”.

Romans 6:4 -

“.....buried into death.....”.

Romans 6:5 -

“.....planted in the likeness of His death.....”.

Romans 6:6 -

“Knowing that our old man is crucified.....”.

Then in -

Romans 6:11 -

we are exhorted, “Reckon yourselves to be dead unto sin.....”.

In other words, we are to believe God’s testimony that, when the Lord Jesus died, we died. We are to reckon upon that fact. We can never put our old nature to death, but we do not have to. What we have to do is to reckon upon His death, for when He died, we died.

3. REDEMPTION.

On the cross the Lord Jesus died to redeem us from the curse of the Law.

Compare -

Galatians 3:13 -

Galatians 4:4-5 -

What does this mean - “redeemed from the curse of the Law?”

For this reason: that the Law makes a demand upon us which we cannot meet. The Law says to us, “Do this and you shall live. If you do not do it, you will die.”

Galatians 3:10 -

Because we have broken the Law, we are under the curse of the Law. So the Lord Jesus died for us in order to deliver us from this curse.

Suppose the way of salvation were by Law-keeping.

In the first place, we never could be saved, for not one of us can ever keep the Law of God.

In the second place, we would never have any assurance of salvation because, however much we tried, we would be conscious of failure.

Even if we thought the Lord would balance up our good deeds against our bad deeds, (which He does not do!), we would all the time be wondering if we had enough good deeds to outweigh the bad ones.

4. PERSECUTION.

On the cross the Lord Jesus died a shameful death. All who follow Him will suffer persecution.

Galatians 5:11 -

Galatians 6:12 -

Because the Cross is an offence to the natural man, all who love it and preach it will suffer persecution.

When the apostle Paul went to Corinth, he tells us that he found there that the preaching of the cross was “to the Jews a stumbling block” -

1 Corinthians 1:23 -

Death by crucifixion was the most degrading form of punishment.

Galatians 3:13 -

It is therefore obvious that those of us who are identified with the cross must be willing to share the offence of the cross and to suffer persecution.

5. SEPARATION.

On the cross the Lord Jesus died for us that we might have deliverance from the flesh.

This is brought before us in -

Galatians 5:24 -

It links up with -

Galatians 2:20 -

Though there is a significant emphasis which we must not fail to notice. In **Galatians 2:20** we are told of an accomplished fact - that, when the Lord Jesus died, we died. In the purpose of God, nothing can alter this.

But in **Galatians 5:24** we are told that we have to assent to this fact. We have to act upon it and “crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts.....”.

Colossians 3:5 -

Have you ever held a funeral service for yourself? Have you reckoned yourself dead, buried with Christ and raised with Him too?

Romans 6:3-4 -

6. EMANCIPATION.

On the cross the Lord Jesus died to deliver us from this present evil world. Here we bring together -

Galatians 1:4 -

Galatians 6:14 -

The Lord Jesus died to deliver us from this present evil world in order that we might be a separated people. This being the case, can we adopt the world's standards, wear the world's dress, go to the world's pleasures and make bosom friends of worldly people when the Lord Jesus died to deliver us from the world?

You see, “the world” is society with God left out, the society which crucified the Lord Jesus and which has no place for Him. We are living in the world, but we are not to be of the world. The power which can separate us and emancipate us from the world is the cross of Christ.

1 John 2:15-18 -

7. Finally: EXULTATION.

Let us glory in the cross! God forbid that we should do otherwise.

Galatians 6:14 -

NOTES

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN GALATIANS

STUDY 6

Scripture Portion: Galatians 3:1-29

In Galatians, the Holy Spirit is mentioned at least thirteen times.

Galatians 3:2-3 -

Galatians 3:5 -

Galatians 3:14 -

Galatians 4:6 -

Galatians 4:29 -

Galatians 5:5 -

Galatians 5:16-18 -

Galatians 5:22 -

Galatians 5:25 -

Galatians 6:8 -

Of course, the Holy Spirit is a real Person.

It is important to emphasize this as many think of Him only as a great power or influence.

Possibly this is due to such verses as -

Acts 1:8 -

which speaks of His power.

But, He is a real Person. In the Bible He is spoken of over and over again as “He”, “Him”, “His”. His name is always given a capital “S”. Moreover, He is spoken of as doing things which only a person could do.

Read the references to the Holy Spirit in the **Gospel of John, chapters 14, 15 and 16.**

Notice the indications of personality which are shown in the things that He does.

But, the Holy Spirit is not only a real Person. He is a divine Person. He is God, the third Person in the Godhead.

This does not mean that He is of lesser importance than God the Father and God the Son. He is third in order, or in succession.

References in the following scriptures, make it clear that the Holy Spirit is God.

Matthew 3:16-17 -

Matthew 28:19 -

Acts 5:3-4 -

2 Corinthians 3:17 -

2 Corinthians 13:14 -

A comparison between -

Exodus 17:2-7 -

and

Hebrews 3:7-9 -

make it clear that the Holy Spirit is God.

What does the Holy Spirit do for, in, with, and through the believer, the child of God?

The theme of Galatians is that salvation becomes ours through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ - that is, by believing.

When we believe, what happens?

What is the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer?

THE HOLY SPIRIT PERFORMS THE MIRACLE OF THE NEW BIRTH IN THE BELIEVER.

We learn this from -

Galatians 4:29 -

Notice the two contrasting phrases - “born after the flesh.....” and “born after the Spirit.....”.

Compare -

John 3:3-7 -

particularly noticing **verses 5 and 6.**

The miracle of the new birth is the sovereign work of the Holy Spirit. We can never place ourselves into the family of God and make ourselves Christians.

But, when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and receive Him as our Saviour, then we are born of God, born again, and we become members of God’s family.

John 1:12-13 -

2. THE HOLY SPIRIT COMMUNICATES THE DIVINE LIFE TO THE BELIEVER.

Galatians 5:25 -

We have here the expression, “we live in the Spirit”.

This reminds us of the fact that, when we are born again and are constituted members of God’s family, the very life of God is communicated to us, imparted to us, by the Holy Spirit. By our natural birth we received physical life. When we were born again we received spiritual life.

2 Peter 1:4 -

A Christian is not just a religious person, not one who tries to follow the example of Christ, but he is one who is alive from the dead! By nature we are spiritually dead.

Ephesians 2:1 -

That is why it is we need to be born again and to receive a new life.

John 5:40 -

John 10:10 -

1 John 5:11-12 -

3. THE HOLY SPIRIT PERSONALLY INDWELLS EVERY BELIEVER.

The implications of Paul's question in -

Galatians 3:2 -

is that all the believers in the church at Galatia had received the Holy Spirit. So they had! How had they received Him - and when? By the hearing of faith.

In other words, the moment they believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit came to dwell within them for ever. For the Holy Spirit indwells every believer. Look up the following scriptures which make this very clear.

(a) John 7:37-39 -

(b) John 14:16-17 -

(c) Romans 5:5 -

(d) Romans 8:9 -

(e) 1 Corinthians 6:19 -

(f) 1 Corinthians 12:13 -

(g) 1 Thessalonians 4:8 -

4. THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES THE BELIEVER THE ASSURANCE OF SONSHIP.

Galatians 4:6 -

Notice that the first part of this verse confirms what we have just been emphasizing under the previous heading. But what does the Holy Spirit do for us when He enters into our hearts?

According to this verse, and a parallel verse -

Romans 8:14 -

we learn that He creates within us the consciousness of our relationship with God. He gives us the assurance that we are His children. We cry out to Him, "Abba, Father!" - just as a small child says, "Daddy!"

5. THE HOLY SPIRIT LEADS THE BELIEVER INTO A LIFE OF VICTORY OVER SIN AND SELF.

Galatians 5:16-17 -

When we are born again, immediately a warfare begins. The apostle Paul also knew it in experience.

Romans 7:18-25 -

What is the way of deliverance from "the flesh"? How can the believer be victorious over sin and self?

The Holy Spirit gives us the victory when we do three things.

1. When we walk in fellowship with Him.

Galatians 5:16 -

This means going along in harmony with Him.

Amos 3:3 -

2. When we submit to His leading.

Galatians 5:18 -

It is when we recognize His lordship and yield ourselves to His control that we experience His victory.

- c. When we exercise discipline in our lives.*

Galatians 6:7-8 -

It is possible for us to sow to the flesh or sow to the Spirit.

Romans 13:14 -

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES THE BELIEVER LIKE THE LORD JESUS.

Galatians 5:22 -

Here we have a “cluster” of the fruit of the Spirit.

This fruit can only be produced in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

To put it in a very practical way, we can only become like the Lord Jesus - loving, joyful, peaceful, longsuffering, gentle,..... - as the Holy Spirit makes us like Him.

We do not become like Jesus by struggling and striving.

Having been born of the Spirit, we are also sanctified by the Spirit.

Galatians 3:3 -

How does fruit grow on a tree? Not by struggling and striving.

When the branch is in union with the vine and in communion with the vine, then the fruit gradually, but certainly, appears.

John 15:1-8 -

7. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE INSPIRATION AND THE POWER OF THE BELIEVER'S SERVICE.

Galatians 3:5 -

Paul tells us that, when he lived and laboured amongst the Galatians, all his ministry was in the power and energy of the Holy Spirit.

We can never serve God effectively in the energy of the flesh, but we can serve Him effectively in the power and might of the Holy Spirit.

Compare -

Zechariah 4:6 -

Acts 1:8 -

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WHEN, HOW, AND WHY GOD SENT HIS SON

STUDY 7

Scripture Portion: Galatians 4:1-31

In Galatians 4:4-7 -

Three facts about the incarnation of our Lord are emphasized.

We have the *historical account* of the incarnation in the following -

Matthew 1:24 -2:1 -

Luke 2:7 -

John 1:1 -

John 1:14 -

These accounts are not in any way contradictory, but they are supplementary and must be taken together to obtain a complete view of the birth of our Lord.

Whereas the Evangelists present to us, in the Gospels, the historical account of the incarnation, the apostle Paul, in the passage before us, gives us the *doctrinal explanation* of the event.

Notice three lines of truth emphasized in this section of scripture.

1. THE TIME OF THE INCARNATION: WHEN GOD SENT HIS SON.

When did this take place? Matthew tells us that it was “in the days of Herod the king”,

-

Matthew 2:1 -

We know, by our calendars, that it is now over 1900 years that God sent His Son into this world.

But, in -

Galatians 4:4 -

we are told that it was, “when the fulness of the time was come”.

In creation, God worked to a timetable. **Genesis, chapters 1 and 2** make this clear. There was plan, order and method in God’s work of creation. But this is also true in regard to His work of redemption which involved the sending forth of His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh. See how -

Romans 5:6 -

puts it, and compare a similar expression in -

Acts 2:1 -

Then look up and compare -

John 2:4 -

John 4:21 -

John 5:25 -

John 7:6 -

John 13:1 -

God has appointed the time for each detail concerning the redemptive work of His Son. This time was appointed in Eternity.

Revelation 13:8 -

The exact time was also predicted in antiquity, four thousand years before Jesus came.

Genesis 3:15 -

Speaking from a human point of view, Jesus came just at the right time! - when the world was ready morally, spiritually, socially, politically, religiously and nationally.

It is well for us to remember that God is still working to a timetable!

2. THE NATURE OF THE INCARNATION: HOW GOD SENT HIS SON.

This is revealed in three expressions in -

Galatians 4:4 -

“God sent forth His Son.”

God was the prime mover.

John 3:16 -

The coming of the Lord Jesus was voluntary.

Psalms 40:7 -

Notice here that the pre-existence of Christ is implied, for, if “God sent forth His Son”, He had to come forth from somewhere.

Compare -

Isaiah 9:6 -

John 16:28 -

“Made (or born) of a woman.”

The Lord Jesus was “the seed of the woman”.

Genesis 3:15 -

When He came to earth, deity was clothed with humanity. For He was the God-man - not the Man who became God, but God who became man.

If Jesus had been a mere man, it would be foolish to say of Him that “He was made of a woman”, for how else can anybody come into this world except by being made, or born of a woman?

The very fact that this expression is used declares that the Lord Jesus was unique in His Person and in the method of His birth.

c. “Made under (or subject to) the Law.”

In the days of His flesh, our Lord was subject to -

(1) *The Ceremonial Law.*

He was circumcised and presented at the Temple.

He worshiped in the Temple.

He attended the Feasts at the Temple.

Luke 2:21 -

Luke 2:41-42 -

(2) *The Social Law.*

He was subject to His parents.

Luke 2:51 -

(3) *The Civil Law.*

Matthew 17:24-27 -

(4) *The Moral Law.*

He kept the Law in every point. He Himself declared that He had not come “to destroy the Law but to fulfill it” - or to fill it full.

Matthew 5:17 -

It is in particular the moral law to which Paul refers here. Our Lord made Himself subject to that Law.

He came and kept it as our representative.

Think of the self-imposed limitation and the humiliation of all this for our Lord, who is the Eternal Son of God.

Fancy God making Himself subject to the law which He Himself had established and imposed! What a stoop this was.

Philippians 2:7-8 -

3. THE PURPOSE OF THE INCARNATION: WHY GOD SENT HIS SON.

Why did the Lord Jesus need to come from Heaven to earth and to be born in Bethlehem's manger?

There was a threefold purpose.

This is mentioned in -

Galatians 4:5-7 -

1. He came in order that we might be REDEEMED.

Galatians 4:5 -

To redeem, in this case, means to deliver from the bondage and the curse of the Law. The curse of the Law is the penalty which comes because we have broken the Law.

We all have broken the Law. Therefore, we are under the curse and are in danger of punishment.

But Christ came to redeem us from the curse of the Law.

He did this by offering His life and shedding His blood on Calvary's cross.

1 Peter 1:18-19 -

Thank God, every believer can sing:

*Free from the Law, O happy condition,
Jesus has bled, and there is remission.*

- b. He came that we might receive the ADOPTION of sons.***

Galatians 4:5 -

God's purpose in the Incarnation is that we might become sons of God.

This sonship is based upon redemption - "to redeem.....that we might receive.....". The Son of God became the Son of man that we, sons of men, might become sons of God.

Who, then, are the sons of God? They are those who have the Spirit of adoption in their hearts.

Compare -

Galatians 4:6 -

1 John 3:1 -

3. He came that we might become HEIRS of God through Christ.

Galatians 4:7 -

Compare with -

Romans 8:16-17 -

where we are told that we are joint-heirs with Christ. Because He shared our humanity, with all the consequent sufferings which this involved, we, by His grace and through faith in Him, are to share His glory.

In the parable of **Luke 15**, the father said to his elder son -

Luke 15:31 -

This is exactly what our Father says to everyone of His children:

- (1) “Son.....”- Redemption.
- (2) “thou are ever with Me.....”- Adoption.
- (3) “all that I have is thine”.....an Heir of God.

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WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

STUDY 8

Scripture Portion: Galatians 5:1-15

How very sad it is when one who has been truly converted turns back -

Acts 7:39 -

backslides -

Proverbs 14:14 -

becomes lukewarm -

Revelation 3:16 -

and loses his first love -

Revelation 2:4 -

What a tragedy this is - to be keen and out-and-out for Christ, a soul winner and an earnest worker and then to turn aside from the Lord!

There were those in the Galatian Church who had this experience in A.D. 56. They had been turned aside by false teachers who had succeeded in getting them into bondage again to the Law.

See what the apostle says of them and to them in -

Galatians 5:7 -

The thought conveyed to us in this verse is that the Christian life is a race.

Paul used this metaphor in -

1 Corinthians 9:26 -

Compare -

Hebrews 12:1-2 -

But, here in -

Galatians 5:7 -

we are told that we might be hindered in the race.

A literal translation might well be: “Who has got in the way of your obeying? Who has jostled you?”

WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

Were you hindered by the inconsistency of professing Christians?

Then you need to take heed to -

1 Peter 2:21 -

You see, your trouble is that you have been looking to other Christians and following their example. Perhaps you have even put them on a pedestal. Then, when you have discovered that they are not as perfect as you had thought, you have been disappointed and discouraged.

There is only One who we can set up as our example. That is our Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Hebrews 12:1-2 -

It is most essential to look off - away from oneself, one's circumstances and from other Christians - unto Jesus Himself.

2. WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

Were you hindered by persecution, misunderstanding or opposition? Then you need to take heed to -

John 16:33 -

Many a fellow or girl has accepted Christ in a meeting and has then gone home to face the misunderstanding and opposition of loved ones and friends. The test has been so severe that, after a while, they have become discouraged and have “given everything up”.

But, “it is hard to be a Christian”. Our Lord expressly told us that it would be so.

Matthew 5:11-12 -

The Lord Jesus was threatened with stones -

John 8:59 -

They put a crown of thorns upon His head -

John 19:1-3 -

They mocked Him -

Luke 23:33-37 -

Then they crucified Him -

John 19:18 -

Is it not a great privilege to suffer with Him?

Philippians 1:29 -

Compare -

Acts 5:41 -

2 Corinthians 11:23-30 -

3. WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

Were you hindered by some severe trial or sorrow? Then you need to take heed to -

Hebrews 12:6 -

Do you know the very first thing the Lord does when we tell Him that we are willing to be wholly His? He tests us out to see if we really mean it! All the way through our earthly pilgrimage He is chastening us.

But, be sure that you understand what this word “chastening” means. It means “child-training”.

He allows all sorts of testings and trials to beset us in order -
that we may be cast on Him -

Psalm 55:22 -

that we may be refined -

Malachi 3:3 -

and that our faith may be deepened -

1 Peter 1:7 -

Have you ever noticed -

Luke 7:23 -

Be sure to read the previous verses as well -

Luke 7:19-22 -

Compare -

1 Peter 2:8 -

4. WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

Were you hindered by the pull of the world?

Then you need to take heed to -

1 John 2:15 -

It is not possible to love the Lord Jesus and Demas.

2 Timothy 4:10 -

He was hindered by a love for the world. Many Christians have succumbed to the pull of the world. Indeed, relatively speaking, all of us have. The influence of the media upon us all is very great indeed. Almost without realizing it, we submit to the world's standards, which means that we fall short of God's standards of righteousness, purity and truth.

Philippians 4:8 -

Seek to obey the exhortation in this verse, then compare with -

Proverbs 23:7 -

5. WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

Were you hindered by neglect of fellowship with the Lord?

Then you need to take heed to -

John 15:4 -

To “abide” means to “stay put”. There are many Christians who, instead of abiding in Christ, have backslidden because they have neglected the devotional reading of God’s Word.

2 Timothy 3:15-17 -

They have neglected the regular attendance at the house of God.

Hebrews 10:25 -

In consequence of this neglect, they have not grown and progressed spiritually.

2 Peter 3:18 -

6. WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

Were you hindered by some wilful act of disobedience?

Then you need to take heed to -

Jeremiah 26:13 -

It is of little use thinking about it, talking about it or even praying about it unless you actually “amend your ways.....and obey the voice of the Lord.

In other words, there must be some drastic dealing with anything and everything that is wrong in your life.

Perhaps there is a wrong friendship -

Amos 3:3 -

an unequal yoke -

2 Corinthians 6:14 -

a secret sin -

Joshua 7:18-23 -

some impurity -

Isaiah 52:11 -

an unforgiving spirit -

Matthew 18:21-22 -

or an unfulfilled vow -

Deuteronomy 23:21 -

Read and compare -

Proverbs 28:13 -

Psalms 66:18 -

Notice the reference to obedience in -

Galatians 5:7 -

7. WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

Was it something else that hindered you? Then you need to take heed to -

Hebrews 12:25 -

If you are willing and honest before the Lord and you are desirous of coming back to Him, He will put His finger upon the hindering thing in your life. When He does so, be sure to obey -

John 2:5 -

and get right with God.

8. WHERE DID YOU GO WRONG?

The only life that is glorifying to God, that is pleasing to others and that is really satisfying to ourselves, is the life that is running well, the life that is lived in complete obedience to the truth - to the Lord Jesus who is the truth -

John 14:6 -

and to His Word, the Word of truth -

2 Timothy 2:15 -

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THE FLESH VERSUS THE SPIRIT

STUDY 9

Scripture Portion: Galatians 5:16-26

It was surely characteristic of the late Canon Guy King to entitle a sermon he once preached on -

Galatians 5:19-23 -

“From the Slum to the Orchard”! **Galatians 5:19-21** describes the slum. **Galatians 5:22-23** describes the orchard.

It is the purpose and provision of God that we, who by nature are in the slum, should be translated into the orchard; that we, from whose lives proceeded such evil things, should be made new creatures in Christ Jesus and that the fruit of the Spirit should be manifested in us.

In **Galatians 5:16-26** there is a progressive line of teaching concerning the twofold nature of the believer. Let us consider this very important doctrine.

BEFORE WE ARE BORN AGAIN AND BECOME CHRISTIANS, WE POSSESS A SINFUL, FALLEN, DEPRAVED NATURE WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS THE “FLESH”.

The expression “the flesh” occurs once in -

Galatians 5:16 -

twice in -

Galatians 5:17 -

and once in each of -

Galatians 5:19 -

Galatians 5:24 -

It is the Bible description for unregenerate human nature.

The “flesh” is also called “the natural man” -

1 Corinthians 2:14 -

and “the old man” -

Romans 6:6 -

Ephesians 4:22 -

Colossians 3:9 -

The “flesh” is wholly evil and is incapable of improvement.

Romans 7:18 -

Ephesians 4:22 -

Read also -

Genesis 6:5 -

Genesis 6:11-12 -

Isaiah 1:5-6 -

Jeremiah 17:9 -

Matthew 7:21-23 -

Romans 1:26-32 -

2 Timothy 3:1-7 -

WHEN WE ARE BORN AGAIN WE RECEIVE A NEW NATURE, A SPIRITUAL NATURE.

This is imparted by the Holy Spirit. It is described as “the new man”.

Ephesians 4:24 -

Colossians 3:10 -

How very wonderful this is! When we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, we are actually made “partakers of the divine nature”.

2 Peter 1:4 - *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is*

in the world through lust.

We receive and share the very life of God.

3. EVERY CHRISTIAN, THEREFORE, POSSESSES TWO NATURES - THE OLD AND THE NEW.

All who have been born again possess the fleshly nature which they inherited from Adam, and the divine nature, which they received when they were born again.

John 3:6 -

These two natures are co-resident within every Christian. It is very important to understand that, when we are born again and receive the new nature, we do not lose the old nature, nor indeed, shall we lose the old nature until we see the Lord and are transformed into His likeness.

1 John 3:2 -

The old nature is incapable of any change or improvement. It is quite impossible to be rid of it, though we may have victory over it. Thus, it is true that every Christian has within him the old, evil, corrupt adamic nature, and the new divine nature.

4. THESE TWO NATURES, WHICH CO-EXIST WITHIN EVERY CHRISTIAN, ARE EXACT OPPOSITES AND ARE IN CONSTANT CONFLICT THE ONE WITH THE OTHER.

One is evil, the other is good. One is corrupt, the other is pure. One is inherited from the first Adam, the other is inherited from the "last Adam". And these two natures are in constant conflict.

Galatians 5:17 -

See how clearly this is brought out, and how vividly it describes the experience of every Christian.

Compare -

Romans 7:18-24 -

Galatians 5:17 -

5. THE OLD FLESHLY NATURE MANIFESTS ITSELF IN "WORKS" WHICH

ARE VERY HORRIBLE.

Galatians 5:19-21 -

tells us this. They describe the works of the flesh.

Notice -

The word “works”.

Galatians 5:19 -

It is plural. It describes the striving, the efforts and the endeavours of the fleshly nature. “The flesh provokes a wide range gamut of works.”

The word “manifest”.

Galatians 5:19 -

The apostle tells us that the works of the flesh are evident. We only have to look into our own hearts to see them!

c. The list is not complete.

Galatians 5:21 -

The list that the apostle gives us of the works of the flesh is not complete. Having mentioned a number of the manifestations of the fleshly nature, Paul adds the words “.....and such like”.

What Paul is saying is, that because we all possess the old nature, we are capable of any or all of these “works” because they are the works of the flesh. We all have the flesh nature within us.

Do you wonder, therefore, that God condemns the old nature?

Galatians 5:21 -

6. THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IMPARTS THE NEW NATURE TO THE CHRISTIAN, MANIFESTS THROUGH THE NEW NATURE THE “FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT”.

Notice that the word is “fruit”- singular - and not “fruits”. The Holy Spirit produces in and through the life of the Christian, one glorious, harmonious whole. It is worthwhile

to notice the word “but” at the beginning of -

Galatians 5:22 -

It stands between “the works of the flesh” and “the fruit of the Spirit”. What does this “but” tell us?

It tells us that the Holy Spirit alone can, and does, produce in the Christian the fruit of the Spirit, or *Christlikeness*.

Every real Christian wants to be more like the Lord Jesus.

How can this be? Only as the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of the Spirit.

1. The Holy Spirit makes us loving -

Romans 5:5 -

2. The Holy Spirit makes us joyful -

Acts 13:52 -

John 15:11 -

3. The Holy Spirit makes us calm and peaceful -

Philippians 4:6-7 -

- d. The Holy Spirit makes us patient -*

1 Peter 1:20-23 -

5. The Holy Spirit makes us kind and gentle -

Ephesians 4:30-32 -

6. The Holy Spirit makes us good -

Acts 11:24 -

7. The Holy Spirit makes us faithful -

1 Corinthians 4:2 -

8. The Holy Spirit makes us humble -

Matthew 11:29 -

1. The Holy Spirit makes us masters of ourselves -

Romans 8:2 -

We can never produce this beautiful fruit, this Christlikeness, this Christian character, in our own strength or by our own effort, anymore than we can, in our own strength or by our own effort, overcome or suppress the works of the flesh.

What then is the way of victory?

7. HOW MAY THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT TAKE THE PLACE OF THE WORKS OF THE FLESH?

Within us we have one nature which strives to do evil. We have the new nature through which the Holy Spirit seeks to produce the beautiful fruit of Christlikeness.

How may we be freed from the power of the flesh so that the fruit of the Spirit may be manifest in our lives?

A threefold secret is indicated.

1. Keep on Reckoning.

Galatians 5:24 -

This means that we must obey the injunction in -

Romans 6:11 -

and say, by faith -

Galatians 2:20 -

2. Keep on Relying.

Galatians 5:18 -

Recognize that you are not under the Law, that victory over the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit can never be effected by works, by striving, but by the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, rely upon Him to lead you into victory.

c. *Keep on Receiving.*

Galatians 5:16 - *This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

To walk in the Spirit indicates fellowship.

This means -

negatively -

Ephesians 4:30 -

and positively -

Ephesians 5:18 -

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OUR PROGRAM, PERIL, AND PROSPECT

STUDY 10

Scripture Portion: Galatians 6:1-9

In this concluding study we are to consider one of the great dangers which faces us as Christians and as Christian workers: namely, that of weariness which causes us to give up instead of winning through.

The apostle brings this danger before us in -

Galatians 6:9 -

In order that we may see the force of this great danger, let us consider the teaching of the whole verse.

1. OUR PROGRAM AS SERVANTS OF THE LORD.

What is to be our task, our job of work, as Christians and as workers for the Lord?

In **Galatians 6:9** there is one word which describes Christian service. It is the word “well doing”, which means literally, “doing good”.

Compare -

Acts 10:38 -

John 20:21 -

In 1 Peter 3:17 -

“Well doing” is contrasted with “evil doing”.

In Ephesians 2:10 -

we read that we are saved “unto good works”, i.e. “well doing”. No one is saved by well doing.

Ephesians 2:8 -

Titus 3:5 -

but everyone who is saved, should give evidence of that fact by well doing.

Titus 3:8 -

What is well doing?

Surely it consists of every act of service, whether great or small, which is done for Jesus' sake.

It may take the form of what we specifically describe as Christian work, for example, preaching, teaching, or visiting. It may consist of looking after someone's children while the parents attend a service. It may be giving a cup of cold water in the Name of the Lord Jesus.

Matthew 10:42 -

What scope there is for well doing!

In this **Galatians 6**, however, several special acts of well doing are mentioned.

Giving spiritual help to others.

Galatians 6:1 -

Too often, when our brethren or sisters are in spiritual difficulty, we criticize them or ostracize them.

Take heed to the exhortation in this verse.

John 13:12-15 -

b. Sharing the burdens of others.

Galatians 6:2 -

Do we know anything about this? Here is a great ministry in which all of us may engage.

Acts 20:35 -

1 Thessalonians 5:14 -

There should be a mutual sympathy flowing between Christians at all times, especially in times of trial and testing.

3. Sharing what we have with others.

Galatians 6:6 -

The word “communicate” really means “share with”. If we have received so much from the Lord, we should be ready to share what we have received, whether they be spiritual or temporal blessings, with those around us who are in need.

Acts 2:44 -

Acts. 4:32 -

2 Corinthians 9:7-15 -

1 Timothy 5:18 -

4. Doing good generally.

Galatians 6:10a -

What opportunities crowd in upon us for exercising this ministry! Incidentally, there is a reflex blessing in seeking to help others. We cannot engage in a ministry like this without being blessed ourselves.

Proverbs 11:24-25 -

- e. Doing special acts of love for members of the Family.*

Galatians 6:10b -

It is our special privilege to engage in acts of well doing which will benefit those who are our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Philippians 4:10 -

Philippians 4:14-18 -

2. OUR PERIL AS SERVANTS OF THE LORD.

What is our peril?

It is that, while engaged in the program, we become weary and faint. For example, if you are a Sunday School teacher, how easy it is to lose heart!

One version renders this, “Let us not grow tired in well doing”. That is the peculiar peril of every Christian. Even Paul, in writing to the Galatians about it, included himself. “Let us.....”

Why do we get weary and faint?

Consider the following practical reasons why Christians sometimes grow weary and faint in the Lord's work.

1. It may be due to overwork.

Of course, we cannot overdo "well doing", but we might be wiser sometimes to do less work and do it well. It needs much grace to say, "No"! - perhaps more grace than to say "Yes"! There is the danger of the "barrenness of a busy life".

2. Lack of fresh air can cause weariness and faintness.

To sleep in a room with all the windows tightly shut, with the consequent lack of fresh air, must result in lethargy.

The Christian's "native air" is prayer. It is our "vital breath", and nearly always, the cause of our faintness in our prayer life.

Luke 18:1 -

- c. It may equally be lack of food.*

Just as lack of material food will cause a physical collapse, so lack of spiritual food will cause a spiritual collapse.

Well doing is giving out. You cannot give out until you have first taken in. We must feed upon the Word of God.

Job 23:12 -

3. It may be due to insufficient sleep.

It is essential that we learn to rest upon the promises of God. To fail to do this will certainly bring weariness and faintness.

Psalm 119:165 -

Isaiah 26:3 -

e. One more reason - it may be due to discouragement.

This always comes from the devil. Dr. Weymouth renders **Galatians 6:9**, “Do not lose heart.....”.

If you have lost heart, please turn at once to -

1 Samuel 30:6 -

3. OUR PROSPECT AS SERVANTS OF THE LORD.

What is our prospect?

It is that “in due season we shall reap.....”. How absolutely certain this word is! No service rendered to or for the Lord is ever lost or will ever go unrewarded.

Compare -

Psalm 126:6 -

the word “doubtless” means “without doubt”; and -

Ecclesiastes 11:1 -

Notice the word “shalt”.

1 Corinthians 15:58 -

Notice the word “know”.

What is our safeguard against the peril of becoming weary and of fainting?

Isaiah 40:28-31 -

Hebrews 12:3 -

May God give us grace to enter wholeheartedly upon our God-given program, to avoid the perils which constantly face us and to live in the light of the glorious prospect which is ever before us.

1 Corinthians 15:58 -

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