

The Great Battle Part Four

Learning Self Control

Gal. 5:16-26

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss the way we overcome sin by living by the fruit of the Spirit.
2. Gal. 5:16-26
 - a. There is a continual battle between the flesh and spirit
 - b. We can control our lives and thus win the battle
3. But the outcome will only be successful if we follow the spirit.
 - a. Rom. 8:1 “[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.”
 - b. Rom. 8:13 “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.”
 - c. The fruit of the spirit is the only way to overcome these works of the flesh.
4. In this lesson we will discuss the last 4 of these works of the flesh:
Murder, Drunkenness, Revellings, and Such Like. = sins of Intemperance

Discussion

I. SINS OF INTEMPERANCE

- A. Murder # 15
 1. Taking the life of another - kill - slaughter - destruction of human life
 2. A person who has not defeated these bad dispositions will be in danger of committing this sin of murder.

3. Intentional taking of a human life is murder
4. Abortion is one way of murder -
 - a. A baby in the womb is alive - if it is intentionally removed too early the baby will die. That is the purpose of abortion.
 - b. Scriptures show life begins at conception"
 - (1) Jer. 1:5 "Before I formed thee in the belly, I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."
 - (2) Jeremiah was chosen by God while in the womb
 - (3) If there had been an abortion then Jeremiah would have been killed
 - c. Notice this passage in Exodus 21:22-25.
 - (1) It is not talking about abortion. But it discusses the penalty for a man who causes a woman to have a miscarriage.
 - (2) It says "...life for life," which indicates that the baby in the womb was alive. If it was killed then the man responsible would face death.
 - d. Abortion is murder and is a work of the flesh.
5. Euthanasia is another way of murder - sometimes called assisted suicide
 - a. Euthanasia is the deliberate and intentional killing of a human being by a direct action, such as a lethal injection, or by the failure to perform even the most basic medical care such as the provision of nutrition and hydration, necessary to maintain life.
 - b. God is the giver of life! Gen. 2:7 - man became a living soul
 - c. Ps. 100:3 "Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture."

- d. Acts 17:24,25, & 28
 - e. No man has the right to terminate that life.
 - f. If we do it is called murder.
6. Rev. 21:8 - murderers cannot be in heaven REV 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

B. Drunkenness # 16

1. Drinking of alcoholic beverage as a beverage is condemned
 - a. Prov. 20:1 "Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."
 - b. Pro. 23:29-35
2. It is wrong to drink any amount of alcoholic beverage.
3. The Greek word Drunk means - "to begin to be softened with strong drink"
 - a. There are degree's of drunkenness and a person begins to be drunk when they begin to drink!
 - b. "There is no minimum (blood alcohol concentration) which can be set at which there will be absolutely no effect." [minutes of the 1960 annual meeting of the American Medical Association.]
 - c. When a person takes any amount of alcoholic beverage they are softened, intoxicated, and drunk to that degree.
4. Social drinking is wrong!!! Some would have us believe that it is all right to drink socially as long as we don't drink too much.

5. Jesus performed a miracle in John 2 at the marriage feast
 - a. He speeded up the process of nature which turns water to grapes and then the grape juice or wine from the grapes -
 - b. The word wine is "oinos" which can describe either intoxicating or unintoxicating wine! It must be determined by the context in which it is used!
 - c. Jesus did not give them an intoxicating drink, for that would have been sinful
 - (1) Heb.4:15 "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin."
 - (2) I Pet 2:22 "Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:"
 - d. As Christians we must abstain from any kind of alcoholic beverage
6. Drinking is a work of the flesh

C. Revellings # 17

1. Excessive, boisterous festivities, carousals, without restraint
2. Belshazar & Babylon - handwriting on wall - Daniel
3. Expresses a lustful excess in physical and sexual pleasure which is offensive to God and to man alike. {Barclay p. 62}
4. Drinking and revelling generally go together
5. Revelling is to take great or intense delight or satisfaction in merry-making.
6. 1 Pet. 4:3 NKJV "For we have spent enough of our past lifetime in doing the will of the Gentiles--when we walked in lewdness, lusts, drunkenness, revelries, drinking parties, and abominable idolatries."

D. Such Like # 18

1. All of that kind
2. These are examples and it is easy to recognize others that are just like them.
3. He did not name every specific thing that was wrong, but he gave specific examples of several. If the Bible listed everything that was wrong it would be so big we could not carry it or lift it.
4. He has not listed "gambling" or "dancing" specifically but they are "such like".
5. If we have trouble deciding about an activity then we can ask our self is this like the works of the flesh or the fruit of the Spirit? The better we understand these the easier it will be to decide "Such Like". "Things like these."

II. LEARNING SELF CONTROL

- A. Temperance or self control is the number one job of Christians.
 1. Without self control the "works of the flesh" cannot be defeated
 2. Without self control the "fruit of the Spirit" will not be added to our lives.
- B. The meaning of the word!!
 1. It comes from the word "kratos" (strength), and means "one holding himself in" (ROBERTSON)
 2. THAYER defines it as: "the virtue of one who masters his desires and passions, especially his sensual appetites"
 3. MACKNIGHT adds the thought: "Where this virtue subsists, temptation can have little influence."
 4. We can see why this virtue is so necessary in overcoming the "works of the flesh"

5. Self control or temperance is self governing of our life.

C. Uses of the word in the N.T.

1. Once in Acts 24:25 "And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee."
 - a. Here it is included along with "righteousness" and "judgment"
 - b. The word follows 'righteousness', which represents God's claims; therefore, self-control is to be man's response to such claims" (VINE)
2. Once in Gal. 5:23, where we see it is evidence of one walking in the Spirit, and being led by the Spirit
3. And in 2 Pet 1:6 "And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;
 - a. Here we learn that it is to be added to "knowledge"
 - b. It follows 'knowledge', suggesting that what is learned requires to be put into practice" (VINE)
4. Self-control, then, is being in control of one's self; so as to be in harmony with the will of God.

D. Developing self control

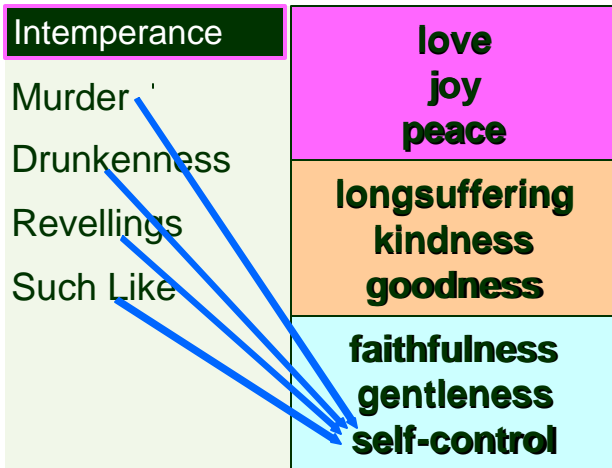
1. The answer is stated very clearly in our text - Ga 5:24
 - a. "...those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires"
 - (1) This does not deny the fact there is still a battle going on - Ga 5:17
 - (2) But those in Christ have undergone a fundamental change
 - (3) In a way difficult to comprehend, they have "crucified the flesh" -
Gal. 5:24

- b. This took place when they were united with Christ in His death, in baptism...
 - (1) In baptism, our body of sin is put to death, crucified with Christ -
Rom. 6:3-6
 - (2) When we are raised from that watery grave, we rise to walk in newness of
life, free to live for God! - Rom. 6:7, 12-13
 - c. This does not mean we are no longer tempted to sin, but in some significant way
we are free from the "dominion" (absolute rule) of sin! - Rom. 6:14
 - 2. For those in Christ, there is added strength as they "walk according to the Spirit"!
 - a. Yes, we enjoy freedom from the "condemnation" of sin - Rom. 8:1
 - b. But there is more, freedom also from the "power" of sin, freedom from "the
law (principle) of sin and death" - Rom. 8:2
- E. Prov. 16:32 "[He that is] slow to anger [is] better than the mighty; and he that ruleth
his spirit than he that taketh a city."
- 1. It is easier to conquer and subdue the enemy without than the one within.
 - 2. Many kings have conquered nations but were slaves to their own passions.
Alexander, who conquered the world, was a slave to his anger. In a fit of rage he
slew one his best friends, Clytus, one who he loved dearly.¹

¹Clarkes Commentary on Prov. P. 749 Vol.III

Conclusion

1. Self Control -Self control describes a person who has mastery of his appetites.
 - a. To grip, grasp, to hold
 - b. Controlling grip of himself.
 - c. We must control our desires



2. A person with self control has been guided by godly wisdom and knowledge.
3. The wise man disciplines his appetites and makes them his servant rather than his master.
4. The world is determined to travel the road of self-indulgence and the way of least resistance.
5. But as Christians we can win the battle with the Works of the Flesh by winning the battle of Self Control. As we do God's will then self-control will be a natural by-product
6. The Fruit of the Spirit is to walk by God's Will. This will defeat the Works of the Flesh.