

Magnolia Missionary Baptist Church of Beaumont
Pastor: Pastor Dwight Benoit
Superintendent: Ordained Minister Samuel O. Simon
Lesson # 10 August 01, 2023 – August 06, 2023

Unit III: God's Eternal Reign

Subject: Inner Struggles

Text: Galatians 5: 13-26

Key Verse:

Brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for a occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another (Galatians 5: 13, KJV).

Lesson Pointers:

- 1) Freedom (Galatians 5: 13-16)
- 2) Fleshless (Galatians 5: 17-21)
- 3) Fruitful (Galatians 5: 22-26)

Introduction

Now, if we are honest with ourselves, we will admit that we all have struggles. It is because of our souls that inherited a human nature that leans toward sin. Because of Adam's and Eve fall in the garden sin enter, and we all were conceived in sin. Knowing this, even when we try with good intentions, we still find ourselves struggling or wrestling against the flesh strong pull to displease GOD. Yes, the struggles are real, and can cause heartaches for you, your loved ones, friends, and community people around you, but the good news is that we are not defeated. Believing in JESUS CHRIST and trusting, obeying HIM as we walk with HIM (JESUS CHRIST), the Holy Spirit will help us to conquer the fleshly pull, and enables us to walk in the Spirit, that we do the things that please and honor JESUS CHRIST our LORD and Savior.

Inner Struggles!

Lesson Pointer # 1

- Freedom (Galatians 5: 13-16)

Paul speaks of Christian's freedom in Galatians 5: 1, and warned against the very danger of falling back into slavery. Now, here, Paul reminded believers about precious treasures from GOD, through spiritual freedom in JESUS CHRIST, and warned believers against its being converted into license, and not to use their freedom or liberty to do anything that they wanted to do, but to use their freedom or liberty to please JESUS CHRIST and glorify GOD, showing godly love while serving others (Galatians 5: 13). Paul made it simple and plan in what it takes to please GOD. He quoted the Old Testament of Leviticus 19: 18, "Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I am the LORD." And quoted the words of JESUS CHRIST in the New Testament of Mark 12: 31, "**And the second is like, namely this, thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.**" Paul, simply summed up this phrase by stating, "For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself (Galatians 5: 14)." Now, as believers,

Paul warned them not to engage in unwanted or unnecessary and uncontrolled conflicts with others (Galatians 5: 15). The reason Paul warned the believers of this was that such actions could have a lasting impact on everyone involved, cause once you say something to hurt someone you cannot take it back. Paul said that GOD has called believers of HIS to live peaceably with each other, and to walk by the power of GOD'S Spirit (Galatians 5: 16). In during so, all believers can and will find true freedom in JESUS CHRIST.

Inner Struggles!

Lesson Pointer # 2

- **Fleshless (Galatians 5: 17-21)**

Each believer or Christian has two natures, a sinful nature that is received at birth, one inherited from the fallen Adam. And a new nature that is received at regeneration when the believer or Christian became a participant in the divine nature (Read 2 Peter 1: 4). Paul examines the nature of the struggle between the two as the flesh and the Spirit. Paul says that the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that you would (Galatians 5: 17). Paul goes on to say that those who are led by the Spirit is not under the Mosaic law, but are free, and are instead under the law of JESUS CHRIST, which is to love GOD with all of thine heart, mind, and soul and to love thy neighbors as thyself (Galatians 5: 18). Paul goes on to tell the believers of the works of the flesh, which are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such alike (Galatians 5: 19-21a). Then Paul warned the believers that those who live to please the flesh instead of GOD shall not, will not, inherit the kingdom of GOD (Galatians 5: 21b).

Inner Struggles!

Lesson Pointer # 3

- **Fruitful (Galatians 5: 22-26)**

When one only look to please himself, there is no fruitful life but the one who is Spirit-led has a fruitful life and their love is genuine for GOD and others. Now, here, Paul tells the believers of the fruit of the Spirit, which represents the works of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life. Which are, love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, in which such things there is no law (Galatians 5: 22-23). Paul continues to tell believers that those who belong to JESUS CHRIST have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires (Galatians 5: 24). So, believers or Christians are to walk in the Spirit, since we live by the Spirit (Galatians 5: 25). Paul tells the believers that they are to stay focused on pleasing GOD rather than being distracted by conflicts, competing, or impressing other believers (Galatians 5: 26). Believers who are led by the Spirit cannot do the things that is not pleasing to GOD the FATHER and GOD the SON and GOD the HOLY SPIRIT.

Inner Struggles!