

**Galatians: *Be a Bear, not a
Horseshoe Crab!***

Part Four – Chapter 5 “Who Am I In Step With?”

November 19, 2023

Vv 1-5 . . . Christ will be of no benefit to you. . . severed from Christ. . . you have fallen from grace. *If you place yourself back under law after being redeemed from it, then you will not benefit from the power of Christ to live the Christian life, you will be estranged (out of fellowship) from Christ, and you will fall out of His favor (grace).*

Vv 13-15 It is sin to turn your freedom into opportunity for the flesh. The flesh is self-serving; We are to be other serving.

V 16 “walk by the Spirit”

Eternal life is a relationship, and walking by the Spirit is living in the relationship; living your life in the continual awareness that God has a will for every decision you make, every issue you face, and it is placing your foot into the light of the next step that He shows you. It is living a life of obedience to God. We learn God’s will from His Word, and we communicate with God with prayer. Abide, **John 15**; Walking in the light, **1 John 1**. See **John 17:3**- *eternal life is a relationship*

Vv 19-21

Sins against own body: Immorality, Impurity

Sins against God: Sensuality – no morals (see **Jude 4**), Idolatry, Sorcery – witchcraft, black magic

Sins against others: Enmities – hostility, antagonism

Strife – conflict, dissension

Jealousy – envy, resentment

Outbursts of anger – rage, fury

Disputes – selfish ambition

Dissensions – discord, division

Factions – divisions, separate groups

Envy – jealousy, envy

Sins against civility: Drunkenness, Carousing – revelry, orgy (“cruising and bruising with no direction and no destination”)

V 21 *This means either. . .*

1. Unsaved people don’t go to heaven, and you were once unsaved but you aren’t in this group any longer.
2. Saved people don’t act like this, so if you are acting like this it means you aren’t “really” saved, and you need to go back and get “really” saved. If so, where is the line between “not enough to be unsaved” and “so much that you can’t be saved?”

Or. . .

3. “inherit the kingdom” is not the same as “being saved,” and believers who live like this are out of fellowship with their Heavenly Father and they risk losing their inheritance in the kingdom.

“inherit the kingdom” Six times in NT, Based on works five of those times; Jesus said that rank in the kingdom is based on works – **Matthew 5**

Old Testament Examples

Numbers 14 – a million redeemed Israelites perished in the wilderness because they shrunk back in unbelief and would not enter into the battle for the promised land.

See **1 Corinthians 10:5-10**

Genesis 25 – Esau traded away his inheritance because he valued gratifying his flesh more than spiritual things.

See **Hebrews 12:15-17**

Vv 22-25 “walk” in **v 25** is a different word than “walk” in **v 16**; here it carries the idea of “being in step with.” Conquering the flesh is a byproduct of being in step with the Spirit; the fruit of the Spirit is a byproduct of walking in the Spirit. Living by law is thinking about law, and the law is what stimulates the flesh to sin. Legalism is an attempt to fulfill the fruits of the Spirit, in the power of the flesh.

This four-part Galatians study is in our series of the epistles of the Apostle Paul, entitled *Letters that Changed the World – Making my life a letter that changes the world.*