

Verse 16: 'I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.'

Paul is teaching, again, what we have seen throughout God's Word: God is Tripartite: 3 persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He created Adam and Eve in His image as also tripartite: a living soul within a spiritual body within a physical body. The moment they sinned, their spirits died and no longer related to God; they were then, essentially, bipartite: a living soul within a physical body, having a dead spirit; they were dead in sin. Their souls were slaves to their physical bodies with all of its passions and desires. Their spirits no longer drew them to God or sought fellowship with Him at all. Most of the people around us remain dead in sin which explains why we see the World devolving inexorably into the mirror image of Sodom and Gomorrah.

Up until now, Satan has moved upon his servants to hide their evil desires; that is quickly changing; the World's evil is more and more on display. At the moment of the Rapture, the Holy Spirit will remove His restraint of Evil; then it will come rushing in like a flood; the World during the Tribulation will far surpass the evil of any other time in history.

After Jesus' death and resurrection, believers were given a new, living spirit which is one with God's Holy Spirit; we are, once again, fully tripartite beings, bearing God's Image.

Jesus Christ is the Light of the World and He said that we are the light of the World. All the rest of the World is in darkness and unable to see or come to the Light of the Gospel until God opens their eyes and draws them to Himself for Salvation.

Verse 17: 'For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.'

Our spirits are one with God's Holy Spirit; our spirits always try to pull us toward the will of God, to pull us into His Light and away from the kingdom of darkness. Our physical bodies, our 'flesh,' always tries to pull us into the kingdom of darkness, into the deeds of darkness and away for the Kingdom of Light.

'The people who walk in darkness will see a great light; those who live in a dark land, the light will shine on them.' Isa. 9:2 'The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.' John 1:5

'But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;' 1 Pet 2:9

'...for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light' Eph 5:8

'...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.' Acts 26:18

There is a constant battle going on within us. Our spirit pulls us to walk in the Light. Our flesh pulls us to walk in the darkness and our soul must constantly choose and then move us toward either direction.

My spiritual body and my physical body occupy the very same space; my soul sits up in the command center, the cockpit of this marvelous machine I call, Me. My spirit constantly whispers, 'Walk in the Light; walk worthy of the Lord and His calling... come on... keep it up, we can do it... don't give up now...' God's Holy Spirit, Who lives in me and is actually 'One' with my Spirit, constantly offers me the wisdom, strength, desire and ability to walk in close fellowship with Him.

At the same time, my physical body, my 'flesh,' says, 'Come on... wouldn't you really 'love' to do that thing we like so much... no one will know... do it in the dark... no one will see... you know how it makes us feel so good... come on... just one more time... we can confess it and go into the light tomorrow, or the next day... we only have to look respectable on Sundays... that's a whole week away... come on...'

And even when we are successful in taming our flesh, evil spirits are always around us, even sitting on our shoulders, whispering and tempting... doing their best to draw us into darkness.

The real Us's want to walk in a manner worthy of our calling, to walk worthy of the Lord but so often, we listen to our flesh and to evil spirits and we don't do the things that we really want to do, to walk in the Light.

How is Paul applying this as he is *teaching us, as Galatians*? We'll come back to that phrase.

Paul is saying, our spirit always wants to do God's will; that part of us always wants to allow the Holy Spirit to live through us, to accomplish His will as we 'walk in the Spirit.' The things we do then, as we are walking in the Spirit, those are the works of God.

'For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.' Eph 2:10

'Now if Timothy comes, see that he is with you without cause to be afraid, for he is doing the Lord's work, as I also am.' 1 Cor 16:10

'If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷ But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.' 1 John 1:6

When we walk in the Light, when we walk in the Spirit, we are accomplishing the will of God, no matter how small whatever action may seem to us... doing great and grandiose works is not God's will for most of us; we merely walk along, day by day, living and working, sometimes witnessing, sometimes giving out a tract but always we are light in the darkness and salt in the rot of this World.

When we walk in the darkness, when we choose to hide our light and keep back our salt, then we are walking in the flesh.

When we walk in the light, we are walking in our God given freedom and liberty. When we walk in darkness we are walking in bondage, bondage to our flesh and bondage to the Law. When we walk in the light, there is no need for any Law being over us. When we walk in darkness, when we walk in sin, we prove the Law, that it is necessary to us as it condemns our sin:

'What shall we say then? *Is the law sin?* Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet." But sin, taking opportunity by the commandment, produced in me all *manner of evil* desire. For apart from the law sin *was* dead. ⁹ I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died. And the commandment, which *was* to *bring* life, I found to *bring* death. ¹¹ For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it killed *me*. ¹² Therefore the law *is* holy, and the commandment holy and just and good. Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that *it is* good. ¹⁷ But now, *it is* no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but *how* to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will *to do*, I do not do; but the evil I will not *to do*, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not *to do*, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin. Rom 7:7

Paul's main point there is: contrary to some belief and teaching, my physical body is still sinful; it has not been redeemed in any way. Only my spirit and soul have been redeemed; not until the Rapture will my flesh be so.

Verse 18: 'But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.'

If we, living souls, choose to allow our spirits to lead us, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, to walk in the light, then we will not choose to allow ourselves to be led by our flesh which, itself, loves only darkness; our flesh loves only to take long, leisurely walks in the darkness while our spirits love only to walk in the light.

Now, back to that phrase: How is Paul applying this as he is *teaching us, as Galatians*? This is how God wants

us to approach His Word: He doesn't want us to see the Bible as simply a disparate collection of various letters to various people from long, long ago... which is exactly how many false teachers and false students of the Word do see it. When we read any part of the Bible: Galatians, Ephesians, Isaiah, Revelation... God wants us to hear the words, knowing that they were written to us or for us: 'For the word of God *is* living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.' Heb 4:12

'This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.' Josh 1:8

As we study Galatians, for example, God wants us to ***see ourselves in the Galatians***... Paul is writing to us; he's not writing about the Galatians to us... he is writing to us as we sit in the pews of the Churches in the province of Galatia. When we see God's Word in that light, then we are ready to really be students of His Word.

'Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.' 2 Tim 2:15

Knowing how to rightly divide the Word is one of the most important lessons for every student of God's Word. Much of God's Word is written specifically ***to us*** and all of it is written ***for us***.

'All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: ¹⁷ That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.' 2 Tim 3:16

When we love His Word... then we can know that He is truly doing His Work within us.

'Blessed *is* the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful; but his delight *is* in the law (the Word) of the LORD, and in His law he meditates day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and whatever he does shall prosper.' Psalm 1:1

'Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee... Oh, how I love Your law! It *is* my meditation all the day. You, through Your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies; for they *are* ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies *are* my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep Your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may keep Your word. I have not departed from Your judgments, for You Yourself have taught me. How sweet are Your words to my taste, *sweeter* than honey to my mouth!' Psalm 119:11, 97

This is why God considered David to be 'a man after His Own Heart, even knowing that he would commit adultery and murder.

Verse 19: 'Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness...'

These four, as well as what follows, describe the World, today, perfectly... it's as if God could see the future.

Adultery and fornication: these two naturally go together... fornication includes any sexual act or relationship outside of God's Biblically sanctioned marriage: one man, one woman, neither divorced without Biblical grounds. When one or more in any sexual act or relationship is married to someone else or divorced outside of Biblical grounds, that is adultery. Now, granted, divorce has become, today, rampant, even within the Church but God's Word has never changed. We don't judge anyone and we know that even adultery, fornication and unscriptural divorce are forgiven and covered by Jesus Christ's work on the Cross; sadly, the fact is that divorce is no less common in the Church than out.

Regarding uncleanness and lewdness: when people give themselves over to fornication of any kind, it naturally leads to a deadly spiral of filth, degradation and death: 'For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, ***who suppress the truth*** (isn't that so true today!) in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the

creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, **so that they are without excuse**,²¹ because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, **to dishonor their bodies** among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.²⁶ For this reason God gave them up **to vile passions**. For even their women exchanged the natural use for what is against nature.²⁷ Likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust for one another, men with men committing what is shameful, and receiving in themselves the penalty of their error which was due.²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting;²⁹ being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; *they are* whisperers,³⁰ backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,³¹ undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, **unforgiving**, unmerciful; who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are deserving of death, not only do the same but also approve of those who practice them.' Rom 1:18

Verse 20: (works of the flesh) 'idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,'

We won't go into all of these but look at 'sorcery.' The KJV says, 'witchcraft.' The Greek word God uses here is, '**pharmakeia**.' What does that word sound like? Pharmacy, pharmaceuticals... drugs. Sorcery and witchcraft isn't a grizzled old hag stirring a great cauldron... it's the everyday, worldwide, ever increasingly accepted and legalized use of drugs which accomplish the often, unknown, entry into the dark and evil world of spiritual wickedness in high places. When people use drugs: marijuana, opium, heroin, cocaine, LSD, psilocybin mushrooms, they are opening a gateway into the demonic dark realm and often they have no idea what they're really doing... they just think it's exciting and it feels good. All of these are being decriminalized and soon, they'll all become legal throughout this country and the World. This is one of the main ways that is planned for the World's population to be controlled and compliant when the Antichrist comes to power very soon. In Rome, they kept the population controlled by 'panem et circenses.' It means, 'bread and circuses.' The Roman government knew that if they kept the population fed and entertained or distracted, they could do anything and they did, even to the feeding of Christians to lions in the Coliseum.

During the Tribulation, Rev. says that they'll refuse to give up their Pharmakeia, their sorcery and drugs.

Today and even more so, soon, panem et circenses will mean **drugs and the internet**. Give the population a small monthly endowment, give them easy access to drugs and food, bend and shape their thinking with television and the internet and they will believe and accept anything and anyone, especially the soon coming Antichrist. Look at what the population in this once great nation is ready to receive with open arms: an obviously incompetent, mentally deficient career politician who can't string together 4 sentences without a teleprompter, whose entire family is so corrupt, compromised and beholden to China that they will all be an unbelievable security risk if his party is successful in hijacking the Presidency through the most corrupt and election in American history, along with a trashy woman as VP who only advanced through the filthy politics of San Francisco by carrying on an affair with the married mayor; Biden has always been known as the stupidest politician in Washington and Harris has always been known as heels-up-Harris. This is not superlative or exaggerated hyperbole; this is simply where we are today. The entire World is ready for the Antichrist.

If this country can, seemingly overnight, fall to such depths, how hard is it to imagine the Antichrist coming to full power soon? All Scripture has led to one place: first, the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ and then to Satan's false Messiah, the Antichrist, and then to Jesus Christ's Second Coming and finally to His destruction and recreation of the Universe; we are watching prophecy and history unfold before us; every writer of Scripture longed to live in our day to see what we see; most *Churchgoers* are completely blind to all of it; they are not walking in light but, rather, in darkness to be deceived. Those with eyes and ears do see.