



MONDAY 23 OCTOBER 2017

SERIES: IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Read: Galatians 6:1

Plug In...

After listing the fruit of the Spirit, Paul gives concrete actions that someone enabled by the Spirit will do. If there is a situation where a member of the church has sinned, you are to restore that person gently.

Chew It Over...

Paul's focus is on the restorer. Living by the Spirit in this situation entails two things: they must restore the other person (you can't sweep it under the carpet; you can't side-step because you worry about being 'judgemental') and they must do it gently, watching they don't fall into sin.

It has been said somewhere: sinful people, when sinned against, tend to respond with sin.

How do we watch ourselves? What do we look out for? How does watching ourselves shape our approach, words, follow-up actions?

Prayer Suggestion

Pray that God's Spirit makes you responsive to sin, but gentle. Pray that you want to love people back into God's community and that God will drive conceitedness from us.



TUESDAY 24 OCTOBER 2017

SERIES: IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Read: Galatians 6:2-6

Plug In...

The burdens here seem to be primarily those things that can induce sin in our brothers and sisters. Pressures that bring people face to face with temptation. We are to help others in this situation.

This passage assumes we all end up in situations under pressure to sin. So, we all must help each other.

Chew It Over...

Will you help another? Will you watch out for them? Whether we will or not leverages off our self-evaluation. Are we too proud, too pre-occupied to carry another's burden we are aware of? To correct this, think of Christ and how he conducted His life.

People are always struggling: mental illness/depression; relationship stress/divorce; problems with children; job stress; cancer/sickness.

How do we carry another's burdens? It boils down to this: see someone weary, go give them some time. Pray for them. Read the Bible to them (what's their favourite passage?); remind them of the promises of God. Remember, often in suffering and weariness, a person gets isolated (this should never happen). They find praying, reading the Bible, and believing the promises of God difficult. People struggling with sickness will often have their soul effected. Weariness tempts one to give up. Weariness comes from physical suffering.

Let's care for one another in this way.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray for a tuned heart to the burdens of those in our church. Ask for wisdom and passion to carve out time to care for them.



WEDNESDAY 25 OCTOBER 2017

SERIES: IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Read: Galatians 6:7-8

Plug In...

To receive the gospel and not follow through with a life that matches is fundamentally incompatible. "God cannot be mocked!" God is no fool, He is no human being. The structure of God's universe is, what you sow, you reap.

Has Paul abandoned all the teaching of faith alone? No, his argument in Galatians has been those who trust in faith receive the Spirit. What Paul is underlining here is that the Spirit's presence necessarily results in the fruit of the Spirit being on show.

Chew It Over...

As we look at our life, we are to trust the gospel which says we have been given the Spirit. This means when we sin, or are tempted to sin, we trust that God has given us His Spirit to help us recognise it, no longer desire it, sin less and be more holy.

Galatians shows that the gift of the Spirit is to make us more godly, more holy. But we increase in holiness by *faith* alone too. We often say, 'justification is by faith'. We need to say, likewise, 'sanctification is by faith'.

To figure out if you are living with 'sanctification by faith' consider when you do loving actions to others, do you think that will *make* you holy? Or conversely, if you fail in a loving action, does that *make* you unholy?

By faith means trusting that God has absolutely justified you and God will make you more holy by His Spirit.

Prayer Suggestion

Commit any sin, defect, lack of character to God. Asking, while knowing, God will change you by His Spirit.



THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017

SERIES: IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Read: Galatians 6:9-10

Plug In...

The truth of God sowing the Spirit in us, thereby producing fruits of the Spirit and eternal life at the end-time harvest, enables us to not weary.

Chew It Over...

Weariness in the Bible is the temptation to give up. The Spirit produces in His people endurance and perseverance to the glory of Jesus.

In the famous passage on enduring suffering – [Romans 8:18-30](#) – what is often missed is that the purpose of it all is to *transform us to the image of God's Son* so that Jesus is seen as supreme (the meaning of 'firstborn'). When someone suffers, or struggles against sin, or continues when up against persecution, that is perseverance.

Perseverance is the Spirit working in our lives. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit is with us *giving* us perseverance. It is an ability given by the Holy Spirit which transforms us into the image of Jesus.

Paul is about to close this letter to the Galatians, recognising that there is persecution that comes from preaching the cross, promoting the gospel. However, in that face of that, the Spirit causes people to not give up, and to continue to do good to others – primarily understood as helping one another keep going in the promises of God even as they weary.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray for people in your family, Growth Group, church to keep going in faith, trusting and asking the Lord Jesus for His empowering Spirit.



FRIDAY 27 OCTOBER 2017

SERIES: IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Read: Galatians 6:11-18

Plug In...

Paul opened his letter saying Jesus' death and resurrection transferred us from the present evil age to the promised new age ([1:4](#)).

The Old Testament tells us that a number of events will occur with the promises of the new age. Given Paul seems to concentrate mostly on Isaiah in Galatians, we will restrict ourselves to Isaiah: resurrection ([Isaiah 26:19](#)), restoration for Israel, a reversal of the exile ([Isaiah 43](#)), forgiveness and atonement ([Isaiah 53](#)), and a new creation ([Isaiah 65-66](#)) from the pouring out of the Spirit that produces godly attributes in the people ([Isaiah 32:15-18](#); [57:15-16](#)).

At the finish of his letter, Paul says with the resurrection of Christ, the new creation age has dawned (6:15). Those that belong to Christ receive the Spirit that Jesus has now before their own resurrection ([5:25](#) – key word 'live').

This makes sense of Paul declaring over the Galatians, gentiles, they are the 'Israel of God' (6:16). It is not that the Gentiles replace Israel. It is that Jesus is from Israel and those united to Jesus are counted as Israel, counted as heir to the promise, received the Spirit by faith.

Chew It Over...

Grasping this entails a whole new picture of life. It should be the windshield of our life that we look out through daily.

Prayer Suggestion

Pray for yourself, for others, for the church of Jesus: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit and your brothers and sisters.



WEEKEND 28-29 OCTOBER 2017

SERIES: IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD

Reflecting on *Christ Alone*

Chew It Over...

All the talk of the presence of the Spirit, from God's grace, received by faith, turns on belonging to Christ ([5:24](#); [6:18](#)). This weekend at The Lakes we consider the truth of *Christ Alone*. The Reformer, John Calvin wrote in his *Institutes* something that is worth us reading slowly and letting it form today's prayer:

We see that our whole salvation and all its parts are comprehended in Christ [Acts 4:12]. We should therefore take care not to derive the least portion of it from anywhere else. If we seek salvation, we are taught by the very name of Jesus that it is "of him" [1 Cor. 1:30]. If we seek any other gifts of the Spirit, they will be found in his anointing. If we seek strength, it lies in his dominion; if purity, in his conception; if gentleness, it appears in his birth...If we seek redemption, it lies in his passion; if acquittal, in his condemnation; if remission of the curse, in his cross [Gal 3:13]; if satisfaction, in his sacrifice, if purification, in his blood; if reconciliation, in his descent into hell; if mortification of the flesh, in his tomb; if newness of life, in his resurrection; if immortality; in the same; if inheritance of the Heavenly Kingdom, in his entrance into heaven; if protection, if security, if abundant supply of all blessings, in his Kingdom; if untroubled expectation of judgment, in power given to him to judge. In short, since rich store of every kind of good abounds in him, let us drink our fill from this fountain, and from no other.