

## WALK ACCORDINGLY

**Sunday Morning: October 6, 2002**

There is much talk today about the fact that we are not under the law but under grace. There is a lot of confusion in that and in particular in the book of Galatians. People teach that the book is teaching you that you are not saved by the law but we are saved by grace. The book of Galatians is not teaching that really at all.

The book of Galatians is teach us how to live a life pleasing unto the Lord. We often forget the fact that the law was given to saved people, not to get them saved, but to help them see the fact that they are sinners and they are pretty bad sinners. When you hear "thou shalt not" and you do, you know that you are messing up and that you are sinning against God and God does not like it. All you have to do is read about in the Old Testament. When the children of Israel did not do what was written in the law, that was given to them, they paid the consequences.

The nation of Israel sinned against the Lord and they are scattered all over the world. They will continue to be scattered all over the world until the end of the church age.

The book of Galatians is telling us how we should live. The bottom line, I believe, is to live like the Lord Jesus Christ lived. He is the example for us to pattern our life after. If we take a book that is trying to teach the truth of how to live and make it a book that teaches salvation you have confusion confounded.

I want to read the last three verses of the book of Galatians. We are not going to study the book in reverse. These verse sets the tone for the whole book, I believe.

**Text: Galatians 6:16-18** "And as many as **walk** [march in rank] according to this **rule** [line], **peace** be on them, and **mercy**, and upon the Israel of God. 17. From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. 18. **Brethren**, the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ be with **your spirit**. Amen."

First of all he is addressing brethren. Brethren are those who are interested in the word of God. The word of God is unique in that it reveals the mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens. The mysteries of the kingdom of the heavens deals with our heavenly inheritance. A heavenly inheritance means riches in heaven it also means positions of responsibility and honor for those who are kings and lords who will be ruling over the earth in the administration of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the King of the kings and he is the Lord of the lords, He is the only potentate and he will rule and reign for a thousand years.

### AS MANY AS WALK

**Galatians 6:16** "And as many as **walk** [to march in step, conform to the rule] according to this **rule** [also translated line, a standard], **peace** be on them, and **mercy**, and upon the Israel of God."

This passage of scripture that we just read in verse 16 encourages us to walk according to a particular rule. This word "walk" here means to march in rank. March in an orderly fashion. It is not like the mother bragging about her son marching in the parade. Look at my son, everybody is out of step but him. We need to get in step and in line and march according to the rule. That is what this word "walk" means.

We are to walk according to "this rule." The word "rule" here as to do with the line that is a standard. A standard to walk by. The book of Galatians is teaching us to walk according to the standard or line laid out for us in the book of Galatians. If you do that you are going to hear "well done good and faithful servant." You are going to have peace and the Lord is going to have

mercy up on you. I do want peace today. When I stand in the presence of the Lord I want the Lord to have mercy upon me. I am so thankful for the passage in James 2:13 "For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment." As well as the passage in Matthew 5:7 "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." We are to be merciful to each other and our neighbor. We need to be kind to them.

Finally in this verse "upon the Israel of God." The book of Galatians is dealing with the nation of Israel from the law perspective. There was a group back in Paul's day that said "Look, you have got to keep the Mosaic law." You have got to observe circumcision and all that goes with it. The ceremonial law. The law of Moses.

### **BRETHREN**

**Galatians 6:18** "Brethren, the **grace** of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen."

First of all I want to point out that Paul is addressing brethren in the book of Galatians. They are not nominal believers, but believers with a purpose. Brethren are those who desire to do the will of the Father. Doing the will of the Father will qualify you to enter into the kingdom of the heavens and reign with Christ. Matthew 12:50 "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother . . ." Matthew 7:21 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven." Brethren are those who are seeking to do the will of the Father.

### **WALK**

**Galatians 5:16** "This I **say** [present active, meaning I am not going to stop saying] then, **Walk** [present active imperative, to walk all around, live] in the **Spirit**, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

The English word "walk" is used more than once in the book of Galatians. The word "walk" here in 5:16 is not the same Greek word as found in 6:16. This work "walk" here has to do with living, being occupied with life. This word "walk" means to move about as in our daily life. To walk as it were in different directions and not in a straight line. We are to walk in the spirit.

The word "Spirit" is capitalized and I do not think it is a reference to the Holy Spirit. In fact in the whole book of Galatians, the phrase "Holy Spirit" does not occur. This spirit in verse 16, I believe, is not the Holy Spirit. I find it a bit difficult to relate to walking in the Holy Spirit. How do I do that? I really put my spiritual teeth into that concept. I can not grasp that concept, because I am not always aware of the Holy Spirit. I know that the Holy Spirit indwells me, yet I am not aware of him making himself evident. This word "spirit" here is a reference to attitude in lifestyle. We are to walk in this spirit, found in the book of Galatians, and we will not fulfill the lust of the flesh. I know what the lust of the flesh is because I experience that over and over and you do too. By walking or living in the spirit found in the book of Galatians we will not be fulfilling the lust of the flesh. This spirit, by the way, is the spirit of God's Son that compelled him to pray Abba Father, accepting the will of God for his life.

### **MARCH**

**Galatians 5:25** "If we **live** [present active] in [by] the **Spirit** (demonstrated by the Son), let us also **walk** [march in line] in [by] the **Spirit**."

The word "live" I associate with the word "walk" in verse 16. It is the walk of life. "If we are living in the spirit of the Son of God let us also march, be in step with that spirit. Was Jesus Christ approved, yes he was. Will He rule and reign? Yes, he will. We will also be approved and reign with Christ if we walk in the same spirit that Jesus Christ walked in while here on the earth.

I want to touch again on Galatians 5:18 where Paul says to the brethren, "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit." We need the grace of Jesus Christ if we are going to walk in the spirit of God's son. We can walk and live in the Abba spirit without the power of Christ resting upon us.

## WALKING LIKE THE SON

**Galatians 4:4-6** "But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, 5. To **redeem them** (those in the family, Israel) that were under the law, that **we** (family) **might receive the adoption of sons** [one word to place as a son, singular]. 6. And because **ye are** (walking as) sons, God hath sent forth **the Spirit of his Son into your hearts**, crying, **Abba, Father.**"

This verse is written to saved people. Jesus Christ came in the fullness of time. He was born a son, he was born a king. Matthew 2, "Where is he that is born king of the Jews." He came to redeem them that were under the law. He came to redeem Israel. He came only to Israel at the beginning. He kept is very private when he talked to the Samaritan woman at the well. He never went into any house of a Gentile. He did healed a few Gentiles in his day. He never touched them and he did not go to a single Gentile house. His ministry was primarily to the nation of Israel and the Gentiles were excluded to a large degree.

He says that we, the family, might received the adoption of sons. Here is something that is offered to those in the family of God and might receive it and we might not receive it. We can fail to receive this position of a son in the family.

The phrase "adoption of sons" is one Greek word. This word means to "to place as a son." The word "sons" is plural but the Greek word is singular in number. To place into a position of a son. A unique position. Sons of God are those who rule and reign. Angels are called sons of God and they are ruling over nations and cities of the earth. The Prince of Persia is an angel. He is a fallen angel, but never the less he rules over Persia to this day. The Prince of Greece rules over the nation of Greece.

Because ye are "walking" as sons . . . I put this word "walking" in parentheses. This my comment and not Greek text. We are not sons of God today. There are teachers that teach that we re sons of God today. If I am a son of God today, where are the cities that I am ruling over? I did not include verse 7 which says that if you are a son, you are not longer a servant. Galatians 4:7 "Wherefore thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ." The question I would ask, are we not longer servant today? No! We are bond slaves of God and of each other. One day we will not be servants but sovereigns. We will be ruling and reigning under the Lord Jesus Christ. So we are not sons today but we can live like the Son of God and behave ourselves like the Lord Jesus Christ who is the only begotten of the Father. The Lord Jesus Christ was born a king and the son of God. He was not ruling and reigning while he was here on the earth. He was a servant and behaved himself in such a way as to provide us with a roll model of how a servant should behave to be come a son and reign as a king or lord. Jesus Christ is our example and we can live like he lived in submission to our heavenly Father.

Jesus Christ did have authority while he was here on the earth. He was sovereign over the body to heal it when it was sick or raise if from the dead when it died. He had authority over fish and bread to feed 5,000 at one time. He had authority over fish in the sea to cause them to swim into the disciples net. He had authority over a wild colt to be able to ride him into to Jerusalem with having to first break him.

I want to remind us that the spirit of God Son was his submission of accepting the will of His

heavenly Father.

A note about adoption: People associate adoption with salvation. I have heard a song on a conservative Christian radio station that they were so glad that they had been adopted into the family of God. That song does not make since to common sense. If a child is born into the family of God there is a birth certificate written for proof of birth. Adoption goes beyond the birth certificate to legally assign a child to parents that are not the birth parents. To translate the Greek word that should be translated "place as a son" as "adoption" does not make sense. If you do not overcome by faith you will not inherit all thing neither will you be placed in a position of a son. Revelation 21:7 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son."

### **NOT THE SAME SPIRIT**

**John 14:16-17** "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may **abide with you** for ever; 17. Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he **dwelleth with you**, and **shall be in you.**"

I believe the spirit in these verses is a reference to the Holy Spirit and not the Abba spirit. I know that when we receive the Lord Jesus as our personal savior the Holy Spirit indwell us, but the spirit of His Son may not. We might not receive that spirit and the reason that we may not have that spirit is we do not have a desire to do the will of the Father.

### **SPIRIT MINISTERED**

**Galatians 3:2, 5** "This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the **hearing of faith?**; 5. He therefore that **ministereth to you the Spirit**, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or **by the hearing of faith?**"

This spirit is received by the hearing of faith. We receive the Holy Spirit when we are saved. The spirit in the book of Galatians is ministered to the brethren after they have received the Holy Spirit when they were saved. The Abba spirit is ministered to the brethren through the teaching of the "word of God." The word of God is defined as the mysteries of the kingdom of God in Luke 8:9-11. When I am teaching thing concerning the kingdom I am ministering to you the Abba spirit and not the Holy Spirit. The giving of the Holy Spirit, I believe, happens without ministry when one is born into the family of God. I can minister the spirit of Galatians to you by teaching the mysteries of the kingdom of God but I can not minister to you the Holy Spirit. Teaching the mysteries of the kingdom of God defines the hope that faith give substance to.

### **THE RULE OR PRACTICE**

**Mark 14:36** "And he said, **Abba, Father**, all things are possible unto thee; take away this cup from me: nevertheless **not what I will, but what thou wilt.**"

This verse gives us some insight into the rule or practice of the spirit of sonship. The Lord is praying about the will of the Father with regard to the cup of suffering he is about to partake. Part of the Abba spirit is the acknowledging that the Father has the power to do any and all things. Another part of the Abba spirit is to be willing to accept the will of the Father regardless of the price that he wants you to pay. The submissive spirit of our Lord here demonstrates the Abba spirit that we are to walk by to please the Father.

### **SPIRIT OF A SON**

**John 4:34** "Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to **do the will of him that sent me**, and to

**finish his work."**

This verse is expressing the Abba spirit. When we pray Abba Father we are expressing our desire to do the will of God the Father and the desire to finish His work. This means finding out the will of the Father and then doing it. Doing the will of the Father means that there will be no reason to quit.

### **NOT MY OWN WILL**

**John 5:30** "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because **I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father** which hath sent me."

Here again is the Abba spirit expressed by the Lord in seeking the will of the Father. That means we make a judgment call in his will over our will.

### **THE WILL OF HIM THAT SENT ME**

**John 6:38** "For I came down from heaven, **not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.**"

Jesus was ministering the Abba spirit to his disciples by teaching as well as by demonstration in his daily walk with the Father.

### **DO THE THINGS THAT PLEASE HIM**

**John 8:29** "And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for **I do always those things that please him.**"

Jesus always did the things that pleased the Father. I have a desire to do that. The problem I have is with my flesh. My flesh says "my will be done" or "what would I like to do?"

### **ENTER THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN**

**Matthew 7:21** "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that **doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven."

If we have the Abba spirit we have a keen interest in entering into the kingdom of the heavens. To enter into the kingdom of the heavens is to participating in the Lord's administration of the rule of the heavens over the earth. I hope all of us have a desire to do the will of the Father. If we do we will do those things that please him.

### **EVIDENCE OF THIS SPIRIT**

**Galatians 5:22-23** "But the **fruit** of the (Abba) **Spirit** is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

If the Abba spirit is working in your life you demonstrate this fruit in you walk with the Lord and with others. If this is the fruit of the Holy Spirit, the question I have is how do get this fruit from Him. If this the fruit of an Abba spirit then others can receive love, joy, peace etc from me. I am not going to be a quitter, I am going to endure. I am going to demonstrate gentleness. The other fruits of the spirit will also be demonstrated in our lives to be a blessing to others. If we have the Abba spirit as our Lord did, we are going to be ministering to others like the Lord did in his ministry. John 13:34 "A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another." Romans 12:10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;" Romans 15:7 "Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God." Romans 15:14 "And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another." Ephesians 4:2 "With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love;" Ephesians 4:32 "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

Hebrews 10:24 "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:"