

“The Works of the Flesh”

Galatians 5:16-21

Introduction

- I. What would be your reaction if you were shown that something you were doing would absolutely keep you from going to Heaven?
- II. Those who practice the eighteen “works of the flesh” named in Galatians 5:19-21 are given the explicit warning “...that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”
 - A. These offenses can be found throughout man's history and present.
 - B. Any person who is guilty of committing these acts needs to repent and be cleansed by the blood of Jesus (be baptized for the remission of sins-Acts 2:38, 22:16).

Discussion

- I. “The Works of the Flesh” explained
 - A. Acts of impurity
 1. Adultery-sexual relations involving the spouse of another (Heb. 13:4; Matt. 19:9)
 2. Fornication-broad category of sexual relations outside of the marriage union (1 Thess. 4:3-5).
 3. Uncleaness-(Prov. 4:23; Matt. 15:18-19)
 4. Lasciviousness-improper bodily movements/unchaste activities (2 Cor. 12:21)
 - B. False religions
 1. Idolatry-worshiping of false gods (Matt. 6:24; Col. 3:5)
 2. Witchcraft-“sorcery”/the usage of “enchantments,” incantations, mind altering plants/drugs, “spells” and such like for the purpose of affecting the life of self or another (2 Chr. 33:6; Acts 19:19)
 - C. Attitude and temperament
 1. Hatred-strong disdain/dislike/hostility toward someone (Matt. 5:43-48; Titus 3:3; 1 John 3:15)
 2. Variance-lack of camaraderie (Gal. 5:15)
 3. Emulations-the practices of trying to surpass another [associated with the idea of jealousy] (1 John 3:11-12).
 4. Wrath-unleashing of profound anger (James 1:19-20; Eph. 4:26; Prov. 16:32; 19:11)
 5. Strife-unnecessary conflicts/“contentions”, too often associated with selfishness (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
 6. Seditions-behavior that leads and/or encourages rebellion (Prov. 17:11; 1 Sam. 15:23)
 7. Heresies-choosing to be sectarian/divisive instead of conforming [stemming from one's opinion that is not in line with sound doctrine](1 Cor. 1:10-13; 1 Pet. 2:13-17)
 8. Envyings-ill feelings toward others due to their blessings [associated with a belief that the blessings of others should be our own] (Prov. 14:30)
 - D. Acts of evil and/or indulgence

1. Murders-premeditated and unlawful/Unscriptural killing of another human being (Gen. 9:6; Exo. 20:13; Matt. 19:18; Rom. 13:9)
 2. Drunkenness-the state of being intoxicated [W. E. Vine says: “methusko signifies to make drunk or to grow drunk (an inceptive verb, marking the process of the state...) to become intoxicated” {Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words}] (Eph. 5:18)
 3. Revellings-disorderly behavior such as “wild parties” [can often involve other specific sins] (1 Pet. 4:1-4)
 4. Such Like-any other sin that Paul could have listed
- II. How do we overcome “the works of the flesh?”
- A. “Walk in the Spirit”/“be led of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:16, 18, 25)
1. This is accomplished in only one way today.
 2. We must make the choice to live lives that follow the Word of God (James 1:21-22)
 3. To “Walk in the Spirit” “... implies an entire surrender of the believer to the authority and guidance of the Spirit. He is led by the Spirit through the Word of Truth, which is the chart of his journey through life” (David Lipscomb: G.A. Commentary)
- B. Produce “the fruit of the Spirit” (Gal. 5:22-23)

Conclusion

- I. We must know and avoid “the works of the flesh” if we want to go to Heaven.
- II. Continuing to live a life that is not “led by the Spirit” means that Hell will await me (Rev. 21:8).