

Church

Sunday School lesson

Holy Spirit works God's will in lives of Christians

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
(Galatians 5:13-26; 6:7-10)

"Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh."

(Galatians 5:16)

Today's lesson is last in the series under the theme "The person and work of the Holy Spirit."

These studies have presented the Holy Spirit as He worked in the life and ministry of Christ, the Apostles and other Christian disciples. What then, one might ask, is the fruit of the Holy Spirit?

To say it another way, What is the result of the Holy Spirit's work? In a broad sense, He is working God's will in the lives of Christians to redeem a lost mankind. In a more narrow concept; however, he leads individuals to accept Christ's salvation, and afterwards to live righteous lives, doing the will and work of the Father.

The fruit of the Spirit, as our lesson scripture text indicates, is for one to walk with the Lord in faithfulness and obedience. Paul is writing to the church at Galatia. He had led the Galatian Christians to Christ and estab-

lished the church. In these verses of scripture Paul is telling the Galatians, and thus to us, also, something of what walking by the Spirit is like.

THE NEW LIFE
(Galatians 5:13-18)

Paul is addressing a church problem. After he had established the church and had left, others had moved in and began to undo his work. The new Christians were being taught and led to observe practices of the Mosaic law. Paul was a Christian purist—believing and teaching the Gospel principles of Christ. Nothing else was needed.

In fact, anything other than these should be shunned. Paul said to the Galatians (Verse 14) that the law was fulfilled in one word—"Love." It is a new life. You are free from the restric-

tions and traditions of the law. Jesus said in John 13:34, "A new commandment I give unto you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you."

DEEDS OF THE OLD NATURE-FRUIT OF THE NEW NATURE
(Galatians 5:19-23)

One thing is evident in Paul's writings. He didn't skirt issue, rather he spoke directly to the people and in plain language. In these verses he is contrasting the work of the flesh with the work of the Spirit. Christians become new creations in Christ Jesus. They are to walk, thereafter, in the spirit of love—not practicing the sins of the old nature.

Paul list seventeen sins of the flesh. In checking the list and comparing with the sins we observe being practiced today, I think we can say that, at least, we don't notice any new sins. It is a real "Sodom and Gormorrah Syndrome."

Paul finished the list of sins of the old nature with a solemn principle statement. Verse 21, "I tell you as I have told you before, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." Now Paul tells us what the fruit of the new nature is, the fruit of the Spirit; (verses 22-23) love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.

Paul tells us what the fruit of the new nature is, the fruit of the Spirit; (verses 22-23) love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. Paul lists nine attributes that are evident in the Christian life, or, at least, should be. We Christians could give ourselves a test and "go to school" on this list alone.

THE NEW LIFE AND REAPING
(Galatians 5:24-26; 6:7-10)

What happens when one changes from the old nature to a new nature? Commonly we say a person has been regenerated, born again, or saved. Paul puts it in a different way. He says the flesh has been crucified with Christ. The new life in Christ starts with a dying to selfishness. This does not mean that we will

no longer be tempted, nor have inner conflict.

It does mean that we will be able to control the temptations, and not let our sins lead us away from Christ. Paul sums up the old nature verses the new nature in verse 8; "For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit reap life everlasting." (Lesson based on the International Sunday School Lessons.)

Dear friends,

The V.A. reminds families of veterans who select burial for a deceased veteran in a private cemetery:

Upon request, the V.A. will provide a headstone or marker free of charge, and ship it to the designated consignee.

Or, the V.A. will reimburse part of the cost of a headstone or marker bought privately and placed on the grave.

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Respectfully,

Larry Swindell

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Hertford, N.C.
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Dear Friends,
Words cannot express what your flowers, cards, donations, visits, thoughts, and prayers have meant to Darbie and me since our tragic loss.

We appreciate the Perquimans County Rescue Squad, Dr. Lane, and everyone else who tried to help Jon receive medical help. What would we do without them?

You lost your young friend, I lost my "little man" and Darbie lost her brother, but the memories he left with all of us will live forever in our hearts.

Love,
Louise
and Darbie

"The Lord is my Shepherd"

George Wilmore, Pastor
Mt. Sinai Baptist Church

A conversation something like this was overheard, "If I believed the way you do, I'd become a Christian and then go out and have a wild time." Adding to the conversation another said, "Once a Christian, always a Christian."

External security really is not the debate in this conversation, it is the love of Christ.

In the 23rd Psalm, David declares, "The Lord is my Shepherd." Jesus says, "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me." (John 10:27) David, a former shepherd boy, understands that for the good of the sheep, there is a continued conversation between shepherd and sheep. The sheep become accustomed to the shepherd's voice. When any other voice is heard, the voice of the greener pastures, the voice of temptation, it is immediately recognized as a voice of danger.

Jesus says, "and they follow me." Sheep do have a habit of wandering. We live in a land of freedom.

That freedom has been taken to extremes within the church. The voice of the Shepherd is the fence, the legal limit of freedom. In John 14:15 Jesus says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." There is no "wild living" within these boundaries. There is joyous and safe living. The pastures are protected and plentiful. Anyone claiming to be a Christian and desiring to live beyond the voice of God is a fool. There is nothing out there but wolves and lions seeking to destroy. Why else would the Shepherd "lay down his life for the sheep" (John 10:17-18)? If the Lord is your Shepherd, you do have a restricted life. It is restricted to keep you safe from the destruction, the penalty of trespassing, and the agony of a misguided life.

The sheepfold, the Kingdom of God, is a wonderful place to live. Maybe you need to ask yourself, "Is the Lord the Shepherd of my life?" Seek him now, while his voice can be heard. Allow yourself to be restricted by His loving care. Go to church this Sunday.

Church News

Musical Jubilee at New Hope

The Choir of New Hope Methodist Church, under the direction of Mrs. Francis Jones, will pre-

sent its Musical Jubilee on Sunday, May 25th at 7:30 p.m.; nursery provided.

Bay Branch to hold Youth Day

Bay Branch A.M.E. Zion Church Belvidere will be observing its Youth Day Sunday at 11:30. The speaker will be Mrs. Tara Gilliam of Hertford, N.C. The guest choir will be Joppa

Baptist Church junior choir. Sunday School begins at 10:00 a.m. with Esther J. Hunter, Superintendent in charge. The Rev. Walter L. Leigh is pastor.

Freedom Fund Banquet set

The 4th Annual Freedom Fund Banquet is to be held at the Poole's Grove Fellowship Hall in Woodville Community. The speaker will be attorney Ronald Penny of Elizabeth City, N.C.

The music will be provided by the Gates County Caravans and by the J.H. London Gospel Singer. Tickets are \$8.00 per person. Door prizes will be given.

Churches to join for service

The Rev. J.H. London and the First Baptist Church will worship with the Poole's Grove Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, May 25, 1986 at 2:30 p.m.

The subject for the service is "Enough is Enough" (1 Kings 19:48). The Rev. J. L. Wills is the host pastor.

Shorter to speak

Sandra Newby Shorter, Ph.D., will speak at St. Paul

A.M.E. Zion Church in Hertford, N.C., on May 25, 1986 at 11:00 a.m. Dr. Shorter, a native of Perquimans County, is the daughter of Dewey and the late Dorothy Newby.

Dr. Shorter is married to Floyd L. Shorter and the couple has two daughters, Lia and Melanie.

Pastors Needed.

We are looking for local ministers that are willing to share their faith from time to time with our readers. If you would be interested in writing a brief spiritual (350-400 word) anecdote or testimonial on an occasional basis for our church page, please let us know.

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Cards of Thanks

To our many friends, neighbors and relatives: We wish to express our sincere appreciation to everyone who remembered William Samuel Long. Perhaps you sent a lovely card, or sat quietly in a chair. Perhaps you sent a funeral spray. If so we saw it there. Perhaps you spoke the kindest word, as any friend could say. Perhaps you were not there at all, just thought of us that day. Whatever you did to console our hearts, we thank you so much whatever the part.

The Family

We want to thank everyone who remembered us in any way during Noah's stay in the hospital and since he has been home. We thank you for the visits, cards, flowers, food, gifts, prayers, and everything. May God bless each of you.

Elizabeth and Noah Felton

The members of the Bethel Ruritan Club would like to thank each individual or business who took part in making the benefit for the family of Billy Dean Corprew a tremendous success. To those who helped cook and prepare the food, those who sold tickets and those who gave donations of money or supplies we are most grateful. With your help we were able to serve approximately 1900 plates. The community spirit was great!

Bethel Ruritan Club