

## ~ CHRISTIAN CANNIBALISM....

### GALATIANS 5:5 – 16

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~ Our Spiritual Safari isn't moving very fast through the Galatian hillside country because this section of sanctification by the Spirit of God is absolutely critical to know, accept and fully understand. Paul is telling us how we are to live as believers now; and only the fully matured Christian who is unified with other genuine believers can eat and partake of these truths. I suppose that's why we have so few on safari. Many are called, few are chosen. To be fair, I have admonished everyone *not* to read these reports — and this one is no different — so, we'll account for that. Moving on, our previous report established, in no uncertain terms, that living by law perpetuates falling from grace. Falling from grace is not "losing salvation." Falling from grace is choosing law over being delivered on eagles wings; as Israel had chosen so long ago. So, that's where we will pick up in this report....

#### ***5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.***

~ Verse five is the only prophetic reference Paul makes in this epistle. In *ALL* of the other epistles, Paul spoke of the rapture of the church, or of the Great Tribulation period, and the Lord Jesus returning to this earth to establish the millennial Kingdom. Here, however, "*... the hope of the righteousness of faith*" is all that is said in regards to prophecy. My estimation is that this is the reason why Martin Luther and the reformers spent so little time on prophecy.

Naturally, Luther and the reformers did not live in the same cultural and political environment we live in today; so, they had an altogether different concern. The big issue for them was the matter of salvation; which had been intentionally obscured and clouded in all manner of church rituals and other fleshy works. The Gospel of salvation was almost entirely neglected during that period of history. When Martin Luther realized that, he rose up off of his knees and went out to the whole world to declare the Gospel of

the grace of God! By doing so, Luther drove back the darkness of the dark ages.

During this time, there was no emphasis on the “*soon coming of Christ*,” either. All schools of prophecy today, including the pre-millennialist, post-millennialist, and the amillennialist, *ALL* quote Martin Luther and the reformers to invent some new prophetic delusion. Quite frankly, I believe they’re *all* wrong. Today, we have absolutely *NO* new revelation in prophecy beyond what the early church had. Only in the last couple of hundred years has there been a development of interest in prophecy. The Bible Institutes were the beginning, and led to seminaries taking and emphasizing the pre-millennial position; which, in essence, forced the others to focus heavily on prophecy. The amillennialist is really just a post-millennialist who has been forced into the study of prophecy. They’re always proficient at quoting the post-apostolic period fathers, and they usually dwell almost entirely in that historical time-frame. They always quote Augustine – and they cling to the attempted building of a Kingdom here on earth. That’s what led to post-millennialism. It’s utterly a false theology; but I don’t blame Augustine altogether for that because, again, it wasn’t his focus. The Person of Christ was his subject, and, after that, salvation became the main doctrine. After that came the work of the Holy Spirit; which is where we find ourselves today.

Either way, we have but this one reference to prophecy in Galatians; because Paul is dealing with the Gospel in regards to the Christian life. That’s the primary priority and purpose of this section of Scripture; and we need to note all of those factors when we study *any* book in the Bible — along with the priorities of any particular historical period — especially if we are going to quote others who lived in a different time. It’s common to misinterpret and misunderstand the writings of the early church fathers and, candidly, our schools are making a huge mistake quoting them without a proper understanding. Why don’t we stick to what Paul and Peter said; what James and Luke, Matthew, Mark and John said? Jesus? *They* are the authorities — not the church fathers.

The hope of righteousness is our Lord Jesus Christ! Paul says this because you and I are not going to reach perfection down here – and we went over

that truth in painful detail in our last report. If you have not read our last report, I suggest you go back and do so now. See, the greatest imperfection that abounds today is thinking that we have reached perfection. Those who think they are perfect are always the people who are utterly imperfect – like the rest of us – only they don't see their imperfection. They also don't see where John said, "... beloved, it does not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that when He shall appear, we shall be changed to be like Him." And the reason they don't see it is because they never study their Bible. Alright, that's all a whole lot more of a theological digression than we usually embark on in this safari, so let's move along....

***6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.***

~ Neither legal gyrations nor obeying the Mosaic Law — or any religious ritual — can produce a Christian life. The formula is a simple simile. It is, actually, so simple that the theologian can usually only pass it by. "*Faith which worketh by love*" – that's the formula. There is a modus operandi given in a gentle rebuke as we continue; but let's keep this super simple, shall we? Faith which worketh by love is the way – the *ONLY* way – to live any semblance of a so-called Christian life. Faith will work by love, and love will be the fruit that the Holy Spirit produces when we do it that way. His way. No other way....

***7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?***

***8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.***

***9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.***

~ These Galatians were doing so well — until the Judaizers came along; and they were derailed from truth. "*Obeying the truth*" means to obey the Gospel and the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ – and to obey Paul's doctrine of justification by faith. The legalism that the Galatians had fallen to was not from Christ; it only came from another source. Leaven is *ALWAYS* given as a principle of evil in the Word of God. Remember, the woman took three

measures of meal and hid leaven in it. Leaven is not the Gospel – Christ is the Bread of Life.

Leaven is always symbolic of evil – in the Old Testament and in the New Testament. Jesus saith, *“beware of the leaven of the Pharisee’s.”* Well, we need a Godly warning today about the leaven of legalism. Hiding leaven in the Gospel is calling Christ a curse. When Christ died on the cross, we received the full package of salvation; to say otherwise is to fall from grace. Men today like to think we have to go to the Holy Spirit to get something additional and have an experience while seeking other things to get the whole package of salvation. Well, that makes the Bread of Life taste a whole lot better, I’ll admit – but it’s evil.

Men have hidden evil in the Gospel in many forms throughout the ages and that’s what we have today – a leavened Gospel. The Gospel by itself is not acceptable to the natural man. Men want to make the Gospel palatable to people because it draws crowds — and those crowds will give lots of money for a leavened Gospel, you may be absolutely sure. I could do it; and anyone can do it if they want to make merchandise of the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul believed these Galatians would, ultimately, reject the teachings of the Judaeizers. When we get our feet on the ground, and our head out of the clouds, we’ll see this legalism is an intrusion that has been put in the Bread of Life like so much leaven....

***10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.***

***11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.***

***12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.***

~ Our Spiritual Safari is not something I am seeking acceptance in, friends. You can read these reports, or not read them – makes no difference to me. One little click and you can be finished with Andrew Hunt - I know that; but I am not going to trim down the message and teach you falsehoods;

because I just happen to know something else, too – and that is: if you will actually pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, then the Holy Spirit will make sense out of those things that don't make sense to you now. That means the Spirit of God will make Christ real to you. Now, I know most people never pray anyways, and few ask for wisdom in prayer before they study the Word of God – if they study the Bible at all. Don't think for one minute you are kidding me — or God — you're only fooling yourself. When the Lord Jesus becomes real in your life, you will have a genuine and wonderful conversation with your Father; but not until then.

I just happen to know that preaching the Gospel properly, correctly and completely deeply antagonizes people. Paul asks why he is being persecuted if he were including something additional in the Gospel. See how that works? See, the offense of the cross is not an intellectual offense; although it can be that to some people. Neither is the offense of the cross an aesthetic offense; although it can be that to other people, too. No, the offense of the cross is that it makes you and me a bankrupt beggarly sinner. We have to come to the front door of Heaven asking for and accepting a handout. That's an offense to everyone; but it's the only way you're ever going to get saved, friends. Accepting that truth is the only way you're ever going to understand the Word of God, too. Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to Thy cross I cling!

A very wise seminary professor once said, “... *don't tone the offense of the cross down; but don't magnify it, either.*” Allow the Spirit of God to handle it. I am only attempting to declare the Gospel; I do not mean to be offensive personally; although I often am. The Gospel speaks for itself, though – and it is offensive. It's antagonistic, there's no doubt about that. Well, Paul wished that the Judaeizers would be cut off because then he wouldn't be so offensive to the Galatians....

***13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.***

***14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.***

~ Alright, there are three methods used to attempt to live the so-called “*Christian life.*” One is the life of legalism. Two is the life of license — which we examined carefully in Romans. Neither one of those two methods will work. Of course, we cannot live in open sin and abject rebellion towards God and be a Christian; but we will fall into sin occasionally. When we do fall into sin, we’re going to get out, though — very quickly, too. The prodigal son got into the pig-pen, but he couldn’t live there! He rose up and went home.

Legalism and license both lead to spiritual ruin — every time. Telling someone what they can and cannot do will, ultimately, lead to a shipwrecked faith. Many people ask me, “*can we do so and so, or should we not do so and so?*” I’m not going to answer those questions, friends. Whether we eat meat or don’t eat meat commends us not unto God. Some people may honestly keep the commandments, but they still don’t live a Christian life. The only life that will work as a Christian is a life of liberty in Christ. That’s where our Spiritual Safari goes from here: the third way to a Christian life; which is the only way to living for Christ — by liberty. Part of that liberty is attained by a genuine love for the Word of God, too, by the way. Those who don’t love Holy Writ are questionable characters to me....

***15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.***

***16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh ~***

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