



October 16-22, 2016

Text: *Galatians 5:16-26*

SUMMARY OF SERMON: In Christ we have freedom – from sin’s penalty and from sin’s power in our lives. The former is secured at conversion but the latter is the growth process for the Christian. We learn to say “no” to the old sinful ways of thinking and living and let the Holy Spirit bring forth righteousness and Christ-like fruit in our lives. How we live our lives in Christ is a major part of our testimony to others of His transforming grace.

RELATED BIBLE PASSAGES FOR THE COMING WEEK [The Bible readings this week reveal the expectation of transformation in Christ as well as how this comes about.]

Monday, Oct. 17 – **Mark 7:1-22** [Jesus is making clear in this passage that simply trying to keep certain laws will not cleanse a sinful heart. Thus, our Lord is preparing those who will put their trust in Him that His work on the cross will lead to a new heart that delights in honoring God and His righteous ways.]

Tuesday, Oct. 18 – **Colossians 3:1-17** [This passage is a beautiful picture of the process of the transformed Christian life. Note the call to do our part in “putting to death” the sinful deeds of our old nature knowing that God has made this possible by raising us to new life in Christ.]

Wednesday, Oct. 19 – **Ezekiel 36:22-38** [This remarkable prophecy has a temporal fulfillment in God bringing Israel out of exile and back to the holy land. But its greater fulfillment is through Messiah, when the Holy Spirit will change the hearts of God’s people (vv.25-27) so that they turn from sin and to righteousness. This is what Galatians 5 is all about.]

Thursday, Oct. 20 – **Romans 8:1-17** [Similar to the Galatians 5 passage, Paul speaks here about life through the Holy Spirit. A key point is that we are to set our minds (v.5) on what the Spirit desires. This requires both knowledge of God’s word and also a prayerful desire to let the Holy Spirit renew our minds in Christ.]

Friday, Oct. 21 – **Psalms 51** [David had sinned greatly and he knew it. To his credit and benefit he confesses his sin and at the same time humbly asks God to change his heart. He wants his life to reflect God’s praise and he knows that this will only happen through repentance and the grace of God bringing a new heart.]

Saturday, Oct. 22 – **Titus 2:11-3:8** [We see in these verses that God’s grace in Christ actually empowers us to turn from sinful ways and live godly lives. This grace is how the Holy Spirit (3:5) is able to renew us and transform us.]



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