

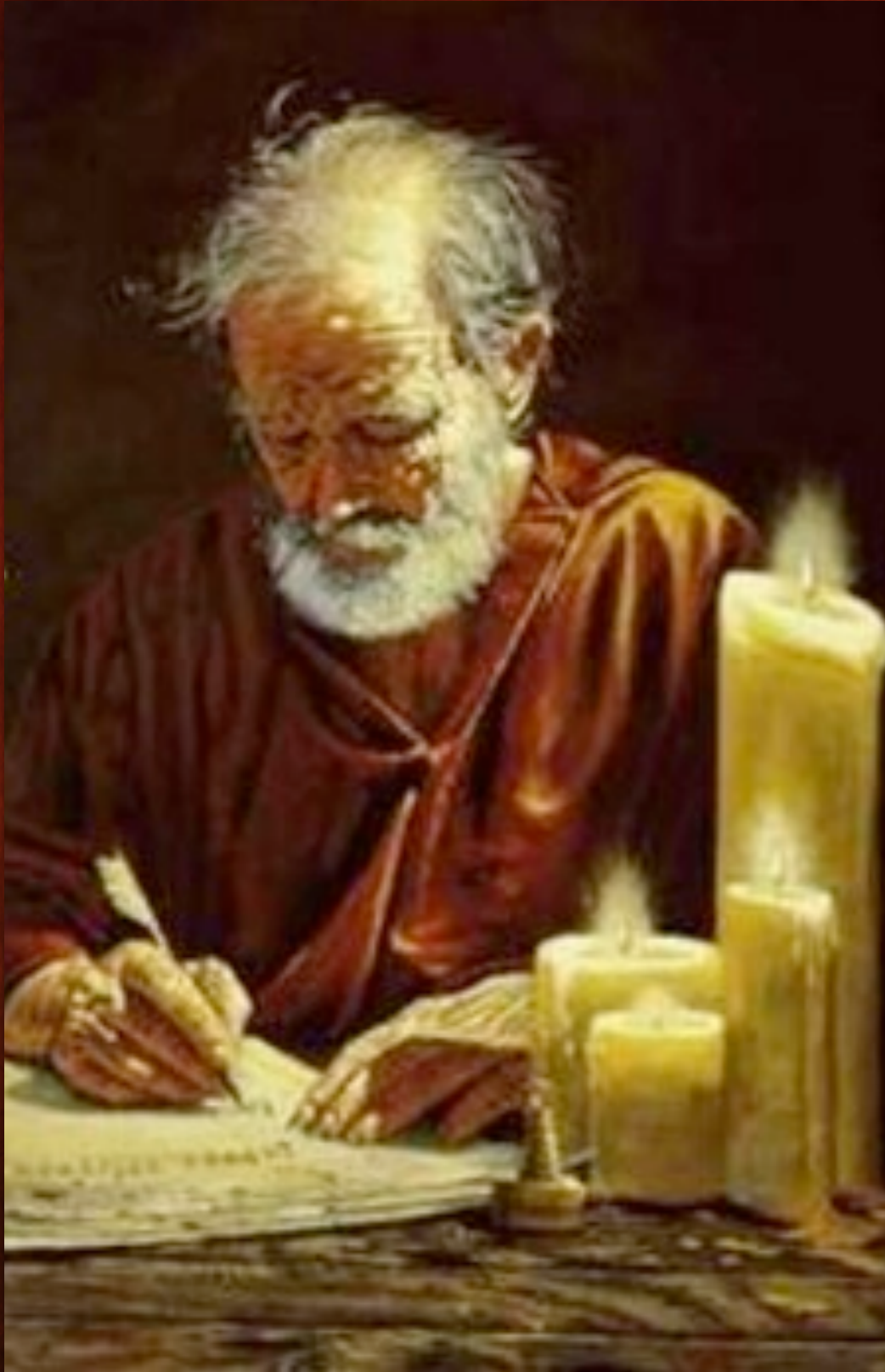


The
EPISTLE To The
GALATIANS

“The Flesh or the Spirit?”

Galatians 5:16–21

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21



- **Paul Defends His Apostleship – (1:11–2:21)**
- **Promise of Abraham Not Through The Law But Through Faith In Christ! – (3:1–29)**
- **In Christ We Are Adopted As Sons & Heirs of God Through Christ! – (3:26–4:7)**
- **Paul's Concern For The Churches! – (4:8–20)**
- **“Allegory of Hagar & Sarah”— (4:21–31)**
- **“Stand Fast—Don't Fall!” – 5:1–7**
- **“Sin of Hindering Others” – 5:8–15**

Galatians 5:16-21 (NKJV)

¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Galatians 5:16-21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Context Very Important In Helping Us Understand This Section!

Galatians 5:16
(NKJV)

16 I say then:

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

- The contrast between the Law & the gospel – (*The subject hasn't changed!*)
- Turning To The Law of Moses Prevents One From Obeying The Truth – 5:7–10
- Judaizers were causing trouble in the churches with their system of justification by works of the Law of Moses – 5:12–15

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Context Very Important In Helping Us Understand This Section!

Galatians 5:16
(NKJV)

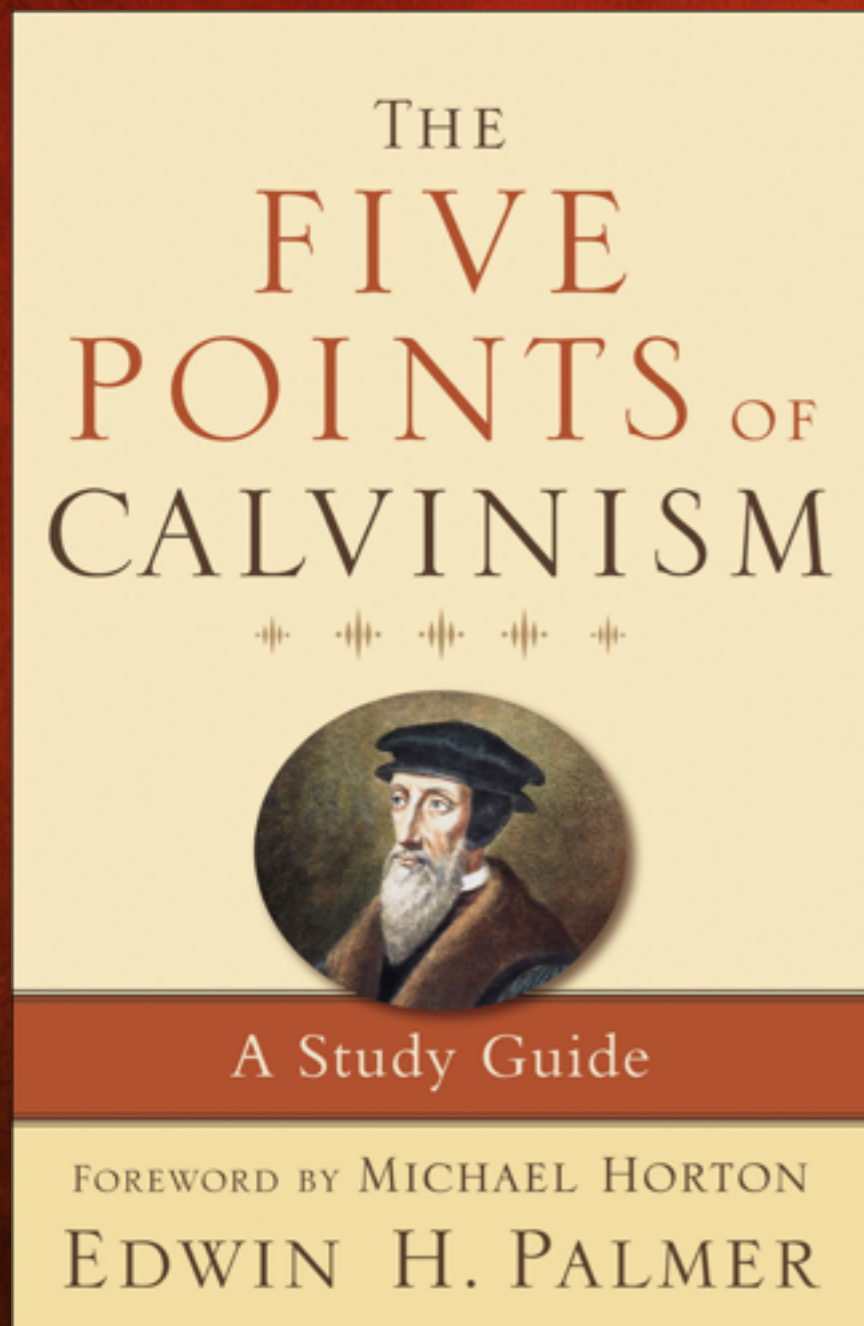
16 I say then:

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

- The contrast in this section is between the “FRUIT” of their teaching and the “FRUIT” of the gospel – 5:16–26
- Most expositors miss the point of this text completely and even use it to promote the opposite of what Paul is actually teaching.

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Many False Ideas & Applications



- Error pertaining to the “indwelling” of the Holy Spirit.
- Error pertaining to how the Holy Spirit guides the Christian’s walk.
- Error pertaining to the nature of man.
- Error pertaining to mans ability, (or inability).

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Many False Ideas & Applications

THE
FIVE
POINTS OF
CALVINISM



A Study Guide

FOREWORD BY MICHAEL HORTON
EDWIN H. PALMER

Galatians 5:16-18 (NIV)

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the **desires of the sinful nature**. ¹⁷ For **the sinful nature** desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to **the sinful nature**. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Main Point of the Text

**Galatians 5:16
(NKJV)**

16 I say then:

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

- **Galatians 5:16–21 teaches the same thing as Romans 7 –**
- **Of course most expositors miss it on Romans 7 as well.**

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Main Point of the Text

**The Nature of The Fruit Produced Is
Dependent Upon Which System One Follows!**



Flesh

Law

Spirit

Gospel

Galatians 5:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Main Point of the Text

**The Nature of The Fruit Produced Is
Dependent Upon Which System One Follows!**

Works
of the
Flesh

The Law

The Gospel

Fruit of
the
Spirit

Romans 7:5 (NKJV)

For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Main Point of the Text

**The Nature of The Fruit Produced Is
Dependent Upon Which System One Follows!**

Works
of the
Flesh

The Law

The Gospel

Fruit of
the
Spirit

Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)

For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Walk In The Gospel / Spirit

**Galatians 5:16
(NKJV)**

**16 I say then:
Walk in the
Spirit, and you
shall not fulfill
the lust of the
flesh.**

- **To walk according to the Spirit is to walk according to the gospel –**
- **The word “fulfill” here means to “bring to completion”**
- **The one walking according to the gospel will NOT produce the same fruit as the one who seeks justification through the Law.**

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Walk In The Gospel / Spirit

Galatians 5:17 (NKJV)

¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

- The two systems cannot coexist or be mingled together – this point has been made several times – (1:6–10; 3:3,4; 4:21–31; 5:1–15)
- “So that you do not do the things you wish” –
 - ✦ Works both ways - Notice if you walk in the Spirit ⁽¹⁶⁾ - you will NOT produce the fruit of the flesh - the same is true in reverse. (1 Jn 3:9; cf. Rom 7:13-23)

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Walk In The Gospel / Spirit

**Galatians 5:18
(NKJV)**

**18 But if you
are led by the
Spirit, you
are not under
the law.**

- **Those WALKING according to the Gospel are NOT under the condemnation of the Law – (2:19–21; 3:10–14)**
 - ✦ No condemnation - Rom. 8:1,2
 - ✦ Provides what the Law could not - Rom 8:3-8
 - ✦ Life is found in the gospel - Rom 8:9-11
 - ✦ Deeds of the flesh put to death - Rom 8:12,13
 - ✦ Sons of God - Rom. 8:14-17

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

State of Those Walking According To The Flesh, (LAW)

Romans 7:5 (NKJV)

⁵ For when we were in the flesh, the sinful passions which were aroused by the law were at work in our members to bear fruit to death.

Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Galatians 5:16 (NKJV)

**I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not
fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

GALATIANS

Charter of Freedom

Galatians 3:26–29 (NKJV)

**²⁶ For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
²⁷ For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put
on Christ. ²⁸ There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither
slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are
all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if you are Christ's, then you
are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.**

“The Flesh or the Spirit?” 5:16–21

Charts by Don McClain

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West 65th Street church of Christ

P.O. Box 190062

Little Rock AR 72219

501-568-1062

Prepared using Keynote

Email – donmcclain@sbcglobal.net

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