

Wheelersburg Baptist Church 12/12/12 Wednesday evening
"Let the Wind Blow: A Doctrinal Study of the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"
part 7

Outline of Study of the Holy Spirit

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
 - A. Who is He?
 - B. What is He like? (His attributes)
- II. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit
 - A. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church
 - 1. In Worship (Jn 4:23-24)
 - 2. In Unity (Eph 4)
 - 3. In mobilizing for outreach ("filling")
 - B. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian
 - 1. In salvation (regeneration--John 3) (baptism--I Cor 12:13)
 - 2. Fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)
 - 3. Filling of the Spirit (Eph 5:18)
 - 4. Sanctification (II Cor 3:18)
 - 5. Sets free from Habits (Eph 4-5)
 - C. The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the World
 - 1. Convicting of sin (John 16)
 - 2. Restraining (II Thes 1)

Current Series: "Let the Wind Blow: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit"

We've been learning about the ministry of the Spirit, namely what He does in the life of the Christian. Our last time, we considered "The Spirit's Power over Destructive Habits" (Eph 4-5).

It's encouraging to see the practical relevance of this teaching in Eph 4-5. I had planned on moving to the next area of the Spirit's ministry, but realized two things. One, we don't break destructive habits in one 45 minute lesson. And two, there is another text which sheds light on the subject.

Q: Where was Paul when he wrote Ephesians? In prison

Q: While in prison, Paul wrote another letter, to another church, which is parallel in many ways to Ephesians. What is that letter? Colossians

Let's turn to Colossians 3. Col 3 sounds very similar to Eph 4-5. Paul plows the same turf of Christian living. Yet in Col 3, we discover some new truths. Paul approaches the subject from a slightly different slant.

How do we break destructive habits?

A Summary of the Principles from Ephesians 4-5

- 1. We have a daily responsibility to "put off" the old lifestyle, and "put on" the new lifestyle.

2. We must identify the vice that needs to go, and the virtue that needs to replace it. It's not enough merely to say, "I'm going to stop lusting." I need, by the Spirit's help, to replace lust with what? Thankfulness (5:4) (I need to learn to thank God for the proper role of sex as designed by Him, and then to reject the perversions of sex promoted by the world).

I need to replace "lying" with what? Truth-telling (4:25)

I need to replace "stealing" with what? Hard work and sharing (4:28)

3. We need to grasp the reasons that the change is necessary.

4:1 Because of our calling

4:17 Because we are commanded to live differently than the world does

4:20 Because to resist the change is to dishonor Christ

4:22 Because our former way of living leads to corruption

4:24 Because we have been recreated to resemble God (5:1)

4:27 Because when we refuse to change, we give the devil a foothold

4:30 Because when we refuse to change, we grieve the Spirit

4. We must make a daily, prayerful decision to cooperate with the Holy Spirit--the Helper, the Change Agent--Whose object is to transform our lives into the image of Christ (see also: 2 Cor 3:18).

Now, let's take a look at Colossians 3.

I. Our Position in Christ (3:1-4)

A. We have been raised with Christ (1).

B. We died, and therefore, are hidden with Christ (3).

C. We will appear with Christ in glory (4).

II. Our Practice as Christians (3:5-17)

I. Our Position in Christ (3:1-4)

V 1 "If ye, then"--better "since, then." Paul is telling us what has already happened to us. We have participated in the work of Christ. The key word in this section is "WITH." The key phrase is "WITH CHRIST."

A. We have been raised with Christ (1).

B. We died, and therefore, are hidden with Christ (3).

C. We will appear with Christ in glory (4).

Notice, these are all specific events in history. Christ died--that was something that happened (you could have touched the splinters on the cross that held Him). Christ rose again (you could have inspected the empty tomb). Christ will come in glory (the eyes of people will be dazzled by the brilliance).

But don't miss this. We have been identified with what Christ did. As far as God is concerned, we were there. We died with Him. We rose again with Him. We received the benefit of His work.

Application: Our privilege and task is to tap into this power in daily living (See: Eph 1:19-20).

So vv 1-4 deal with our position in Christ--who we are. From that foundation Paul moves to the subject of our practice as Christians--how we are to live.

II. Our Practice as Christians (3:5-17)

As in Ephesians 4-5, in Colossians 3 Paul thinks in terms of two categories.

Put to Death / Put Off (5-11)

What does it mean to "mortify" in v 5? This is warfare terminology!

What are we to mortify? The NIV says, "whatever belongs to your earthly nature." The KJV says, "your members which are upon the earth." The point is we are to use our bodies to achieve a different result than we used to. We are to live a different lifestyle.

What has to go?

List #1 (verse 5)

Fornication (sexual immorality)

Uncleanness (impurity)

Inordinate affection (lust)

Evil desire

Covetousness (greed)--which is idolatry

For what reasons must we mortify these vices?

1. Because of these, God's wrath is coming (6).
2. They characterized our former lifestyle, not our present (7).

List #2 (verses 8-9)

Anger

Wrath (rage)

Malice

Blasphemy (slander)

Filthy communication (filthy language)

Lying to one another

For what reasons must we put off these vices?

1. We have already made a choice to put off the old man (9) (see 3:2).
2. We have already chosen to put on the new man (10).
3. They don't fit with God's purpose to renew us into the image of Christ (10).

Discuss: With this in mind, what makes it so bad for us to "tolerate" sinful habits in our lives?

Put On / Clothe Yourselves With (12-17)

Tender mercies (compassion)

Kindness

Humbleness of mind

Meekness (gentleness)
Longsuffering (patience)
Forbearing one another (Bear with each other)
Forgiving one another
Love (14)
Peace (15)
Be thankful (15)
Word of Christ (16)
Sing together psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (16)
Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus (17)

For what reasons are we to put on these virtues?

1. Because we are God's chosen (elect) people (12)
2. Because then we will resemble Christ (13)

Discuss:

Q: What is the evidence of spiritual maturity, according to these verses?

Proper attitudes and relationships. A person who is spiritually mature maintains good, healthy, Christlike attitudes and relationships with others in the Body.

--"Bible knowledge" is no guarantee of maturity

--"Church attendance" isn't either.

Q: How practically do we "mortify" (put to death) vices that plague us?

Q: How practically do we "clothe ourselves" with the virtues that please God?

Q: Is it an option to sing in church, according to v 16?