

1. Last week I completed a study of the *Doctrine of the Four Unconditional Covenants*, and when the clock tolled 12:10 we had just completed an analysis of Gal 5:22 and 23. *In fact when time expired, I was about to teach 12 summary points highlighting what we learned from a study of verses 22 and 23.*

2. Before continuing, I want to give you opportunity to use 1Jo 1:9 as may be necessary.

3. Let's begin with an expanded translation of Gal 5:19-23.

Gal 5:19 Understand the production from the Old Sin Nature is certainly seen in various sexual sins, such as adultery, filthy thoughts, and shameful sexual conduct ...

Gal 5:20 idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, inordinate ambition, dissension, factions ...

Gal 5:21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Gal 5:23 In this context forget the Mosaic Law, it has nothing to do with the production of the fruits of the Spirit.

4. I want to review some of that learned last week and then begin new material on page two.

Gal 5:22-23 Review

1. Faith in Christ alone is not only the way of salvation but (an essential) fruit of the spirit though especially difficult to come by when things "turn south."

2. There are times when we all doubt and think God has somehow forgotten us. In fact, there are many books of the Bible which feature doubting Thomas's.

2.1 Certainly, not the least of which was Habakkuk, Jonah and Job. There are characters featured like Elijah who was full of fears and thus found himself running from Ahab and Jezebel.

3. All the merit of faith to be effective must be in an object with the inherent power to produce.

<p>Pisteuo Christ = Eternal Salvation</p> <p>Pisteuo Doctrine = Spiritual Maturity</p>
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4. Faith is often misunderstood for you see the mere act of having faith is useless if there is no object capable of producing. Jam 2:19; Acts 4:12

5. Faith in doctrine as we have seen is our method for temporal sanctification, i.e., spiritual growth in time, and the faith in doctrine should be more real than reality.

2Co 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. 2Co 3:18; 2Pe 1:18-19

6. Faith itself, says the Scripture, comes from doctrine, the mind of Christ. Rom 10:17; Phi 2:5; 1Co 2:16

7. Faith in the sense of a relaxed mental attitude is one of the fruits of the Spirit of God.

8. Faith is enhanced when we are tested and proved. 1Pe 1:7-8

9. Faith in Christ is the means for overcoming the world. It is avoiding condemnation and the means of obtaining salvation. It then is the source of avoiding the bad and gaining the good. 1Jo 5:5

10. Summary Points

10.1 The scientific ways of thinking are "rationalism and empiricism." Often however the scientist finds himself in "mystic" or "spiritual realms" where it is impossible "to be scientific." This understandably creates a dilemma.

10.2 An example of such a dilemma is evolution. Today we have no fossil evidence of an orderly evolution of man; in fact, what we do have indicates (at best) great gaps in the order of development from animal to man.

10:3 Even some data supports an evolution from man to primate. Most agree today fossil evidence indicates man began and then became extinct and then man's evolution began again because the oldest likeness to man ceases and a gap of animal fossils span long periods of time and then suddenly man "appears" to develop again; thus, proof of the adage "you can't keep a good man down; or at least "an old man down for long."

10.4 Writing for the New York Times in 1999 John Noble Wilford spoke to the point that a new trunk on the genus of the human tree had been discovered or whatever happened on the way to mankind's orderly but inexorable evolution. In the Times he writes of a significant problem for the thinking Paleontologist.

"Paleontologists in Africa have found a 3.5 million year old skull from what they say is an entirely new branch of the early human family tree, a discovery that threatens to overturn the prevailing undocumented supposition that a single line of descent stretched through the early stages of human ancestry ... Humanity's family tree, once drawn with a trunk straight and true, is beginning to look more like a bush, with a tangle of branches leading off in many directions. The new skull was discovered ... by a research team led by Leakey [1999] ... "After careful analysis, scientists concluded that the nearly complete skull and partial jaw represented not only a different species but also a completely new genus - virtually a new trunk on the tree of human evolution."

10.5 To maintain a belief in evolution requires significant faith given no evidence of evolution but significant evidence otherwise; such as was discovered in 1999.

10.6 Faith in the field of evolution has become the most important source of learning simply because certain fixated scientists have long concluded (most deductively I might add) that no other explanation of man's beginning will be accepted except "evolution."

10.7 Several quotes will help explain:

- W. W. Wheeler in his book *Creation by Evolution* writes: "no plea for the supernatural origin of anything is valid so long as there is a possibility of a natural explanation of its origin."
- George F. Hutchinson, in the 1957 *Encyclopedia Britannica* writes: "if there is no choice, instead of accepting the supernatural acts of God, the Scientist may have to assume that there have been changes in the laws of nature and again in reference to a number of studies of evolution he goes on:
- "If the results are persistently negative it may be necessary to fall back on some hypothesis as to secular change in the laws of nature."
- Arthur Thompson in *The Outline of Science* has written: "But frankly the only scientific way of looking at the present-day fauna and flora is to regard them as the outcome of a natural selection."
- Ernest Hooten writes in *Up From The Ape*: "Just how fins developed into limbs is still a mystery but they did."
- Calvin S. Hall writes in *The Inheritance of Emotionality*: "You may question, of course, whether rat intelligence is the same as human intelligence, but if you do put the question you are really not an evolutionist and, therefore your view deserves little consideration."
- Horatio Newman in *Evolution, Genetics, and Eugenics* writes: "There is no rival hypothesis except that outworn and completely refuted idea of special creation now retained only by the ignorant, the dogmatic and the prejudiced."

10.8 Finding incontrovertible evidence that fossils, be they human or primate, refute rather than support the theory of evolution is old hat. The find in "1999" about which we just read in the New York times was not the first fossil anomaly. In 1973 another member of the Leakey family made an unusual discovery; he called her "Thoroughly Modern Milly."

10.8.1 Let me quote some of that which has been written about this find:

"Dr. Leakey ... dated her at 2,800,000 years thereby blowing the sanctity of evolutionary theory. The gap was now something which must be somehow explained away. Worse however the copious orderly charts showing man's evolution from ape to man must now be destroyed hurriedly lest the world find out the hoax is on us." Dr. Leakey himself with reference to his find said: "Either we toss out this skull or we toss out our theories of early man." See National Geographic. June 1973.

"Thoroughly Modern Milly was either misdated or she was to be a cause for great alarm to the former postulation that the oldest ape preceded man by 500,000 years. She was said to be as modern as any fossil man ever found and yet she preceded earliest fossil man by thousands of years and worse she was 1,800,000 years older than homo erectus - the ape who walked ... "

10.9 One Saturday, April 20, 2002 an article appeared in the Washington Post under the headline:

"New study says primates roamed with dinosaurs." In the article Guy Gugliotta threw a significant monkey-wrench (no pun intended) into formerly hard and fast "evolutionary" theory. We are told in this article: Primates - the mammals from which humans evolved emerged on Earth much earlier than had been thought, originating perhaps 85 million years ago during the age of the dinosaurs ...

"Paleontologists ... place the origin of primates at 55 million years ago ... the researchers developed a statistical model that builds an evolutionary tree based on the number of primate species alive today (235) and the number of recorded fossil species (396) and their ages. By assuming each primate species would live approximately 2.5 million years the team was able to estimate the length of time that elapsed between the oldest known fossil primate ... by this technique the lead researcher Robert Martin concluded

former theories of dinosaurs predating primates by millions of years were in error ... "I've been arguing for years that there's so many gaps in the fossil record that primates are probably much older than we thought ... "

10.10 As you can see scientists are finding need to make profound and wild assumptions and projections over millions of years but still the basic premise is "Primates - the mammals from which humans evolved emerged on Earth much earlier than had been thought ... "

10.11 Such leaps of faith are common place when it comes to the origin of man. It is a paradox I suppose that evolution provides such a useful example in our quest to understand faith.

10.12 In the spiritual realm we Christians stipulate up front that faith is the most important method of learning about God; for without faith it is impossible to please Him. Faith is especially important in this realm because no one can prove or disprove God.

11. Now let's see what we can learn from Gal 5:24.

KJV

Gal 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

NIV

Gal 5:24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires.

12. I think the best way to analyze verse 24 is to review the *Doctrine of the Old Sin Nature*.

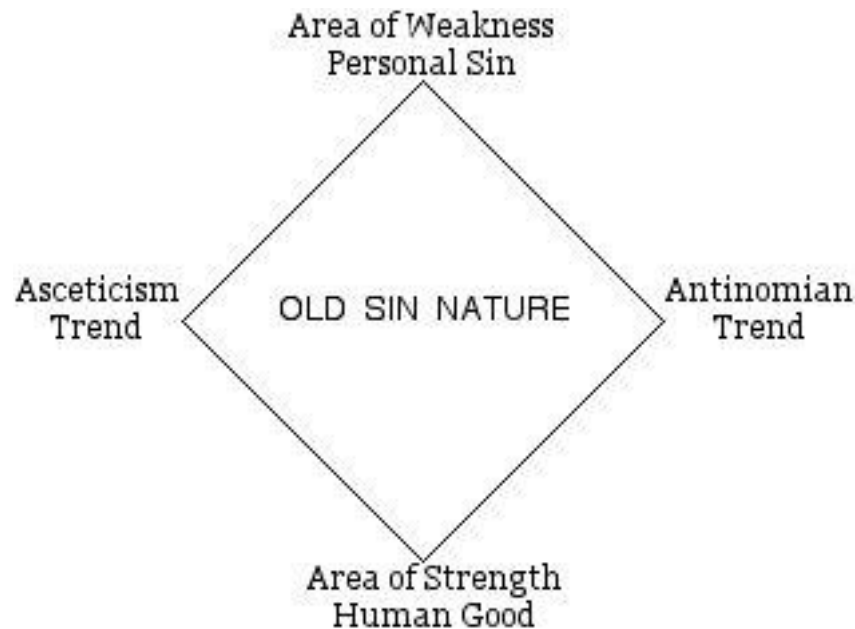
Background

1. Every positive believer is a soldier in the battle for control of his very own soul.

Rom 7:22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man:

Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members (**Melos** referring to such members as - the arm, leg, hand etc.)

2. The problem: Who will control: doctrine or the Old Sin Nature?



3. It is solely a decision for the believer; will the believer use the grace assets God has provided or will the believer become a casualty in the angelic conflict?

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

3.1 The chief asset is a new creature:

2Co 5:17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

3.2 The solution: The first step is to find an object of your faith which has inherent power to save your soul.

Rom 7:25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

3.2.1 Hurrah I am saved!

Joh 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

3.3 But I still have a problem for time.

3.3.1 All believers sin.

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. (Also see 1Joh 1:10)

3.3.2 So God provides a way to regain fellowship.

1Jo 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

3.3.3 We never lose our salvation but when we sin in time we lose our privileges as a believer.

3.3.4 Paul recognizes that like us the Old Sin Nature is in control unless we transform the mind using our two power options i.e. the filling of the Spirit and the consistent intake of the Word of God.

Rom 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

3.3.5 Rom 12:1 and 2 describe what we call the two power options.

3.3.6 The use of the two power options will result in spiritual growth.

Expanded Translation

1Pe 4:1 Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh has put an end to the control and domination of the Old Sin Nature.

4. Our very thinking process is evil from birth.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

4.1 Our efforts at self-transformation are unacceptable to God and in fact it is the human good or self-transformation that is judged at the Great White Throne where unbelievers receive their final Evaluation Report.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Rev 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

Rev 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

4.2 In fact at the **BEMA** (or reward seat of Christ) just after the rapture of the Church human good is burned so as to keep the sorry stuff out of heaven,

End Lesson

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