

# The Epistle To The Galatians<sup>1</sup>

The Spirit as the Blessing of the Gospel / The Spirit Versus The Flesh

## I The Processed Triune God (John 7:39, Luke 24:26)

- A. Paul does not speak of the Holy Spirit, in Galatians. Instead, he mentions the Spirit, Who is the total blessing of the gospel
- B. It denotes the Father, Son and Spirit processed through incarnation, human living, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension
- C. This word by Paul concerning the Spirit is a completing word (**Col.1:25**)

## II The Blessing of Abraham (Gal.3:13-14)

- A. The blessing of Abraham is the Spirit
- B. The physical aspect of that blessing was that Abraham was to have a seed and a land. The seed is Christ and the land is Christ.

## III Receiving the Spirit as the Blessing

- A. Receiving the blessing is not receiving Christ, but receiving the Spirit. (**Gal.3:14**)
- B. Today, however, Christ is the Life-giving Spirit (**1Cor.15:45**) and the Lord is the Spirit (**2Cor.3:17**).
- C. Christ accomplished and the Spirit delivers all that He is and has accomplished.
- D. We receive this blessing through faith. (**Gal.3:14**)

## IV The Blessing of the Gospel is in the Organic Union with the Triune God

- A. Nothing is more precious and vital than the organic union with the Triune God. (**John 15:4-5, 17: 21, 23, Rom.11:17, 19, 6:5, 1Cor.6:17**)
- B. Knowledge, gifts, power, ability are nothing compared to this union with the Spirit Who is the processed Triune God. (**1Cor.1:5-7, 10, 3:1, 3, 5:1-2, 6, 6:6-7, 12, 8:1, 9, 10:7-8, 10, 12:1, 13:1, 14:4, 12, 19, 27-28, 40, 15:12**)

## V Definition of the Flesh and the Spirit (Gal.3:3)

- A. As Christ is versus the "I" (**Gal.2:20**), so the Spirit is versus the flesh
  - 1. Christ in our experience is the Spirit
  - 2. The "I" in our experience is the flesh.

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<sup>1</sup> Outline and materials based on the *Life-Study of Galatians* by Witness Lee, Living Stream Ministry, Anaheim, California, May, 1984. Any inaccuracies or errors, in the outline above, are the sole responsibility of the adopter of these materials. - D.M.

- B. The flesh is condemned and repudiated throughout Galatians **(1:16, 2:16, 3:3, 4:23, 29, 5:13, 16-17, 19, 6:8, 12-13)** and is always in contrast with the Spirit. **(3:3, 4:29, 5:16-17, 19, 22, 6:8)**
- C. While the Spirit is the ultimate realization of the Processed Triune God, the flesh is the uttermost expression of the fallen tripartite man. **(Gal.5:19-21)**
1. The works of the flesh include the fornication, uncleanness, sensuality, and drunkenness of the corrupted body
  2. The works of the flesh include enmities, strife, angers and divisions of the fallen soul.
  3. The works of the flesh include idolatry and sorcery of the deadened spirit.
- D. Satan's Misuse of the Law
1. To keep us from God's economy and distract us from it, Satan uses the law, which was given by God to serve His purpose temporarily.
  2. the Law is being misused when it is used to stir up fallen man's desire to uplift himself by keeping the law in order to have a self-made righteousness.
- E. Faith is the way for God's people to apprehend, comprehend, grasp, enjoy and participate in all that the processed Triune God is to His people
1. So-called Christian experiences that make it difficult for believers to appreciate the inward organic union with the Triune God are a great damage to believers.
  2. By Faith we walk according to the Spirit in our spirit.
    - a) By being organically joined to Him, we can live by Him in our spirit.
    - b) Paul demonstrated the organic living in his fellowship concerning marriage. On the one hand he says, he has no commandment from the Lord concerning an opinion he expressed **(1Cor.7:25)**. On the other hand he says, "I think also that I have the Spirit of God." **(v.40)**
    - c) Paul did not say, "Thus says the Lord."
      - (1) Such phrase is right out of the Old Testament.
      - (2) The New Testament way is out of the organic union; it is a mingled way.