



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

GLOBAL WARMING: *the meltdown* (pt.1) GALATIANS 5:16-21

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. 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.

1. *the REALITY of the meltdown: THE WORKS*

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident,

Evident: *visible, clearly seen, apparent' recognized, plain, open and public; widely known, outward, external*

WORKS: *deeds; action; the product of an action or process; accomplishment; a practical demonstration or proof;*

19 ...*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...*"

The works of the flesh are the fruit or outward expression in everyday life of the indwelling sin that originates and exists in the heart of man. Their very presence reveals just how strong the influence of the flesh is and how helpless man is to control it.

2. *the REASON for the meltdown: THE WAR*

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.*

LUSTS AGAINST: *covet; a strong impulse toward something; desire, to long for; earnestly desire; unrestricted desire for a forbidden person or thing; crave; base and unregulated urges and passions; desire to do what one likes; to lift or resist restraint; to follow ones passions and emotions; strong yearning;*

CONTRARY: *to be set over against, opposite to, an adversary, to be in conflict; diametrically opposed to*

17 ...*so that you do not do the things that you wish.*

Like a tug of war, the flesh struggles and fights against the Spirit to dominate and control man...his thought and activity. The power and lure of the flesh is so strong and irresistible that you cannot do what you know you should do.

3. *the REMEDY for the meltdown: THE WALK*

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

WALK: *behave; to make one's way, make progress, a proper use of opportunities, to regulate one's life, to conduct oneself; a lifestyle; how one conducts daily life;*

IN THE SPIRIT: *to daily live under the influence and guidance of God's Holy Spirit who resides within the believer.*

The Believer is to keep on living daily in the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

16 ...*and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

The key to conquering the lust of the flesh and avoiding the "meltdown" is the Holy Spirit of God. Paul promises that if you live according to the Spirit, the flesh will not be able to carry out and accomplish its desired works in and through you.

the challenge

The Holy Spirit possesses and conveys to the believer the power to resist and overcome the flesh and its desires. The believer who listens to the constraint of the Spirit, walks away from the object of temptation and calls upon God for courage to stay away is the believer who walks in the Spirit. This is the life God offers to you if you will trust in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and receive His Spirit.