

The Only Path to True Change

January 3, 2019

Galatians 5:2 ESV

2 **Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you.**

- *When you trust in the flesh (self-will, self-control, self-righteousness), attempting to make changes to your heart and life, you forfeit everything that Christ provided in His death and resurrection.*

Romans 6:4-6 ESV

4 We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

5 For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

6 We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin.

Galatians 5:3 ESV

3 **I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.**

- *It is impossible for any genuine and lasting change to be accomplished by the flesh (self-will, self-control, self-righteousness); just as impossible for any man to keep the whole law.*
 - *Flesh cannot control flesh.*
 - *Flesh cannot change the heart.*
- *You may be able to externally change certain habits or behaviors, but the heart is still desperately wicked within. The changes wrought by the self-discipline will only feed the pride and selfishness in the heart.*

John 6:63 ESV

63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh is no help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life.

Galatians 5:4 ESV

4 **You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.**

John 15:4-6 ESV

4 Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

5 I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned.

Galatians 5:5 ESV

5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

- *We trust only in the spiritual transformation which comes by:*
 - *The Holy Spirit*

2 Corinthians 3:18 ESV

18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed (metamorphoō - to transfigure, transform) into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.

- *The Word of God*

Romans 12:2 ESV

2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed (metamorphoō - to transfigure, transform) by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

- *God's work of sanctification and chastening*

Hebrews 12:9-11 ESV

9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?

10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

In times of temptation...

- *Never engage or resist the flesh with self-discipline or will-power.*
- *Draw as close to Jesus as possible, become preoccupied with Him and draw on the strength of His presence.*

Matthew 26:40-41 ESV

40 And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, "So, could you not watch with me one hour?"

41 Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."