

FROM SIN CITY TO THE HILLS OF GOD *continued*

[4] ON THE HILLS OF GOD, THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT REQUIRES CONSTANCY; 5:24-26.

Galatians 5 closes by laying out the challenge to reject the flesh and live by the power of the Spirit on a daily basis.

(a) KEEP THE FLESH CRUCIFIED; 5:24.

This is different to the crucifixion at Calvary of **Galatians 2:20**; by **5:24** we are reminded that even though we crucified the flesh when we were led to Christ, the flesh is not yet dead. The process of crucifixion is slow and agonising; we must not loosen, but keep driving in the nails. (Martin Luther compared the flesh to the daily growth of a man's beard – daily shaving is necessary!).

(b) KEEP IN STEP WITH THE SPIRIT; 5:25.

“Walk in” is a military term that describes a soldier who keeps in step with his commanding officer. The world assesses us by our walk. Our obligation is to follow the Lord wherever He leads.

(c) KEEP YOUR HEART RIGHT TOWARDS OTHERS;

5:26. We can readily drop into ‘the comparison game,’ but must keep our eyes on Christ, not on people around us.



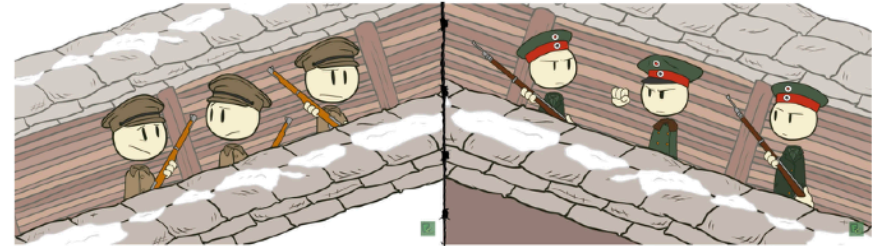
MEETINGS TODAY

- Morning Worship – 11.30am:
*17th Message in the Galatians Series:
“From Sin City To The Hills of God.”*
- Evening Service – 7.00pm:
“Is Death The End?”

INSPIRATION IN A SENTENCE

[Concerning the Word preached:] “Do we prize it in our judgments? Do we receive it into our hearts? Do we fear the loss of the Word preached more than the loss of peace and trade? Again, do we attend to the Word with reverential devotion? When the judge is giving the charge on the bench, all attend. When the Word is preached, the great God is giving us His charge. Do we listen to it as to a matter of life and death? This is a good sign that we love the Word.” [Thomas Watson]

THE PATH TO PEACE



NEW Tour and Exhibition at the Martyrs for 2018

Opening June

THE DOORS ARE OPEN!

On Friday 22 June 2018 the doors of our latest evangelistic outreach tool, The **WW1 ‘Path To Peace’ Tour**, were officially opened. While every detail had not yet been added, some witnessed for the first time the extensive work that has been engaged in to carry this project to the stage it currently occupies. A huge thank you to our team of willing workers for their incredible efforts!

During the course of our Luther / Reformation 500 Project, 600 schoolchildren visited our Church. To date, 150 children have come through our doors for this latest venture, with a very encouraging number of bookings comprising a further 300 children already received for the new school term. As last time, we are planning **several Open Days** in order to reach into the local community around Martyrs; the first of these will be on Saturday 28 July, commencing at 10.00am. Please invite your family and friends to this and continue to pray that the Lord will be magnified in all that is done.



FROM SIN CITY TO THE HILLS OF GOD

Text: **Galatians 5:19-26.**

Evangelical Anglican Guy H. King (until his retirement in 1956 he preached in Christ Church, Beckenham) had an unique description for these verses – ‘From The Slum To The Orchard.’ I am updating this to, ‘From Sin City To The Hills Of God.’

[1] IN SIN CITY THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE CONCENTRATED; 5:19-21.

These ‘houses’ in the City of Sin divide into 4 rows:

(a) HEDONISTIC HOUSES: Sexual sins, including:

- “*Adultery*”: any sexual activity outside of marriage – pre-/extra-marital sex, homosexuality, all forms of pornography;
- “*Fornication*”: the inner desire to experiment in these areas;
- “*Uncleanness*”: the impurity of lustful, profligate living;
- “*Lasciviousness*”: shameless in the pursuit and act of filthiness.

(b) HAUNTED HOUSES: Two broad terms are employed:

- “*Idolatry*”: refers to anything that becomes more important than God;
- “*Witchcraft*”: from a Greek word related to the English “pharmacy” – covering drug abuse, sorcery, necromancy, reincarnation, voodoo, etc..

(c) HORRIBLE HOUSES: A set of social sins:

- “*Hatred*”: a settled hostility that distorts all relationships;
- “*Variance*”: a sower of discord, one who cannot get along with people;
- “*Emulations*”: an old term for jealousy;
- “*Wrath*”: explosion into fits of rage;
- “*Strife*”: selfish ambition, carried forward by a fractious spirit;
- “*Seditious*”: those who cause divisions and dissensions, particularly those who enjoy causing trouble;
- “*Heresies*”: from the capture of a city, referring to factions that result from contrary opinions being forced on unified body;
- “*Envyings*”: that ugly sin that wants what others have and wishes they did not have it.

(d) HELLISH HOUSES: Sins of excess:

- “*Murders*”: the unlawful taking of life;
- “*Drunkenness*”: not only abuse of alcohol but its dominance;
- “*Revellings*”: revelries / wild parties.
 - (i) That this list of sins is not exhaustive, but suggestive, is seen in Paul’s term, “... *and such like*”;
 - (ii) however long the list is, these sins are obvious (“*manifest*”);
 - (iii) the same fate is shared by all the inhabitants of each of these houses – they “*shall not inherit the kingdom of God.*”

[2] AT THE GATE OUT OF SIN CITY, THE WORKS OF THE FLESH ARE CRUCIFIED; 5:22.

A gate exists in our text – a turning point. This is signalled by the word “but” at the start of **Galatians 5:22**. It is the “but” / intervention of the Cross! (cf. **Ephesians 2:1-4**, **Isaiah 38:17** and the pivotal point in Pilgrim’s Progress – the wicket gate).

[3] ON THE HILLS OF GOD, THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS CULTIVATED; 5:22-23.

The 9 virtues enumerated by these verses are not “fruits” of the Spirit, but the “fruit” of the Spirit – like a cluster of grapes, they delineate what a true Christian life looks like:

(a) FRUIT THAT GROWS UPWARDS:

- “*Love*”: a kind affection that reaches out to God and to others expecting nothing in return;
- “*Joy*”: godly optimism even in trying circumstances;
- “*Peace*”: godly contentment despite upheavals.

(b) FRUIT THAT GROWS OUTWARDS:

- “*Longsuffering*”: courageous endurance through difficult circumstances (cf. **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**; **Hebrews 12:3**).
- “*Gentleness*”: a gracious disposition towards others (cf. **2 Samuel 22:36**; **Psalm 18:35**; Jesus was strong but gentle).
- “*Goodness*”: love in action (**Acts 10:38**; **Hebrews 13:16**).

(c) FRUIT THAT GROWS INWARDS:

- “*Faith*”: in this case, faithfulness / dependability;
- “*Meekness*”: which means that our power is under God’s control – the ability to respond with kindness under provocation.
- “*Temperance*”: self control in our desires.