

Title: Man Redeemed Is Man At War

Text: Galatians 5:16-18

Main Idea: When God redeems us He sets at war with our old sin nature.

Division Statements:

1. Man redeemed is man at war with himself (v. 17).

The word translated “contrary” is ἀντίκειται a verb occurring in the present middle indicative voice, which is reflexive in meaning and speaks of an ongoing/continual opposition. The word speaks of those who are hostile, enemies, adversaries, and stand in opposition against each other. Thus we have the doctrine of mortification clearly in view in this verse.

2. God’s command in this war: “Walk in the Spirit” (v. 16).

“Walk”, περιπατέω, means to “walk” in the sense of “conducting one’s life” in a certain manner. Once again it is in the present indicative, indicating continual action.

3. God’s strategy for victory in this war (v. 18):

The following is meant to be a very practical three step strategy to explain how a person actually walks day by day in the Spirit. It draws the listener back to the final verse in our text explaining how to be “led by the Spirit” without grieving Him.

a. Systematic starvation of the flesh (Rom. 13:14).

b. Fill up the vacancy with the word of God (Rom. 8:5-6).

c. Be led by the Spirit through the hearing of faith (Gal. 3:5; 5:18).

Bridging From Text To Sermon

Textual Idea: Paul describes the internal warfare of the child of God.

Sermon Proposition: When God redeems us He sets at war with our old sin nature.

Interrogative: What is the nature of this warfare and how is it waged?

Transition: There are three elements to our warfare described in this text.

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