Doctrinal Studies Bible Church PT: Ron Adema

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Study: Book of Galatians

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AN ETERNAL INHERITANCE

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Our lesson title comes from Heb.9:15:

"For this reason He is the mediator of a **new covenant**, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the **eternal** (aionios) **inheritance** (kleronomia)."

Our lesson comes from a statement Paul made in Gal.5:21b:

"And things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

- **First**, this statement comes from the theme, **Spiritual Freedom in Christ**, based on Gal.5:1-26 (Gal.5:1, 13).
- Second, this statement comes from the context of spirituality verses carnality in the Christian Way of Life (CW), of (Gal.5:13-26).

The Greek word sarx (flesh/ OSN) is used six times in this passage. It is never used in (Gal.5:1-2) because the OSN is not an issue in the life of an unsaved person. (Rom.6:20-23).

This lesson will study three aspects of Eternal Inheritance and what Paul meant by "those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God."

1. It is important to keep this statement in context with Paul's teaching on our Eternal Inheritance

- Paul taught that carnality and spirituality were only issues in the Christian's life (CWL) because only the Church Age Believer (CAB) has two opposing natures: old sin natures:
 - o The Old Sin Nature and walking in submission to its lust trends (Carnality)
 - o The Indwelling Holy Spirit and walking in submission to His desires (Spiritual) (Gal.516-18; Rom.8:9; Jude 19 and Gal.5:19-26).
 - o Both natures are known by what they produce
- Paul taught that spiritual freedom allows the Church Age Believer (CAB) to choose whether to walk by The Spirit or to walk by the flesh (Gal.5:16-17).
 - o The Directive Will of God for the Church Age Believer (CAB) is walk by Spirit (peripateo/p.a.impv.2pl).
- Paul taught that when a Church Age Believer (CAB) lives in habitual carnality; he is disciplined by the Lord (Heb.12:5-11).
 - He also taught that habitual carnality results in reversionism (Prov.14:14; Eph.4:17-21; 1 John 1:9).
- Paul taught that habitual reversionism results in the Sin Unto Death which shortens the believer's time on earth. (1 John 5:16; Heb.12:6; 1 Pet.2:11-12; Acts 5).

2. Paul taught that every Church Age Believer (CAB) is given an Eternal Inheritance in the New Covenant package of Grace Salvation (50 Things of Salvation) (Heb.9:15).

It is part of the <u>twenty status privileges</u> (Gal.3:27; 2 Cor.5:17). **Joint heirs** and **eternal inheritance** in Christ are two of 20 status privileges (Rom.8:15-17; Gal.4:4-7).

Eternal inheritance is guaranteed by the sealing and earnest salvation ministry of Holy Spirit (Eph.1:13-14).

It is described as imperishable, undefiled, will not fade away, and reserved in heaven (1 Pet.1:3-4; Eph.1:18).

3. Paul is teaching contextually that the Church Age Believer (CAB) who lives in habitual carnality, reversionism will not experience the benefits of his/ her inheritance in the kingdom of God, while still alive in their walk of their Christian Way of Life (CWL).

This doctrinal concept is captured by the Greek grammar of the articulate participle (hoi prasso/p.a.ptc.nplm).

• Prasso is a <u>substantial participle</u> and is part of a subject phrase, "those who practice such things." The verb is "shall not inherit (me klernomeo/ f.a.ind.3pl)." "Kingdom of God' is accusative or the direct object.

Remember that "such things" is the list of the fifteen sins mentioned as part of a larger list "and things like these." (Gal.5:19-21)

• The kingdom of God <u>does not have</u> definite articles. This shifts the emphasis to the characteristics or benefits of one's inheritance of the kingdom of God rather than referring to the actual Kingdom of God (Eternal).

An example would be the Exodus believers (Jewish Age Believers) whose carcasses fell in the wilderness. These believers did not benefit from the inheritance of the Promised Land (Heb.3-4; **3:17**; 1 Cor.5:7; Ex.12:5-7; 1 Pet.1:19 and John 1:29).