

Works of the Flesh / Fruit of the Spirit

Part 19

Scripture: Galatians 5:16-26

Scripture Reading: Ezekiel 18:20-24

INTRO:

Thank you for that scripture reading. Again if you are still in Ezekiel Verse 21 says;

"But if a wicked man turns from all his sins which he has committed, keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die.

And then verse 22;

"None of the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; because of the righteousness which he has done, he shall live.

Are these not wonderful words of life? Words that show us the great mercies of God, in pardoning our sin so that we may live.

But not only do we get the words of great mercy from this passage we also get a great warning from verse 25 which says:

"But when a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, and does according to all the abominations that the wicked man does, shall he live? All the righteousness which he has done shall not be remembered; because of the unfaithfulness of which he is guilty and the sin which he has committed, because of them he shall die.

Well, in the last while, we have been looking at the unrighteous works of the flesh in Galatians chapter 5, and today we have come to the last one...

And really... this really is the last one, I promise, other than the conclusion which will come next time, this is the final works of the flesh we will be looking at. And the reason I had to make this one a message all its own, is because Paul gives us a very open-ended kind of phrase at the end of his list. That after giving his works of the flesh list in Galatians chapter 5, from verse 19 and halfway through 21, he simply concludes his list by giving us the words 'and the like'.

19. AND THE LIKE

And the thinking is, what kind of conclusion is Paul giving with the words 'and the like'... we may think it is a comparison to or an

extension to the final one in the list which was revelries? That his thinking is ‘revelries and the like’?

Or, is the phrase ‘and the like’ a link to the final two of the list, which includes drunkenness and revelries that are so often found together in other scriptures and in the world. That it pertains to all the things that are associated and come with the sin of drunkenness and revelries. drunkenness, revelries and the like, meaning that which we saw in the previous message and can include all kinds of immorality and debauchery.

Or, is Paul talking about the entire list, all the things of the whole list and then makes the statement that extends this entire list to any and all other forms of sins that are not covered in these categories of these verses, but that there are things ‘like’ the things in this list that are also works of the flesh that keep us from the kingdom of heaven?

Well the Hendrickson interlinear bible and the ESV translate this section by saying;

And things like these.

An interpretation that gives the impression and understanding that it’s not only the last things of this list that Paul was think about, but that he takes into consideration the entire list and implies that there are

many more works of the flesh that keep people from the kingdom of God than just this list.

That even after Paul gives us this 17-word list of works of the flesh he simply concludes the list by saying ‘and the like’ or as some translations say ‘and things like these’ and leaves the list essentially open ended to what we find in the rest of scripture. Because the question that then arises is ‘what are we to add to that list’? Where and what else do we find in scripture that ‘is like this list’. Well, he really left it open to the reader of what such other things would be, didn’t he.

However one thing we can be thankful for, is that we don’t have just this one single letter of Paul, we have all the letters and scripture of history that God has allowed us to have. We have all of the Old Testament, all of the New Testament with the gospels, and letters of Paul and Peter, and of James and Jude and John, all these writings in one book we call the bible and with such a complete book, we can find other things like this list in its pages.

And so if we look at some of the other places of scripture that talk about such things we can go to such places such as Paul’s other list that is found in 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verses 10 and 11.

Here we have a list that he gave to the Corinthians, many things of that list are duplicated in the list of Galatians but there are some sins in the Corinthian list that are missing from the Galatian list.

But one thing is the same and that is, it also comes with the same condemnation of not entering that eternal life if these sins are practiced.

And do not worry, we will not spend an entire message on each one of these, this message is only to expound on the words ‘and the like’ of Galatians chapter 5, verse 21 and give us a reminder that there are many more things that can hinder us or keep us from entering the Kingdome of God because of sin.

And to start us off, 1 Corinthians chapter 6 verses 9 and 10 read;

9 ¶ Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites,

10 nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God.

Now as I said there are some duplicates in this list when compared to Galatians but the first one we find in the list here that is not in Galatians is ‘the unrighteous’.

Verse 9 begins with the words ‘do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?’ and if you are following along in your outlines this one goes into the first blank line of number 1, and you will need to fill in the others as they follow. Now, we should all know what the word righteous means... it means to do right, so the word unrighteous should refer to the one who does not do what is right, and that is how the Online Bible Greek Lexicon dictionary defines it saying;

Descriptive of one who violates or has violated justice.

Of one who deal fraudulently or deceitfully with others.

EOQ

It has the meaning of ‘not doing what is right’ according to the dictionary, and as the passage in Corinthians begins by saying that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God. And since Paul is writing to the church, to believers, it is then the one who stays in his unrighteousness or unjust state who will not enter God’s kingdom.

Listen, if such a one remains unchanged after accepting the gospel,

unchanged by the good news of salvation that is offered by Christ and that their unrighteousness has not changed into righteousness since they have become a Christian, then such a one will not see eternal life in God's kingdom.

The next one in the Corinthian list here is thieves, it denotes those who steal or pilfer, a person who take things that do not belong to them. And I think that one of the most critical things about the sin of thieving is not so much the monetary value of the theft, but what is the intent of the heart.

I'm sure we have all accidentally put something into our pocket and walked away. That is not necessarily thieving, but if we put it in our pocket with the intent of stealing and walking away, that is theft.

It's not necessarily the money value that is at stake, but what is in the heart with intent. To explain this I will quote from a series I did years ago titled 'The Library of God' and in message number 7 I said;

As our text talks about thieves and perjurers we may think it doesn't apply to us, I mean we just don't walk into stores and steal things that are not ours, I hope

not, but how do you file your income taxes, are there gray areas in you expense claims?

How do you respond when the accountant says "you'll be fine with this claim as long as they don't audit you for it" do you go ahead with that... hoping the government won't find out?

Or on a smaller scale, what if you leave the store and you know the cashier has made an error in your favor or over paid you in change, do you think 'my gain their loss' or 'its just my lucky day' or do you go back and correct it?

if you know about it that is theft. And God will judge all thieves.

Big things, little things, taking anything that isn't yours is theft. just because there are loopholes in the tax system doesn't mean its ok. just because your boss owns a large company and would never notice some of the small things that go missing out of inventory doesn't make it ok.

Children just because your parents don't catch you taking things that aren't yours it is still stealing.

We all feel violated when things get stolen from us but somehow we don't have that same sense of violation when we can squeeze some extra crooked dollars out of government or an unsuspecting boss or things from our parents.

EOQ

It all has to do with what is the intent of my heart, do I think its only the government and they would never notice, do I think it's a big company and they owe it to me, or it's a big store if they over changed me and its simply my gain. What is your heart ok with is the real question. Its what's is in the heart is what matters, just as Hebrews 4:12 says.

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

And if your intent is to steel, just remember it is the Lord who said that thieves will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Another one in the list that can be related to thieving is covetous, that combination of jealousy and thieving, it's that want or desire to have what another already has and then seeks the means to obtain it for

oneself. It also comes along the lines of greed and a desire for gain. Exodus chapter 20 verse 17 says;

"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's."

And the idea behind covetous is not so much to have what the others have but the word actually comes from two words, one meaning 'to have' and the other meaning 'greater in quantity', and as the Online Bible Greek Lexicon defines it as;

One eager to have more especially what belongs to others. Or one greedy for gain.

Not simply jealous but that it is the greed for more and as the definition says 'especially when it belongs to others'. We are not to be covetous; it is a sin that keeps one from the kingdom of God.

The last two in Paul's list in Corinthians chapter 6 are revilers and extortioners, and revilers as Vine's dictionary says; it 'denotes abuse', and as the Encarta dictionary says are those who;

Make a fierce or abusive verbal attack on somebody or something.

Something like this could definitely come along with the sin of outbursts of wrath, or from such things as hatred, contentions, envy, drunkenness, and even revelries, all these can be the root of somebody caught in such sin as being a reviler, being that verbal abusive person.

But we must remember, a reviler does not mean that they are necessarily yelling or shouting, no, a reviler can revile someone in the softest of voices and be done in the quietist of whispers.

Just as the Psalmist says in Psalm 41 verse 7;

All who hate me whisper together against me; Against me they devise my hurt.

Listen, just because evil things are spoken of in soft tones doesn't mean you are excused from reviling another person.

And then extortioners, a word meaning those who thief and steal through means of using force, threats or other sinful means of extracting the things they want, be it money, information, physical things or services.

And it is interesting that these last three are also used in Paul's outlines for excommunication in 1 Corinthians chapter 5 verse 11, the verse reads;

11 But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is sexually immoral, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner—not even to eat with such a person.

And why are we not to eat with such persons, because the sins they are practicing are sins that will keep them from the kingdom of God. And they need to repent of them. Because if they are left to fellowship with the rest of the church, as if nothing is wrong, they would never come to the realization that their sin will keep them from the fellowship of God for all eternity.

And just as a note here to those who may not agree with a literal form of excommunication, listen literal excommunication is done, not to be cruel or mean to the person, but that this earthly separation is only a small illustration of what their eternal separation from God will look like for all eternity if they do not change. And eternal separation from God means only one other thing... eternity in hell.

Well, as I said these are just a brief overview of some of the other sins Paul mentions in Corinthians as those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

If we move onward to the book of Hebrews, we find that in chapter 12 verse 14 it also talks about those who will not see God. Verse 14 of chapter 12 says;

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

If you are filling in the blanks the sin would be called ‘without holiness’, and I think this is a most interesting verse, in that it is not about something we do, that keeps us from seeing the Lord but of something we fail to do.

As Warren Wiersbe writes in his commentary

As we run the Christian race, what is our goal? The writer explained the goal *here in this verse; Peace with all men, and holiness* before the Lord.

And It requires diligence to run the race successfully lest we "fail of the grace of God".

God's grace does not fail, but we can fail to take advantage of His grace.

EOQ

If we fail to take advantage of the grace of God in allowing it to make us whole, we will continue to be unholy before the Lord. And if we continue to be unholy before the Lord, the verse says we will not see the Lord. If you remember from past messages, what is the definition of holy or holiness?

It is separation; we are to be separated unto God, in being a holy people, a separated people unto our Lord, separated from this world and from sin. Just as Paul quotes the Lord in 2 Corinthians chapter 6 verse 17 saying;

Therefore "Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you."

Meaning that we as Christians are to be separated from the world and its sins.

Moving on, into the next verse of Hebrews chapter 12 verse 15 the author also says;

looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;

as Warren Wiersbe says; God's grace does not fail, but we can fail to depend on God's grace. If we fail to depend on God's grace and allow ourselves to become filled with bitterness, we can become defiled, and we will fail to meet the requirements of God and fall short, not only in grace but in entering heaven, and yes, contrary to popular opinion these days, there are requirements of getting to heaven.

Because if you are expecting to go to heaven, there things you cannot do in this lifetime.

Just listen to this popular opinion by author Bill Perkins in his latest newsletter from Compass International, speaking about Romans chapter 8 verses 38 and 39 about how nothing can separate us from the love of God he says this;

This means a human, who is a created being, cannot even choose to leave God! Salvation is a one-way street. You may break God's heart with your sin, but He is faithful to never leave you.

God is so awesome that He tells us we can live our lives boldly serving the Lord KNOWING we are saved and headed to heaven. We can't even mess it up! Jesus did it all. Pinch me!

EOQ

And yes someone should pinch him with the truth of God' word.
Think of it according to Bill you 'cannot even choose to leave God'
'it's a one-way street' 'you can't even mess it up'. Well why then did
Jesus himself say in Matthew chapter 7 verse 14;

*...narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to
life, and there are few who find it.*

And Paul, who says in the verses we are looking at;

*...that those who practice such things will not inherit the
kingdom of God.*

Listen, if you are a Christian and you live in such sins as we have
been looking at, not only are you breaking God's heart, but as the
verses we are looking at, you're not going to heaven either.

There was an interesting quote I heard some time ago and it went like
this;

'You are not eternally secure until you are secured in
eternity'

All of these sins we have looked at over the last few months are sins
that if left alone are sins we willfully commit or live in and will keep

us from heaven. This is why I have told you over and over again to look at your heart, and look at the things we hold deep down in the dark places of our soul, and make sure we do not harbor or entertain such things inside of us. Because it is such things that if we let them grow into works of the flesh or willful sin, they will keep us from Gods kingdom.

I don't know how people of the popular opinion read their bibles, but when I read it, I see that there are certain sins in my life I have to get rid of in order to see Jesus.

And if we speak about Jesus, we can turn in our bible to the book of Revelation chapter 21. And look at the next group of 'things like these' and I'll begin reading Jesus words starting from verse 6 he says;

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts.

7 "He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

Now aren't those encouraging words of Jesus? That He promises to us that he who overcomes shall inherit all things, that we have the promise of Jesus being our God but even more so, that we shall be His son... or daughters, forever, is that not a wonderful promise.

But listen to the next verse, this is still Jesus speaking, and He says this;

8 "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

Now look at number one in the verse ‘cowardly’, I mean number 2 is no problem to comprehend that all unbelievers will have their part in the lake of fire. God cannot forgive unbelief unless you repent from your unbelief. But look at the first one, cowardly, have you ever thought about this one? That cowards will have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone? I have often puzzled on why this one is first in Jesus’ list here in Revelation.

Well it is Jesus who also said in Mark chapter 8 verse 38;

"For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels."

And then also in Matthew chapter 10 verses 32 and 33 saying;

"Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven."

33 "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.

And maybe we need to ask ourselves, how am I with my faith when questioned by others, how do I react when my faith is tested by people of this world?

When people ask you ‘do you really believe this Jesus stuff... that He is God... became a man... walked on the earth and died for your sins... and that he arose again from the dead’ you really believe this stuff? How do you respond?

Or how about when other Christians ask you about some of the doctrines you believe asking ‘do you really believe what your pastor says about issues we have been looking at’, that you can walk away from God, that you can do thing that can keep you from heaven’ how do you how do you respond.. do you cower and hide or are you like Paul when, he describes himself in Romans chapter 1 verse 16 where he says;

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

The just shall live by faith, and not as cowards, not in the sins of this world, but we are to walk in the faith of our savior Jesus Christ and not in the flesh of our former self as or as cowards?

The next word in Jesus' list is abominable.

The word abominable is described in the Online Bible Greek Lexicon as something as;

To render foul, to cause to be abhorred, to turn one's self away from on the account of the stench.

To abhor or detest.

This is what our sins are to God, and even more so if we call ourselves believers and continue in such sins as we have been looking at. We cannot continue in the sins of our past they are an abhorrence to God, just as J Vernon McGee said when I quoted him in the previous message.

After we have been converted, we would be very foolish to spend our lives in the things which we did before. In fact, we cannot do that. We are now joined to Christ; we are united to Him, and we cannot run with the world to sinning. We must live today for God...

Life is short; time is fleeting, and we must recognize that we are going to come before Him for judgment before long.

He says it would be foolish to do the things we did before. Why? Because those things are abominable to the Lord.

Sin is an abhorrence to God. And those who continue in them will not see the kingdom of heaven.

Another one in the list is the sexual immoral however the word used here is not porneia as what we looked at in the third message of this series, but pornos por'-nos Strong's #4205 and is defined in the Online Bible Greek Lexicon *first* definition as;

1) a man who prostitutes his body to another's lust for hire

This pornos por'-nos Strong's #4205 as the Online Bible Greek Lexicon says is akin to the base word of piprasko pip-ras'-ko Strong's #4097 which simply means 'to sell'.

If you remember from the messages I did on Esau and how the author of Hebrews used this word as an illustration of Esau's life and used the word, por'-nos depicting a man who, not only sold his birthright but 'sold himself for his own belly, sold himself for his own desire.' Not as 'Porneia' as a man who has illegitimate relations before

marriage but ‘Pronos’ as a man selling himself or in the case of Esau he sold his birth right, which is in a sense he sold himself for earthly selfish gain.

And lastly in this verse of Revelation Jesus says liars, all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone,

It’s something that can be as simple as a slip of the tongue, to a life style ruled by it, whichever it is we need to abhor it, repent from it and run from the sin of lying. If we are prone to such sin let us remember Psalm 120 verse 2 which says;

Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips And from a deceitful tongue.

Or as 119 verse 29;

Remove from me the way of lying And grant me Your law graciously.

Lying, He says, all liars will have their place in the lake of fire and never see that everlasting kingdom of God.

And if there is one thing I could encourage you parents this morning with is to teach your children the severity of lying, the destruction of lying, and the end result of where liars go in the end. You see when

we call them little white lies, or say they are just fibbing we simply sugar coat the sin, because will not find those terms or excuses in the bible.

And then along with lying it is Jesus, in the book of Matthew chapter 7 verses 21 to 23 which are a prelude to the teachings of chapter 25 in what we call the sheep and goat judgment, Jesus says to the people before him starting in verse 21 of Matthew chapter 7;

"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

22 "Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?'

23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

He says to those who practiced Lawlessness ‘depart from me I never knew you’, and yet these are people who were professors of the faith, they walked as Christians and talked like Christians but lived a life of

deception and lies and practiced lawlessness according to the verse.
And as the Online Bible Greek Lexicon defines Lawlessness it says;

1 the condition of without law; because of ignorance of it or; because of violating it.

And under definition number 2) it says

contempt and violation of law, iniquity and wickedness.

Listen, one cannot live contrary to God's law and expect to enter the kingdom, we cannot expect that if we reject the words of Jesus and His commandments that we somehow get a pass to heaven just because we 'say' we are Christians. Its not going to happen, and any person who reads objectively, and I mean truly objectively looks at the scriptures to what it says will understand what it means to enter the kingdom of God.

Now there will be those who will listen to this message and the previous messages of this series and say; my my preacher, you sure know how to make Christianity sound pretty rule binding and legalistic in how to get to heaven. To which I would say, when you look at these lists of the works of the flesh, at the whole of scripture how can one not become rule binding and legalistic about sin.

How can we go on in the sins of our past life when the word of God shows us the severity of continuing in such sins and the consequences of them! We can't... we can't.

The scriptures are chalk full of warnings and tells us of sins that keep such a one from the Kingdome of heaven if they are practiced.

Listen, turn to the book of 2 Peter, 2 Peter chapter 2 starting in verse 1, Peter here talks about the false prophets of the Old Testament and the false teachers of the church age, beginning in verse 1 he says;

But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

And now note verse 2 and especially the second half of the verse;

2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

Because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. What did Jesus call Himself in John chapter 14 verse 6 He says;

‘I am the Way, I am the truth, I am the life, and No one comes to the Father... Except through Me’.

And now here in 2 Peter, Peter warns us of false teachers that will be among us, in and among the churches, and what is it that they will do... secretly bring in destructive heresies, and if you remember heresies is that taking of an opinion, a view contrary to the word of God, and what is this secret destructive heresy... denying the Lord, in blaspheming the way of truth.

Blaspheming the way to God in denying what His word says about coming to the Father, and they preach some other Jesus, some other way, and give you excuses to the sin your living in and have you thinking your still going to heaven.

There is only one way to heaven, and that is through the Lord Jesus Christ, any other way or with any other teaching or by any other heresy will only end in your destruction. If you think you can live in known sin and still profess to love Jesus, listen, you are loving a different Jesus. If you think that your sin is ok in the eyes of God and it is covered by some exception clause and you think you still go to heaven, listen you are worshiping a different god. You are following the god of this world and not the God of Heaven.

Because if you are still in the book of 2 Peter go down to verse 18 and remember, he is still speaking about these false teachers in the

church age... and the people he's writing to, and starting in verse 18 Peter says;

For when they (these false prophets) when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error (these are those who have come out of their sins).

19 While they (these false prophets) promise them (the ones who escaped) liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.

20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

And now listen to verse 21 carefully;

21 For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them.

Listen what Peter is saying is harsh, he says that for a person, who has come out of the world and knows the way of righteousness (and I believe it speaks of their salvation according to verse 1), and then goes

back and turns away from that truth ,goes back to the worldly ways of sin and pleasures... it will be worse for them in the end then if they never believed in the first place.

Listen, this is one who hears the truth, believes the truth and has been bought by the Lord and now adopts some destructive heresy and begins to entangle themselves and others with such false teachings of the world, and listen Peter says it would have been better had they never known the truth because now they are twice as lost as before.

Because Peter then concludes with verse 22 by saying;

22 But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Peter talks about those who go back to the pollutions of the world, Peter talks about those who find some teaching that allows them to indulge again in the ways of the world and still think they are going to heaven. And by now after 19 of these messages I hope that you see that this kind of thinking is not true.

That there are sins in this world, that if you live in them, and practice them, and indulge in them, then you will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Just as Paul tells the church In Galatia in chapter 5 verse 13 as the ESV reads;

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh,

And then he gives us a list of works of the flesh and then concludes with the words, that;

...those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

And I don't know if it can get more plain and simple then that, we have covered many things in Paul's list, we have looked at many dark and deep things of the heart, and of the many things that can originate in the soul as the small seeds of sin in the believer. And all of them come together in the final warnings of scripture, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. They will not see the Lord, but that they will all have their place in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

And so on conclusion for today, we have looked at how Paul's list of Galatians chapter 5 extends much further into scripture than just this one list, that when he says the words 'and the like', we know that there are more things he was thinking about when he was writing this list. That there are other areas of sin, other areas of scripture that are like things in this list, things that we are warned about in God's word.

And if one is truly looking to live a life of righteousness one must take in account all of the words of scripture.

That we would really take to heart the words of Jesus when He said;

..."It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.'"

How many words of God? Every word. That we would continue to look at every word and not just pick and choose the passages we want to hear and continue to think we are going to heaven. Well may the Lord bless us as we continue to read his word, continue in prayer and walk in faith so that we may enjoy the peace that comes only from God.