**Life Team Bible Study:** For the week of February 4 – One Thing

**Suggested schedule:** This is all flexible

* 15 minutes: Gathering / Refreshments
* 15 minutes: Prayer
* 30-45 minutes: Discussion of the lesson
* 15-30 minutes: Refreshments

**HANG**

* What is your favorite thing about a having a good friend?
* What are some things you can do to encourage a friendship?
* How can a group like this be helpful in your spiritual growth?

**HEAR**

On Sunday’s we have been in a series about Philippians. This past week from Philippians 2, we talked about Jesus great sacrifice for us and the process of becoming more like Jesus from. Written by Paul, the themes in the letter are found in other Pauline letters. One of those is Galatians 5.

Similar to Philippians, in Galatians 5 – Paul gives us powerful reminders and instruction on hearing knowing God’s will for our life.

**Paul is writing to churches in Galatia – who were turning from the truth to a lie – this was a personal, passionate response for the gospel.**

**In Galatians, Paul exposes two missteps Christians tend to have:**

* Legalism (rules, rules, rules)
* License (the fear of the legalist – little to no personal restrictions)

**THE WALK**

**Galatians 5:13-16**

* Have you been guilty of either Legalism or license? How?
* What does that look like in someone?
* We are “walk in the spirit” – what does that mean?

**To walk in the spirit is -** To recognize the voice or moving of the Spirit in you and learn to follow and yield to his influence in our life

* How can you tell if you are walking in the Spirit? Paul is about to tell us.

**THE WAR**

**Galatians 5:17-18**

**There is a battle going on inside between your flesh and the Spirit**

* Who is winning battle inside you? If you don’t realize this – you will lose
* It says if we are “lead of the Spirit” we no longer need rules, what does that mean?

**THE FLESH AT WORK: The evidence (Paul breaks it into 4 categories)**

The next verses tells us how to know if your losing the battle.

**Galatians 5:19-21**

**1 – In our Sex life - 19 …sexual immorality, and debauchery;**

**2 – In our Spiritual life - 20 idolatry and witchcraft**

**3 - In our Relational life - 20 …hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, 21 and envy; (Murder not in NIV - not in older manuscripts)**

**4 - In our Social life – things committed with others - 21 … drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

* Does the world give a pass on most of these things? How? The world gives free reign of these things – these things are evidence of the inner war in people

**When we read those things – do we tend to make rules. A list of - “do not’s”**

But that is not the point, Paul is simply saying, this is what the flesh likes and wants to feed on. Basically, if this is your lifestyle, you need Jesus – this is evidence that you have not received God’s Spirit / Salvation.

**THE SPIRIT AT WORK: The evidence** **that God is at work in you …**

**Galatians 5:22-23**

**When we read those things – do we tend to make rules for things - “to do”**

But that is not the point – Paul is simply saying, this is what it looks like when we are walking in the Spirit. We are to “walk in the Spirit” not rules.

**Galatians 5:24-25**

* According to that verse how do we go from works of the flesh to fruit of the Spirit?

**Want to kill the flesh? Here is how (according to Galatians 5)**

1. **Belong to Jesus**
2. **Christ crucified the old man – now we are to crucify the flesh**

* What does that mean – crucify the flesh?
* It has been said - You will either put to death sin, or your sin will be the death of you. What do you think that means? You don’t defeat the flesh by focusing on it – you defeat the flesh by focusing on the Spirit (Jesus) - Don’t chase the effects - Chase Jesus and flesh dies along with its affects.
* **God is not a principle we live by – He is a person we live with**

Spend time with Jesus – you end up looking like Jesus. When you try looking like Jesus without being with him – that is the work of the flesh – and we fail.

1. **Remember this is a process – it is not automatic.**

It’s a lifelong crucifixion, but its power gets weaker and weaker

* Fruit develops grows slowly (orange, 2-3 yrs from planting) Over time. Something’s will take time – why is that comforting for us?

**Philippians 1:6**

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**Galatians 5:19-21**

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**2 – In our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**3 - In our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**4 - In our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

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