Continued from Page 1

thyself" is also called the "Royal law" (James 2:8). One way that we can fulfil the law of Christ and the royal law is by bearing one another's burdens. To bear another's burden is to help and aid our fellow man through the burdens and difficulties of life. If Christians are not under law, then how can we fulfil the law of Christ and the royal law? Notice this follows the context of "the fruit of the Spirit." When a person applies the principles of "the fruit of the Spirit," there will be a mutual bearing of burdens.

In James 1:25, James wrote, "But whose looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." Contextually, "the perfect law of liberty" is "the word of truth" (1:18), "the engrafted word" (1:21), and "the word" (1:22). Each of these have reference to New Testament law — the teaching of the gospel of Christ. It is the perfect law because it fulfills Old Testament law, and it is the final and complete revelation of God (Jude 3). It is "the law of liberty" because it liberates man from sin and the penalty of sin — death (Romans 8:2; 1 Peter 1:22-23). The term "law of liberty" is paradoxical. By its very nature law regulates and restrains, but liberty is freedom. This paradoxical attribute is woven throughout the New Testament. Jesus said, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32). However, we are "unprofitable servants" and call Jesus "Lord, Lord" (Luke 17:10; 6:46).

Another way that we can know we are under law is by the fact that all men have sinned (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8,10). One definition of sin is found in 1 John 3:4 which says, "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law." Without law, there is no sin. Paul wrote, "sin is not imputed when there is no law." The works of the flesh are violations of Divine law. With this in mind, think of the consequences of stating we are not under law. If we are not under law, then men have not sinned. If men have not sinned, then we need no Savior. And, if we need no Savior, then Jesus Christ died in vain. Clearly, the opposite is true. "All have sinned." Therefore, all need a Savior.

"The fruit of the Spirit" is made up of qualities to which all men should aspire. They are qualities that need no law, need no regulation, and need no restraint. *(Edited for space)*

Church of Christ PO Box 458 Marshfield. MO 65706

March 10, 2019





"Against Such There Is No Law"

by Chuck Northrop

In Galatians 5:22-23 and Ephesians 5:9, there are eleven characteristics of "the fruit of the Spirit." Each individual attribute is important, and the singular fruit will only be perfect when all eleven qualities have part in the produce of the Spirit. An apple is red, sweet, and



juicy, but an apple that is not juicy is lacking. So it is with the fruit of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, righteousness, and truth, but if any of these qualities are lacking, then the fruit is not perfect. Therefore, as Christians, we must strive to have each of these attributes for even if only one is lacking, then we cannot be as the Lord desires us to be.

As Paul brings his thoughts concerning "the fruit of the Spirit" to a conclusion, by inspiration of God, he gives one last vital piece of information — "against such there is no law." There are laws against almost everything imaginable. Laws regulate business and games, morals and ethics, civil governments and citizens of civil governments. Laws exist in nearly every realm of the activities of men — commercial, occupational, relationships, family, and religion. And man has lived under law since the beginning of creation. Adam and Eve and their descendants up until the giving of the law of Moses lived under patriarchal law. The nation of Israel lived under Mosaic law. And since the time of the cross of Christ, all men live under New Testament law. Though laws are given to regulate, there are no laws to regulate "the fruit of the Spirit." and there are no laws to regulate the individual characteristics of the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, righteousness, and truth. There is no situation, and there are no circumstances in which the individual qualities of fruit of the Spirit cannot be practiced. These are universal qualities because they ought to be practiced by all men of every age and in every nation and place on earth.

Because there are no laws against the fruit of the Spirit, some have erroneously concluded that Christians do not live under law. Such is not the case. Clearly Christians live under the law of Christ. Consider these examples: In Romans 8:2, Paul wrote, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." Contextually, Paul wrote of three laws: (1) "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus," (2) "the law of sin and death," and (3) "the law" (verse 3). "The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" is the New Testament. "The law of sin and death" was enacted when Adam and Eve sinned and were driven out of the garden of Eden. It is the principle which states that if a person sins, he or she will die (see also Romans 6:23 and Ezekiel 18:20). "The law" of verse 3 is the Mosaic law. "The law" could not remove sin. It was impotent in dealing with sin. It could not free man from "the law of sin and death." However, "the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus" could and has made us "free from the law of sin and death." When a person obeys the gospel of Christ, he or she is set free from sin and death (see also 1 Peter 1:22-23).

In Galatians 6:2, Paul wrote, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ." Jesus said, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" (Matthew 22:37-39). In order to fulfill the law of Christ, we must love God and love one another. The command to "love thy neighbour as

Continued on p. 4

Privileged to Serve

Worship Coordinator: Steve Crews Announcements: Ron Peck

Sunday AM

Before Service Greeters: Thad & Patsy Layne After Services Greeters: John & Marcie Marchand Songleader: Jerry Cruise Lord's Table *Randy Hyder, Travis Hampton, Daniel Hyder, Luther Sheppard Opening Prayer: Daylon

Kanenkieter

Closing Prayer: Justin Kanengieter

Sermon: Chuck Northrop

Sunday PM

Before & After Services Greeters: Dean & Helen Buman Songleader: Scot Greer

Lord's Table: TerryMcMasters

Opening Prayer: Alan Lamb Closing Prayer: Elvis Heistand Sermon: Rick Bright

Wed. Night

Before & After Services Greeters: Randy & Becky Hyder Devotional: Jeff Fisher Songleader: Jerry Branstetter Prayer: William Wood

News and Announcements:

Welcome Visitors

Please leave a record of your visit by filling out a visitor's card and placing it in the collection plate.



We Rejoice with the Greer family at the baptism and new birth of Wyatt Thursday night, March 7. We welcome Wyatt to the family of God. Please pray for Wyatt as grows in Christ and in Christ's service.

Guest Speaker: Chuck Northrop will be speaking today. He is the director of the Online Academy of Biblical Studies.

Prior to his new work, Chuck was an instructor for the Bible Institute of Missouri in Springfield, Missouri. He has also served as an instructor for the Midwest School of Biblical Studies in Independence, Missouri, the Oklahoma School of Biblical Studies in Chandler, Oklahoma, and the Kiev School of Preaching in Kiev, Ukraine.

Help Wanted: Singing today starting at Webco 2:00, Marshfield Place 3:00 and Marshfield Care Center 3:30.



Business Meeting 4:15 today: All men invited and encouraged to participate.

Fair Haven will come to pick up food and other items on March 14.



On your Agenda!

Kid Sing starts at 6 p.m. this evening.

Luncheon Planning: Non-widows will meet at 8:30 March 28 to complete planning the widow/widower luncheon.

Fellowship Dinner after morning worship. Cathy Thompson's group will have kitchen duty.

Fordland Youth Night is next Sunday. They will also have a meeting for teens and adults on Saturday, March 16, from 12:00-5:00. Their theme is "Identity."



March 17—Youth Night March 24—Youth Focus April 12—Widow/Widowers Luncheon May 5— "All Out Day" For Friends and Family

Questions and Answers:

In Romans 15:17, the apostle Paul had reason to do what? Paul and Aquila were both of what trade? Acts 18:1-3

Remember in Prayer:

The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much. James 5:16

* indicates members at Marshfield

Greg Bright is improving and was able to stand with assistance.

Ken Cooksey has stage 4 renal failure and other health issues.

Ronnie Cantrell, Jim Cruise's father-in-law, is at Marshfield Care Center.

Donna Demshar will have a heart procedure on March 13.

Mary Jo Dodson, Judy Phillips's sister, has stage 5 kidney failure and is now at Webco.

*Estelline Jones has had low blood oxygen levels.

Marsha Kammerer is recuperating at home. **Kenna Kammerer** has cancer and hospice has

been called in.

Calvin Lamb, Alan's brother, is recovering from • surgery for a detached retina. •

- **Doris Letterman**, Connie Isis's sister, is suffering from migraine and has pain in her legs and trouble walking.
- Julie Matney has upcoming brain surgery.
- Keith McHenry continues to have a multitude of health problems while waiting for a kidney
- donor. **Tye McMasters** is able to walk short distances with a walker.

Connie Isis

Kav Lewis

Mona Page

Bob Lewis

Ethel Dill

Pauline Buttram

Courtney Peck

Margot Hyder

Anniversaries

Dean & Helen Buman

Steve & Michelle Crews



Birthdays

Joshua Marchand Philip Cantrell Jill Peck Bonnie Doherty Harry Price Alan Lamb Pat Cruise Julie Lamb

- * **John Nash** has basal cell carcinoma and severe arthritis pain.
- **Donna Plummer's** blood work showed she does not need chemo.
- **Micaiah Sedlacek**, JoAnne's nephew, is having severe hip pain.
- **Issie Tabor (13)**, whose family used to worship here, has had cancer 2 or 3 times and it is growing again.
- **James Taylor**, a friend of the Hyders, is battling cancer.
- **Lorella Treadway**, Norma Nash's sister-in-law, will have her kidney transplant soon.
- **Trudy Twitty**, Terry McMaster's cousin, had her leg amputated.

Dan Wampler, Nacho's boss, has lung cancer. **Ron Webb**, Pat Cruise's cousin, whose chemo treatments are no longer working.

Remember The Homebound

- Judy Barrow (Webco)
- Mary Jo Dodson (Webco)
- Bonnie Doherty (Webco East)
- Ina Gillette (Colonial Springs in Buffalo)
- Estelline Jones (Home)
- **Pat Lamb** (Marshfield Care Center)
- Zoe Lawless of Conway (Webco)
- **Rosalie Rosenberger** (Thad Layne's sister) is in a nursing home in Jacksonville, FL.

Record for March 3

Sunday AM91Sunday PMcancelled due to weatherWed. PM78Total Contribution:\$23432019 Contribution Budget\$2416Jogether we give to preach the gospel to theworld-Matt. 28:19-20



