

QUESTIONS TO PONDER—What did you find most interesting, helpful, convicting, confusing, or life-changing this week?

1. Sunday, Feb.5; Gal. 5:1-6; **Faith through Love is IT!** Define what “freedom in Christ” really means (1). Why does taking on extra requirements for salvation hinder us completely and alienate us from Christ (1b-4)? Why is simple faith in Christ more pleasing than anything else to God (5-6)? How does the Holy Spirit help us (5)? For what righteousness do we hope? What is the key to the expression of love NOT becoming WORKS? What is the natural outcome of simple faith (6b)? **Personal Application:** Thank the Lord for your freedom in Christ through simple faith. AND/OR Make a list of ways you express love and who is blessed to receive your True Love (cook dinner for my family, say a word or two to my neighbor every time I see her, etc.).
2. Monday, Feb.6; Gal. 5:7-15; **Get Back on Track—Love Others.** Is there anyone in your life or mine who tries to sway you or me from simple faith (7-10)? What can be done about this? Why was Paul persecuted and how could he identify with his readers (11)? In what “humorous” way did Paul think the Jews could go to an even greater extreme in their works (12)? What is the goal in our freedom in Christ (13-14)? Why is unity necessary (15)? **Personal Application:** How do you or I always remain true to Christ regardless of the message or beliefs of those around us? What inspiration have you received regarding loving your neighbor as yourself?
3. Tuesday, Feb. 7; Gal. 5:16-21; **Walk by the Spirit not the Flesh.** Describe the process of walking by the Spirit on a daily basis (16a). What is the result of walking by the Spirit (16b)? Why are you and I told NOT to do whatever we want in life (17)? Why does being led by the Spirit take us out from under the law (18)? Read the list of the acts of the flesh from your Bible version and also from the Message. (¹⁹⁻²¹ *It is obvious what kind of life develops out of trying to get your own way all the time: repetitive, loveless, cheap sex; a stinking accumulation of mental and emotional garbage; frenzied and joyless grabs for happiness; trinket gods; magic-show religion; paranoid loneliness; cutthroat competition; all-consuming-yet-never-satisfied wants; a brutal temper; an impotence to love or be loved; divided homes and divided lives; small-minded and lopsided pursuits; the vicious habit of depersonalizing everyone into a rival; uncontrolled and uncontrollable addictions; ugly parodies of community. I could go on.*) Examine this list and note anything that convicts you personally. **Personal Application:** Reflect on Walking by the Spirit on a daily basis. Write a prayer of continued partnership with the Holy Spirit in guiding your life or mine. AND/OR Paul encourages you and me to give up acts of the flesh. Write a prayer to God giving over one or more of the old-self habits/attitudes to His control.
4. Wednesday, Feb. 8; Gal. 5:22-26; **The Fruit of the Spirit.** Write down the list of the nine fruits of the Spirit and memorize (22-23). Why are these attributes “of the Spirit” (22)? Which fruits come more easily to you? Which fruits are a stretch? In order to employ all fruits equally, why must we “crucify our flesh” (24, 2:20)? Does the Holy Spirit like to push us along in following Him (25)? Why or why not? If you or I are pushed by the Holy Spirit, what might we expect to happen? How do we nullify the fruits of the Spirit (26)? **Personal Application:** How are the fruits of the Spirit evident in your life? How is the Holy Spirit pushing you forward in one or more of these fruits?
5. Thursday, Feb. 9; Gal. 6:1-6; **Gentle Restoration/Pridefulness/Remembering Instructors.** Gentle Restoration (1-2): What kind of person is to restore a person caught in sin? How is the person to be restored? Why is the word “*gently*” emphasized? Why are we to watch ourselves? What is the purpose of gentle restoration (see Romans 15:1)? Pride/Comparison (3-5): What are Paul’s (and God’s) thoughts on pridefulness? Why is it wrong to compare oneself with another person? Why is it acceptable to compare oneself against oneself? Why is each person spiritually responsible for her/himself alone? Instructors (6): Who has been instructors of the word in your life or mine? How have you or I thanked them for their help? **Personal Application:** Write some thoughts about gentle restoration, pride/comparison OR those who have helped you grow in your walk with Christ throughout your life.
6. Friday, Feb. 10; Gal. 6:7-10; **Sowing and Reaping/Sowing Goodness.** Sowing and Reaping (7-8): Why do some sowers knowingly or unknowingly mock God? Do you or I take full responsibility for the outcome (reaping) of what we have sown in life? Why or why not? How does God’s grace and forgiveness play a role in our reaping? How do our own actions after conversion play a role? Sowing Goodness (9-10): Why is sowing goodness so labor intensive? Why are we

encouraged to continue on in sowing goodness? How are you or I re-training our minds to see and act on every opportunity to do good? To whom should we never hesitate to “do good”? Why? **Personal Application:** How is sowing goodness a part of your daily life?

7. Saturday, Feb. 11; Gal. 6:11-18; **The Cross Alone.** Why does Paul include verse 11? What was the true motive of those who were trying to get the new believers to undergo circumcision (12-13)? How was each circumcision reason to them to boast? About what did Paul boast (14)? Was this actually boasting or total humility? Why (15)? Explain how you have been newly created. Why is this all that really matters? What benefit do we receive for fully understanding this (16)? Read notes on Paul’s marks of Jesus (17)? What makes of Jesus do you or I bear? How may the “grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit” or mine today? **Personal Application:** Write about the cross alone OR being newly created OR the makes you bear for Jesus Christ.

Cindy Oury. February 4, 2017.