“Walking in the Spirit”
Gal. 5:16-18

Introduction:
A. Paul contrasts walking in the spirit to walking in the flesh (vv. 16-17; 24-25).
B. Paul points out in this chapter three things that Christians walking in the Spirit will not do.

Discussion:
I. They Will Not Be Bound to the Old Testament Law (vv. 1,18)
A. They would make Christ of no effect (vv. 2-4).
B. They cannot be bound to just part of the law (v. 3)
   1. Cannot have “Sabbath” without the penalty (Ex. 31:15).
   2. Cannot have “instruments of music” without animal sacrifices (Ps. 150; 66:13).
C. They cannot be bound without falling from grace (v. 4).
   1. Can do despite to spirit of grace (Heb. 10:26-31).
   2. Can so sin as to be lost.

II. They Will Not Bite and Devour One Another (v. 15)
A. Opposite of “love your neighbor as yourself.” (v. 14).
B. Done with malicious words to and/or about each other.
   1. Brethren consume each other with constant bickering.
   2. Brethren consume each other with gossip and back-biting.
   3. Brethren consume each other with harsh words to face.
   4. Brethren consume each other with constant criticism.

III. They Will Not Do the Works of the Flesh (vv. 19-21).
A. Fleshly passion.
   1. Fornication — General sexual immorality.
   2. Adultery — Relations outside of marriage.
   4. Lasciviousness — “To lust, cause lust, show”
      a. Lascivious dress.
      b. Lascivious behavior.
      c. Lascivious entertainment.
B. Fleshly cults.
   1. Idolatry.
   2. Witchcraft (sorcery)
C. Fleshly attitudes (hatred thru envy; cf. v. 26).
D. Fleshly riotousness (Murder, drunkenness, revelry)

Conclusion:
A. Are you walking in the Spirit or the flesh?
B. Why not be led by the Spirit (through the word) to:
   1. Obey the truth today?
   2. Live in the Spirit today?