

Sunday, April 25, 2010—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 5:21

### **Galatians 5:21**

- *“Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings”*
- Envyings—“Feeling uneasiness at the superior condition and happiness of another. 2) Ill will at others, on account of some supposed superiority.” (Webster’s 1828)
- Murders—“The act of unlawfully killing a human being with premeditated malice, by a person of sound mind. To constitute murder in law, the person killing another must be of sound mind or in possession of his reason, and the act must be done with malice prepense, aforethought or premeditated; but malice may be implied, as well as express.” (Webster’s 1828)
- Drunkenness—intoxication
  - Romans 13:13
- Revelries—riotous
  - Romans 13:13
- *“and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”*
- The phrase “and such like” indicates that this list of the works of the flesh is not exhaustive.
- The expression “they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” does not deal with the loss of salvation. Rather, it is describing the condition of the lost.
- I Corinthians 6:9-11—there are two kinds of people in this passage. The saved and the unsaved.
  - Verses 9-10—the people who commit these sins and therefore will not inherit the kingdom of God are clearly not saved people.
  - Verse 11—Paul tells the Corinthians that they used to be like the people in verse 9-10 but upon salvation have undergone a change in identify and affiliation.
- Galatians 5:21—When the Galatians and us for that matter walk in these sins we living like the unsaved that is Paul’s point.
- Paul’s use of the term kingdom of God has been used by many to try and trip up grace believers. Consider the following Pauline occurrences:

- I Corinthians 4:20
  - I Corinthians 6:9-10
  - I Corinthians 15:50
  - Galatians 5:21
  - Ephesians 5:5
  - I Thessalonians 2:12
  - II Thessalonians 1:5
- You hear a lot of talk on Christian TV and radio about building the kingdom of God or ushering in the kingdom of God. In order to understand Paul's usage of the term we first need to understand what the kingdom of God actually is.
  - In the gospels the phrases the kingdom of heaven and the kingdom of God are talking about the same thing.
    - Matthew 3:2
    - Matthew 4:17, 23—The expression kingdom of heaven appears 32 times in Matthew and one time in Revelation 12:10 none of the other N.T. writes use this expression. Matthew also uses the expression kingdom God 5 times interchangeably with kingdom of God.
    - Mark 1:14-15—Mark reports Jesus was preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God. Compare Mark 1:15 with Matthew 4:17.
  - This kingdom was prophesied to Israel in the Old Testament:
    - II Samuel 7:12-16
    - Isaiah 9:6-7
    - Daniel 2:44
    - Daniel 9:24-26
    - Luke 1:67-73
    - Luke 19:41-44
    - Acts 1:6—He does not correct their understanding
    - Acts 2:36-38
    - Acts 3:18-21
    - Matthew 25:34
  - What happened to this kingdom? It has not yet been established? Why because God interrupted the prophetic program and temporarily set Israel aside because of their unbelief so that he could begin forming the body of Christ and accomplish his secret purpose regarding the heavenly places.
  - From Paul we learn that this is more to his kingdom that just the earth rather we see that it is his desire not only to have the preeminence in the earth but also in the heavenly places.
  - Colossians 1:16-19—Through the revelation of the mystery God has revealed his plan not only to redeem the governmental structures of the earth back to himself but also the heavenly places.

- Ephesians 1:10—The eternal purpose of God
- Luke 14:15—Romans 14:17