

Sunday, January 7, 2024—Galatians 5:21 The Works Of The Flesh, Part 8 (Revellings & Such Like)

Galatians 5:21

- **“Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, 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.”**
- **Revellings**—the word translated “revellings” occurs 3 times in 3 verses in the New Testament. According to *Strong’s Concordance* the word’s meaning is tied to “drunkenness” and the over consumption of alcohol.
 - “A nocturnal and riotous procession of half drunken and frolicsome fellows who after supper parade through the streets with torches and music in honour of Bacchus or some other deity, and sing and play before houses of male and female friends; hence used generally of feasts and drinking parties that are protracted till late at night and indulge in revelry.”
- Noah Webster’s *American Dictionary of the English Language* defines the English word “revellings” as follows:
 - “Feasting with noisy merriment; carousing.”
- Other occurrences of the word rendered “revellings” occur in the following verses:
 - Romans 13:13—“rioting and drunkenness”
 - Noah Webster defines “rioting” as, “Reveling; indulging in excessive feasting.”
 - The *Oxford English Dictionary* contains five senses “relating to dissipated or unrestrained behaviour,” three of which are marked rare, obsolete, or archaic in modern usage. Consider definition I.2.a, “To act or behave in a wild, dissipated, or unrestrained way; to indulge to excess in something.” For which the OED provides II Peter 2:13 as a word usage example.
 - II Peter 2:13
 - Romans 13:13—“rioting” in this verse is dealing with “violence or disturbance of the peace” in the way we probably think about in modern times. (OED) Rather it is describing “excessive feasting” and/or “behavior accompanying the over consumption of alcohol.
 - I Peter 4:3—“excess of wine, revellings”
- Note that all three occurrences of the word rendered “revellings” are tied to “drunkenness” and the over consumption of alcohol.
- **And such like**—this phrase indicates that this list of the works of the flesh is not exhaustive. There are other “like” things that could have been added to the list.

- Romans 1:28-32
- **they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God**—this expression is not dealing with the loss of salvation on the part of a believer. Rather, it is describing the condition and behavior 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 verses 9-10 but, upon salvation, have undergone a change in identity and affiliation. The sins listed in verses 9-10 are indicative of who they used to be in their unsaved state.
- Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-24—believers are not to walk or progress through life in the same manner as the unsaved.
- Ephesians 5:1-8—believers are not to partake with unbelievers in the sins of the flesh.
- Galatians 5:21—when believers “manifest” the “works of the flesh” we are living like the unsaved—that is Paul’s point. We should be known and characterized by the fruit of the Spirit not the “works of the flesh.”