

000349

Our verse that we quoted on the program in part was : "For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh."

I'd like to read a little more of the context, Gal.5:16-24 (reading text."

This passage makes a good introduction to our discussion. I'm going to deal with ten heads. Some of them may not at first sight seem to be closely related to our general subject, but I believe they are necessary to handle it properly. So I'm going to deal with these ten subjects in order. I'm going to take two breaks of about 15 min. each, but when I do will depend on how long it takes on each of these points.

I The Basic Problem. "The flesh lusteth against the Spirit and the Spirit against the flesh." What is the proper attitude toward the body? toward the flesh? We find that great numbers of people take one of two extreme attitudes. The attitude of asceticism has been very common among various non-Christian groups and also among various Christian groups. This is an attitude for which considerable support, at least superficially, could be found in various passages of the Bible. This one for instance, the last one I read, "They that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts." Philip II of Spain wore a hair shirt underneath his beautiful kingly garments in order to cause discomfort to his flesh. When he died he left to his son the whip with which he ~~set~~ scourged himself in order to injure the flesh which he felt was keeping him from heaven. Rom. 7:8 says, "In my flesh dwelleth no good thing." Rom. 8:13 says, "They that live after the flesh shall die." Rom. 13:14 says, "Make not provision for the flesh." 1 Pet. 2:11 tells us "we should abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." Rom. 6:6 speaks about the body of sin being destroyed" and in Rom. 7:24, the Apostle cries out, "Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" In 1 Cor. 9:27 he says, "I keep my body under lest having preached to others I should become a castaway." Phil. 3:21 says that Christ will change our vile bodies." 1 Cor. 6:13, "Meats for the belly