



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

Living Victoriously

Tuesday, 2 December 2014

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## CAPITOL BIBLE STUDY

monthly (interim) schedule

\*\*\* 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month \*\*\*

(Capitol Commission Bible Studies will be every Tuesday during the legislative session)

TUESDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2014

12 NOON in 123 CAP

Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Studies are held the *first* Tuesday of every month at 12 Noon. The Bible study is nonpartisan and nondenominational. We are currently studying First Corinthians, chapter-by-chapter, and verse-by-verse. I pray that this study will be edifying to you. The ministry of Capitol Commission exists *solely* to serve you and to be a resource for prayer and counsel. Please accept my study in the Word of God, as evidence of my desire to serve you.

– Dr. Ron J. Bigalke, Georgia State Minister, Capitol Commission

### Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Study

is

Tuesday, 2 December 2014

### Various Scriptures – “Living Victoriously”

[Scripture] tells us to live victoriously and to avoid excesses of the flesh. [Dwight L.] Moody once illustrated this truth as follows: “Tell me,” he said to his audience, “how can I get the air out of this glass?” One man said, “Suck it out with a pump.” Moody replied, “That would create a vacuum and shatter the glass.” After many impossible suggestions, Moody smiled, picked up a pitcher of water, and filled the glass. “There,” he said, “all the air is now removed.” He then went on to show that victory in the Christian life is not by “sucking out a sin here and there,” but rather being filled with the Spirit [Al Bryant, comp. ed., *Worship Services* (Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1992) 59].

The demands of living a life pleasing to the Lord God are vastly superior to any others. The joy of living a life – by grace through faith in Christ – is that the Lord’s divine commands are always satisfied with his divine provisions. Sometimes “the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life” may be overwhelming, yet the Holy Spirit – who abides within every believer – is greater than those sinful enticements (cf. 1 John 2:16; 4:4). Scripture teaches that if you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. Victory is by God’s grace: through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

### THE DEITY OF THE SPIRIT

If one is to remain faithful to the Word of God, one must confess that the Bible is unequivocal in its assertion that there is one God and also that there are three distinct personalities in the Old and New Testaments, who all possess the attributes, character, and nature of deity. The English word “trinity” is derived from the Latin *trinitas*, which means “three.” The word does not appear in the Bible; rather, it is a theological term for the one true God who is self-revealed within the Bible as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Scripture reveals there is only one God (Deut 6:4; Isa 43:10; 1 Cor 8:6). The true God is triune: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three distinct, eternal, equal Persons, yet one Being. The Father is God (Rom 1:7; Eph 4:6); the Son is God (John 1:1; 20:28; Tit 2:13); and, the Holy Spirit is God (Acts 5:3-4; John 14:26; Heb 9:14). Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are united in the Godhead, and thus have the same substance but are distinct in subsistence (Matt 3:16-17; John 14:16).

The present study will examine how the Holy Spirit empowers the believer in his/her battle with the “flesh.” We will note some New Testament expressions and texts that reveal specific information regarding how the third member of the triune God, the Holy Spirit, accomplishes his work in the life of the believer.

### THE LEADING OF THE SPIRIT

(Gal 5:16-17) The biblical expression “against the flesh” describes an aspect of the Holy Spirit’s work within the believer. The “desire” of the flesh is contrary to the Spirit’s work. The word translated “desire” is the Greek word *epithumian*, and indicates a “craving” that can be either good or evil. The use of “desire” in Galatians 5:17 is the direct object of “not carry out the desire” (v. 16), and thus indicates that which is sinful. When “desire” is used in reference to the Holy Spirit, it indicates that which is good because the intent is for the will of God to be accomplished.

The truth that the Holy Spirit is “against the flesh” indicates tension (struggle) that exists within the life of the believer.

*Galatians 5:16 – . . . walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh.*

*17 For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.*

Being “led by the Spirit” involves God’s work in creating a resistance to the desires of the flesh (viz. tendencies that remain from one’s prior unregenerate state). One aspect of the Spirit’s leading “against the flesh” is convicting the believer that a particular desire of the flesh is indeed sin (John 16:8). When the flesh resists the Spirit’s leading, this results in somewhat of an impasse. Effectually, the flesh’s desire prevents the believer “so that you may not do the things that you

## Capitol Commission (Interim) Bible Study

1<sup>st</sup> Tuesdays (monthly) @ 12 Noon – 12:45pm, 123 CAP

(final Bible Study for 2014 / next Bible Study is Tuesday, 13 January 2015)

# Capitol Commission Georgia

## Living Victoriously

please” (as a new creation in Christ). If the Holy Spirit did not provide conviction “against the flesh,” the believer would experience the precise condition described in Romans 7:14-24, which would entail desperately wanting “the good” yet not being able “to do good.”

### THE EMPOWERING OF THE SPIRIT

(Rom 8:1-14; Eph 5:18-21) The impasse between the flesh and the Spirit can be overcome by walking according to the Spirit. “Walk” is a metaphor for one’s manner of living. To “walk” in the Spirit means consciously depending upon the Holy Spirit so He will empower my actions and determination. Consequently, it will be possible to defy “the things of the flesh” and fulfill “the requirement of the Law” (viz. doing God’s will). To walk in the Spirit is to live intentionally relying upon God to empower me as I persevere “to do good.”

TO “WALK” IN THE SPIRIT MEANS CONSCIOUSLY DEPENDING UPON THE HOLY SPIRIT. . . .

Scripture commands believers to “be filled with the Spirit,” which means to be controlled or influenced by God. Ephesians 5:18-21 implies that being filled with the Spirit is a quality of life, as opposed to a solitary, mystical experience. When the day of Pentecost arrived, the disciples “were all filled with the Holy Spirit” in connected with the baptism of the Spirit. Spirit baptism is not commanded in Scripture (since it is a sovereign work of God in response to our faith and repentance: leading to conversion, the “new birth”) and thus it is a solitary event in the life of a believer. However, “filling” by the Spirit is commanded, and is to be characteristic of the believer’s life.

. . . “FILLING” BY THE SPIRIT IS COMMANDED, AND IS TO BE CHARACTERISTIC OF THE BELIEVER’S LIFE.

Spirit baptism is the work of Jesus Christ whereby the church receives and is indwelt by the Holy Spirit, which incorporates them into one body of Christ and identifies them with the Lord’s death and resurrection (John 14:16-17; Rom 6:1-11; 1 Cor 6:19; 12:13). At the ascension of Christ (ca. spring, AD 30-33), the baptism of the Holy Spirit was still future (Acts 1:5). Pentecost (2:1-36) was the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise (cf. 11:15-16).

Another phrase related to the empowering of the Spirit involves “the mind set on the Spirit” (Rom 8:5-6). The expression indicates that we are significantly affected by our mental attitude. The believer’s determination is to allow the Holy Spirit to accomplish the will of God in our lives. “Being led by the Spirit of God” involves “putting to death the deeds of the body” (vv. 13-14), which means rejecting sinful impulses, and submitting instead to the Holy Spirit’s guidance.

THE BELIEVER IS ABLE TO KNOW THE TRUTH OR WILL OF GOD AS IT IS REVEALED IN THE HOLY BIBLE.

### THE IMPARTATION OF THE SPIRIT

(1 Cor 2:6-16; 1 John 2:20) The Holy Spirit guides the believer with the Word of God by illuminating (making understandable) the Bible. First Corinthians 2:6-13 indicates that the Holy Spirit reveals “the thoughts of God,” and enables the believer (“he who is spiritual”) to appraise “all things.” First John 2:20 explains that believers will “know the truth” when it is proclaimed because they “have an anointing from the Holy One.” The believer is able to know the truth or will of God as it is revealed in the Holy Bible. The Holy Spirit guides the believer in every decision that needs to be made by his work of revealing “God’s wisdom” in the Bible, and then by making that spiritual truth and wisdom understandable.

### THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

(Gal 5:22-23) The familiar passage of Scripture that lists “the fruit of the Spirit” immediately follows the section explaining how to “walk by the Spirit” (vv. 16-21). The believer walks by the Spirit when he/she obeys God as opposed to heeding the desires of the flesh. The results of being led by the Spirit include: “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.”

Dependence upon the Holy Spirit is the means by which the “fruit” is cultivated, and how it attains maturity in the believer’s life. When one walks by the Spirit, we assent to the Holy Spirit’s power to change our character behaviors and transform us into the image of Jesus, so that we are even able to “have the mind of Christ” (cf. 1 Cor 2:16). Praise God for his marvelous grace!

*Thank you for allowing Capitol Commission the honor to provide Bible studies to you. If you have any questions, please talk with us, or contact by email or phone.*

### About Capitol Commission

Capitol Commission state ministers teach ongoing verse-by-verse Bible studies for the entire Capitol community, and also meet personally with many government leaders (and their staff) to proclaim God’s grace, to encourage our leaders, pray with them, and provide biblical counsel. Capitol Commission is a charitable and religious nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Capitol Commission is supported by the generous gifts of businesses, churches, and individuals. Capitol Commission is not state-funded; rather, those with a heart for the Capitol community fund it.

Capitol Commission’s promise to you is that we will faithfully continue, in partnership with the church, to make disciples of Jesus Christ and promote the Biblical mandate to pray for those in authority in the Capitol communities throughout the United States and around the world. Every election cycle brings us hundreds of newly elected legislators into the twenty-four state capitols where we presently have a State Minister. We intend to be there to provide pastoral care for these men and women. *Please join us in this ministry!*



Enhancing Trust

**NEXT CAPITOL COMMISSION BIBLE STUDIES:  
TUESDAY, 13 JANUARY @ 7:30 AM in 403 CAP (upstairs)  
and again @ 12 NOON in 123 CAP (basement)**