

11-3-2024 Sunday Sermon Message

Devotional of the Week: Psalm 91:1-16

The Text: Galatians 5:16-24

Title of the Word: **Those Who Do the Works of the Flesh and Those Who Bear the Fruit of the Spirit**

During the Israelites' captivity in Babylon, God spoke to the prophet Ezekiel about the Israelites' miserable situation and how He would restore them:

"The hand of the Lord was upon me, and carried me out in the spirit of the Lord, and set me down in the midst of the valley which was full of bones,

² And caused me to pass by them round about: and, behold, there were very many in the open valley; and, lo, they were very dry.

³ And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord God, thou knowest.

⁴ Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the Lord.

⁵ Thus saith the Lord God unto these bones; Behold, I will cause breath to enter into you, and ye shall live:

⁶ And I will lay sinews upon you, and will bring up flesh upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and ye shall live; and ye shall know that I am the Lord."(Ezekiel 37:1-6)

When the prophet Ezekiel prophesied according to the words of the Lord, he immediately saw a great miracle happen:

"So I prophesied as I was commanded: and as I prophesied, there was a noise, and behold a shaking, and the bones came together, bone to his bone.

⁸ And when I beheld, lo, the sinews and the flesh came up upon them, and the skin covered them above: but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then said he unto me, Prophecy unto the wind, prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind, Thus saith the Lord God; Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.

¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army.

¹¹ Then he said unto me, Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel: behold, they say, Our bones are dried, and our hope is lost: we are cut off for our parts. Therefore I prophesied as I had been ."(Ezekiel 37:7-11)

It was at this point that God commanded Ezekiel to prophesy again:

"Therefore prophesy and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, O my people, I will open your graves, and cause you to come up out of your graves, and bring you into the land of Israel.

¹³ And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I have opened your graves, O my people, and brought you up out of your graves,

¹⁴ And shall put my spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land: then shall ye know that I the Lord have spoken it, and performed it, saith the Lord."(Ezekiel 37:12-14)

As God prophesied through the prophet Ezekiel, He brought out the Israelites, who had been scattered all over the world for a long time and had no hope because they were dead like dry bones in their graves, and restored the nation of Israel on May 14, 1948, and entered their homeland.

At that time, it was as if they had found the shape of a human being by the sinews and flesh on the dry bones, and the skin was covering the flesh, but they were still in a state where they could only see the shape of a human body, like a zombie, because they had not yet breathed.

They did not yet have the Spirit of God in them, so it was as if they were dead on the inside and alive in their bodies.

God prophesied through the prophet Jeremiah that the time would come when they would be fully restored by the Spirit of God:

"But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."(Jeremiah 31:33-34)

Through today's verse, the Holy Spirit testifies that there are two kinds of people coexisting in the Church of God today. There are people like the Israelites who have not yet been born again by the Holy Spirit and have the form of a human being with only skin, flesh, and sinews attached to dry bones, and there are people who have received the Spirit of God's life and become perfect children of God.

He testified that those who have not yet been born again and who have not been indwelt by the Holy Spirit are still practicing religion only in the flesh and attending church, but they are doing lifeless fleshly things like zombies, and that they will not inherit the kingdom of God:

**"Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,
²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,
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."(Galatians 5:19-21)

But he also testified of the fruit of those who are born again of the Holy Spirit and indwelt by the Holy Spirit:

**"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."(Galatians 5:22-23)**

The Apostle Paul testified that those who bear the fruit of the Spirit belong to Christ:

"And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts."(Galatians 5:24)

When the Apostle Paul testified about the resurrection that is the rapture, he testified that those who are Christ's shall be raptured:

**"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.
²¹ For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.
²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.
²³ But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming."(1 Corinthians 15:20-23)**

The Apostle Paul testified that those who are the Christ's are those who have crucified their flesh with lust and lust by themselves.

Amen! Hallelujah!