

Walking After The Spirit

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1).

In a recent search on the internet, I found an unbelievable number of people “going after” other people or companies. One headline read, “Liberals Going After Fox Advertisers.” Three political titles were, “Going After McCain,” “Going After Palin,” and “Going After Obama.” Some headlines that surprised me were, “Going After The Bankers,” “Going After The Lawyers,” “Going After McDonalds,” and “Going After Restaurants and Supermarkets.”

I suppose that people “going after” others should not surprise me, especially in the age in which we live. I must confess that those who are so consumed with a cause or a flaw in their enemies remind me of foxes in chicken houses. They get a taste of blood or get recognized by the media and their peers, and they go wild in their biased pursuits, leaving nothing but chicken feathers and dead meat.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if believers were “going after” the things of God like sinners are “going after” the things of this world? The phrase in our text, “walk . . . after the Spirit,” indicates to move “according” to His movements, to go along with His direction and leadership. Walking after the Spirit is not a vindictive, self-exalting cause; it is a victorious, self-denying pursuit of the holy. Three thoughts emerge from the text.

To walk after the Spirit means that we are experiencing a bond with Christ! As can be easily observed in the text, walking after the Spirit cannot be a possibility in our lives apart from “no condemnation,” or justification, or apart from being “in Christ Jesus.” Of course, it is only when we realize this privilege of our union with Christ that we are also privileged to progress or advance with the Holy Spirit.

To walk after the Spirit means that we are making a break with corruption! While it is true that we rest in the blessed reality of “no condemnation” and the glorious position of being “in Christ Jesus,” we are not allowed to live as we please. These blessings encourage believers to forsake the corruptions of the flesh and pursue the ways of holiness. Notice that we do not run from fleshliness to reach “no condemnation;” rather, because of justification we flee carnality.

To walk after the Spirit means that we are following the blessed Comforter! When we walk after the Spirit, we are acknowledging that we cannot make it through this world on our own. We must have His guidance; we must desire His comfort and aid. On the basis of our union with Jesus and our departing from unbelief and evil, may we enjoy following the blessed Comforter all the way to Heaven!

