“Those Who Belong to Christ Jesus” Pt. II

Intro: By the __________ of God, those who have been justified through faith in Christ have been set ______ from the slavery of sin and the unbearable burden of the Law of sin and death.

A. Christ did not set us free so we would continue in sin (as antinomians) but that we would ______ as those who are _______________ free, no longer enslaved to sin being under the curse of the Law, but freed to “through love serve one another” thus fulfilling the Law.

B. We find that there is a _____ within where the indwelling ______ Spirit of God stands opposed to the ________ sinful impulses we are tempted to act upon.

C. Having been commanded to walk by the Spirit so as not to carry out the lusts of the ________ Paul then, for example and our understanding, presents a list of ________ that is representative of the enslaving lusts of the flesh.

I. This morning we come to consider the ________ of the flesh identified as enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, and envying which war __________ the believer’s __________ as these pertain to violations of God’s holy desire for our brotherly love.

A. Enmities. In the Greek enmities is very closely associated with the term “enemies”. Enmities refers any thoughts of ______ will, __________ attitudes and hostilities. And get this! An antonym of enmity is ________.

B. Strife refers to contentiousness, wrangling, __________ conflict, rivalry, __________, quarrellings. H. A. Ironside wrote, “There are many of us who would shrink from those first sins, but we are not very easy to get along with, we are dreadfully touchy, and this is as truly an evidence of the old nature, as those other ‘works of the flesh.’”

C. Jealousy. This work of the flesh is an expression of anger and hateful resentment that is rooted in __________ ________.

D. __________ of anger! This refers to the sudden explosion of hostility that comes as the result of an unbridled temper. It is the __________ motion of mindlessness.

E. Disputes. This has to do with ________ ambitions. As one seeks their own without ________ for the other, so do disputes break out.

F. Dissensions refer more to groups of peoples who work and __________ __________ others.
G. Factions. In other contexts this is translated "heresies". In our text it refers to the choosing of sides, insisting that others must _______ a _______. In so doing it wars against brotherly love. Paul employed this word very purposefully for, as Ryken writes, "... theological ________ always ____________ the church ..." 

H. Envy. Envy is that age old destructive malignant disposition of the heart that ________ hates the other because the other is blessed. It is displeasure aroused and ________ against someone simply because they have something.

II. In verse 21 Paul listed two more works of the flesh which war against our spiritual freedom standing opposed to God's holy desire for our _______ - _________.

A. Drunkeness. Ryken writes, "The Bible ... always ________ getting drunk. The term used here refers to drinking bouts - what people today would call 'getting wasted.'" While such drunkenness originally referred to ____________ due to the consumption of alcohol, it would be include ______ consumption of ______ thing by ______ means that would intoxicate the user.

B. Carousing refers to any kind of ________ conduct which includes the indulging in pleasures to excess.

III. Paul had ________ the Galatians earlier at some unknown time, and here they are forewarned again, and so does this warning stand for us: those who practice such things as these works of the ________ will ______ inherit everlasting _________. Heaven will not be theirs for quite obviously Christ is not theirs and the Holy Spirit does not reside within them! They are lost and under the curse of the law of sin and death!

A. How important it is then, dear church, that we do not become ________ all over again to such works as these for if that were to become the case then we would ______ realize the _________ that Christ so freely offered us.

Finally then: Will you ________ yourself in the light of this list to see if you are of the faith? And where you see that you have fallen and where you are struggling, would you ________ that as you subject yourself to such deeds that you at the very same time are, by an act of your will, enslaving yourself to the very things from which Christ freed you? And, as you give yourself to these fleshly deeds so do you fail to serve the other in love and thus, so do you fail to fulfill the Law of God!

"But now you also, ______ them all _______: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive speech from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices, and have ______ the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created [you]" Colossians 3:8-10.

Let us actively join in the war that rages within each of us, and denying the desires of our flesh, may we _________ of our sin, and in the freedom of Christ let us ______ by the Spirit, loving one another, fulfilling the Law of God.