

Kootenai Communicator

The monthly newsletter of Kootenai Community Church, Kootenai, Idaho

Important Dates <<<

AUGUST

- 14 Baptism Class
- 27 Bridal Shower
- 28 Baptism Service

*Expounding the Scriptures,
Equipping the Saints,
Exalting the Savior*



GOD DOESN'T WHISPER

Chapter 13, Part 2

By Jim Osman, Pastor

The verses directly below verse 18 are equally telling. Those in the flesh do the “deeds of the flesh” listed in verses 19-21: immorality, impurity, sensuality, etc. Those who practice the deeds of the flesh “will not inherit the kingdom of God” (v. 21). By contrast, those “led by the Spirit” put to death the deeds of the flesh and produce the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-24). Paul made the same point in Romans 8. Those who walk in the flesh are not believers (Romans 8:6-9; Galatians 5:21). The sons of God “put to death the deeds of the body” (Romans 8:13; Galatians 5:16) because they have the Spirit of God and are led by Him. Paul’s meaning is the same in both passages. The ones “led by the Spirit of God” are believers who produce the fruit of the Spirit and do not live according to the sinful desires of the flesh.

Nothing in the context of Galatians 5 has anything to do with hearing the voice of God, receiving divine revelation, or listening to the Spirit’s whispers. Paul was describing Spirit-empowered holy living, not listening for God’s whispers.

To demonstrate how foreign the Hearing the Voice of God (HVG) understanding of the text is to Paul’s meaning, I’ll insert the HVG interpretation of the verse into the paragraph. Here is how Galatians 5:13-18 reads in HVG theology:

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one

word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. 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. But if you are [*hearing God’s voice, following impressions and promptings,*] you are not under the Law (Galatians 5:13–18).

Does the HVG interpretation fit that context? Clearly, no. HVG teachers lift the phrase “led by the Spirit” from its context and assign it a meaning completely unrelated to that intended by the apostle. According to HVG teachers, being “led by the Spirit” is “hearing God’s whispers as He gives guidance” about which turkey to buy for Thanksgiving or which contractor to hire for the remodel. If they are going to hold to that interpretation of Romans 8 and Galatians 5, then they need to be consistent and say that “living according to the flesh” describes believers not hearing whispers. If being “led by the Spirit” means “listening to divine whispers,” then “living according to the flesh” must mean “not hearing divine whispers.”

The context clearly describes holy living and not heavenly whispers.

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WHAT ABOUT GRUDEM?

This brings us back to Wayne Grudem's arguments pertaining to these two passages.¹⁰ In an earlier footnote (#3) I mentioned the various works Grudem has published on these passages attempting to show that they support a theology of personal revelations and divine guidance.

His most thorough treatment is in a paper titled "What Does It Mean to Be 'Led by the Spirit' (Rom. 8:14; Gal. 5:18)?" which accompanied an address he gave at the Evangelical Theological Society on November 13, 2018 in Denver, Colorado.¹¹ His book, *Christian Ethics*, provides the second-most thorough treatment of the subject. In *Christian Ethics*, Grudem offers a method to guide Christians in ethical decision-making. He claims the Holy Spirit gives personal, specific, and individual guidance to every believer for daily decision-making. Listing "Guidance from the Holy Spirit" as one of "Nine Sources of Information and Guidance" available to the Christian for ethical decision-making, he cites Romans 8:14 and Galatians 5:18.¹² In the same chapter, Grudem offers a response to Garry Friesen's book *Decision Making and the Will of God*,¹³ a book I wholeheartedly recommend.

LEADING FOR ALL CHRISTIANS?

Grudem believes special leading by the Holy Spirit is available to all Christians, and "direct guidance from the Holy Spirit is the normal component of the life of Christians generally."¹⁴

Noting the universal nature of the Spirit's leading, Grudem says, "Paul wrote to Christians in Rome, whom he had not yet met, about an experience of being led by the Holy Spirit that he seems to have thought of as a characteristic of the lives of Christians in general: For *all who are led by the Spirit of God* are sons of God (Rom. 8:14)."¹⁵ Using Galatians 5:18 he claims, "Paul is speaking of personal guidance from the Holy Spirit to individuals, and he indicates that this experience is characteristic of the lives of all Christians."¹⁶

As I have already demonstrated, the passage Grudem cites is *not* "speaking of personal guidance from the Holy Spirit to individuals," at least not in the sense that Grudem means when he speaks of "personal guidance." This is assumed by Grudem and the assumption is not warranted from the text.

I believe that true believers are "led by the Spirit." I also concur that such leading is for ALL believers and not just the apostles.¹⁷ Thus, the kind of "leading" Paul describes in Romans 8 and Galatians 5 is for *all Christians*. However, Grudem defines this "leading" in a way not supported by the contexts. This is apparent when he writes, "All of these passages speak about an expectation that Christians in general will experience a measure of leading or guiding by the Holy Spirit, who [sic] will influence their evaluation of various choices and courses of action in a subjectively perceived way."¹⁹

Grudem sneaks into the discussion his assumption about what kind of "leading" Paul intends. The context indicates Paul was not describing decision-making or private revelations. These passages have *nothing* to do with an "evaluation of various choices and courses of action in a subjectively perceived way." They have everything to do with the work of the Holy Spirit in divinely enabling the child of God to mortify sin (put to death the deeds of the flesh) and live holy lives. Grudem uses two verses that describe the Spirit leading all Christians in mortifying sin and uses them to prove that the Spirit will lead all Christians in decision-making.

Grudem attempts to define the term "led" used in these passages, but in so doing he commits another exegetical fallacy.

WHAT IS THE NATURE OF "LEADING"?

Grudem addresses the meaning of the verb translated "led." After citing Friesen's claim that the "leading of the Holy Spirit" in these passages has to do with God's moral will and holy living, Grudem responds:

However, this interpretation does not sufficiently account for the actual word that Paul uses for "led," which is the Greek verb *agō*, "to lead." This verb is common in the New Testament (it is used 69 times), and it gives a picture of someone specifically leading a person (or even an animal) from one location to another.²⁰

He cites eight places where "*agō*" is used in the New Testament.²¹ Based on those uses, he claims that first-century readers would have understood Paul to "speak of one person leading or guiding another person from one place to another."²² In the paper that accompanied his address to the ETS in 2018 he offers a far more comprehensive attempt at establishing the meaning of "*agō*."²³

It's true that the Greek term "*agō*" often describes a personal agent leading someone or something else in a specific situation. It's also true that it almost always refers to physical leading, like an animal or a prisoner. However, it is entirely wrong to conclude that this same word refers to vague, fallible impressions, voices, and signs in Romans 8 and Galatians 5. It is flawed exegesis to take the meaning of this term in *another* context and insert it into these passages. Context determines the meaning of "*agō*" in these passages, and the context is obvious. Paul wasn't talking about receiving impressions and nudges for daily decision-making. He was describing the indwelling work of the Holy Spirit who *leads* us in holiness as we put to death the deeds of the flesh. The Holy Spirit (a personal agent) leads every child of God in a progressive pursuit of holiness. He leads us (like one might lead an animal from one place to another) from sin to righteousness.

Grudem begs the question when he writes:

When first-century readers (who frequently used the verb *agō* to speak of one person leading or guiding another person from one place to another) saw that

Sunday School <<<

1st & 2nd Grade: Mark and Holly Haymond

We began teaching 2 years ago and I am still amazed at how much they have matured during that time. They are ready to move up! They have all requested a personal copy of the catechism we use every Sunday before they graduate, which made me so happy. It is impossible to fathom all the wonderful consequences of knowing and believing such simple and profound truths as:

Q: "Who made you?"

A: "God did."

Q: "What else did God make?"

A: "All things."

Q: "Why did God make all things?"

A: "For His own Glory."

Q: "How may we be saved from sin and death?"

A: "**Only through Jesus Christ.**"

Jesus and the salvation brought to us through his life, death, and resurrection is the theme of everything we teach, from the Old Testament to the New and every story in-between. These amazing kids get that, and we (Brad, Jenny, Mark, and myself, Holly) feel so privileged to be a part of guiding them through the Greatest Story Ever Told!



Sunday school begins at 9:30 a.m.

>>> Missionary Moment-- Life Choices Pregnancy Center

Life Choices provides compassionate support and education to help you address your unplanned pregnancy, past abortion, relationship and family life challenges, parenting questions, and life skills needs. All of our services are free and confidential. We do not provide or refer for abortion.

LOOK AT THE RESULTS!

We're SO excited to share with you how God has blessed the center through Baby Bottle Boomerang this year! With your hard work and faith that God would provide, **our local church families raised another record-setting amount of \$95,000.00** and counting for God's ministry!!!

The Fall Event will be held Saturday, November 19 from 1:00 to 3:30 at The Assembly of God church. Our theme this year is Changing Hearts. With the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, hearts have been stirred. It's nothing new to be at odds....pro-life vs. pro-choice. We don't need to argue with those that believe abortion is OK. We need to be praying for the veil to be lifted - for their hearts to change - for the truth to be revealed.....EVERY life has value!

Mon & Tues
12 p.m.–4 p.m.
Wed & Thur
10 a.m.–2 p.m.



**Our new address is
35 Lighthouse Drive
Sandpoint, ID 83864**

The entrance for Life Choices is on the west side of the building!



Think You Might be Pregnant?

One of the scariest parts of having a baby is taking the test to find out if you're pregnant. We are there for you during this uncertain time.

Post-Abortion Support

These programs are for those who are experiencing a negative impact from their past abortion. Our programs can help you find healing.

Sex and Relationships

The decision to have sex or not can be tough. We can help you with the vital questions surrounding the whys and the why-nots.

Classes

We offer free parenting, relationship, and life skills classes to help you get the knowledge you need for the adventure ahead.

>>> Young Adult/Young Married Fellowship

YOUNG ADULT FELLOWSHIP

BOWLING!

Saturday, Aug. 13, 5:30 p.m.
Meet at Huckleberry Lanes

Olga Curiel, 909-996-5770 or Carol Young, 559-997-3897 for info



YOUNG MARRIED FELLOWSHIP

For information regarding the next event, please contact

Gina Hall 713-292-6562



Women's Ministry <<<



Bridal Shower

For Ayden Osman

Saturday, August 27
at 10:00 a.m.
at the church

Registered at Amazon
Search "Ayden Osman"

Women's Bible Studies Begin in September SIGN UP NOW!



There are two options:
Monday mornings, 9:30 a.m.
Thursday evenings, 6:30 p.m.

You MUST sign up at the Welcome Table.
Both studies begin after Labor Day.
Details available at the Welcome Table.



>>>Cocolalla Bible Camp

Please visit the camp website at clbcamp.org for more details.

SUMMER TEEN BACKPACKING CAMP

Contact the camp for more details.

Beginner Trip August 10-13

This summer trip is a beginner backpacking trip for all skill levels. Hiking consists of 2-3 miles of hiking each day in relatively mild terrain.

Where: Harrison Lake near Sandpoint, ID.

Cost: \$185.00



Intermediate Trip August 25-28

Great for people able to hike 6 miles per day in relatively mild terrain.

Where: Fault Lake near Sandpoint, ID

Cost: \$185.00

Ladies Fall Fellowship Brunch



SATURDAY | SEPT 10 | 9:30 a.m.

All women are invited to come for an encouraging morning with plenty of time for fellowship, an inspiring devotional, and to find information on ways to serve in our church body.

*Childcare by reservation only.
Please sign up at the Welcome Table.*

Student Ministries <<<



All Student Ministries events will resume in September. Have a great summer!



>>>Kootenai Thunder

kootenaithunder.com

For the most current information, please check our website and Facebook page.

STARTING AUGUST 15!

Our fall sports - soccer and volleyball - will be starting up with practice and a parent meeting. You can get our schedule on the website: kootenaithunder.com. Contact Tracy Jensen for details.

SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS
 We have a scholarship fund for families that are unable to afford the player fee. If you would like to donate specifically to that, contact Diedre Osman.

PLAYERS NEEDED!
Who can play?
BOYS SOCCER: 7th-12th grade
GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: (Junior High, Junior Varsity, and Varsity) 10 years-12th grade

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
 If you're interested in getting involved in this ministry, contact Tracy Jensen. There are many opportunities to help out: assistant coaching, financially supporting a player, and most importantly, praying for the teams throughout the year.



Kootenai Classifieds >>>

FARM FRESH ANGUS-HEREFORD BEEF
 hamburger for sale. 100% grass pasture-raised. No hormones. \$8 per 1.5 pound packages. No amount too large or small.
Call/Text Tim Shields 208-946-1256



To have your items listed in this section, please get the information to Lisa Slippy by the 15th of the month prior to publication. Email her at lisaslippy@gmail.com.
GARDEN FRESH VEGGIES AND HERBS
 Great for Canning and/or Freezing!
 Cilantro, Basil, and Dill
 Green Beans, Cucumbers, Squash, and Tomatoes
 Please call **Andrea Kinne** for availability and prices.
208-265-0102

House for Rent
 4 BR/4BA
 3500 square foot house on 5 acres in Sagle
 \$2500/mo. Avail. in October
 Lisa Slippy
 208-265-4997

MEAL MINISTRY
 Andrea Kinne organizes meals to be delivered for new mothers, for those who have had surgery, and others in need. Please call her at 208-265-0102.



>>>Adventure Club News



Questions? Talk to Dave & Diane Rich at (208) 265-2997 or ac@kootenaichurch.org

AUGUST NEWS!

Year 3 of Adventure Club at Kootenai Community Church starts in August! Over 50 people have committed to being a part of Adventure Club for Year 3! Praise God for these individuals who desire to serve Him in a weekly children's ministry.

**"Gear Up" Sunday
August 7**

We are getting families their AC supplies as we receive the pre-registration forms. If you've not yet pre-registered by August 7, please stop by the AC table after church and turn in your registration form and receive your children's supplies. This way they can wear their shirts on Adventure Club Sunday!

**Adventure Club Sunday
August 14**

All leaders and clubbers will wear their AC shirts, and will be recognized during the church service. Make sure you have your shirt ahead of time!

Leader Training - Friday, August 12, 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the church

All leaders should attend. This is the night where we all get on the same page! We'll eat pizza together, then train as a large group, then break into smaller age groups for specific training. We'll be done by 7:30. This is a very fun night of fellowship, as we prepare for

WEEK OF ADVENTURE!**Week of Adventure is August 22-26**

It's here! An entire Week of Adventure Club! Every night from 6:30-8:00! This is such a great week for clubbers and leaders! Meeting every night for a week really cements that leader-clubber bond, and clubbers get five lessons that week! We'll have games outside on the church lawn, some awesome snacks, and special prizes! Do not miss this week!

ATTENTION, PARENTS

Here at KCC, we love and welcome the entire family to our worship services, including babies and toddlers. We are committed to standing by the parents in helping train the little ones to sit quietly in the service. Whereas a little noise as you are trying to soothe a fussy or talkative child is OK, it does become a distraction and disservice to the rest of the congregation when the noise is prolonged. Our nursery has been set up to accommodate a parent who doesn't want to miss out on the service while taking a fussy child out for a time to calm him/her down. The service is broadcast through speakers, and the windows are there so you can see the sanctuary. You are welcome to drop your child off at any point in the service, or stay with him/her. Also, please keep in mind that **children should not run in any part of the building at any time.** We want to be mindful of those who may not be steady on their feet and might fall if a child runs into them or startles them. Children are also not allowed on the stage. Please monitor your children between and after the services.

Church News <<<

Men's Bible Study
Starting September 12
Mondays at 6:00 p.m.

Studying Proverbs
With David Forsyth

**FELLOWSHIP
DINNERS**

New groups forming NOW!
Runs September-December
Email Angie at angiepcates@gmail.com, or go to kootenaichurch.org/fellowship to sign up.

Paul used this verb to speak of being “led” by the Holy Spirit, they would have understood it to mean detailed, specific guidance in the various choices and decisions of everyday life.²⁴

No, they would not. When they read Matthew 21:2²⁵ - “Go into the village opposite you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied there and a colt with her; untie them and bring [agō] them to Me” - would they have thought the disciples were giving “detailed, specific guidance in the various choices and decisions of everyday life” to the donkey? Of course not! The meaning of “led” is determined by the context in which the word is used. In Galatians 5 and Romans 8, the first-century readers would have understood that Paul was speaking about holy living, not hearing the voice of God, since that is what the context is clearly describing. Unwittingly, Grudem allows the use of this word in an unrelated context to color his understanding of this word in the verses in question.

EXPANDED CONTEXT

I believe there is a third error Grudem makes in these passages. He expands his understanding of the context of Romans 8 and Galatians 5 to make room for a theology of personal divine guidance. Grudem is not *ignorant* of the context of these passages. He just does not believe that they speak *only* of righteous living in the revealed, moral will of God. He writes:

I agree with Friesen that the context in both verses shows that those who are led by the Holy Spirit will not live in a pattern of sin against God’s moral laws. However, that idea fits well in a context of specific guidance from the Holy Spirit, because Paul is saying that if you are led by the Holy Spirit, you will be following the desires of the Holy Spirit, and those desires will guide you to fulfill God’s moral law: “Walk by the Spirit, *and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh*” (Gal. 5:16).

This does not mean that the leading of the Holy Spirit is *confined* to teaching us to follow God’s moral law in Scripture, but it means that the leading of the Holy Spirit, in whatever detailed path of conduct he [sic] chooses, will always be *consistent* with the character of the Holy Spirit, and so will necessarily conform to God’s moral law. But the leading of the Holy Spirit is a broader reality than just giving us a desire to follow those moral laws - it is an actual *leading* through the path of life.²⁶

The idea of living in the moral will of God may “fit well in a context of specific guidance from the Holy Spirit,” but these verses aren’t in the “context of specific guidance from the Holy Spirit.” They are in the context of “putting to death the deeds of the flesh” and living in the power of the Spirit. Since, in Grudem’s mind, these concepts “fit well” together, he inserts the notion of divine guidance into a context where it isn’t present - not even remotely. He then claims that “the leading of the Holy

Spirit is a *broader reality* than just giving us a desire to follow those moral laws.” It might be, but Paul isn’t speaking of any “broader reality.” He has one specific, narrow subject in mind.

Of course, I don’t think the *only* thing the Holy Spirit does is help us obey God’s moral will. That doesn’t mean we are free to read any and every aspect of this “broader reality” into a passage that is describing something specific. The leading of the Spirit also involves gifting for service, sealing us until the day of redemption, empowering our acts of service, giving us a love for the brethren, calling us unto the Savior, regenerating us, and glorifying Christ. Those things are all part of the “broader reality,” but Paul isn’t addressing any of those issues in Galatians 5 and Romans 8. Neither is he speaking of personal divine guidance for decision-making.

Grudem is essentially arguing that because Topic A (personal divine guidance) is not *inconsistent* with Topic B (holy living), we can *assume* that Topic A is intended by the author even though he is only discussing Topic B, and doesn’t mention or allude to Topic A at all. Then the passage is quoted and applied as if it were actually discussing Topics A *and* B.

If anyone tried this trick with any other passage, Grudem would rightly cry “foul.” To illustrate, imagine we are discussing Romans 5:1: “Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,” and I say:

I agree with Grudem that the passage in the context shows we are justified by faith. *However, that idea fits well in a context* of good works. Certainly, those justified by faith will engage in good works as these two things are not *inconsistent*. Salvation isn’t *confined* to just faith. It is a *broader reality than just* faith alone. So, when Paul says “we are justified by faith,” it is a *broader reality* in view. Therefore, we are justified by works also.²⁷

That is the same exegetical method Grudem employs in his treatment of Romans 8 and Galatians 5 and it is fundamentally flawed. I don’t believe he would make that mistake if he didn’t have a theology of divine guidance he was trying to force into the text. Grudem would never countenance that exegetical reasoning if employed in any other context.

Do Romans 8 and Galatians 5 teach that all Christians will receive personal divine guidance from the Holy Spirit for daily decision-making? No. These passages teach no such thing. The context is clear. These passages teach that all who belong to God are led by the Holy Spirit into a sanctified, sin-mortifying life of holiness.

Footnotes available in the book *God Doesn’t Whisper* by Jim Osman.



Kootenai Community Church

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208-255-5668
kcc@nctv.com
www.kootenaichurch.org

Baptism

Baptism Class
August 14

Baptism Service
August 28

If you have questions or have a desire to be baptized, please contact Pastor Jim Osman.

AUGUST 22-26 WEEK OF ADVENTURE!



6:30-8:00 p.m.

-This will be a great week, with games outside, exciting lessons, amazing snacks, and some incredible prizes!
-For clubbers age 3 years through 6th grade.