

A pair of brass scales of justice is centered in the image. The scales are made of polished brass and feature two pans hanging from a central beam. The scales are set against a dark, almost black background. The lighting highlights the metallic texture and the intricate details of the scales' construction, including the central pillar and the base.

# Weighing Sins

Gal. 5:16-24

# Weighing Sins

A pair of brass scales of justice is centered in the background. The scales are slightly tilted, with the right pan being lower than the left. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic texture of the pans and the central column against a dark, almost black background.

- Human beings have a penchant for pushing limits: Higher, further, faster, better, harder
  - Led to technological development and broken records
  - Also led to increased access to and forms of engaging in sin

# Weighing Sins

A pair of scales of justice, symbolizing the weighing of sins. The scales are positioned in the background, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic surfaces against a dark background.

- Humans, who at some level believe they must avoid sin, still try to see just how close they can get to the edge
- Our capacity for justification and rationalization is well developed
- Culturally, we are skilled at redefining sinful behaviors to make them accepted and even endorsed

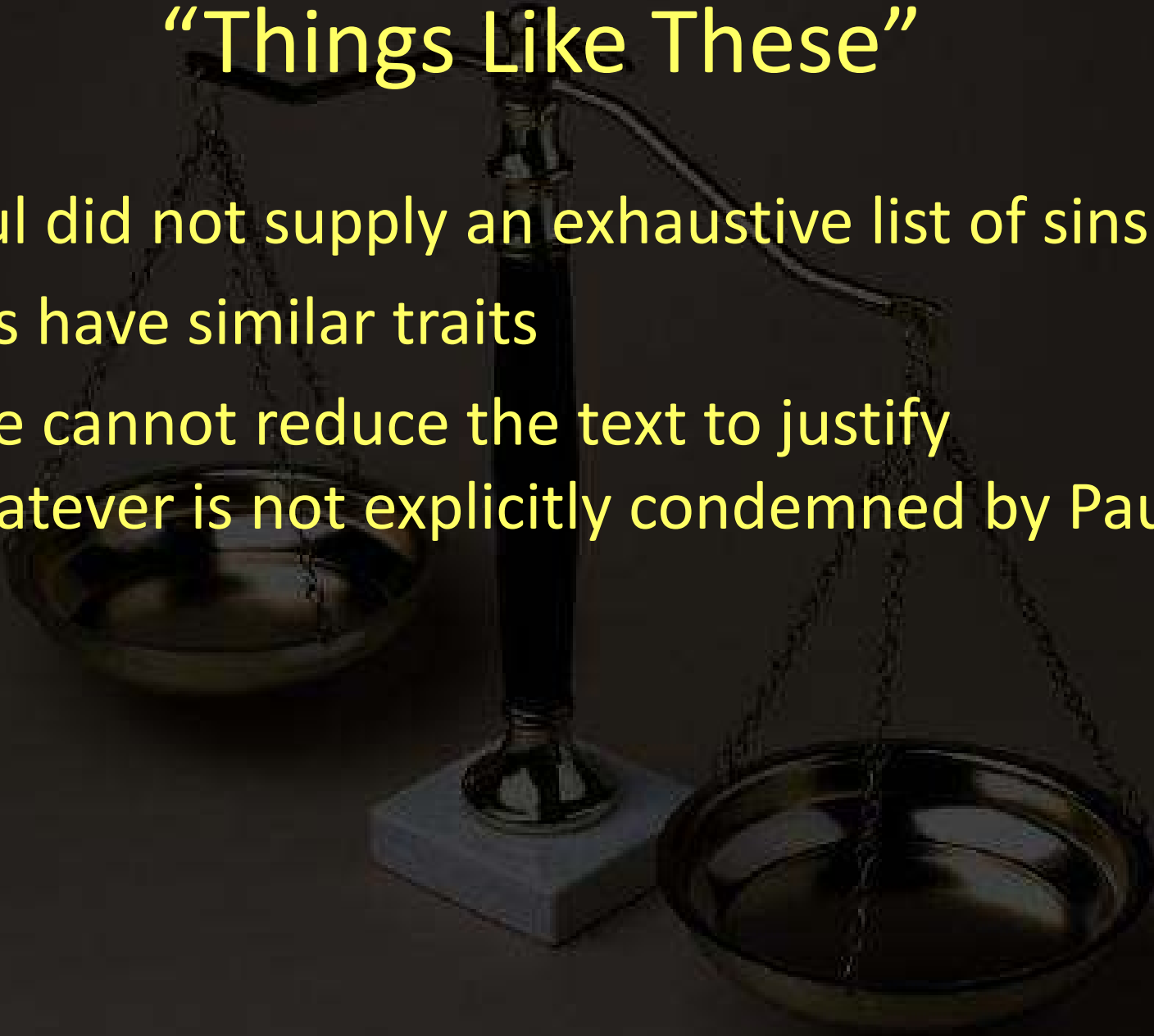
# Weighing Sins

A pair of brass scales of justice, symbolizing the weighing of sins. The scales are positioned in the background, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic texture of the scales against a dark background.

- God is well aware of these tendencies
- Hence Gal. 5:19-21 - “Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are and the like”
- Things similar to the works of the flesh are works of the flesh, and fall under the same condemnation

# “Things Like These”

- Paul did not supply an exhaustive list of sins
- Sins have similar traits
- One cannot reduce the text to justify whatever is not explicitly condemned by Paul



# The Meaning

A pair of brass scales of justice is centered in the background. The scales are made of polished brass and are mounted on a dark, square base. The pans are empty and the scales are slightly tilted, with the right pan being lower than the left. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic texture of the scales against a dark, almost black background.

- It means that we must use discretion
  - Humans have always been good at coming up with new ways to sin
  - Rom. 1:30 - “Inventors of evil things”
  - This requires us to reason and compare similar things

# The Meaning

A pair of scales of justice, symbolizing balance and fairness. The scales are positioned in the background, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic surfaces against a dark background.

- It means that we must learn to see things the way God sees them
  - 2Tim. 3:16-17 - “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

# The Meaning

A pair of scales of justice, symbolizing balance and justice. The scales are positioned in the background, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic surfaces against a dark background.

- The Bible authorizes everything that is good
- If it's not authorized in the Scriptures by either restrictive or permissive authority, it cannot be a good work
- If it cannot be justified by the scriptures, it is sin
- Therefore, while many would say that whatever is not condemned is justified, the Bible teaches us the exact opposite; whatever is not justifiable is condemned

# The Meaning

A pair of brass scales of justice is centered in the background. The scales are made of polished brass and are mounted on a dark, square base. The left pan is higher and the right pan is lower, indicating it is heavier. The background is a dark, almost black, gradient.

- It means we must be honest with ourselves
- We must not allow our judgment be tainted by our desires
- We must be honest about our motives behind our actions. Do they meet God's standards for motives?

# The Application

- Weigh the matter according to the works of the flesh and fruit of the Spirit
  - Gal. 5:17-24



# The Application



- Substance abuse
  - The Bible says nothing about the abuse of recreational mood and mind altering substances
  - But Gal. 5 condemns the mood and mind altering practice of sorcery
  - We can also see that it is against the fruit of the Spirit of self-control and goodness
  - We therefore reason that it is wrong because it is “like these”

# The Application

A pair of scales of justice, symbolizing law and equity. The scales are positioned in the background, with the title 'The Application' centered above them. The scales are dark and metallic, with a central pillar and two pans hanging from a horizontal beam. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the contours of the scales against a dark background.

- Gambling
  - The Bible says nothing about gambling, but in view of what motivates gambling, we discern that it involves covetousness, and that according to Eph. 5:5 and Col. 3:5, covetousness is equated with idolatry
  - Therefore, gambling is a “thing like” idolatry, and is condemned
  - Gambling is also a violation of the principle of love, a fruit of the Spirit

# The Application

A pair of scales of justice, symbolizing discernment and weighing in. The scales are positioned in the background, with the pans hanging from a central beam. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic surfaces against a dark background.

- This discernment can be used for every practice
  - Is it related to works of the flesh?
  - Or does it manifest the fruit of the Spirit?
  - If we have reason to be convicted that the Scriptures authorize the practice, we can proceed
  - If we have no such conviction, it is sin

# The Greater Context

A pair of scales of justice, symbolizing balance and conflict. The scales are positioned in the background, with the central pillar and pans visible. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the metallic surfaces against a dark background.

- It is less about lists of good and bad deeds, and more about the fact that they represent the greater conflict going on within us, between:
  - The godly desire of our spirit to do what is right
  - The wicked desire of our flesh to satisfy its lusts

# The Greater Context



- How shall we win?
  - Crucifying the flesh and its passions
    - Gal. 5:24
  - Fleeing from sin
    - 1Cor. 6:18 - “Flee sexual immorality.”
  - Find the means God supplies of escaping temptation
    - 1Cor. 10:13 - “No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.”

# The Greater Context



- It is a battle that we can overcome and win.
  - If we set our minds to do so
  - If we determine to no longer walk in the flesh, but walk in the spirit
  - If we refuse to get as close to the edge of sin as we can
  - If we remember that just because something is not explicitly condemned does not make it right
  - If we pray continually for deliverance from temptation, as Jesus taught His apostles
  - And if we repent every time we stumble