## $\sqrt{159}$ Understanding the Bible

because he who has suffered in the *flesh* [same meaning, #1] has ceased from sin, so as to live the rest of the time in the *flesh* [meaning #5] no longer for the lust of men, but for the will of God."

## 6. "Flesh" means the natural, unregenerate state of human beings.

Romans 7:5 -- "For while we were in the *flesh*, the sinful passions, which were aroused by the Law, were at work in the members of our body to bear fruit for death."

Romans 8:8-9 -- "And those who are in the *flesh* cannot please God. However, you are not in the *flesh* but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But in anyone does not have the Spirit of God, he does not belong to Him."

## 7. "Flesh" means naturally, as distinguished from spiritually.

2 Corinthians 5:16 -- "Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the *flesh*; even though we have known Christ according to the *flesh*, yet now we know Him thus no longer."

## 8. "Flesh" means the mass of sinful attributes in a human being, the depravity or corruption remaining even in the regenerate person.

Romans 13:14 -- "But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the *flesh* in regard to its lusts."

Galatians 5:19-21 -- "Now the deeds of the *flesh* are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions, envyings, drunkenness, carousings, and things like these, of which I forewarn you just as I have forewarned you that those who practice such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

Now, having briefly noted these eight categories of meaning for the word *sarx*, we must ask, which one fits John 1:14? Although it is difficult to capture the precise idea of *sarx* in this usage, perhaps meaning #4 comes closest to it. In meaning #4, "flesh" means to be a human being. The *Logos* became *sarx*, that is, a human being.