

Galatians – Freed to be Free

A study of the book of Galatians

Chapter 5 – Freedom in Christ

Galatians 5:1-15

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. ² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. ⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. ¹¹ Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves! ¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

1. For what purpose did Christ set us free? What does that mean for us?
2. Of what value is Christ to the person who places themselves under the Law? (**v. 2**)
 - What’s the real result of efforts to earn closeness to Christ?
 - What keeps us in hope?
3. What’s the only thing that counts in Christ? (**v. 6**)
4. What happens to living the truth when listening to the wrong things gets in the way of God’s good Word? (**v. 7**)
 - Why is it important to not let bogus thinking which comes from bogus so-called sources of wisdom/knowledge linger in one person in a group of believers in Christ?
5. Paul makes some strong points in **v. 10-12**. How is it appropriate to pray or think such things as **v. 10**? What’s the point of **v. 11**?
 - Is Paul saying what it sounds like he’s saying in **v. 12**? How can he say that?? Is there a point Paul’s making in expressing himself in this manner?

6. We were called to be free but for what were we not called to use the freedom Jesus died on the cross to give us? For what are we called to use the freedom Jesus died on the cross to give us?
 - Paul shuts down in the best way the “keep the law” discussion in **v. 14**. What’s he say?
 - What’s it look like when groups of Christians bite and devour each other and how can this ever even happen to God’s people who share the same faith and hope? Can real, actual healing happen? How?

Galatians 5:16-26

So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law. ¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

7. What truly superb and blessed guidance is provided for the reader of Scripture in **v. 16**? How able is the reader of Scripture to follow such guidance? Why or why not?
8. What massive truth about how the Holy Spirit operates is found in **v. 18**?
9. What are the obvious acts of the sinful nature? Why can’t we look down on those who do them?
 - What are the fruits of the Spirit against which there is no law? (What’s the implication with this inclusion from the Apostle?) Why shouldn’t we worship the ground walked upon by those who do them?
10. What have those who belong to Christ Jesus done? What does that mean?
11. Since we live by the Spirit, what’s the obvious encouragement of **v. 25**?
12. What hyper practical guidance for Christians wraps up the chapter?