

“The Gospel in Galatians”

Lesson #11 Freedom In Christ

*****Announce Foundations Of Faith*****

Gal. 5:1–15; 1 Cor. 6:20; Rom. 8:1; Heb. 2:14, 15; Rom. 8:4; 13:8.

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV) *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

Some believe they are free from all Old Testament laws and that Christ did everything for them, setting them free from any practices except a nebulous obligation to “love” God and their fellowman.

Proverbs 5:22 (NKJV) *His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin.*

False Freedom

2 Peter 2:18–20 (NKJV) *For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.*

Christ Has Set Us Free

Luke 4:18 (NKJV) *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;*

John 8:32 (NKJV) *And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*

***John 8:36** (NKJV) *Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

Romans 6:6–7 (NKJV) *knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin.*

1 Corinthians 6:20 (NKJV) *For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.*

Although it seems like a contradiction, the true freedom only comes to those who are Christ’s slaves.

Galatians 5:1 *Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. This is intimately connected with the preceding chapter: the apostle having said, just before;*

Galatians 4:31 (NKJV) *So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman but of the free.*

Galatians 5:3–4 (NKJV) *And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.* **FALLEN FROM SALVATION**

Paul was saying that if a person is circumcised as a means of salvation he has missed the whole point of Christ coming.

Hebrews 2:14–15 (NKJV) *Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*

“Paul had ever exalted the divine law. He had shown that in the law there is no power to save men from the penalty of disobedience. Wrongdoers must repent of their sins and humble themselves before God, whose just wrath they have incurred by breaking His law, and they must also exercise faith in the blood of Christ as their only means of pardon. The Son of God had died as their sacrifice and had ascended to heaven to stand before the Father as their advocate. By repentance and faith they might be freed from the condemnation of sin and through the grace of Christ be enabled henceforth to render obedience to the law of God.” {AA 393}

The Nature of Christian Freedom

Romans 6:12 (NKJV) *Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it in its lusts.*

***Romans 6:14** (NKJV) *For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace.*

Romans 8:2 (NKJV) *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Galatians 4:3–5 (NKJV) *Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world. But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.*

A Sabbath school teacher had two new boys in class. In order to register them she had to ask their ages and birthdays. The bolder of the two said, "We're both seven. My birthday is April 8, 1976, and my brother's is April 20, 1976." "But that's impossible!" answered the teacher. "No, it's not," answered the quieter brother. "One of us is adopted." "Which one?" asked the superintendent before she could curb her tongue. The boys looked at each other and smiled, and the bolder one said to the superintendent, "We asked Dad awhile ago, but he just said he loved us both, and he couldn't remember any more which one was adopted."

The Dangerous Consequences of Legalism

1 Corinthians 7:19 (NKJV) *Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but keeping the commandments of God is what matters.*

Galatians 5:6 (NKJV) *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.*

***Galatians 6:15** (NKJV) *For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but a new creation.*

Colossians 3:11 (NKJV) *where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but Christ is all and in all.*

The way in which Paul introduces Galatians 5:2–12 indicates the importance of what he is about to say. “**Look**” (ESV), “**Listen!**” (NRSV), “**Mark my words!**” (NIV), and “**I, Paul, say to you**” (ESV). By his forceful words, he not only calls for his readers’ full attention, but he evokes his apostolic authority. He wants them to understand that if the Gentiles are going to submit to circumcision to be saved, then the Galatians need to realize the dangerous consequences involved in their decision.

Liberty Not Licentiousness

Galatians 5:13 (NKJV) *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

Romans 2:13 (NKJV) *for not the hearers of the law are just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified;*

Romans 3:8 (NKJV) *And why not say, “Let us do evil that good may come”?—as we are slanderously reported and as some affirm that we say. Their condemnation is just.*

***Romans 6:1–2** (NKJV) *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? ² Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?*

Romans 6:15 (NKJV) *What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? Certainly not!*

1 Corinthians 8:9 (NKJV) *But beware lest somehow this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those who are weak.*

1 Peter 2:16 (NKJV) *as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God.*

Fulfilling the Whole Law

Galatians 5:13–15 (NKJV) *For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!*

Matthew 22:37–40 (NKJV) *Jesus said to him, ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”*

Romans 13:8–10 (NKJV) *Owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹ For the commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not bear false witness,” “You shall not covet,” and if there is any other commandment, are all summed up in this saying, namely, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰ Love does no harm to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.*

The allusion is to beasts of falling upon and devouring one another: