

## Galatians Chapter Five – Gal. 5:1-26 – “Liberty, Love, Flesh and Spirit” Sunday, October 7, 2018

### ❖ Gal. 5:1-15 – Liberty and Love

- **Ver. 1** – “**Stand fast**” – Be steadfast → in your faith and your profession of Jesus Christ...**STAY** where you are...stay in your **RELATIONSHIP** with Jesus Christ → “free”!
  - “**liberty**” – **FREEDOM** in Christ vs the **BONDAGE** of the Law.
  - “**entangled**” – to be held in or by anything...**HAND-CUFFED**...**CONFINED**...**HELD PRISONER**...**OPPRESSED**.
- **SLIDE - Ver. 2** - The atoning sacrifice of Christ...cannot benefit anyone who...trusts in law or ceremony...or who tries to keep rules and regulations...for purposes of salvation.
- **Ver. 3** - If you put your trust in keeping the Law...for your salvation...you become a “**debtor to keep the whole law.**”
  - “**debtor**” - God’s standard of righteousness is **PERFECTION**...and a failure to keep only...one part...of the law falls short of the standard.
  - **SLIDE** - The Law is **NOT** user friendly - **James 2:10** - <sup>10</sup> For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one *point*, he is guilty of all.
- **Ver. 4** – If you attempt to be “**justified**” – **DECLARED RIGHTEOUS** by keeping the Law...you will become “**estranged from Christ**”.
  - “**estranged**” – means that you have...no **FELLOWSHIP** with Christ!
  - “**fallen from grace**” – to lose one’s part or interest → **READ Gal. 2:21.**
- **Ver. 5-6** – As Christians we already have the **IMPUTED** righteousness of Jesus Christ...legally we have been **DECLARED** righteous...but we still await the **EXPERIENCIAL** righteousness that comes through the sanctification process and being **GLORIFIED** with Jesus Christ → **READ 1 John 3:1-3** → **Rom. 8:29-30.**
  - Here is what is important – “**faith working through love.**”
- **Ver. 7** – “**Who hindered you**” - **Gal. 3:1** → **Matt. 18:7** – “Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!”
- **READ Ver. 8-10** – **SLIDE** – **Zodhiates:** “The play on words in Gal. 5:7–10 is quite interesting. In verse seven, Paul uses the word *peithesthai* - “to be persuaded,” in order to chide the Galatians for having turned to the teachings of the Judaizers and for no longer being convinced of the truth. In verse eight, he uses *peismoné* to warn the Galatians that the persuasion brought about by the Judaizers is not the conviction that comes from God, but a stubborn reliance on the doctrine of men. Paul then emphasizes the turmoil that this false reliance has caused in the church, “A little yeast leavens the whole batch of dough.” Finally, in verse ten, Paul uses *pépoitha* to inform the Galatians that it is the Lord that has convinced him of the truth, even with respect to the Galatians, “I, myself, am persuaded by the Lord with respect to you . . .” Paul was sure that the Galatians would be convinced of the truth and that those who had propounded the error would bear the burden of their sin.”
- **Ver. 11** – “**the offense of the cross**” – A seeker friendly...watered down Gospel...the cross is offensive...the cross speaks of sin...death...burial...resurrection...forgiveness...reconciliation...redemption.
- **Ver. 12** – “**cut themselves off**” – “mutilate themselves” – most commonly used for castration...a religious cult of that day...Cybele...made their priests eunuchs.

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- **SLIDE** – **MacArthur:** “Paul’s ironic point is that since the Judaizers were so insistent on circumcision as a means of pleasing God, they should go to the extreme of religious devotion and mutilate themselves.”
- **Ver. 13** – Liberty is **NEVER** license...freedom does not mean a lack of **SELF-CONTROL** → **SEE Ver. 16** comments.
- **Ver. 14-15** – You think you can keep the Law?...You **CANNOT** fulfill the Law...because you fail to “**love your neighbor as yourself.**”
  
- ❖ **Gal. 5:16-26** – Flesh and Spirit
  - **Ver. 16-17** – “**Walk**” – to live or pass one’s life...manner of living – it indicates something that is **HABITUAL**...something that is **CONTINUOUS**.
    - Walking also implies **PROGRESS**... as a believer submits to the Spirit’s control ...that is...responds in obedience to the simple commands of Scripture...he or she grows in his or her spiritual life.
    - **READ Rom. 6:1-14** and make comments.
    - “**lusts**” – to have the **AFFECTIONS** directed toward something...to desire...to long after.
  - **Ver. 18**– “**led by the Spirit**” – to lead along...to **GUIDE** – “**you are not under the law.**” – remember the Spirit and the Law are **MUTUALLY** exclusive...
    - **SLIDE** - Either you live by the power of the Holy Spirit...which results in righteous behavior and spiritual attitudes - **Gal. 3:22-29**...or you live by the law...which can only produce...unrighteous behavior and attitudes → **verses 19-21**.
  - **Ver. 19-21** - “**practice**” – what one does **CONTINUALLY** or **HABITUALLY**.
    - Walking in the Spirit needs to be **HABITUAL**...and the **WORKS** of the **FLESH** are **HABITUAL**...hence the **BATTLE** – “**the flesh lusts against and the Spirit against the flesh.**”...**AND**...“**they are contrary to one another**”...just like the **LAW** and **GRACE!**
    - **READ 1 Cor. 6:9-11**.
  - **Ver. 22-23** – “**the fruit of the Spirit**” – The fruit (singular)of the Spirit is (singular) love (agape – selfless...sacrificial...unconditional).
    - All the other terms **DEFINE** and **CHARACTERIZE**...the quality of this kind of love.
      - People around us are starving for love...joy, peace, and all the other graces of the Spirit.
        - ◆ When they find them in our lives...they know that we have something they lack.
        - ◆ If we display the works of the flesh...we’re just like everyone else in the world!
  - **Ver. 24** – “**crucified**” – **SLIDE** – **Zodhiates:** “Metaphorically, to crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts is to mortify them through the faith and love of Christ crucified (Gal. 6:14). When Paul says, “The world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world,” he means that his regard for his crucified Savior was so great that the world had no more charm for him than the corpse of a crucified malefactor would have had, nor did he take any more delight in worldly things than a person expiring on the cross would do in the objects around him.”

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- **Ver. 25** – “live” - to live conformably to the will...purpose...precepts...and example of God...unto the Lord or Christ - **Rom. 14:8**; **2 Cor. 5:15**...unto the Spirit.
  - “walk” – to walk orderly...**SLIDE** – **Zodhiates**: “Again Paul reminded the Galatians that in addition to a divine judgment of the sinful nature there is a divine enablement in the person of the Holy Spirit. He made the believer alive by regeneration (John 3:5–6), so each believer is exhorted to keep in step (“follow” in Gal. 6:16) with the Spirit. Step by step one’s Christian walk should conform to the Spirit’s direction and enablement.”
- **Ver. 26** – In other words...“Let’s don’t **DEMONSTRATE** the works of the **FLESH**... let’s demonstrate the **FRUIT** of the Spirit!
- ❖ In short...the secret to **WALKING** in the Spirit...being **LED** by the Spirit...and... **LIVING** in the Spirit...is **YIELDING** to the Holy Spirit.
  - He alone can give us freedom...from **SIN** and **SELF**.
    - He enables us to fulfill the law of love...to overcome the flesh...and to bear fruit...will you yield to Him...and let Him work in and through your life?