



The Epistle to the
Galatians

Paul's Epistle to the Galatians



Review of Chapters 1-4

- Paul has laid out his case:
- The Gospel was by Grace alone
- Nothing could be added to it
- This was what he had preached to them at the beginning
- The Judaizers had then corrupted the simplicity of the Gospel by commanding obedience to the Law of Moses
- But Paul then demonstrates...

Review of Chapters 1-4

- The Gospel was given to Him by revelation from Jesus Christ
- The Apostles had approved his Gospel
- At their first meeting the Galatians had gladly accepted this Gospel
- Paul compared the Law with a child who had not yet 'become of age'
 - **Nor ever could under the Law!**
- The Gospel on the other hand declared those who received it to be sons & heirs!

Review of Chapters 1-4

- Paul went on to say...
- The systems of this world (including the Law) only put us in bondage – because they say *it is about what we can do*
- The Gospel says you are FREE because Christ has done it ALL!

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.

Titus 3:5

Review of Chapters 1-4

- There are only two religions in the world: the *true* and *false*.
 - False religions are alike in that they say,
“Something in my hand I bring.”
 - The true religion revealed from heaven leads one to sing,
“Nothing in my hand I bring.”

Review of Chapters 1-4

- *Not because of who I am,*
- *but because of what You've done.*
- *Not because of what I've done,*
- *but because of who You are!*
 - *Casting Crowns*

The Challenge to the Gospel

- *If* you now have this liberty...
- *If* Christ has done it all...
- *If* all of your sin is paid for
 - past, present & future
- That means you can just live as you like without any fear of retribution!
- THIS is the question Paul will address in this chapter...
- Along with the 'How to' of Grace

A historical map of the Roman Empire, showing various provinces and cities. The map is rendered in a dark, muted color palette. Overlaid on the map is the text 'The Epistle to the Galatians' in a large, bold, yellow font. The word 'Galatians' is significantly larger than the other words. Below the main title, the text 'Chapter 5' is written in a smaller, orange font. The map background includes labels for various regions such as 'Paphlagonia', 'Cilicia', 'Lycaonia', and 'Cappadocia', which are relevant to the biblical text.

The Epistle to the Galatians

Chapter 5

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith
Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled
again with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1

- There would be no need for this admonition if it was easy!
- This implies warfare, we have to hold the line, we are not going to retreat!
- For if we do we will become entangled with the unbearable bondage of 'self-sufficiency'
- This is a far more real danger than most Christians perceive!

Stand fast therefore in the liberty **wherewith**
Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled
again with the yoke of bondage.

Galatians 5:1

- Is there any possible thing that we can do that would be better than what Christ accomplished at Calvary?
- Remember: before you were even born, Christ was *“the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world”* – **Revelation 13:8**
- *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”* - **John 8:36**

Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

Galatians 5:2

That is, if you choose to be under the jurisdiction of the Law, you cannot benefit from the freedom and liberty of those in Christ.

You are either attempting to get to God by your efforts,

Or you are resting in the completed work of Christ on your behalf and are now (undeservedly!) clothed in His righteousness

For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Galatians 5:3

- i.e. everyone that chooses to be circumcised believing that it will grant him favour with God has chosen the path to God via the Law
 - Remember there are 2 ways to be saved! Law or Grace
- The Law is a unit, and if a person puts himself under any part of it for justification, he is a “debtor” to the entire code with its requirements and its curse

Heb 3:10; James 2:10

For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

Galatians 5:3

- *“And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”* Rom 11:6
- *“Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”* Rom 4:4,5

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Galatians 5:4

- IF you chose to be justified by your own works rather than accepting Christ's atoning death in your place
- ...you deny the inner witness of the Holy Spirit
- This is blasphemy against the Spirit!
- Such a person has hardened their heart to the good news of the Gospel of Grace

Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Galatians 5:4

- The same error is repeated today when an individual rejects the clear teaching from a true believer/Biblical Church that salvation is by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone...
- ... and instead joins a 'church' which teaches that salvation depends on specific rituals or observances.

- Consider the promise given to one who accepts their salvation, not on their own merit...
- But on Christ's!

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave *them* me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck *them* out of my Father's hand.

John 10:28,29

For we through the Spirit **wait** for the hope of
righteousness by faith.

Galatians 5:5

apekdechometha; eagerly await; (used 7X in the
NT of the return of Christ:

Rom 8:19, 23, 25; 1 Cor 1:7; Gal 5:5; Phil 3:20; Heb 9:28)

- In contrast with 'legalists', true believers by
faith (not works) eagerly await the
'completion' of their salvation **Rom. 8:18-25**
- Then the righteousness for which we hope
will be fully realized **1 Peter 1:3-4, 13**

For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Galatians 5:5

- At the coming of Christ believers will be completely conformed to Christ, meeting all the requirements of God's will.
- The inward and 'forensic righteousness' which began at justification will be transformed into an outward righteousness and glorification.
- God will then 'publicly' acknowledge all believers' to be fully acceptable to Him.

The Paradigm of Salvation

“I have been saved;
I am being saved;
and I will be saved.”

--Earl D. Rachmacher

Justification is *for* us;

Sanctification is *in* us.

Justification *declares* the sinner righteous;

Sanctification *makes* the sinner
righteous.

Justification removes the
guilt and penalty of sin;

Sanctification removes the
growth and the power of sin.

The Paradigm of “Salvation”

Past Tense:

Separation from the *Penalty* of Sin

Justification

Present Tense:

Separation from the *Power* of Sin

Sanctification

Future Tense:

Separation from the *Presence* of Sin

Glorification



The Paradigm of Salvation

- **Justification** (Past tense)
 - The gift from God of everlasting life received by faith alone in Christ alone John 3:18; 5:24; Eph 2:5,8
- **Sanctification** (Present tense)
 - A progressive work that involves the faith and the works of the believer
- **Glorification** (Future tense)
 - A result of the previous aspects
 - All believers will be glorified (resurrected and given a body like Christ), but some will have more glory (i.e. reward) than others.

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh **by love.**

Galatians 5:6

- For those in Christ Jesus (the true sphere of salvation), neither circumcision nor the lack of it is of any significance **3:28; 6:15**
- What matters is faith expressing itself through love **5:13**

For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh **by love.**

Galatians 5:6

- The key is now relationship
- Law vs. Love
 - one who is simply “law abiding”... vs. man who loves his country
 - servant vs. son;
 - maid vs. wife
 - Sabbath day: vs. every day is a “sabbath”!
 - One who tythes 10% vs. One who give all

Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Galatians 5:7

- Employing a metaphor he was fond of, Paul described the Galatians' Christian experience as a race:

1 Cor. 9:24-26; 2 Tim. 4:7
- They had *begun* their race well, but someone had cut in on them, causing them to break stride and stumble.

Ye did run well; **who** did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

Galatians 5:7

- [Though many false teachers were disturbing the Galatians, the singular pronoun (“who”) would seem to indicate the leader of the Judaizers was in view here.]
- The result was that the believers were no longer obeying the truth, but were attempting to complete the race by legalistic self-effort rather than by faith.
- How often is it just one person that causes so much damage!

This **persuasion** *cometh* not of him that calleth
you.

Galatians 5:8

- “Persuasion” = better: persuasiveness (gullibility; fickleness).
- Such false teaching as the Galatians were beginning to embrace did not originate in the God who called them.
- He called them by and into Grace. 1:6
- Mixing works of law and grace is not of the LORD. They were now being seduced by another voice into following a false gospel

A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

Galatians 5:9

- And lest someone would feel that the apostle was making too much of the problem, he quoted a proverb to the effect that false teaching, like leaven or yeast, spreads and permeates.
- It can quickly affect the entire church.
- Leaven speaks of pride and is always evil.

Cf. 1 Cor 5:1-8

Ex 12:15; 13:7; Matt 16:6, 11, 12; Mark 8:15; Luke 12:1

I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

Galatians 5:10

- But Paul was optimistic about the outcome.
- God was in this situation working all things for the good of those who love Him
 - **Romans 8:28**
- He had not given up, he was standing fast!

And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

Galatians 5:11

- Paul now turns to address the preposterous suggestion that apparently he was still preaching circumcision!
- Certainly before his conversion he zealously proclaimed circumcision and the Law
- But he was as adamant now of its futility as he had been zealous of its necessity
- ...and asks the obvious question, why am I being persecuted if I still uphold the Law!

And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

Galatians 5:11

- The message of the cross is offensive...
- ... not because it exposes unbelievers as sinners
 - The Law already does that very effectively!
 - Very few people need to be convinced that they are sinful!
- The offence is that you can do nothing to earn salvation!
- It strikes at the very heart of man's pride and self sufficiency!

I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

Galatians 5:12

- Don't miss what Paul was really saying here!
- Paul wished that the Judaizers, who were so enthusiastic about circumcision, would go the whole way and castrate themselves!
 - As did the pagan priests of the cult of Cybele in Asia Minor.
- *“Perhaps the resulting physical impotence thus implied reflected Paul’s desire that they also be unable to produce new converts!”*
 - Chuck Missler

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

- This is the key verse of the whole chapter for believers today!
- This gives the ‘how to’ answer to the question “How am I to live by Grace?”
- The challenge
 - ‘Can’t we just do anything we want now?’
- The response:
 - Yes! – but we won’t because the basis of our lives is LOVE! – for God and for the brethren!

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty;
only use not liberty for an occasion to the **flesh**,
but by love serve one another.

Galatians 5:13

Gr. *sarx*: “flesh”, used by Paul for “Sinful nature,”
seven times Gal. 5:13, 16-17 [thrice], 19, 24; 6:8

- Specifically Paul charged the Galatians not to use their liberty as a basis for sin to gain a foothold.
- Rather than liberty being used for lust, the real goal should be love.
- A study of 1st John is recommended!

*For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty;
only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh,
but by love serve one another.*

Galatians 5:13

- Why did Jesus wash the disciples' feet?

John 13:14

- To teach us to 'lay down the right to ourselves' and instead to joyfully love and serve each other

The Key to Grace

- *“We have the idea that we can dedicate our gifts to God. However, you cannot dedicate what is not yours. There is actually only one thing you can dedicate to God, and that is your right to yourself (see Romans 12:1). If you will give God your right to yourself, He will make a holy experiment out of you— and His experiments always succeed”.*

– Oswald Chambers

For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

Galatians 5:14

- Do you want to keep the Law?
- Do you want to do something?
- Then submit to God's Grace, and let Love be the foundation.
- We won't sin because we won't want to harm each other or grieve the precious Spirit of God

Next Session

- Read Galatians 5:15-26



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