
Finding Freedom: A Study In Galatians

“Liberty Or Legalism”

Galatians 5:1-12

05-22-22

Introduction: We have spent several weeks working through Galatians. In today's text Paul shifts his focus.

1. Earlier he defended his apostleship, the gospel of grace, & made a doctrinal case for justification by faith in Christ alone!
2. Today we begin a more practical section that covers the rest of this letter.
3. Back in Galatians 1:4, Paul had introduced the freedom Christ offers; now he is able to elaborate.
4. The Judaizers' fear was that an emphasis on grace led to reckless living.
5. That is not what Christ intends or offers. He offers true righteousness as the Holy Spirit transforms us from the inside out!
6. When we understand & live this, we can experience the life God offers us in Christ.

I. Clarifying The Issues

A. Christ's Purpose (5:1)

B. The Galatian Error (5:7-12)

II. Understand The Choices

A. Legalism

- Christ's Work Nullified
- Obligated To Keep Entire Law

- Severed From Grace/Christ

B. Liberty

- Faith
- Holy Spirit
- Righteousness

Conclusion: Paul closes this section with a clear statement.

1. In Christ, circumcision or a lack of circumcision have no bearing on our relationship with God (think religion here).
2. What does matter is faith, but not just any faith, a working faith where the transforming work of the Holy Spirit systematically changes us from the inside out, so we live a life of love for God & neighbor.
3. When this is true, you are free & on the path to becoming the person God designed you to be!