

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Liberty and Love
Galatians 5:1-15

Last time...modern day Galatians

Contemporary examples of Christian legalism that binds and hurts followers of Jesus as they

- attempt to finish in the flesh that which was begun in the Spirit (Gal 3:3)
- frustrate the grace of God (Gal 2:21)

The Gospel of Grace is always under attack, even (or especially) in the Church

The works-based salvation “gospels”

- invest in wood, hay, and stubble and not gold, silver, and precious stones
- put the chains of the law back on those set free by Jesus Christ

When grace fails (condemnation, legalism), the Church hurts people

This time...in Paul’s defense of the Gospel, we pivot from bondage and condemnation to liberty and love

We will be in Gal 5

v1 Stand fast...not entangled again:
Therefore...since Ch 1-4 is true

stand fast...

persevere

- a spiritual stand on the Rock that cannot be moved
vs shifting sand of man
- a resolve of the heart and mind to weather the relentless attacks
on the Gospel of Grace

in liberty wherewith Christ has made us free...

in the freedom of grace won by Jesus Who has set the captives free

Luke 4:18

The Spirit of the Lord *is* upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised

Matt 5:17

Matt 11:28-30

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke *is* easy, and my burden is light.

An invitation to unbelievers crushed by the world and believers crushed by the works-based gospels in the Church
Jesus came to do the heavy lifting of satisfying the perfect justice of God (The Law); only He could!

John 8:31-32, 36

John 1:17

Heb 2:14-15

Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Rom 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

Rom 10:4

2 Cor 3:17b

be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage...hold fast to the liberty in Christ and don't allow yourselves to be held fast by legalism and self-righteousness (works-based salvation "gospel")

By the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ,
By the absolute acceptability of the Father's sin sacrifice,

Is 53:10-11 Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put *him* to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, *and* shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

we who believe that Divine work have been

- liberated from God's justice (no mercy in justice), sin, and death
- perfected

Heb 10:14 For by one offering He hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified

Obviously, that was not the case always

Eph 2:1-5 And you *hath he quickened*, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)

In our old life, before being saved by grace thru faith, we were under the Law
i.e. personally responsible to satisfy God's justice, as revealed in His Law

But we, with our sin nature, were hopelessly irresponsible, derelict in our responsibility to God...and He has revealed that to us

Rom 3:19 Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God

The Law revealed all of our imperfections and held us accountable before God for every one of them

But God...Jesus paid the penalty for every one of our imperfections (sins)...
past, present, and future...
and liberated us from the condemnation of God's perfect justice

Now we have new life, free from the crushing obligation of attaining
self-righteousness by perfect obedience of God's perfect Law

In our new life...the newness of life in Christ Jesus...we are free
We are NOT free to sin
but
we are free to NOT sin

As sinners

- the old man (Is 64:6)
- unbelievers
- condemned (John 3:17-19)

we could only sin, "be wrong", true to Self (our no-good nature, Rom 7:18)

As saints

- the new man (Gal 2:20)
- believers born-again of the Spirit of God
- new creatures in Christ saved by grace thru faith

we have been gifted the Holy Spirit, the power of God from on high,
to say "No!" to sin and say "Yes" to God

Now, freed from the chains of the Law by Jesus (Rom 6:23), we can choose to be
Christ-like in our thoughts, words, and deeds by Matt 16:24

So...to the issue at hand in Galatians, the nature of the Gospel...
why in the world would you pass on the freedom purchased by Jesus
Christ and embrace the old life again?!

v2-4 if ye be circumcised...profit you nothing...debtor:

Note: Paul is speaking to uncircumcised Gentiles, not to the Jews who are
already circumcised

If: you get circumcised, as taught by the Judaizers (Acts 15:4)

Then: Christ (Matt 5:17, Rom 10:4, Matt 11:28-30) benefits you nothing

As it pertains to the Gospel of grace: investing in wood, hay, and stubble
and not investing in gold, silver, precious stones

You will stand before God, but with "smoking pants" (1 Cor 3:15)

I testify again:

v1-2 must be oft repeated

”Let me remind you...”

Rom 2:25 For circumcision verily profiteth, if thou keep the law: but if thou be a breaker of the law, thy circumcision is made uncircumcision
i.e. circumcision is worthless apart from perfect obedience

Rom 2:12b as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law

The man who believes the self-righteous, works-based salvation “gospel” of the Judaizers and gets circumcised

- frustrates the grace of God
- attempts to complete in the flesh that which was begun in the Spirit
- has re-chained himself to the impossible obligation of the entire Law of God i.e. perfect obedience (James 2:10, Matt 5:48, Gal 3:10-12)
- frustrates the purpose of the Law (Gal 3:24-26)

If you decide to stand before God based on your merit/righteousness by your personal performance of keeping the Law,

- you have moved away from grace as your basis to stand before God... you have failed in God’s gift of grace
- you are not standing in the righteousness of Jesus Christ
(Who has done what you are futilely trying to do,
Rom 10:4 and Gal 2:16b and Gal 3:11-14)

Note: falling from grace, failing in grace

Rom 5:20-21 Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound: That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord

Man fails grace...moves away from grace as the basis to stand before God...when he becomes self-righteous and legalistic
But grace does not fail man...if that person believes that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God

Warning: “works to be pleasing, self-righteousness, is as natural as breathing

Man was created to worship God

Every person knows that they are not perfect...

have a God-given conscience

In this imperfection, man feels dirty

Therefore, how to deal with that problem, how does he get clean?

The natural/carnal reaction: religion, doing “good things” to be pleasing to God...self-righteousness

We must be very mindful of how we want to stand before God

Law (Self)

Justice

condemnation

“I can cleanse myself...oops!”

Grace (in Christ)

forgiveness

forgiveness

purified by God Himself

v5-6 wait for the hope of righteousness:

What is “the hope of righteousness”?

The resurrection unto eternal Life, the promise of the Spirit (Gal 3:14)

Phil 3:7-11

We are waiting...”expecting fully”, confidently and assuredly

Resurrection is our hope, the sure and steadfast anchor of our soul!

And that hope comes by faith, not by works

Rom 1:16-17

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith

Heb 6:18-20

That by two immutable things, in which *it was* impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; Whither the forerunner is for us entered, *even* Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

1 Thes 5:23b-24

I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful *is* he that calleth you, who also will do *it*.

faith which worketh by love:

The Resurrection is

- in Jesus Christ (1 Cor 15:20-23), not in boastful flesh
- unto a glorified body (1 Cor 15:42-49), not in corrupted flesh

Therefore, neither circumcision nor uncircumcision are of eternal consequence

Gal 3:27-29

But faith, a matter of the heart, is of utmost eternal consequence

Heb 11:6

John 6:28-29

Jer 4:4

Deut 10:16

Rom 2:28-29

Faith is believing what God has said and done...John 3:16 (Love/agape)

If one believes God Who so loves, one loves God

If one loves God, one believes God Who so loves

Faith is love in action

The Law yields condemnation

Grace yields love

v7-9 hinder...persuasion...leaven:

Paul tells the churches he planted in Galatia that they ran their course with Jesus well...until they were hindered in the way

The false teachers, the Judaizers, derailed them in their walk with the Lord, turning them away from God's unchanging Truth (John 17:17) to their/man's version of God's Truth (a corrupted truth)

And the Galatians have believed the counterfeit

persuasion = gullibility, the willingness to believe without proper evidence of it being true

Note: in our times and place: Mormons (are not Christians) believe that which has zero evidence (Book of Mormon), they are gullible

The Law has declared both Jew and Gentile as under sin (Rom 3:9)

The Law brings the knowledge of sin, not salvation from sin (Rom 3:20)

So how does "becoming a Jew" (Acts 15:4) improve your standing before God?!

How does "becoming a Jew" add anything to the righteousness of God?

Rom 3:21-28

Manifested by the prophets...

e.g. the prophets Job and David (in Ps 56 etc etc etc)

Jesus speaking/praying these words (John 5:39)

This gullibility did not come from God, Who gives us a sound mind

This gullibility is devilish and deceptive;

it is leaven (corrupts and puffs up i.e. self-righteousness) that has corrupted all these churches

v10 I have confidence...otherwise minded:
Is Paul's confidence in the Galatians?

or

Is Paul's confidence in the Father and in the Lord Jesus, the Good Shepherd,
to lose none of His sheep?

Matt 18:11-12

John 10:27-29

Phil 3:3

2 Thes 3:4 And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye
both do and will do the things which we command you.

Paul has confidence in God to put these gullible children back into their right
minds, ditching this error and following the evidence to the feet of Jesus

troubleth...judgment:

But as for those false teachers, whether they be small or great...woe!

James 3:1

Luke 17:1-2

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the
servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of
the same is he brought in bondage

v11 preach...suffer persecution:

What is one of the evidences of Truth?

It is persecuted by that which is false

Gal 4:29

Paul preached grace...and suffered persecution by self-righteous legalists at every
stop

Therefore regarding salvation, Grace is true and self-righteous works is false
i.e. self-righteous works of the flesh make void the Cross of Jesus Christ,
the objective of the destroyer

1 Cor 2:7-8 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even*
the hidden *wisdom*, which God ordained before the
world unto our glory, Which none of the princes of
this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would
not have crucified the Lord of glory

works-based salvation gospels are a demonic counterattack of the
Cross inside the Church

And this prompts an intense reaction from Paul

v12 I would...cut off:
“I wish”

they...the false teachers/messengers of the devil (Gal 2:4) troubling, corrupting,
and hindering his children in the faith

were even cut off...not just the foreskin circumcised but their entire private parts
amputated/emasculated

Wow!

Then, to steer this wind-tossed ship back on course...to liberty that yields love

v13-14 liberty...love:

The course corrections (instruction in righteousness) needed for those seduced by
a legalistic, self-righteous “gospel” of salvation:

1. Liberty

- Remember the calling of God: liberty/freedom from bondage
(the polar opposite of Satan’s deception)
- Know the liberty/freedom procured by the blood of Jesus
Christ was not intended to be used/abused by us to live like
the devil.

Rather to, draw us to the Father Who has a great love for us,
that we would love Him and others vs only Self

1 Peter 2:16 As free, and not using *your* liberty for a
cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants
of God

- Liberty loves, liberty yields love

2. Love

- Love serves
- As Father and the Son love us, we are to, with their nature
indwelling us (2 Peter 1:4), love/serve each other
Matt 22:36-40
Rom 13:10
1 John 4:12 If we love one another, God dwelleth in us,
and his love is perfected in us

The liberty/freedom we have in Christ is to be used to love and serve
God and others, not ourselves.

The Law of Love is a higher standard than the Law of Moses

v15 But...take heed:

Knowing

- the true Gospel from the false gospel (v11)
- liberty and love (v13-14)

Beware

- bondage and self-righteousness
- the end of the false gospel
 - self-righteousness bites
 - bondage destroys

Be careful to not turn on each other and destroy each other with condemnation and self-righteousness

Application/Lesson

Believer

Live free!

Jesus has set us free indeed!

Don't allow a legalistic, self-righteous Christian put chains back on you

Free to love and serve others, free from being lovers of self (a most miserable place)

2 Tim 3:1-5

Be doers of the Word and not hearers only

James 1:22-25

Unbeliever

If you do not personally know Jesus Christ and are Personally known by Him,
know this: you are personally responsible before God to perfectly keep His Law
you stand before the Maker of heaven and earth on the basis of His
justice
you cannot do it – no one can!
That means you will not live after you take your last breath

But God...in His mercy has provided a way to Life – Jesus Christ and Him crucified and risen

Acknowledge your sin before Him

Call on the name of the Lord for salvation from God's justice

Accept God's gift of Grace in the Person of Jesus Christ

If you want hands laid on you in prayer, come forward