

Galatians 5: 1-6 Freedom To Be What God Intended You To Be;

Don't Get Enslaved Again!

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Once you have tasted freedom from a great oppression of mind or body, your next thought is that you want others to experience that freedom. If you do not appreciate how your freedom came about, you can easily be enslaved again. The price of freedom, once obtained, is eternal vigilance.

Ex. C.S. Lewis P. 152 no. 326, 330 Democracy

Ex. In the movie "Braveheart" and "Gladiator" the heroes were great not because they just wanted freedom for themselves, but because they were willing to die for other men's freedom. **Is that you?**

This nation is built on the idea that we are eternal beings who will answer before a God who shows no partiality, who has designed us to be free. We can't be a free nation with people who are enslaved in their heart to sin and self. I consider what we do as Christians to be the cornerstone of this nation. **So what is it we do? We help set men free!**

Galatians 2: 1-5 Misery loves company. After all that Paul had suffered in legalism as a Pharisee he was not about to have his freedom in Christ taken away. And his stand was not for him alone, but for us also!

Jews in Paul's day were in physical bondage to Rome. No true national freedom, but more importantly, in bondage to religious ritual; chained to a treadmill of religious forms. No freedom in their hearts! Metaphorically, they were made to believe that advanced swimming lessons would save them, but some knew they had no strength to swim. (Acts 15:8-11) They need to be saved from drowning; which they cannot do themselves; it must come from outside of them! This is what Jesus did! **John 8: 23-36**

TEXT: GALATIANS 5:1-6 *****

V.1 After you heard and believed the message of Christ; live in that freedom! Only faith in the finished work of Christ, that was done for you, is necessary for freedom. Be on constant guard!

V.2 Submitting to circumcision is no isolated religious ritual. It puts one under the whole Law which demands perfect obedience, which is impossible. Galatians 2: 16

Quick review: Romans 9: 30-33

V.2 (cont.) -- Good news about the Galatians! The word "IF" is in the third-class conditional form. Meaning it is very unlikely they will return to slavery of heart. Also Galatians 5:10 confirms this truth.

To depend on "grace" for salvation, means you depend on Christ' fulfillment of the Law for you; i.e., in your place. You come into the benefits of salvation through faith in Christ' finished work.

You cannot lose salvation because it is a gift. (John 4:10, Romans 4: 1-5, 5:15, 6:23, Ephesians 2: 8-9)

It is unearned and undeserved. However, the devil can make a believer think they are still in bondage. You can walk in that freedom again.

Example: 5-mile walk. In prison done to keep from going crazy. Now free no longer necessary.

Christians get fooled all the time, and the enemy is expert at getting you to doubt who you are in Christ.

V.3 James 2:10 " For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all." (**Galatians 3:10**)

V. 4 "fallen from grace" Does not mean you could be saved and then lost. It did not say, "fallen away from salvation." Greek: (Locative of sphere) To be complete within itself, nothing else can be added to it, or enter into it.

Ex. Two balls (spheres) bounce off of each other. You cannot blend them together. One repels the other. Each ball is autonomous to the other.

V.5 "in Christ" (in the sphere of Christ)

One cannot be trying to save himself, through his works, and then claim he is trusting "only" Christ for salvation at the same time.

POINT: It is not "falling away" from a sphere of grace you are already in; but not even in the sphere to begin with!

To adopt legalism is to reject Christ totally!

II Corinthians 3:12-18

We are to live free and set others free!