

Series: "Galatians – No Other Gospel"

"For Freedom Christ Has Set Us Free"

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Galatians 5:1-15

04.08.18

Paul's Thesis in Galatians: Acceptance with God is...

1. Based on **GRACE**
2. Through **FAITH**
3. For people of **ALL KINDS**
4. Apart from the **LAW**

GALATIANS 2:16 – "Yet we know that a person is made right with God by faith in Jesus Christ, not by obeying the law."

The **GREAT NEWS** of the **GOSPEL** of **JESUS CHRIST** is **GOD SAVES**

- He took the initiative
- He saved & rescued us
- He opened our hearts
- He revealed himself to us
- Our part: **RECEIVE**, **BELIEVE**, and **CLEAVE**
- Jesus + Anything **CEASES** to be the Gospel

GALATIANS 1:9 – "If anyone preaches any other Good News than the one you welcomed, let that person be cursed."

GALATIANS 5:1 – "So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law."

"For freedom Christ has set us free."

Paul Addresses Two Enemies of Christian Freedom

1. **LEGALISM** = working to earn the favor of God

- The example of legalism: **CIRCUMCISION** [5:2]
- The effect of legalism: **CONTAMINATION** [5:9]
- The end of legalism: **CONDEMNATION** [5:10, 12]

GALATIANS 5:2-4 – "If you are counting on... then Christ will be of no benefit to you... If you are trying to find favor... you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses... If you are trying to make yourself right with God... you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace."

2. **LICENSE** = I'm covered by grace no matter what I do

- The Gospel involves **BELIEF** and **BEHAVIOR**
- The Gospel involves **ACCEPTANCE** and **APPLICATION**

GALATIANS 5:7, 10 – "You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? Don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature."

CHRISTIAN FREEDOM

GALATIANS 5:5-6 – ⁵"But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. ⁶For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love."

1. Is living by **FAITH**

- We're not **WORKING** for God's grace
- We're **TRUSTING** in God's grace

ROMANS 3:23 – "We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ. And this is true for everyone who believes, no matter who we are."

2. Empowered by the **SPIRIT**

- Enables us to experience the **PRESENCE** of Christ
- Enables us to enjoy the **COMMANDS** of Christ

1 JOHN 5:3 – "Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome."

3. Grounded in **HOPE**

- Christ's righteousness is our **PROMISE**
- That we receive and **GROW INTO**

PHILIPPIANS 3:9 – "I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith."

4. Expressed with **LOVE**

- Love is an essential **EXPRESSION** of freedom
- We are free from slavery to the **LAW**
- We are free to the slavery of **LOVE**

That means...

- We no longer indulge ourselves in **SELFISH** sin
- We now serve each other with **SELFLESS** love

JOHN 13:35 – "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FREE?

Christian freedom means we live by **FAITH**,
through the **SPIRIT**, in **HOPE** with **LOVE**