

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Galatians 5:1-6

Lesson 8

Debtor or Free – which will you be? Such was Paul's challenge to the Galatians. Seeking God's favor through attempting to keep the law made a man a debtor; while living in the grace provided by the gospel made a man free. Bondage or freedom? Jesus Christ is the Rock set between the two. The Jews stumbled over Him. But, the believer rejoices. May this lesson cause you to rejoice in the freedom bought for you by our Lord Jesus Christ.

DAY ONE: Read Galatians 5:1-6

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheets and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?
 - a. Galatians 5:1-6 is one section/paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title each section? Record your titles on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheets.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Used in previous lesson: *Jesus, Spirit, law, grace, justified, and love*

New to this lesson: *love*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Galatians 5:1-6. Remember, as you mark the words *Jesus* and *Spirit*, to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Them.

3. The term of conclusion *therefore* is used in verse 1. Mark that reference on your Observation Worksheet and record the conclusion that Paul made and what it was based upon.
4. Paul used the contrasting term *but* in verse 6. Record what is being contrasted.

5. Choose one of the key words from question 2 and record, by making a list, what the text reveals.

DAY TWO: Read Galatians 5:1

1. Some Bible Expositors believe Galatians 5:1 should have been included with the preceding paragraph of Galatians 4:21-31. Observe this through the word *therefore*. Galatians 5:1 was a strong exhortation to these believers. Print the first phrase of this verse here.

- a. Define the term *stand fast*.

- b. What are the believers to *stand fast in* according to Galatians 5:1a?

- 1.) Who is the One who made the believer *free*?

- 2.) Consider the words *liberty* and *free*. Summarize what the following verses say about this:

John 8:32-36

Romans 8:2,21

2. *Christ has made you free*. Freedom in Christ is a glorious gift of grace. Share a way Jesus has set you *free*.

3. Seriously consider Paul's second exhortation from Galatians 5:1b as you write it here.

- a. Define the word *entangled* using synonyms.

- b. To what does the *yoke of bondage* refer?

- c. How can we avoid this danger?

4. In what way does Galatians 5:1 answer those who would add anything to salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ?

DAY THREE: Read Galatians 5:2-4

1. In the early church, circumcision characterized the whole system of a legalistic approach to God as a means of salvation. Identify, from the following verses, the serious consequences for those who follow this approach:

Galatians 5:2b

Galatians 5:3b

Galatians 5:4a

- a. Note the phrase *who attempt to be justified by law*. What does Galatians 3:11a declare about such an attempt?

Galatians 5:4b

2. *but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness*. Romans 9:31 Paul followed this statement with the question *Why* in verse 32. Record the answer given in that verse.

- a. Jesus is the *stumbling stone* to the Jews (1 Corinthians 1:23). In what way is Jesus a *stumbling stone* to those who try to be right with God through keeping the law?

3. *I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey all of the regulations in the whole law of Moses*. Galatians 5:3 NLT Record this fact using James 2:10.

- a. How does the knowledge of this truth drive you to the gospel of salvation by grace through faith in Jesus?

4. Define the words (or use synonyms) *estranged* and *fallen* as they are used in Galatians 5:4.
 - a. Why do you think Paul used such strong words?

DAY FOUR: Read Galatians 5:5

1. In contrast to those in Galatians 5:2-4 who attempted to be *justified by law*, Galatians 5:5 NCV declares: *But we have the true hope that comes from being made right with God, and by the Spirit we wait eagerly for this hope.* What is *this hope* for which we *eagerly wait*? see Titus 2:13
 - a. How should *this hope* affect the life of a believer according to 1 John 3:(2)3?
2. Contrast the *hope* of a legalist with the *hope* of a believer.
3. Note the first phrase of Galatians 5:5. Through whom do we get this *hope*?
 - a. What did Jesus say the Holy Spirit would do? see John 16:13
 - 1.) Explain, as you would to a new believer, how the Holy Spirit does this.
4. Read Romans 8:24,25. Write these verses in your own words.
 - a. Verse 25 contains the words *eagerly* and *perseverance*. Describe this kind of behavior.

DAY FIVE: Read Galatians 5:6

1. What does Galatians 5:6 teach about physical *circumcision* or *uncircumcision*?

a. Read Romans 2:25-29 in the New Living Translation:

The Jewish ceremony of circumcision is worth something only if you obey God's law. But if you don't obey God's law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile. ²⁶And if the Gentiles obey God's law, won't God give them all the rights and honors of being his own people? ²⁷In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God's law will be much better off than you Jews who are circumcised and know so much about God's law but don't obey it. ²⁸For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the Jewish ceremony of circumcision. ²⁹No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not a cutting of the body but a change of heart produced by God's Spirit. Whoever has that kind of change seeks praise from God, not from people.

1.) Summarize what Paul wrote in these verses.

2. *Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything.* Galatians 5:6a Neither will make a person right with God. **BUT** what will? Galatians 5:6b

a. *We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren.* 1 John 3:14a In what ways have you discovered this truth?

b. *The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.* Galatians 5:6b NIV Share practical ways you can express your *faith through love*.

DAY SIX: Review Galatians 5:1-6

1. What have you learned about the importance of *standing fast*?
2. Explain why *faith* in Christ results in *liberty* and dependence on the law results in *bondage*.
3. Using Galatians 5:2-4, list again the consequences of *attempting to be justified by law*.
4. *Circumcision* (seeking righteousness from the law) profits nothing. *Faith working through love* profits much. What are some of the “profits” (advantages or blessings) of *faith*?
5. Share a way this week’s study of Galatians 5:1-6 has ministered to you or challenged you.

*remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love,
and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,
- 1 Thessalonians 1:3*