

Gleanings of Grace

Galatians 5

Lesson 9

Paul was forced to confront Jewish Christians who believed and were insisting that a number of ceremonial practices of the Old Testament were still binding on the New Testament Church. Paul's challenge to them was to insist that the gospel of grace not be added to by bringing people back into legalism; to not lean on the powerless power of the flesh rather than the powerful power available to the believer through the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5 is a glorious reminder of the new life and new power we have because we are new creatures in Christ.

OBSERVATION: Read Galatians 5

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to *Jesus, God the Father, and Holy Spirit*.

Key Words: *God, Jesus, Spirit, love, flesh, and law*
3. The contrasting word *but* is used six times in Galatians 5. Mark the word. Choose one instance of its use and record what is being contrasted.
4. The *law* is referred to five times in Galatians 5. Make a list of what this chapter states about the *law*.

Background:

1. The chapters previous to Galatians 5 expressed Paul's concern for those who were considering returning to the old ways of seeking God. Using the following verses, state Paul's concerns.

Galatians 1:6

Galatians 2:16

Galatians 3:3

Galatians 3:11

Galatians 4:4-7

- a. In what ways can someone be a *slave* to the law?

- 1.) Rather than being a *slave*, what did Paul call all believers?

- 2.) ...and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ (Galatians 4:7). Define the word *heir*.

- a.) How do you view the privileges and titles of being an heir of God through Christ?

Read Galatians 5:1-6 – Walking in Liberty

1. Galatians 5:1 contains the term of conclusion *therefore*. Galatians 5 is a transition from Paul's explanations of why we are no longer under the law and yet our liberty in Christ does not give us freedom to sin. The last two chapters of Galatians define how we are to *walk* in the *liberty* provided by Christ. Rather than abuse this liberty or take it lightly, what does Paul tell us to do?

- a. What is your understanding of the phrase *stand fast*?

- b. Who secured this *liberty* for us?

- 1.) Describe the freedom that you now have because you are a believer.

c. What does Paul tell us *not* to do?

1.) Some Jews in the early church were insistent that the new Gentile believers be required to keep some of the Jewish laws. Record Peter's response in Acts 15:10.

2.) What are we saying if we require anything else besides belief in Jesus to be saved?

2. Galatians 5:2-6 discusses the vanity of *circumcision* as a means to achieve favor from God. What do these verses declare about *circumcision*?

a. What is the *hope* of the believer?

b. Moving toward the next section of Galatians 5, what does Paul say *avails* (has the power to spiritually make a difference)?

1.) Describe *faith working through love*.

Read Galatians 5:7-15 – Walking in Love

1. Ponder the phrase *you ran well*. They had started their Christian life well. Now they were considering actions that would again *entangle* them. What are some seemingly meaningless actions or thinking that can begin the process of *entanglement*?

a. Paul believed that someone was attempting to convince them to again live under the Jewish law. What was his warning in verse 9?

1.) Why do you think someone was having such success in creating doubts about Jesus being all that is necessary to be saved?

2. Paul clearly expressed his protective anger in this section. He reminded the people that if his preaching liberty from Jewish law was not God's way, he was needlessly *suffering persecution*. Rather, Paul preached that we *have been called to liberty*. Using verses 13,14 describe this *liberty*.

- a. Galatians 5:13 reveals two different ways our *liberty* can be used. What are they?
 - b. 1 Corinthians 8:9 and 1 Peter 2:16 record Paul's concern about the misuse of *liberty*?
 - 1.) In what ways have you seen believers misuse their *liberty* in Christ?
 - c. How does *love* cause us to rightly use our *liberty* in Christ?
3. According to Galatians 5:15, what can be the result of *biting and devouring one another*?
 - a. Using synonyms define the word *consumed*.
 - b. Explain how this behavior can be *consuming*.

Read Galatians 5:16-26 - Walking in the Spirit

1. Complete the first part of Galatians 5:16:

I say then: _____

- a. How does a person *walk in the Spirit*?
 - b. What is the glorious promise to those who choose to *walk in the Spirit*.
 - 1.) Define the word *fulfill*.
 - 2.) In what ways have you personally experienced the power of *walking in the Spirit* over the *lusts of your flesh*?
2. Contemplate the statement in Galatians 5:17. In what ways are the *Spirit and the flesh* contrary to one another?

3. *But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law* (Galatians 5:18). The *law* requires; the *Spirit* enables. Describe the change in your life since you have become a Christian as it relates to wanting to do good and not being required to do good to gain God's favor.
4. Using Galatians 5:19-21, list the *works of the flesh*.
 - a. What did Paul emphatically state about those who *practice* (continually live in) *such things*?
 - b. Read 1 Corinthians 6:9. What does this verse say that corroborates with Galatians 5:21?
 - 1.) How does a choice to continue in sin reflect that a person might not be saved?
5. In contrast, *walking in the Spirit* produces *fruit*. Using Galatians 5:22,23 list what the Spirit produces in our lives.
 - a. What did Jesus teach His disciples in John 15:2?
 - 1.) In what ways have you learned that the *fruit of the Spirit* is only produced when we *abide in Jesus*?
6. What is the final phrase of Galatians 5:23?
 - a. The *fruit of the Spirit* is the kind of conduct lawmakers desire to provoke in people through the law. Rather than violate the law, these behaviors fulfill the law. How have you discovered your efforts to follow the law in your own power powerless to produce attributes like *love* and *joy*?
7. According to Galatians 5:24, what have *those who are Christ's* done?

- a. What does Romans 6:6 add to this?
 - b. Notice, the *crucifying of the flesh* is not an act of the Holy Spirit. It is a choice of the believer, carried out in the power of the Holy Spirit. Explain, as you would to someone who struggles with this truth, their responsibility to *crucify the flesh*.
8. Consider Galatians 5:25 in light of Romans 8:4,5. What do you see?
9. As Paul encouraged believers to *walk in the Spirit*, he was sadly mindful of a sour fruit that could be produced – *conceit*. Fruit is created to be eaten; not to be admired or put on display. Why is this a good caution for Paul to present as he encourages us to *walk in the Spirit*?
- a. According to this verse, what can be the fruit of *conceit*?
 - 1.) Why is it important to incorporate Philippians 2:3 as we endeavor to *walk in the Spirit*?

REVIEW: Read Galatians 5

1. What did you glean from your study of Galatians 5?

*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus
has made me free from the law of sin and death.
Romans 8:2*

Observation Worksheet

Galatians 5

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. ² Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. ³ And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. ⁴ You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. ⁷ You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump. ¹⁰ I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. ¹¹ And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. ¹² I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off! ¹³ For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! ¹⁶ I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. ¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹ envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. ²⁴ And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.