

Truth or Consequences?

(Galatians 5:1-15) (IX)

- “We are in bondage to the law in order that we may be free” – Cicero
- 1 Co.9:1, four questions
 - Am I not free? (v.12)

Gal.5:1, Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage

- Therefore: Summary and exhortation
- Stand fast: present imperative: 'This is an order!' Stand firm... Tree. Soldier.
 - NOT in Judaism. Stop it!
 - NOT in paganism. Stop it!

Ramsay speaks of a highly elaborate system of burdensome stipulations in Galatian in pagan religion.

Gal.5:1, Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage

- In the liberty...free: 4:26.
 - All that Paul said about Abraham, Isaac, new covenant ... consummates in Christ
 - Greatest joy: Ph.3:4-9
- Do not be entangled again... Ac.15:10f.
 - Yoke ... bondage.
 - Yoke of Christ, Mt.11:29-30

I. Those Who Pursue These Things, 5:2-6

2:

1. New line of thought. Paul appeals to Gentile Galatians.
 - a. Jewish Galatians already circumcised
 - b. Christians were to disregard their circumcision (v.6). Ac.15:1, 5. Ro.2:28
2. "Paul": apostle with authority of Lord.
 - a. Turn to OT (circumcision) = no profit from Christ.
 - b. Do not mix laws

3:

1. Testify: witness must tell truth.
2. Again: after one or two trips to Galatia?
3. Circumcised: it's either whole law or no law
 - a. Circumcision made person a full Jew – exchanges Isaac for Ishmael
 - b. Can Moses finish what Christ started? Was His death not enough?

4:

1. Justification by law is by debt: earn salvation
2. Estranged from Christ...if seek justification by law. No profit (2). Lk.13:7. Ro.7:2, 6.
3. Fallen from grace.
 - a. To change for the worse from a favorable condition, lose, BDAG. 2:21, nullify grace...
 - b. Some say: 'if he falls, he never was saved'
 - c. If never saved, how could he fall?

5:

1. “We” are opposite of “you” (v.2, 4)
2. To wait for a hope is to wait for its fulfillment,
Ro.8:25
3. Hope of righteousness by faith – the state that
righteousness makes us hope for. 3:26-27

6:

Gal.5-6 focus on hope, faith, and love

Faith is child-like, hope is saint-like, love is God-like

1. Circumcision amounts to nothing
2. Judgment is based on working faith
3. Without love, we are nothing. 1 Co.13:2

I. Those Who Pursue These Things, 5:2-6

II. Those Who Preach
These Things, 5:7-12

7:

- You ran well. Who hindered you . . . Ph.3:14
 - Galatians: runners in race for prize; someone cut in on them.
 - Runner gets off course: disqualified.
2 Tim.4:7
 - Course is narrow, not broad: 2:2.
- Hindered. Make progress slow or difficult, thwart, obstruct, hinder. 1 Th.2:18. 1 Pt.3:7
- From obeying truth. Gospel – 2:5, 14.

8:

- Judaizers possess a strange voice – Jn.10:4-5
- Calls you – 1:6
 - Persuaded to take a wrong turn

9:

- A little leaven – yeast – spreads... 2 K.4:38-41
- Yeast will penetrate entire dough
 - False doctrine can spread... 1 Co.5:6
- Resist beginnings, 4:10. Mt.16:11-12. 1 Co.5:6
 - One bad apple...

‘For want of a nail the shoe was lost; for want of a shoe the horse was lost; for want of a horse the rider was lost; for want of a rider the battle was lost; and for want of a battle the kingdom was lost. All this for want of a horseshoe nail’ – B. Franklin

10:

- Confidence in you: not wishful thinking, or optimism, but confidence in what Lord can do – if people are willing to listen
- “Troubler” (Judaizer) will bear his judgment, but it’s little solace if Galatians lose their own souls, spend eternity with deceivers

11:

- Paul's persecution shows that he and Judaizers did not agree
- He did not “preach circumcision” (condition for salvation). Contrast Titus 2:3
- Paul circumcised Timothy (Ac.16:1-3) . . . but not for his salvation. 1 Co.9:19-22
- Offense of cross: Jews persecuted Paul (6:12)
- Narrow-minded preaching is offensive to them

12:

- Mk.9⁴³ if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. ...⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell.
- Galatians:
 - Make eunuchs of themselves
 - Emasculate themselves (ESV)
 - Mutilate themselves (NASB)
 - Ph.3:2, mutilation. 1 K.18:28

I. Those Who Pursue These Things, 5:2-6

II. Those Who Preach These Things, 5:7-12

III. Those Who Pervert
True Liberty, 5:13-15

13:

- Liberty: freedom; always must be controlled.
 - Liberty is controlled in self (flesh) Lv.19:18.
Gal.5:1, 13
 - Liberty is concerned for others (service)
Mt.20:20-28
- Liberty perverted: opportunity for the flesh.
2:4; 5:2.

“If the devil cannot stop the coach,
he mounts the box and drives”

- Freedom is not unlimited license...

14:

- Leviticus 19:18
 - Neighbor: Lk.10
 - Paradox: freed by Lord from bondage, yet slave of Lord for love's sake

15:

- Bite . . . Devour one another . . . Consumed
 - Animal first bites, then devours
 - Worldly brawling and contention destroy souls

Summary words:

Stand, grace, faith, hope, love, confidence, Christ