

Sunday, March 14, 2010—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 5:1-6

Galatians 5:1

- *“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*
- The words “stand fast” carry the idea of remaining stationary, or not moving. Paul wanted the Galatians to not move away from something. He wanted them to remain in a fixed location.
- The location Paul wanted the Galatians to stand fast in was the liberty they had been given in Jesus Christ. The word “liberty” comes from the Greek word which means freedom.
- Notice that it is because of Christ that the Galatians enjoyed this freedom. Freedom in Christ entails the following:
 - Romans 6:18—free from sin
 - Romans 4:3-4—free from the Law
 - Romans 6:11, 8:2—free from self bondage
- The word “entangled” means: “Twisted together; interwoven in a confused manner; intricate; perplexed; involved; embarrassed; insnares (*Websters’ 1828 Dictionary*).”
- “Yoke of bondage,” is clearly a reference to the Mosaic Law when one considers the context of the entire book.
- Yokes are used on animals. When one yokes animals together they are connected so they can be driven wherever someone wants them to go. Paul is saying here, that believers ought not be harnessed together with the Mosaic Law, or any other law for that matter in order to gain either salvation or sanctification.

Galatians 5:2

- *“Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.”*
- In the Greek the word “Behold” is in the imperative mood. Therefore it is a sign that says, “Stop, look, or listen up.” In other words, Paul is speaking authoritatively. He is not giving them his opinion.
- Paul is telling the Galatians if they are depending upon being “circumcised” then Christ will in no way profit (help, or be of value) to them.
- Acts 15:1—remember this was the doctrine the Judaizers were teaching.
- Paul uses the word circumcision here to represent the keeping of the Mosaic Law. Circumcision was an outward symbol of a person’s subject to the whole Law.

Galatians 5:3

- *“For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.”*
- The Judaizers were trying to keep part of the Law by being circumcised, but they were not keeping all of it. Paul is demonstrating that taking on circumcision obligates one to keep the whole law.
- James 2:10
- Galatians 3:10
- Once again, if you think you are going to be justified by the law you have to keep the entire thing.

Galatians 5:4

- *“Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.”*
- The phrase “of none effect” means to render entirely idle or useless. Paul says that Christ is totally useless to those who are seeking to be justified by the Law.
- Paul’s point is simply this, if you are saved partly by the law, then you are not saved wholly by Christ’s all-sufficient work.
- Christ is either all for you or he is nothing.
- Falling from Grace deals with the adding of works to grace. Falling from grace is not talking about losing your salvation when you sin. When you sin do fall out of grace you fall into it (Romans 5:20)
- Falling from grace is adding works to grace (Romans 11:6). When you add works to grace you frustrate the work of Grace Christ is doing in your life.

Galatians 5:5

- *“For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.”*
- Titus 2:13—our blessed hope.
- Ephesians 4:30—sealed unto the day of redemption
- Ephesians 1:16-17—redemption of the purchased possession.
- Romans 8:23-25—wait for the redemption of our bodies.
- I Corinthians 13:13

Galatians 5:6

- *“For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.”*
- This verse is indicative of a Dispensational change.
- Genesis 17:9-14
- Ephesians 2:11-12—the distinction between Israel and the Gentiles is the fundamental feature of time past.
- During the dispensation of Grace all of these time past detectives have been removed.