

Sunday, March 21, 2010—Grace Life School of Theology—Understanding Galatians and the Law—Galatians 5:7-15

### **Galatians 5:7**

- *“Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?”*
- Notice the use of the past tense in the expression “ye did run well.” The Galatians had begun their Christian lives making good spiritual progress. They were growing in the doctrines of grace.
  - Galatians 3:3-5
- At some point the Judaizers came and hindered their spiritual progress. The Greek word translated “hinder” literally means to cut in, to impede what one is doing, or to interrupt one’s course of action.
- Paul leaves no room for compromise. By leaving the doctrines of grace Paul says that they were no longer obeying the truth. We need to stand for the truth no what the cost.

### **Galatians 5:8**

- *“This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.”*
- The persuasion of the Galatians to not obey the truth through law keeping and performance based acceptance did not come from God.
- Notice that the word “calleth” is in the present tense. God through is word is continuing to call his children back to the truth of Grace. God is never happy or satisfied when saints fall from grace.
- “The message here is clear and plain—those trying to persuade men to keep the Law today are not from God; the source and origin of their message is not from God.
  - I Timothy 1:6-7

### **Galatians 5:9**

- *“A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.”*
- Paul uses the word “leaven” five times in his epistles and every time it is used to depict evil.
  - I Corinthians 5:6-8
- The illustration of leaven depicts the impact that the teaching of the Judaizers was having upon the Galatians.
- “A little leaven such as teaching believers to keep the Mosaic Law has the potential to leaven the whole lump, i.e., to permeate all the Galatian believers with evil. The

implications of the “little leaven” is that at the beginning the error was little and the number affected by it were few.” (Campbell, 129)

- Believers everywhere need to wake up to the serious nature of trying to mix Law with Grace (Romans 11:6).

### **Galatians 5:10**

- *“I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.”*
- Paul’s confidence that the Galatians will recover themselves from error and remain in the truth rests in the Lord. No one apart from the Lord is able to establish and ground believers in the truth of the gospel.
  - Romans 16:25
  - II Thessalonians 2:17
- This verse makes it clear that the Galatians had not totally forsaken the Gospel of Grace for the Mosaic Law. While the Judaizers had troubled their minds and caused much confusion in their midst Paul has confidence in the Lord that through this corrective epistle the Galatians will be stabilized in the truth.
- Lastly, notice that says there is judgment waiting for those who troubled the Galatians.
  - Galatians 1:7-9
- How many Bible teachers are going to fall under the judgment of God for the doctrines they are teaching their assemblies?

### **Galatians 5:11**

- *“And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.”*
- The reason Paul was being persecuted by the Jews is because of his preaching regarding the Mosaic Law. In other words, if Paul had been preaching circumcision there would have been no reason for the Jews to persecute him.
  - Galatians 6:12
  - II Timothy 3:12
  - Acts 18: 9-10, 21:21, 27-31, 23:11
- I Corinthians 1:23--If Paul was still preaching that keeping the Law as necessary then the cross would not be an offence or stumbling block.

### **Galatians 5:12**

- *“I would they were even cut off which trouble you.”*

- There are two opinions about this verse. One says Paul is referring to them being removed from their midst. The second, says Paul is referring to their own male anatomy.

### **Galatians 5:13**

- *“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”*
- Believers have been called to a position of liberty. This harkens back to verse one where Paul told them to “stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made you free.” We stand and walk in freedom which is directly contrasted to the bondage of the Law.
- The liberty we possess as a result of our standing in grace should not be used as an excuse to sin.
  - Romans 5
  - Romans 6:12-14
- II Corinthians 3:3, 6—the letter of the law results in bondage and death. Whereas, the Spirit of the Lord produces life.
- We have been set free not to serve our own selfish desires but rather to serve each other. Our service is to be continuous or ongoing and motivated by love.
- “The first prerequisite is freedom from the Law and sin (Romans 7:7-8). The Second prerequisite is to be imbued with love, the first fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). As a result of these two there is to be a mutual serving, helping, and caring for one another in the Body of Christ.

### **Galatians 5:14**

- *“For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.”*
- Leviticus 19:18
- Golden Rule—“treat others as you yourself would like to be treated.” Just as we see to the needs of our own well-being; likewise believers are to love our neighbors with the same care we direct towards ourselves.
  - Romans 13:8-9
  - Ephesians 5
- If mankind had perfectly loved God and his neighbor there would have been no need for the Mosaic Law in the first place.
- Matthew 22:37-40—Paul’s statement here means that the basis for the whole Law can be summed up in the word Love. Under the Law if Israel had perfectly kept God’s precepts she would have done what love dictated.

- Ephesians 5:2—just because we have been freed from the Law we do not have license to sin but liberty to walk in love.

### **Galatians 5:15**

- *“But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.”*
- This verse is clear that there were problems amongst the Galatians. This is to be expected; false doctrine always stirs up debate and causes division.
  - Galatians 1:7-9, 3:1-3, 4:15-14, 5:7
- Certainly not all of the Galatians had fallen prey to the Judaizers. Some saints had remained grounded in the Paul’s gospel or else there would have been so much source for friction and contention.
  - Group 1: those who remained faithful
  - Group 2: those who were seeking to add law keeping to Paul’s gospel.
- The word “devour” means: 1) to eat up; to eat with greediness; to eat ravenously, as a beast of prey, or as a hungry man, 2) to destroy; to consume with rapidity and violence (Webster’s 1828).
- II Corinthians 11:20
- The word “consumed” means: wasted; burnt up; destroyed; dissipated; squandered; expended (Webster’s 1828).
- The word picture here is of believers cannibalizing one another.
  - Luke 9:54
  - II Thessalonians 2:8