



A Study of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians

Paul has defended himself against those who said he was a nobody who should not be listened to. More importantly, he has shown that it is not his own message, or teaching, that he is proclaiming. Instead, it is the Gospel of Christ.

This was true, not by his proof, but through the proof of the Holy Spirit who brought many people to faith in Jesus and through the miracles that the Holy Spirit did among them.

Paul proved that he was from the Lord and carried the truth. He showed that it was Jesus who called him personally to faith. He also showed them the proof of the brothers, the apostles in Jerusalem, who had accepted him as preaching the truth.

Paul has shown that the Law was not intended to save the people because they followed it. The Law of Moses did not save. Instead, Paul showed them that the Gospel saved Abraham and us through the special covenant promise. It was the Messiah, Jesus, who saved Abraham by faith. It was also the Messiah, Jesus, who saved them and us by faith.

Finally, Paul urged them not to give up on the truth of the Gospel. He has urged them as a father urges his straying child (or a pastor his straying members) that they should remain close to the truth and not go back to their old way of life.

In this chapter, Paul gives an answer to the question of works. What about works? If we are saved by faith and not by works, does that mean that we can live however we want? How is a Christian, who is saved by grace, supposed to live?

Galatians 5

Read verses 1-6

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ But by faith we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

1. The phrase “sitting on the fence” means that a person tries to do both things, instead of choosing one or the other. How are the Galatians trying to sit on the fence?

They are trying to believe in faith aloneAND.... do the works too to try to cover that too

2. What does Paul say will happen if they do that?
They will be burdened, yoked into slavery once again

3. What are the strong words that Paul uses to emphasize the danger they are in?
yoke of slavery
Christ will be of no value to you at all
alienated from Christ
you have fallen away from grace

4. Instead of being confused, what is the decision they should make?
Stand firm in the faith --- do not let this happen

5. Instead of answering their question with a list of does and don'ts for the Christian life, he gives a simple ½ verse summary of the life of a Christian. What is the summary of the Christian life that Paul gives? **faith expressing itself through love.**

6. What always accompanies faith? What WILL come next?
God-pleasing works will always come along with faith --- this is part of the Christian transformation
Pastor.... I never thought about it that way before. I never knew that that was a sin before.

Read verses 7-12

⁷You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be. ¹¹ Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

7. Paul would have loved ESPN and the other sports networks. He used sports-related analogies from time to time. The Galatians had gotten out to a good start, they were running well. What caused them to stumble during their race?
The Judaizers had cut in with their false teachings and thrown their true faith, their true race off

8. Paul would have also done well with all the baking shows. His next analogy used baking. What is the problem with yeast?
You only need a little bit of yeast. Too much and it will destroy the bread – rise too high

9. What is Paul's point?
Sometimes we think it is only the BIG false religions that matter. Paul's point is that, it doesn't take a lot of false doctrine to work through and destroy the body of believers. Any false doctrine is from the devil. Even a small amount of false doctrine can and does accomplish the devil's plan

10. When might Paul have allowed someone to be circumcised? **If they wanted to**

11. When would Paul have never allowed someone to be circumcised? **If they were forced to do it as a matter of faith or works**

Read Verses 13-15

¹³ You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. ¹⁴ The entire law is summed up in a single command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

12. How could freedom from the Law be used as a way to indulge sinfulness?

We are forgiven therefore God doesn't care if we sin. Use our forgiveness like a Get-Out-Jail free card

13. Paul was not the first one who said, “Love your neighbor as yourself?” Who used this as a summary of the second half of the Law? **Jesus said this when the expert in the Law came asking Jesus what the greatest commandment was. See Mark 12**

14. If you are not living in love, as we should, what will we see in our actions?

Biting and devouring, hatred and bitterness which will destroy us

Read Verses 16-18

¹⁶ So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. ¹⁷ For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

15. What is the only way that a person can be saved?

By faith through the Spirit

16. Who works this faith in our hearts?

The Holy Spirit

17. What is contrary to the work of the Holy Spirit?

The sinful nature is contrary to the work of the Holy Spirit

18. Can those who follow the Law to save themselves, live in the Spirit?

No. Either you live by faith, or by works. You cannot do both at the same time

19. Do those who live in the Spirit, need to save themselves by the Law?

No, we are saved fully and freely now and forever through Jesus. That is made my own through the Holy Spirit

Read Verses 19-21

¹⁹ The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; ²⁰ idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions ²¹ and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God.

20. Is this a list of sins that automatically send you to hell?

No, Even these sins can be forgiven

21. I warn you that those who live like this.... What is Paul pointing at as the problem with these sins?

That these sins often take over our lives and become part of our life.

Read verses 22-25

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. ²⁵ Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

22. The acts of the sinful nature can be done alone, by your sinful nature. However, these acts of faith must have help. Who helps us with this fruits of faith?

The Holy Spirit helps us to live the God-pleasing life

23. Is there a time when all this God-like living is too much?

No, this IS our life now that we are a Christian. Not something that we can do and then not do

24. Paul once again brings it back to Jesus. Since we have been ___**crucified**__ with Christ and the Holy Spirit works in us. We should strive to live ___**in the Spirit, in step with the Spirit.**