

“Don’t Be A Loser”

Galatians 5:1 - 12

June 27, 2021

Paul is getting close to the ending the letter sent to the church at Galatia. He asks the questions like, *“This is the only thing I want to find out from you: Did you receive the Spirit by works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh? Did you suffer so many things in vain – if indeed it was in vain?”* (3:2 – 4) *“Where is that sense of blessing you had?”* (4:15) *“You who want to be under law, do you not listen to the law?”* (4:21)

THE LAW . . . It is almost as if Paul would say, **“IF YOU FOLLOW THE LAW AND NOT FREEDOM IN CHRIST, YOU GET NOTHING. YOU LOSE!!!”**

The Galatians failed to understand how you live the Christian life once you begin it. They were living like slaves because they were told by the false teachers how to live.

Without JESUS CHRIST . . . **YOU LOSE.** Without the promise of FREEDOM IN CHRIST . . . **YOU LOSE . . .** Without ACCEPTING JESUS AS LORD AND SAVIOR . . . **YOU LOSE!!! DON’T BE A LOSER.**

Consider what Paul is now telling the Galatian believers . . .

Galatians 5:1 - 12

I. YOU ARE A WINNER IF YOU STAND FIRM

- A. Galatians 5:1
- B. Galatians 5:7 – *“You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth?”*
- C. Galatians 4:7 *“Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.”*
- D. The Galatians started well, but began to listen to and believe the false teachers.
- E. Galatians 5:13 – *For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but serve one another through love.*
- F. Remember the Israelites as they were in bondage in Egypt. All they wanted was FREEDOM.
- G. Paul says, **“IF YOU WANT FREEDOM, YOU MUST STAND FIRM AND DO NOT BE SUBJECT AGAIN TO A YOKE OF SLAVERY.”**
- H. John 8:36 – *“So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”*
- I. We need to be **FREED OBJECTIVELY** – FREE FROM THE **GUILT** OF SIN. (Technically and legally)
- J. We also need to be **FREED SUBJECTIVELY** – FREE FROM THE **GRIP** OF SIN. (Experientially, daily)
- K. **Objectively** - Romans 8:1 – *Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.*
 1. We are free from the **PENALTY** of sin and do not have to live as if we are unacceptable to God.
- L. **Subjectively** – We need to learn how to live apart from the **POWER** of sin.
 1. John 3:17
- M. **YOU ARE A WINNER IF YOU STAND FIRM!!!**

II. YOU ARE A WINNER WHEN YOU LIVE IN THE TRUTH

- A. In vs 2 – 12 Paul confronts these false teachers.
- B. **The false teachers were saying that these believers needed to be circumcised and follow the law to be right with God.**
- C. For Paul, Circumcision is symbolic of HUMAN ACHIEVEMENT instead of DIVINE GRACE.
- D. **DEUTERONOMY 10:16 – CIRCUMCISE YOUR HEART**
- E. Human works denote slavery.
- F. Today, June 27, 2021, there are religions that say you must have:

1. GOD’S WORD + ANOTHER WORD
 2. JESUS + A PERSON
 3. SALVATION + GOOD WORKS
 4. The truth is CHRIST ALONE.
- G. If you listen and accept these FALSE MESSAGES, you will...
1. VIEW CHRIST AS INSUFFICIENT – v. 2
 - a. Jesus’ work is perfect. NO OTHER
 2. OBEY THE LAW – v. 3
 - a. If you start with this, there will be more added to it.
 3. TURN AWAY FROM THE DOCTRINE OF GRACE – v. 4
 - a. You cannot lose your salvation, but you can fall away and lose your testimony.
 4. LOSE THE HOPE OF FUTURE GLORY – v. 5
 - a. When we accept Christ, we are declared RIGHTEOUS, but our righteousness is hidden from the world. It will be revealed on the last day and it will be undeniable.
 - b. THE SOLID ROCK
 5. FALSE MESSAGES ARE EMPTY
 - a. V. 6 – *For in Christ Jesus . . . NEITHER circumcision NOR uncircumcision means anything, but FAITH WORKING THROUGH LOVE.*
- I. FALSE TEACHERS HAVE THE SAME CHARACTERISTICS
1. They hinder obedience to the truth – v. 7
 2. They are not from God – v. 8
 - a. If they do not PREACH THE TRUE GOSPEL, DO NOT BELIEVE THEM.
 3. They contaminate others. – V. 9
 - a. In the New Testament, Yeast is a symbol of sin and false doctrines.
 4. They will be judged – v. 10
 - a. God will judge these false teachers.
 5. They persecute true teachers (v. 11)
 - a. True teachers WILL BE PERSECUTED because of the truth. Satan does not like the truth.
 - b. The CROSS OFFENDS PEOPLE.
 - c. 1 Corinthians 1:18 – *For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the POWER OF GOD.*
 - d. You will either BOAST IN THE GOSPEL or you will MOCK THE GOSPEL AND REJECT ITS POWER.
- J.. Why does the cross offend?
1. The cross **CRUSHES** human pride.
No longer ME but THEE. Not MINE, but THINE.
 2. The cross **CANCELS** human achievement.
Christ and Christ alone. Not JESUS + something else.
 3. The cross **CONVICTS** human behavior.
Galatians 5:19 – 21

CONCLUSION – Without Jesus Christ, YOU **HAVE** ALREADY LOST. YOU **ARE** ALREADY LOST. But, with Jesus Christ, you can be SET FREE. *It was for freedom that Christ has set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.* Galatians 5:1
DON’T BE A LOSER!!!

Resources: “The Wiersbe Bible Commentary” New Testament
Warren W. Wiersbe, (2003) David C. Cook Publishing
Galatians – pages. 570-573

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“Christ-Centered Exposition Exalting Jesus In Galatians”

Platt, David., & Merida, Tony. (2014). *Exalting Jesus in Galatians* (Ga 5:1–12). Nashville, TN: Holman

“The Biblical Illustrator”

Joseph S Exell, (1977) Baker Book House

Galatians – pages 311 - 350