

Galatians 5.1-12

Free Indeed

1000's of STUDENTS from AROUND World Found FREEDOM in Wudaoko
Parents – Pastors – Mullahs – Elders – All who Know them > Another Continent
Like Prodigal Son when he still had MONEY on DEBIT Card > Life is Good!

Freedom FROM Religion > What MANY in this World DESIRE

Religion gets in your WAY – Commands, Constraints, Controls

Freedom: DO WHATEVER I Want, WHENEVER, HOWEVER, w/ WHOEVER I Want

GOD stands in MY WAY – Controlling, Convicting, Criticizing MY Freedom

Some ideas can enslave you; some can set you free...If you crave freedom from
baseless dogma...if you want to think for yourself instead of submitting to
tradition, authority, or blind faith...*Put aside religion, despair, guilt, and sin...*
and find new meaning and joy in life!

Free Inquiry, magazine for Secular Humanists

Family member Announces “*I have found Religion*” / Family is Afraid

Lost Son, Daughter, Mom, Brother / They've Lost Mind, Future, Soon Wallet!

1. Freedom Established

MOST Popular Religious Leader in History – Jesus Christ promised FREEDOM

Jesus: “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know
the truth, and the truth will set you free...So if the Son sets you free, you will be
free indeed”
John 8.31-36

Paul - FAMOUS Followers of Jesus > Letter: FREEDOM in Jesus to Galatia

a. Firm Declaration > Theme of Galatians: Freedom in Christ

v. 1 For freedom Christ has set us free...

Jesus Christ...gave himself for our sins to deliver us from the present evil age
Galatians 1.3,4

...when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the
world. But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son...to
redeem those who were under the law...So you are no longer a slave, but a son
Galatians 4.3-7

Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. But now...you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God

Galatians 4.8,9

So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman. Galatians 4.31

Our former state is portrayed as a slavery, Jesus Christ as a liberator, conversion as an act of emancipation and the Christian life as a life of freedom. John Stott

b. Far-Away Dream

1963 – ¼ Million People gathered on Steps of Lincoln Memorial Washington DC



Crowd fell Silent at Martin Luther King, Jr. began to speak:

“I am happy to join with you today in what will go down in history as the greatest demonstration for freedom in the history of our nation...We can never be satisfied as long as our children are stripped of their self-hood and robbed of

their dignity by a sign stating "For Whites Only." ... No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream....

I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.

...I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character.



...I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, and every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight; and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together...

With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

...And when this happens, when we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" Martin Luther King, Jr., August 28, 1963

King Scared White America > FBI > Communist / White Church > Liberal

1st C Church: All Cultures, Colors, Citizenship, NICE Dream

21st C Sunday Morning 11 am MOST SEGREGATED Hour Entire Week in US

Lots of Churches – Almost ALL of them ONLY Come in ONE COLOR

Galatian Gentile Christians – Monotheism, Morality, Meaning, AND Money

Galatian Gentile Christians KIDS had to EAT and have School FEES PAID too!

Galatian Gentile Christians REJECTED by Families & Friends

Galatian Gentile Xtians, LOST Jobs, Influence, Opportunities for Advancement

Jewish Christians – Working out New Salvation – Relation of Jesus to Moses?

Early Church – Worshipped in Temple – Kept Jewish Feasts – Retained Culture

Jews 10% Roman Empire – Allowed Religious Freedom to Practice Faith

Roman Waves of Attack against Church > Protection in JEWISH Religion

IF Galatian Gentile Christians > Alone and Abandoned by Gentile Families

Offered Companionship by Wealthy Community – Jobs, Opportunities, Future

Jesus was JEW – Paul & APOSTLES All Jewish – YAHWEH = God of ISRAEL

Just ONE PAINFUL SNIP and you're IN the Covenant – BENEFITS Immediate

vs. 2,3 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.

IF Anyone knew INABILITY of JEWISH Law it was Saul of Tarsus – "I Paul"

Marshall > SIGN POST to Point the Way – NOT the DESTINATION

Circumcision is the seal of the law. He who willingly and deliberately undergoes circumcision, enters into a compact to fulfill the law. To fulfill it therefore he is bound, and he cannot plead the grace of Christ; for *he has entered on another mode of justification.* J.B. Lightfoot

v. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

Paul says I've BEEN THERE, DONE THAT...

WAS a Missionary Pharisee w/ KILLER INSTINCTS, Preaching Circumcision

Preach Circumcision	Preach the Cross
"You can save yourself by good works"	"You have no goodness, only Christ can save you"
Our Work is Essential for Salvation	Our Works are an Expression of His Salvation
Inoffensive, Popular, Flattering	Offensive, Unpopular, Insulting
Fuels our Pride	Forces us to be Humble
Avoids Persecution	Invites Persecution
Supplemented by a Savior	Sunk without a Savior
About Us	About God

People THINK it is GOOD Thing to ADD Law, Works, Human Effort to Gospel ESPECIALLY in Pagan 1st C World like GALATIA or 21st C Zhong Guan Cun! NO MORAL Standard: Why NOT let MOSES FINISH what Christ STARTED?

Man had Basketball Autographed by MICHAEL JORDAN > INK was FADING Took Pen tried to Carefully Trace Over and DARKEN M.J.'s WRITING HAND was not Steady or Skilled > OBLITERATED the Real Autograph Feeble Efforts turned something PRICELESS into something WORTHLESS

2. Freedom Endangered

a. Authoritarian Leader

When Paul LEFT Galatian Christians FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING the Master

v. 7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?

Athletic Races Not on Oval Tracks > Run to POST and Back Again

Lit. “who CUT IN on you” > Bad Sportsman – Hinderance, Tripping, Pushing
 Someone CUT IN on you Like a TAXI IN BIKE LANE – Gotta Stop Short!
 THIS CUTTING is BIG DEAL > You will LOSE the ENTIRE RACE
 Not just RUNNING for GOLD > Running for GOD > TRUTH of Eternal LIFE
 MINOR SURGERY became a MAJOR ISSUE – Matter of HEAVEN & HELL

Who hindered you

Perhaps Paul NOT KNOW Name of FALSE Teacher INFILTRATED Church

Or Perhaps Paul Not Want to give him DIGNITY of Put Dirty Name in Print

v. 10 the one who is troubling you...whoever he is

1st C – N.T. Forming > Apostles, Prophets, Teacher Traveled Church to Church
 Sometimes FALSE Teachers > Good Life: Popular, Fed, Housed, Praised, Paid
 John’s Letters talk about RECOGNIZING and RECEIVING Traveling Teachers
 21st C False Teachers don’t have TRAVEL HARDSHIPS, They’re on Television!
 ABSENCE of Paul their Father, False Teacher tries to Steal Newborns in Galatia

I write these things to you about those who are trying to deceive you. But the anointing that you received from him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie—just as it has taught you, abide in him. 1 John 2.26,27

Need GUIDES to OPEN the Word, NOT GODS who OPPOSE the Word

Teachers should EXPLAIN Faith NOT INVENT a New One of THEIR OWN

v. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

The MOST CUTTING Remark in the ENTIRE BIBLE! > **Not a JOKE!**

PASSIONATE, Pastoral Concern for Spiritual Children, Anger at False Teachers

North Galatia > PAGAN Religious Festival – Priests of CYBELE Castrated

// Insist on Circumcision – Try to be SAVED by Ritual – PAGAN Ceremony

After Cross & Resurrection – NO LONGER Spiritual Meaning to Circumcision

If these FALSE Teachers followed Paul's Advice – Cut Off from Jewish Faith

No one whose testicles are crushed or whose male organ is cut off shall enter the assembly of the LORD. Deuteronomy 23.1

Paul is SAYING these IMPOSTER Teachers should be CUT OUT of the Church

b. Approval by Law

vs. 3,4 ...if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.

PROBLEM is NOT the Law > Problem is **Wrong Use** of the Law

SIGNPOST to the SAVIOR, NOT a SUBSTITUTE for the SAVIOR

The law is holy, and the commandment is holy and righteous and good. Romans 7.12

...the perfect law, the law of liberty

James 1.25

Not SAVED BY Works / We are Saved FOR Works

LAW is NOT Way TO Life / But it IS the Way OF Life

Those who seek justification by obedience find themselves overestimating their obedience or underestimating their disobedience. There is always a basic dishonesty about the relationship. The apostle is telling the Galatians that the way of law can only lead to a distrust of God. It breeds hypocrisy and cynicism. Only a relationship based on grace can ever lead to true freedom. Derek Thomas

c. Absolutely Lost - Trusting in the Law for Life is Exceedingly FOOLISH

v. 2 Christ will be of no advantage to you.

v. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.

v. 4 NOT Describing an INDIVIDUAL EXPERIENCE – Biblical Principle

EITHER / ORs – Christ or Circumcision – Faith or Works – Gospel or Law

NOT Proof Text for LOSING your SALVATION: There are NO SUCH TEXTS!

Whole Bible Many Promises > NEVER Be Separated from the Love of Christ

But CAN BE Separated from What you NEVER HAD – Are you True Believer?

Being IN Church NOT make you Christian any more than...

KOREAN Restaurant NOT turn you into KIMCHEE / Stay There Smell Like it
KIMCHEE Smell that FILLS Korean Restaurant Helps Understand Warnings
Might have AROMA ON You – Might NOT have that TASTY Dish IN YOU!

Hebrews describes CHURCH Life, Mix of Believers & Not Yet Believers

Jesus says WHEAT and the WEEDS will GROW Together in Master's Field

For it is impossible, in the case of those who have once been enlightened, who have tasted the heavenly gift, and have shared in the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the goodness of the word of God and the powers of the age to come, and then have fallen away, to restore them again to repentance, since they are crucifying once again the Son of God to their own harm and holding him up to contempt.

Hebrews 6.4-6

Got that restaurant SMELL on You – IN Church but NOT OF True Church –
Enjoyed Gifts, Never met GIVER – Member EARTHLY Church, Not Heavenly
If TRUST your Works you will MISS FOREVER the Work of Christ For You!

3. Freedom Enjoyed

1. Stand on Christian Principles

Paul was ENCOURAGED by their GOOD BEGINNING

v. 7 running well...obeying the truth

Paul was HOPEFUL for their GOOD OUTCOME

v. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view than mine

Paul's EXPECTATION was they MUST STAND FIRM

v. 1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

Legalism	Liberty	License
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Seek BALANCE of Biblical Truth – Avoid EXTREMES of Legalism & License

Legalism > I can EARN Favor with God by What I Do

License > What I Do does not Matter, Going to Heaven, Now live like Hell!

In the process of gaining our rightful place, we must not be guilty of wrongful deeds. Let us not seek to satisfy our thirst for freedom by drinking from the cup of bitterness and hatred. We must forever conduct our struggle on the high plane of dignity and discipline. We must not allow our creative protest to degenerate into physical violence. Again and again, we must rise to the majestic heights of meeting physical force with soul force. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LOVE God with Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength, AND our NEIGHBORS Too

STAND FIRM in BELIEF > 4 Chapters of Well-Reasoned Sound Theology

Interviewer: "Is belief in Jesus the only way to get to heaven?"

"We who practice the Christian tradition understand him as our vehicle to the divine. But for us to assume that God could not act in other ways, is, I think, to put God in an awfully small box."

Katharine Jefferts Schori, Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the USA

Let Philip Ryken speak to Ms. Schori:

Christ-crucified – more than anything else, this is why Christianity is so offensive to a postmodern culture. Most people think well of Jesus Christ, at least as a moral teacher...No, what people dislike about Christianity is the exclusive claim of the crucified Christ...We want to fit in with our culture...At the very least, we don't want to offend anyone...But if Christianity must offend people, then let it be the cross that offends them. For where else can people see that they are sinners, and where else can they meet the Savior? Philip Ryken

b. Serve Christ's People

v. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Amazing Statement for a PHARISEE – KEY to Old Covenant > Circumcision

God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations...Every male among you shall be circumcised...Any uncircumcised male who is not circumcised in the flesh of his foreskin shall be cut off from his people; he has broken my covenant."

Genesis 17.9-14

STRANGE and RANDOM Moment in Biblical History

Exod 3: God CALLS Moses into Ministry / Exod 4: God tries to KILL Moses

At a lodging place on the way the LORD met him and sought to put him to death. Then Zipporah took a flint and cut off her son's foreskin and touched Moses' feet with it and said, "Surely you are a bridegroom of blood to me!" So he let him alone. It was then that she said, "A bridegroom of blood," because of the circumcision.

Exodus 4.24-26

Moses FAILED in Fatherhood Responsibility > Passing Covenant onto own Sons

Perhaps MOSES wanted Circumcise Sons on 8th Day but Foreign Wife Refused

If So – Moses like a lot of MEN – Silent Abdication of Leadership Duty

ATMOSPHERE of PEACE More IMPORTANT than ATTENTION to Principle

Zipporah: Strong Woman – Does Deed HERSELF as Sees Life or Death Matter

NOT TOLD AGE Sons, Just IMAGINING Scene is EXTREMELY Awkward!

Deadly SERIOUSNESS of the Covenant Sign of Circumcision – 2000 years!

Jewish Christians in Early Church thought they were Helping Gentile Christians

Some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, "Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved." Acts 15.1

BALANCE of Freedom – Freedom is LOST on EXTREMES – NEW Covenant

"Only Free if Circumcised" or "Only Free if NOT Circumcised" BOTH Wrong

1963 Some Black Americans said "If Whites Enslaved Us, They're All BAD"

The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny. And they have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Paul's MISSION Work – Timothy, Mother a Jew, Father Greek > Circumcised

Titus > 100% Gentile NOT Circumcised > Full Standing in Christ Alone

Circumcision – Cultural Practice, Family Choice, Personal Desire – Free!

TRUSTING in ANYTHING we do for God is to TURN AGAINST Jesus Christ

Galatians can be DIVIDED into 3 Parts

Chs. 1& 2 - Autobiography

Chs. 3 & 4 - Theology

Chs. 5 & 6 - Ethics

Paul is Teaches PRACTICAL Theology > Leads to Practice of Theology

Christianity is not simply something we know; it is something we do. It is not merely a belief system or a moral code; it is a theology that comes to life.

Philip Ryken

v. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, *but only faith working through love.*

Up to NOW in Galatians > FOCUS on God's LOVE for us in CHRIST

NOW 1st time Paul writes to Galatians about OUR LOVE as those Loved by God

He who wants to be a true Christian or to belong to the kingdom of Christ must be truly a believer. But he does not truly believe if works of love do not follow his faith.

Martin Luther

“If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” John 8.36

LAW is LIKE STICK > Beats us to RUN to Christ

NOW in Jesus LAW becomes WALKING STICK thru Life with Him

c. Seek the Kingdom in Prayer

v. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness.

JUSTIFICATION is not Something we WORK for, Something we WAIT for

Looking to DAY of JUDGEMENT > True Believers pronounced NOT GUILTY

Holy Spirit is ONE who GIVES us Faith and KEEPS us in the Faith

...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom

2 Corinthians 3.17

v. 10 the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty

The day will come when every error will be exposed and God’s truth will reign supreme. Do not be dismayed by the unbelief of liberal theology, discouraged by the spread of new cults, or disheartened by the slow decline of evangelical orthodoxy. The day will come when every false teacher will be judged for every false word.
Philip Ryken

With all my Heart WISH Martin Luther King would have Lived MUCH Longer
He could have done MUCH MORE to Bring TRUE Freedom for ALL People
Wish he DIED an OLD MAN Peacefully in HIS SLEEP
5 yrs after “I Have a Dream” KILLED by Assassin – Only 39 yrs. Old
Left his WIFE and FOUR Children – Many Years Unfinished Ministry Behind
Someone had WISDOM and HOPE to put this Inscription on his TOMBSTONE



In DEATH Beyond SINFUL World and SINFUL SELVES – Fully Redeemed
In PRESENCE of God & Savior Jesus Christ – Whose Blood Alone can FREE
Us

Will MLK & All who TRUST in Jesus be Truly & Completely Free INDEED

Chapters 1-2	Chapters 3-4	Chapters 5-6
Personal	Doctrinal	Practical
Gospel Defense	Gospel Declaration	Gospel Display
Grace and the Gospel	Grace and the Law	Grace and the Christian Life
Establishing	Explaining Gospel	Exhortation
Autobiography	Theology	Ethics
Inspiration	Justification	Sanctification
“the gospel... I received through a revelation of Jesus Christ” 1.11,12	“no one is justified before God by the law” 3.11	“(what) counts...only faith working through love” 5.6

5:1 For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. 2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love. 7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view than mine, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!