

# **Galatians 5:1-15**

## **Freed to Serve**

# Recap

Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

Gal 4:28-31 (NASB 2020)

Have you experienced the freedom found in the  
gospel?

OR

Are you still in bondage to your sins, trying to  
earn your way into heaven?

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Are you still in bondage to your sins, trying to  
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**For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm  
therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of  
slavery.**

**Gal 5:1 (NASB 2020)**

# Invitation

Come to Me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS. For My yoke is comfortable, and My burden is light.”

Matt 11:28-30 (NASB 2020)

# What Really Counts

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. You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

Gal 5:2-6 (NASB 2020)

# A Right Relationship with God

**Circumcision  
Required**



**Festivals, dietary  
requirements,  
etc.**

**OR**

**Christ's sacrifice  
on the cross**



**Salvation**

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**Festivals, dietary  
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**Strings attached**

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**Christ's sacrifice  
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**Salvation**

**It's not a gift  
if you have to earn it**

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Gal 5:2-6 (NASB 2020)

# Righteousness

- *...behavior that is morally justifiable or right*
  - *... characterized by accepted standards of morality, justice, virtue, or uprightness*
- *... conduct in relation to others, especially with regards to the rights of others in business, in legal matters, and beginning with relationship to God*

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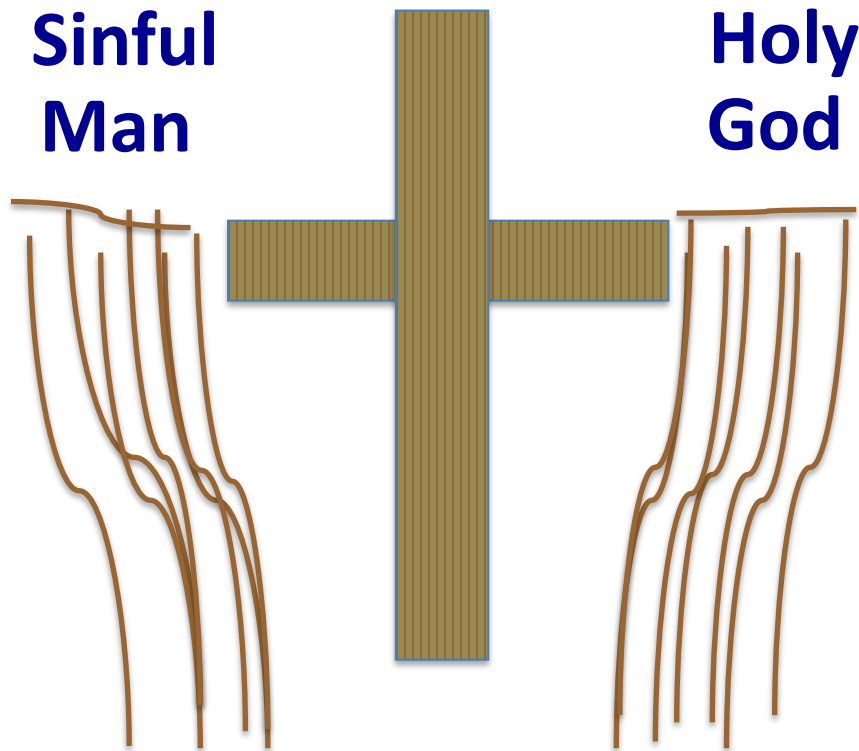
**Nobody is good enough**

# Justification

- the judicial act of God, by which he pardons all the sins of those who believe in Christ
  - and accounts, accepts, and treats them as righteous in the eye of the law, i.e., as conformed to all its demands.
- declares that all the claims of the law are satisfied ... the law is declared to be fulfilled in the strictest sense...
- ...a declaration that he possesses a righteousness which perfectly and for ever satisfies the law, namely, Christ's righteousness.

Easton's Bible Dictionary

# Trust in Jesus



...we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin in our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

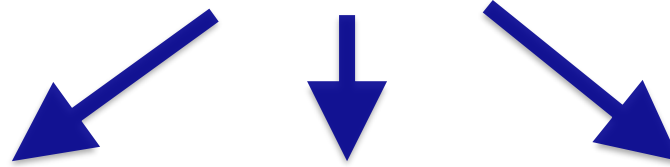
2 Cor 5:20-21

# Right Standing

...But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, ... and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant ...

He 12:22-24 (NASB 2020)

# Sins Forgiven



**Past**

**Present**

**Future**



**Have  
been  
saved**

**Are  
being  
saved**

**Will  
be  
saved**

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Gal 5:6 (NASB 2020)

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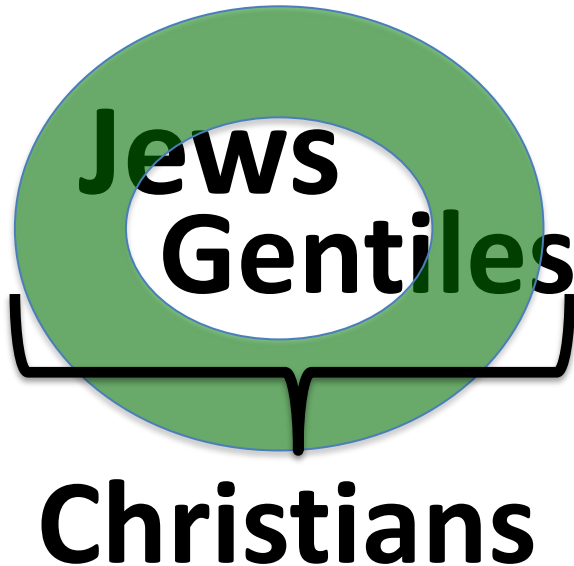
Gal 5:6 (NASB 2020)



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Gal 5:6 (NASB 2020)



But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works.” Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works

Ja 2:18 (NASB 2020)

You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? This persuasion is not from him who calls you. A little leaven leavens the whole lump. I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

Gal 5:7-12 (NASB 2020)

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Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit, are you now being perfected by the flesh?

Gal 3:3

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As we have said before, even now I say again: if anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, **he is to be accursed!**”

Gal 5:7-12 (NASB 2020) Gal 1:9

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Gal 5:7-12 (NASB 2020)

# Freed to Serve

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. For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

Gal 5:12-15 (NASB 2020)

# Freed to Serve

For freedom Christ has set us free (vs. 1)

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 (vs. 12)

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douleuō

doulos

Slave,

Gal 5:12-15 (NIVB 2020)  
bondservant

# Paul's Example

...through the Law I died to the Law, so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Gal 2:19-20 (NASB 2020)

**Is this evident in our lives?**

# JOY

- One of the fruits of a spirit-led life
- Priority setting
  - J - Jesus
  - O - Others
  - Y – You

# Love

Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered, it does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; it keeps every confidence, it believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

1 Cor 13:4-8 (NASB 2020)

# Love Your Neighbour

For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the statement, “YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.” vs. 14

Lev 19:18 You shall not take vengeance, nor hold any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the LORD.

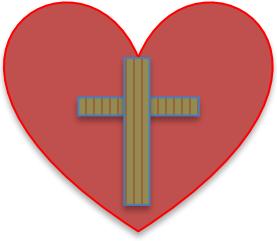
Ro 13:8, 10 Owe nothing to anyone except to love one another; for the one who loves his neighbor has fulfilled the Law. ... Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the Law.

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Gal 5:12-15 (NASB 2020)

## **In Closing...**



**It was for freedom, Christ has set us free**

**Stand firm in the faith**

**Our righteousness (justification) comes from**

**Christ's finished work on the cross**

**Through the Spirit,**

**wait for the hope of righteousness**

**Beware of the many "detours"**

**Serve others in love**

**Our lives reflect what's in our hearts**

N

Do others see you living  
in the freedom  
for which you've been set free?