

FREE AT LAST! THE MESSAGE OF GALATIANS
February 18, 2010

The Lawful Gospel – Galatians 5:1-15

- 5:1a** **I. We must experience our freedom.**
A. Christ purposed it.
 “It is for freedom...”
- B. Christ accomplished it.
 “...that Christ has set us free.”
- :1b-6** **II. We must guard our freedom.**
 “Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.”
- :2-4** A. Leave the life of legalism.
- :2** 1. Otherwise, Christ is of no value to us.
 “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** 2. Otherwise, we are obligated to perfect obedience.
 “Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.”
- :4** 3. Otherwise, we fall away from grace.
 “You who are trying to be justified by law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”
- :5-6** B. Live the life of faith.
- :5** 1. Eagerly await the end.
 “...we eagerly await through the Spirit the righteousness for which we hope.”
- :6** 2. Express our faith in love.
 “For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.”
- :7-12** C. Stay the course.
 “You were running a good race.”
- :7-8** 1. Recognize the source of legalism.
 “Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.”
- :9** 2. Recognize the power of legalism.
 “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.”
- :10-12** 3. Recognize the consequences of legalism.
 “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. Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!”

:12-15 III. We must use our freedom.

“You, my brothers, were called to be free.”

:12 A. Not for carnal purposes.

“But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature...”

:13b-15 B. But for service.

“...rather serve one another in love.”

:14 1. Love fulfills the law.

“The entire law is summed up in a single command: Love your neighbor as yourself.”

:15 2. Lack of love leads to destruction.

“If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.”