

**Galatians: Called to Freedom**  
**2023-12-31**

**Galatians 5:13**

*For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

.....Paul wrote from **Antioch** about **A.D. 48-55**, shortly before **Jerusalem council**, which **settled law-vs-grace controversy**. Acts 15

- **Galatians second New Testament** written, **James 45 AD** probably first.....**Both on grace and works!**
  - **Galatians: grace produces** holy living. **James: right living proves** faith.

**To: churches** he planted **first mission** journey in **Galatia**, present-day **Turkey**. See outline at the end

- **In response to Judaisers' heresy: Gospel and works.**
  - **Saved through faith** and **perfected** by keeping **laws**.
    - **True Christians ALSO** circumcised, keep **Law and Old Testament regulations** Galatians 3:2-3, 5:2-6

**Galatians frequently** called **Magna Carta** of **spiritual emancipation...Freedom letter**.

- **Jesus set free from law** as a means of **salvation** and **free from sin's power**. Galatians 5:1
  - **Free from earn Father's favor** and **freed live joyfully by grace not law**.

Many **problems** in life **start** with **distorted views** of what **freedom** really is.

- **Ironically, more** assert **self-centered freedom** (do what want when want to without restraint), **more** become **enslaved** to **desires**, lusts and **sin**.
  - Develop **less & less control** over **until powerless to escape**. John 8:34
- Many **Galatians Christians** freed by **Jesus Christ** choose to live in bondage to **legalism** and **sin**

**Legalist do/don'ts** to demo **self-righteous suitability** for heaven. Galatians 4:9-10

- Judaisers **suggested** to **live by grace** and freedom meant live **lawless life**.
  - **By works stay** in God's **good graces** and **prevent "bad"** things.
- **Accept and adopt** in Jesus **not what do/not do...not live** by being **perfect but forgiven**.
  - **Repent: joy of salvation** will return and find **joy in freedom** of following the **Holy Spirit** daily!

**Liberalist opposite extreme: rationalize** life of **self-indulge/lusts**. Galatians 5:13a, 16-17

- **"Free from law"** means **free from sin's power** to **serve Jesus not self**.
  - **Irony, Christian freedom** used to **return to slavery** to **desires...lead to sin**
    - **Root issue** this **unscriptural freedom** is **lack of faith and trust** in God.

- **If don't do whatever want won't be as happy.**
- **Christian who lives in true Biblical freedom by faith understands grace NOT free pass to sin but opportunity to live holy w/forgiveness when sin.**
  - **Ask Holy Spirit for strength live as sinlessly as possible.**

- **When sin....remember God not love less....you're His child!**

**Fine line—not live as if anything goes but not fall into legalism.**

- Somewhere **between license and legalism** is true Christian liberty.
  - **Freedom is loving others with Christ-like selflessness and living without fear our performance is counted against us.** Jude 4

The call to **freedom** & the call to **love** synonymous. Galatians 5:13-14, 6:10,

- With **new life from God** and indwelling of Holy Spirit, **love can be produced** in hearts and **expressed in loving acts.**
  - **Others served/loved not treated as things to be used/abused.**

**Call to freedom call to live Christian life same way started: by work of Holy Spirit.**  
Galatians 3:2-3, 5:22-24

- **Grace is never-ending work...God's work** for us in **past** (justification), **present** (sanctification) and **future** (glorification)
  - **Holy Spirit will enable obey** to God's will and **right living** and **produce Holy Spirit fruit in and through us** that is **both pleasing to God** and **beneficial** for this present life.
    - **That's what I want in 2024 & beyond!**

## **GALATIANS OUTLINE**

Chapters 1-2 PAUL'S DEFENSE OF HIS APOSTLESHIP

1:1-1:10 Introduction

1:11-17 Divine Origin Of His Gospel

1:18-2:21 His Relationship To The Other Apostles

Chapters 3-4 DEFENSE OF THE GOSPEL OF JUSTIFICATION BY FAITH

3:1-5 Personal Argument

3:6-25 Scriptural Argument

3:26-4:7 Practical Argument

4:8-20 Sentimental Argument

4:21-31 Allegorical Argument

Chapters 5-6 CALL TO STAND FAST IN THE LIBERTY OF THE GOSPEL

5:1-6 A Liberty That Excludes The Necessity Of Circumcision

5:7-15 A Liberty That Fulfills The Law

5:16-26 A Liberty In Which One Is To Be Led By The Spirit

6:1-10 A Liberty With A Sense Of Responsibility

6:11-18 CONCLUSION