



Galatians - Chapter 5:5-6

The Triumph of Grace

Holly Hills Bible Church – December 28, 2025



Q: Why does Galatians have so many parallels to Romans?

Romans records Paul's basic grace doctrine.

(I believe it is the same message that Paul taught everywhere he planted churches.)

Galatians corrects a church that had departed from grace.

(Paul is reminding the Galatians of the things he had taught them.)



Galatians 5:1-6 (NASB)

¹ It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery. ² Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. ⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

⁵ For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.



Review

In 5:1 Paul exhorts Christians to stand firm in their freedom and NOT be subject to a “yoke of slavery”.



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In verse 2 Paul tells us the consequences of putting yourself under law as a believer.

- Christ will profit you nothing!

Why is that?

- There are 2 principles in view. We are operating under one or the other at any given time. LAW or GRACE



Review

Does verse 4 mean that a person has lost their salvation?

⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

We can either be walking by grace or by law.
It's one or the other at any given moment.

Verse 4 is not about loss of salvation, but about the expression of Christ's life.

This is not POSITION but CONDITION.



Verse 5

⁵ For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.



Verse 5

What is “hope” in verse 5?

By faith we receive what the Spirit has promised.
This is absolute assurance.

What are we assured of?

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Is this positional righteousness, or a righteous walk?

We don't “hope” for positional righteousness, we have it!
Context indicates that this is a righteousness walk.

We have assurance of the righteous life God has provided!



Verse 6

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.



Verse 6

If circumcision “means nothing” in v.6, why does Paul say in v.3&4 that if you accept circumcision you are severed from Christ?

By “means nothing” or “avails anything” Paul is not saying that circumcision doesn’t matter.

He’s saying that it doesn’t have any *value*.

DBY- it doesn’t have “any force”



Verse 6

What does circumcision deal with?

The earthly body.

Circumcision has no effect whatsoever on the heavenly new creation man.

Law deals with man in the flesh.

Law cannot touch the New Man in Christ Jesus.

Circumcision means nothing to the Heavenly Man.

However, if you place yourself under the law principle you will have NO expression of the life of Christ in your walk.



Verse 6

Is it a physical surgery that's the problem here?

Or is it the mentality behind the surgery?

Legal mentality is what lay behind the act of circumcision.

We may not be inclined to circumcision or the law of Moses, BUT we are no less attracted to law!



Verse 6

Circumcision [law or works mentality] is worthless to you as a Christian, but what...?

But **FAITH**

Christ Jesus accomplishes in us what works of law can *never* accomplish, as we simply depend on Him to do it.



Verse 6

Through *what* does faith accomplish this work?

Faith working through LOVE.

A perfect, pure and totally selfless love is what the life of Christ is all about.

It's a love that WE DON'T HAVE!

But it is exactly what He will produce in us if we will let Him.