

**What is the major theme of the book of Galatians?**

Our Liberty in Christ!

Chapters 1-4 = Positional Truths

Chapters 5-6 = How to Appropriate Truths

When we speak of liberty, what are we liberated **from** & what are we liberated **to**?

Liberated **from** the yoke of bondage, law

**Galatians 1:4** *Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,*

**Galatians 2:3** *Yet not even Titus who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised.*

# Liberated to walk in Christ's liberty

- **He died**

- *Gal 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; 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 for me*

- And we have His life!

- **We died**

- *Gal 2:19 For I through the law died to the law that I might live to God. We died to law.*

# The Major Principles taught in the book of Galatians

There are 10 principles

They are in 2 groups of 5

Each principle in one group stands in opposition to its corresponding principle in the other group

Example: **GRACE** stands in opposition to **LAW**

# GRACE vs. LAW

## Eph. 1:6 (Grace)

*<sup>6</sup> to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He has made us accepted in the Beloved.*

*Galatians 1:6 (NKJV) <sup>6</sup> I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel,*

We were called (or invited) into God's grace = Grace of Christ

- It's a Divine invite
- We accepted that invitation by faith
- And by His grace we are made sons of God & have been baptized into Christ & have put on Christ
- This is our position – immutable, eternal

(Law) Living the Christian life by any law system or any form of legalism – even if it's the Mosaic Law – is another gospel,

- another of a different kind
- totally in opposition to the Gospel of Christ

# Faith

VS.

# Works

*<sup>16</sup> nevertheless knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus*

*Galatians 5:6 (NASB) <sup>6</sup> For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.*

If only faith can justify us, then only faith can sanctify us

- But God has a plan for His good works
- Which God has previously prepared (pre-ordained)
- Every believer is God's workmanship (or handiwork) created unto good works
- He performs His good works through us as we walk by faith being led by the Spirit
- And as we grow in His love His love energizes our faith

- Works (under a law system)
- They are works of self-Righteousness (-R)
- Their source is the flesh
- They are not acceptable to God

**We must distinguish between:**  
Works of the flesh and  
Works of the Spirit

# Flesh

vs.

# Spirit

Galatians 2:20

*This only I want to learn from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*

- We did not receive the H.S. by the works of the law
- It is impossible for the flesh to make us perfect
- If we sow to the flesh – we will reap out of the flesh
- *“he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap eternal life.”*
- Eternal Life: Knowing The Father and The Lord Jesus Christ

*Galatians 2:3 Are you so foolish? Having begun in the Spirit, are you now being made perfect by the flesh?*

- We received the H.S. by the hearing of faith. *“for faith comes by hearing & hearing by the Word of God – (Rom. 10:17)*
- We received the H.S. the moment we trusted in Christ
- The H.S. took up His residence in us forever
- So we began our Christian life in the Spirit

# Bondage

vs.

# Liberty

*; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

- As we have seen in addressing the theme of the epistle earlier –
- We are to **stand fast or firm** (to be entrenched) in His liberty & we will not be entangled with the yoke of bondage
- Going back to:- legalism -or the flesh as a way of life

*<sup>13</sup> For you, brethren, have been called to liberty*

- Christ is our very life
- We are in living union with Him
- He is liberty – He is freedom
- Our liberty is bound by the will of the Father
  - And the will of the Father is to love us & bless us with every spiritual blessing



# Death

vs. “

# Life (+R)

*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world" (6:14).*

- When the Judaizing teachers gloried in their success of persuading a Gentile to observe the Mosaic Law. Death
- Paul exalted the finished work of Christ at Calvary for believers. Life

*I have been crucified  
Nevertheless, I live – yet not I  
But Christ lives in me And the life  
that I now live in the flesh  
I live by faith in the Son of God  
Who loved me & gave Himself for  
me”*

- It is only as we thus take our stand in the cross that the world-system is rendered unattractive to us and we are rendered unattractive to it.
- Faith in Christ and acknowledgment of what He has done for and to us will not allow for any compromise on our part with the world.

