

Standfast In Freedom

Galatians 5:1-6

Intro:

- A. Paul has presented and allegory to the churches.
 - 1. They are not of Haggar, Mt. Sinai, or the "now" Jerusalem of Ishmael.
 - 2. They are of Isaac, Sarah, "Above" Jerusalem and are children of promise, of the freewoman and not of the bondwoman.
 - 3. They are free from all past religious bondage.
 - 4. Those who were "many" persecuted those who had few.
- B. What will they do with this freedom?
 - 1. Will they live in its glory?
 - 2. Will they return bondage?

I. Paul's Plea To Standfast In Freedom. 5:1

- A. **Vs. "Standfast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free..."**
 - 1. "Standfast" = $\sigma\tau\eta\kappa\omega$ = "to stand firm". The pres. tense indicates a habitual action.
 - 2. "Liberty" = $\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\upsilon\theta\epsilon\rho\iota\alpha$ = "freedom to go where one will".
 - 3. "Free" = $\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\upsilon\theta\epsilon\rho\omega$ = "to set at liberty".
- B. **"...and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."**
 - 1. "Entangled" = $\epsilon\nu\epsilon\chi\omega$ = Pass. "to be held in or by anything"
 - 2. "Yoke" = $\zeta\upsilon\lambda\omicron\varsigma$ = yoke
 - 3. "Bondage" = $\delta\omicron\upsilon\lambda\epsilon\iota\alpha$ = slavery
 - 4. "Cease being held out by the yoke of slavery (to Judaism or Paganism)"

II. Christ, Circumcision, And The Law.

- A. **Vs. 2 "Behold, I Paul say unto you,..."**
 - 1. Listen! I Paul, say this to you..." - Phi
 - 2. "You can say, Paul said this". "You can quote me".
- B. **"if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit me nothing."**
 - 1. "Profit" = $\omega\phi\epsilon\lambda\epsilon\omega$ = "to further", "to help"
 - 2. If these people were depending upon the law of Moses (for righteousness) Christ could not help them.
- C. **Vs. 3 "For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is debtor to do the whole law."**

1. "Testify" = μαρτυρομαι = "to attest to truth".
2. "Debtor" = οφειλετης = "one who is morally obligated to fulfill a debt".
3. "I testify again to every man who submits to circumcision, that he thereby lays himself under obligation to fulfill the whole law" - Con

III. Standing Beyond The Reach Of Grace.

- A. **Vs. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you,"**
 1. "Effect" = καταργεω = "to leave unemployed", or idle, "make useless", "void", "abolish".
 2. "You have voided and made useless the work of Christ."
- B. **"...Whosoever of you are justified by law..."**
 1. "Justified" = δικαιωω = to set forth as righteous.
 2. "If you trust in the law for your righteousness..."
 3. Christ was idle as their Saviour if they were trusting in law-keeping to make them righteous in God's sight.
- C. **"...ye are fallen from grace."**
 1. "Fallen" = εκπιπτω = "to fall out of".
 2. "...you put yourself outside the range of his grace". - Phi
 3. "...you have deserted grace."
 4. Those who seek to be righteous by law-keeping are standing on ground that grace cannot reach.
 5. Romans 11:6 - "And if by grace, then it is no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then it is no more grace: otherwise work is no more work."

IV. How They Were Saved.

- A. **Vs. 5 "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."**
 1. "All our hope of justification lies in the Spirit: It (our hope) rests on our faith." Knox
 2. "The Spirit empowers us to wait in hope to see the results of our being justified by faith."
- B. **Vs. 6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."**
 1. "Availeth" = εσχυω = "to be prevailing", "to be mighty", "to have strength".
 2. "Worketh" = ενεργεω = "to energize".
 3. "Once we are in Christ, circumcision means nothing, and the want of it means nothing; the faith that

finds its expression in love is all that matters" -
Knox

