

Galatians

Chapter 5, Part 2

- I. Introduction
 - a. Paul had preached the Gospel to the saints in Galatia
 - i. He had not instructed them to adhere to the Mosaic Law
 - 1. He had pointed them to the example of our Savior
 - a. Some had come through afterwards which had told them that they must adhere to the Law of Moses
 - i. Paul speaks of these people today
 - b. Though we are certainly freed from the demands of the Mosaic Law, this does not mean that we are free to sin
 - i. Our lives are still to be a reflection of the life of Jesus
- II. Commentary
 - a. **Verses 7-9**
 - i. They had “*ran well*” when they were first saved
 - 1. That is, they understood the truth of salvation by grace and the believers freedom from the Law
 - a. The Judaizers had come through after Paul had left them
 - ii. God had not sent the Judaizers to instruct them
 - 1. Everybody who claims to be a preacher of the truth is not
 - a. Clearly, these that had been preaching that the believer is bound to the Law of Moses was not sent by God
 - iii. “*A little leaven leavens the whole lump*”
 - 1. Paul used the same phrase with the church at Corinth (1 **Corinthians 5:6-7**)
 - a. In Corinth, they were allowing a sinful man to remain a member of the church which would, no doubt, mislead some other members
 - b. In Galatia, they had allowed false teachers to preach false doctrines which had affected all of the churches in the area
 - 2. We know this is true in our own lives
 - a. When sin is allowed to remain, it multiplies
 - iv. Paul expressed confidence that these churches would consider this corrective letter from him and return to the truth
 - 1. However, he believed that God would judge the false teacher
 - a. If he was saved, this would be through chastening here on Earth
 - b. If he was lost, this would be eternal punishment in the Lake of Fire
 - b. **Verses 11-12**
 - i. It seems that some had spread the rumor that Paul was preaching the need for circumcision (as thus, the following of the whole Law)
 - 1. However, this was not true
 - a. If this was so, the Judaizers would not be persecuting Paul – which occurred throughout his ministry
 - ii. The cross of Christ was Paul’s boast
 - 1. You cannot serve the Law and liberty by free grace

- a. Paul was living in the liberty which we have in Christ
 - i. Because of this, he was bearing his cross and suffering much persecution for it
 - 1. If he'd conform to the doctrine of the Judaizer's, his persecution would instantly cease
 - iii. Paul wished that these that were so adamant about circumcision would go on and "*cut themselves off*"
 - 1. The NASB translates this verse, "*I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves*"
 - a. The idea here is that if these were so staunch that physical circumcision was pleasing to God, they should just go to the point of being willing eunuchs for the kingdom of God
 - i. Without doubt, they were unwilling to do this
- c. **Verses 13-15**
 - i. We, as believers in Jesus, have been called to liberty
 - 1. We are as free from the restraints of the Mosaic Law as a slave that has been freed from his master
 - a. This is not, however, a license to live a sinful life
 - i. If a professing Christian has a desire to do this, something is wrong
 - 1. They are either not saved or their relationship with Christ is not what it ought to be
 - ii. What are we to do today?
 - 1. Love
 - a. Jesus lived a life of love
 - i. Certainly, we see the ultimate act of love in bearing our sins at Calvary
 - 1. However, there is much more love that He shared
 - b. Love fulfills any demand that the Law had
 - i. Jesus said same thing (**Matthew 22:39-40**)
 - c. We are to serve one another
 - i. The Christian life is about giving
 - 1. Jesus is our ultimate Example here as well
 - a. And, we are to follow Him
 - iii. A church that bites and devours each other, there can be no fellowship
 - 1. And, we certainly are not following the Example of Jesus
 - iv. Our freedom from the Law gives us the opportunity to express love to our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ
 - 1. It also gives us the opportunity share the love of Christ with the world