

 *May 19*

Galatians 5—Freedom in Christ

**OVERVIEW:** [Galatians](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vmx4UjRFp0M&vl=en)

**CONTEXT:** In chs. 1–2 of Galatians (last LG) Paul authenticates his apostleship and exposition of the Gospel he proclaimed in the face of Jewish false teachers. In chs. 3–4 Paul takes the Galatians on a tour from Abraham, through the Laws of Moses, to Christ, to show that the Law served a purpose, but now that purpose has been fulfilled in Christ. To add works (like circumcision) to faith, is to go backwards and not forwards. Only faith in Christ will be of any effect.

**FIRST, A.M. SERMON RECAP** (Gal 2:16)

* What do you think about Luther’s conversion?
* Why are works’ based systems of salvation all the same?
* Why is Gal 2:16 or Justification by Faith a fundamental of the Gospel and Christianity?
* What is justification? What is Faith?
* What does it mean to be justified by faith in Christ?
* Why are Paul and James in agreement?

**READ:** Gal 5:1–15

**QUESTIONS:**

1. *Note: Welcome to the penetrating logic of Paul! Sometimes difficult to follow, we’ll attempt to trace his key steps and points here. A helpful summary of what he says here can be seen earlier in Gal 2:20.*
2. *The Law had both positive and negative qualities. Negatively it exposed the sin of Israel (and all humanity). Positively it was like a schoolmaster that protected and prepared Israel until the Messiah came. In either case it was only temporary (though the moral law is eternal). Now that Jesus had come, faith in Him was not only better but the only way (both to be saved and to live well).*
3. **Share a time that you were enslaved or bound to something. Would you want to go back? (relationship, financial, etc).**
4. *Remember, the enemies of the Gospel, Paul and the Galatians, were wanting them to revert to trusting in the Law, intermingling with it trust in Jesus.*
5. **How has Christ set the believer free from sin? Why ought they not go back? (v. 1).**
6. Vv. 2–3- *We speak of justification by faith alone in Christ alone.* If the Galatians even added the law of circumcision what are they accepting? What are they denying?
7. *V. 4- Less a commentary on the ability/inability to lose one’s salvation, this verse is more a warning about falling from the grace offered and available in Christ*. Discuss.
8. **V. 5- How does the Christian become more like Jesus (“the hope of righteousness”)? Is it by the Law or the Spirit working through Faith?**
9. V. 6- Can outward forms change our hearts? What produces love for God and others in our hearts?
10. Vv. 7–9- Why is truth and error so potent?
11. V. 10- Why is Paul confident the Galatians will side with him and the enemy will be punished?
12. **V. 11- Trust in human pride and effort makes us like everyone else. Why is the grace proclaimed in the Cross offensive?**
13. *V. 12- A play on words (i.e. circumcision) for emasculate literally means to remove all of the male parts, not just castration. Or figuratively, to be deprived of vigour.* In light of what these men were trying to do to the Galatians (enforce circumcision), who did Paul desire of them?
14. Vv. 13–15- The believer has been set free from the penalty of sin and, progressively, from its power. How would reverting to trusting the flesh (worldly desire) not bring freedom, a freedom that causes us to love our neighbours in the Spirit?
15. ***We’ve been saved from sin for righteousness* (i.e. the moral law is no longer a threat by a promise). How do we see this in the fruit of the world and the Spirit that follows?**
16. **What relevance does this all have for today?**

**NEXT TIME:** May 26, No LG, Congregational Meeting;

June 2, 2 Thes 2, The Man of Lawlessness