**GALATIANS 5**

**LIBERTY IN CHRIST**

**1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.**

 Fast – three uses of this word:

 1 – With speed, haste

 2 – Go without food

 3 – Firmly in place, glued

 The context will tell you which is intended.

 We are free in Christ. John 8:32, 36

 Entangled – all tied up, wound around

 Yoke – weight, burden, carry a load

**2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.**

 If you bind circumcision:

 What can NOT be bound from the law?

 What profit (value) is Christ?

**3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.**

 If you bind this – you are obligated to obey ALL the law. James 2:10

 The law is not a cafeteria (pick and choose) which points to bind or ignore.

**4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who *attempt to* be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.**

 Are you justified by the law? THEN: Christ suffered for nothing. Jesus is of no value.

 You can’t fall from where you ain’t!

 This verse teaches the possibility of apostasy. Hebrews 3:12

Jesus does not leave you. Romans 8:35

You can abandon Jesus.

**5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.**

 Indwelling of the Spirit of God.

 God does not operate on our timetable. He is not a “clock watcher.”

 Hope – desire and expectation; hope alone = wish, dread; expectation alone = dread, fear

 Do you desire heaven? Do you expect to go to heaven?

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

 In Christ – Baptized into Christ Romans 6:3-4

 Circumcision does not make one better.

 Uncircumcised does not make one worse.

 HERE IS WHAT MATTERS:

 Faith – Works – Love

 (all must work together)

**7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?**

 Don’t just run. Run well. Do your best.

 Hinder is not a “roadblock”. It is a “detour”.

 Hinder is not total collapse; just a “slowdown” obstacle.

**8 This persuasion does not *come* from Him who calls you.**

**9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump.**

 “One rotten apple spoils the bushel.”

**10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.**

 Preachers must have confidence, never give up.

 One who lacks confidence in the power of his message should get out of the pulpit.

 Never doubt the gospel’s power. Romans 1:16

**11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased.**

 Why suffer persecution? To preach error?

 Preaching circumcision means the cross did not happen.

**12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!**

Judiazing teachers should be cut off.

 Romans 16:17 – “Mark them”

 2 Timothy 3:5 – “turn away”

 Titus 1:10-11 – “mouths stopped”

**13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not *use* liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.**

 Christians are free!

 Caution: Do not use your liberty to bind others.

 Liberty must serve others.

 Many have the attitude of “I am free to do as I like. Who cares if you don’t like it?”

 This is selfishness.

**14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this: *"You shall love your neighbor as yourself."***

 Basic Principle: Love your neighbor as you love yourself.

 **HERE IS THE CATCH!** Many are depressed, blue, defeated. They do not like who they are. If I do not like myself, my neighbor is in serious trouble.

**15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another!**

 Christian cannibals – Bite, devour each other by: Gossip, Backbiting, Blaming, Lying, Talebearing, Envy, Strife, Seditions, Finger pointing

 “He who slings mud, loses ground.” Moat and beam. Matthew 7:1-5

**16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

 Let the Spirit – Guard, Guide and Dirct

 Stay with the Spirit = No flesh problems

 Flesh problems? Need more spirit walks.

**17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.**

 Flesh = carnal, worldly lusts

 Lusts = desires, unlawful desires

 Spirit = spiritual values, holy, righteous

 There is a war going on. They are against each other.

 YOU CAN NOT DO YOUR OWN THING!

**18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.**

**19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,**

 Works of the flesh are – plural, a multiple list, do not violate ANY of these

 Adultery – violation of the marriage vow

 Fornication – all sexual immorality

 Uncleanness – leading to fornication

 Lasciviousness – producing lust in others

**20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies,**

 Idolatry – sacrifice or worship of idols

 Witchcraft – use of spells, potions, drugs

 Hatred – malice, revenge, animosity

 Variance – to cut apart

 Emulations – burn with jealousy

 Wrath – quick temper, hot anger

 Seditions – standing apart, division

 Heresies – self-willed, strong opinion

**21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told *you* in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.**

 Envy – displeasure at another’s fortune

 Murders – intentional taking of a human life

 Drunkenness – habitual intoxication

 Revellings – dancing, partying, frolicking

 AND SUCH LIKE ---

 This behavior will disqualify you for heaven

**22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,**

 Fruit of the Spirit is – Singular – one fruit, need all parts to have the fruit

 Love – Seek what is best for another

 Joy – delight, exuberant pleasure

 Peace – harmonious relationships

 Longsuffering – forbear, patience, endure

 Gentleness – mild, sweet reasonableness

 Faithfulness – trusted, reliable, true

**23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.**

 Meekness – humble, inner quality of quiet strength

 Temperance – self-control

 None of the above are illegal or immoral or fattening.

**24 And those *who are* Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.**

 Do you belong to Christ?

 Have you crucified the flesh?

 Have affections been put to death?

**25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**

 The Spirit lives in you.

 You must live in the Spirit.

**26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.**

 If you are living in the Spirit, you will not:

 1 – Seek “vain glory”

 2 – Provoke each other, stir up, prod, poke

 3 – Envy – displeasure at another’s fortuen