

## Paul's Letter to the Galatian Churches – Part 2 (late 48)

Galatians 4:8–6:18

### Paul's Own Life and Ministry Confirms Justification Apart from Circumcision

4:8 Howbeit then, when ye knew not God, ye did service unto them which by nature are no gods.  
 9 But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?  
 10 Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years.  
 11 I am afraid of you, lest I have bestowed upon you labour in vain.  
 12 Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye *are*: ye have not injured me at all.  
 13 Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first.  
 14 And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus.  
 15 Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me.  
 16 Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?  
 17 They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them.  
 18 But *it is* good to be zealously affected always in a good *thing*, and not only when I am present with you.  
 19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,  
 20 I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.

### An Allegory to Illustrate Justification Apart from Circumcision

21 Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law?  
 22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. [cf. [Gen 16, 21](#)]  
 23 But he *who was* of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman *was* by promise.  
 24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar.  
 25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children.  
 26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.  
 27 For it is written, Rejoice, *thou* barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. [[Isa 54:1](#)]  
 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.  
 29 But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him *that was born* after the Spirit, even so *it is* now.  
 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman. [[Gen 21:10](#)]  
 31 So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free.

### Stand Firm in Your Freedom

5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.  
 2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.  
 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.  
 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.  
 5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.  
 6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.  
 7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?  
 8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.  
 9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.  
 10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.  
 11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.  
 12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

### Don't Allow Your Freedom to Become a License for the Flesh

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.  
 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. [[Lev 19:18](#)]  
 15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.  
 16 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.  
 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.  
 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.

- 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are *these*; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,  
21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.  
22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,  
23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.  
24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.  
25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.  
26 Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

#### **Spiritual Responsibilities**

- 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.  
2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. [cf. [1 Cor 9:19–23](#)]  
3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.  
4 But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.  
5 For every man shall bear his own burden.  
6 Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.  
7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.  
8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.  
9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.  
10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

#### **Closing Remarks**

- 11 Ye see how large a letter I have written unto you with mine own hand.  
12 As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ.  
13 For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh.  
14 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.  
15 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision, but a new creature. [cf. [1 Cor 7:19](#)]  
16 And as many as walk according to this rule, peace *be* on them, and mercy, and upon the Israel of God.  
17 From henceforth let no man trouble me: for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.  
18 Brethren, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ *be* with your spirit. Amen.

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