

November 21 Answers

- 1) Having argued from the Scriptures that salvation is by grace through faith in Christ alone (Gal 3–4), Paul now wanted to ensure that the Galatians' liberty did not become a **license** for their flesh (Gal 5). He wanted them to understand that freedom from the law was not the freedom to do whatever they wanted; rather, it was the freedom to **serve** one another "through love" (Gal 5:13b). Paul then explained how the Galatians could live a life of love for one another: "But I say, **walk** by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh" (Gal 5:16). Following the leadership of the Spirit eliminates any need to be "under the law." What the law **cannot** do, the Spirit can, and where the law is **limited**, the Spirit is not. The Galatians were "Law-less" but not "**lawless**," for as they followed the Spirit's leading, He would empower them to **love** each other and **fulfill** the law's requirements (cf. Matt 22:35–40; James 2:8). Paul continued by urging the Galatians to obey the Holy Spirit, for He would enable them to bear spiritual **fruit**. This teaches us that walking in the Spirit is not passive but **active**. We should not 'coast along' waiting for the Spirit to produce love and joy in our lives. Rather, we should live a Spirit-directed, Spirit-empowered, and Spirit-pleasing life. Paul concluded by encouraging the Galatians to **persevere** in the faith (Gal 6). He did this by giving them practical examples of how to **edify** the body and reminding them of the **reward** that comes from enduring to the end.