

## Gal. 5:1-12

### I. Stand firm in Christ's freedom by refusing to submit to circumcision (1-6)

#### A. Christ has freed us, therefore don't submit to slavery again (1)

1. Christ has freed us for freedom (1a)
2. Therefore: Stand firm and don't submit to slavery (1b-c)
  - a Stand firm, retain conviction (1b)
  - b And never again be subjected to the yoke of slavery (1c)

In 4:8-9 Paul has reminded them that they were in slavery to things that are not God  
And he challenged them to not let themselves be enslaved again  
Here Paul is reiterating this challenge  
Going back to works of the Law is slavery

#### B. Reason: Submitting to circumcision is submitting to slavery to the Law (2-6)

Circumcision is slavery – don't submit!

#### 1. Circumcision will not bring justification, but will remove you from Christ (2-5)

- a You either seek justification by Christ or by keeping the Law (2-3)
  - 1) I'm telling you that it's either circumcision or Christ (2)

#### a) Behold, I, Paul am saying to you (2a)

Statement of gravity, emphasis

#### b) Christ and circumcision are not BOTH the way of salvation (2b-c)

#### (1) If: You are circumcised (2b)

#### (2) Then: Christ profits/benefits you nothing (2c)

Emphasizes the mutual incompatibility

You can only choose one road to God

If you choose circumcision/works, you have not chosen Christ

There is no 'Christ plan A' and 'Christ plan B'

There is only 'Christ plan A' and a counterfeit plan that has nothing to do with Christ

#### 2) Reason: Everyone who is circumcised is obligated to keep the entire Law (3)

#### a) Again I testify to every man being circumcised (3a)

#### b) That he is obligated to do the entire Law (3b)

If a man wants to be circumcised (as a way to favor with God),

That road requires doing the entire law

(which no one can, and is the road of slavery, as already proved)

- b Therefore: Seeking justification by the Law is betrayal of Christ (4-5)
  - 1) Whoever seeks to be justified by the Law has nothing to do with Christ (4a-b)
    - a) You are released from/have nothing more to do with Christ (4a)
    - b) Condition: Whoever [of you] is justified by the Law (4b)
  - 2) Elaboration: He has abandoned grace because the righteousness of Christ is by the Spirit through faith (4c-5)
    - a) You have abandoned grace (4c)
      - You have changed standing from grace
      - You have changed teams – mutually incompatible
    - b) Reason: Because we have received the hope of righteousness by the Spirit through faith (5)
      - You CANNOT HAVE IT BOTH WAYS
      - Abandon trying to please God on your own merit and works!
- 2. Reason: It is not the status of circumcision, but faith that matters (6)
  - a Neg: Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision accomplishes anything (6a-b)
    - Circumcision doesn't matter
    - Therefore, there is no reason to submit
    - 1) Neither circumcision has the ability to accomplish anything in Christ Jesus (6a)
      - Circumcision is nothing
      - It has no validity, force or power
    - 2) Nor does uncircumcision (6b)
      - Uncircumcision is nothing
  - b Pos: Faith, working through love [accomplishes something] (6c)
    - Faith working through love matters everything
    - Must trust Christ – plan A
    - Faith does work, does do works
    - Faith has love, does the requirements of the Law
    - But effectively and for the right reasons

## II. Therefore: Don't give in to the circumcision teaching! (7-12)

The crossroad of decision – comparing the Galatians, Paul and the false teachers

- A. The Judaizers are trying to subvert the Galatians away from the true Gospel (7-9)
  - 1. What has reversed your progress in the Gospel truth?! (7)
    - a You were advancing well (7a)
    - b Who hindered you so that you were not persuaded by the truth? (7b)
      - You were doing well, what happened?
      - Who kept you from obeying the truth and made you follow lies?
  - 2. Summary: The Judaizers' opposition to the Gospel is false and destructive (8-9)
    - a This persuasion is not from the One Who called you (8)
      - This persuasion is not from God
    - b A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough (9)
      - This persuasion is in danger of infecting everything
      - Therefore, reject the false teachers and come back to God

- B. The Galatians should not give in but be warned and remain faithful to the Gospel (10-12)**
1. I trust that you will remain faithful to the Gospel, but the opponents will pay (10)
    - a Pos: I trust that you will remain faithful (10a-b)
      - 1) I am confident in you in the Lord (10a)  
I am confident you will see the truth
      - 2) That you will hold no different view (10b)  
I am confident you will embrace the truth and not leave room for lies  
BTW, the best cure for lies is always the truth – the real deal
    - b Neg: The opposition will be punished (10c-d)
      - 1) The one who is throwing you into confusion will endure the penalty (10c)  
The false teacher will be judged  
False teaching is always eventually judged
      - 2) Whoever he is (10d)
  2. I am being faithful to the Gospel, but the opponents are not (11-12)
    - a Neg: I am not preaching circumcision, thereby denying the Gospel (11)  
Paul is willing to stand firm in the Gospel – so that the cross stays central
      - 1) If: Brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision (11a)
      - 2) Then: The cross and my ministry are without offense (11b-c)
        - a) Why am I still being persecuted? (11b)  
I am not preaching circumcision, therefore I am persecuted
        - b) Therefore: The scandal of the cross is nullified (11c)  
If I were, the cross would be emptied  
It is unthinkable to compromise an inch on the cross  
Therefore, I will stand firm and take whatever persecution may come  
We should do the same, because the cross is the only road to the empty tomb and new life
    - b Pos: They should live up to their preaching of circumcision by castrating themselves (12)
      - 1) I wish that: (12a)
      - 2) Those troubling you would cut it all off (12b)  
Ironic rejection of agitators  
They already have punishment hanging over their heads, if they don't repent  
They make such a big deal about elective surgery  
Why not combine the two and cut it all off?!  
Their false gospel is hurting them and the people around them even more than cutting it off would hurt