

## Galatians 5:1-15 Study

### OPENING QUESTION:

**SERMON DISCUSSION:** How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

### READ GALATIANS 5:1-15

1. Note the strong words Paul uses to emphasize the importance of freedom. Contrast freedom in Christ with the yoke of slavery.

**NOTE REGARDING CIRCUMCISION:** “Why did Paul make so much fuss and bother about it? Because of its doctrinal implications. As the false teachers were pressing it, circumcision was neither a physical operation, nor a ceremonial rite, but a theological symbol. It stood for a particular type of religion, namely salvation by good works in obedience to the law. The slogan of the false teachers was: ‘Unless you are circumcised and keep the law, you cannot be saved’ (Acts 15:1, 5). They were thus declaring that faith in Christ was insufficient for salvation. Circumcision and law-obedience must be added to it. The was tantamount to saying that Moses must be allowed to finish what Christ had begun.”

(The Message of Galatians (p. 133) by John R. W. Stott)

2. What warnings does Paul give to the one who submits to circumcision (vs. 2-4)?

3. In verse 4 is Paul saying that believers can lose their salvation? Can a believer lose their salvation (John 6:37-39; Romans 8:28-30; 1 Corinthians 1:6-9; 2 Corinthians 5:5)? Why or why not?

4. Paul says, “through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness” (v.5). If we are already justified as righteous in Christ, for what are believers waiting (Hebrews 12:22-23; 1 Corinthians 15:49; 2 Corinthians 3:17-18)?

5. Paraphrase verse 6 in your own words. Describe the conjunction of faith and love from 1 Corinthians 13:13; Colossians 1:4-5; 1 Thessalonians 1:2-3; and 2 Thessalonians 1:3.

6. Elaborate on Paul’s analogy illustrating the danger of those who hinder others from the truth (7-9). What practical measures can you take to avoid being hindered from obeying the truth?

7. What do you think was Paul’s motive for wishing that those who were unsettling the Galatians “would emasculate themselves” (v. 12)? Was it for revenge or something else?

8. Paul begins the chapter talking about freedom and refers to it again in verses 13-15. Give examples of the world’s various definitions of freedom? Describe what freedom means for believers? If we used our “freedom” as God intended, how would that impact the world?