

TYLER MCKENZIE

Lead Pastor

| January 7th | Intro Overview | Bible Study |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|
| January 14th | Revelation | Galatians 1:11-24 |
| January 21st | Justification | Galatians 2:1-2:21 |
| January 28th | Adoption | Galatians 3:1-4:31 |
| February 4th | Liberation | Galatians 5:1-15 |
| February 11th | Sanctification | Galatians 5:16-23 |
| February 25th | Mortification | Galatians 5:24-26 |
| March 3rd | Reconciliation | Galatians 6:1-16 |
| March 10th | Perseverance | Galatians 6:17-18 |
| March 24th | Preservation | Galatians 1:1-10 |

Galatians 5:1-16

So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law. Listen! I, Paul, tell you this: If you are counting on circumcision to make you right with God, then Christ will be of no benefit to you. I'll say it again. If you are trying to find favor with God by being circumcised, you must obey every regulation in the whole law of Moses. For if you are trying to make yourselves right with God by keeping the law, you have been cut off from Christ! You have fallen away from God's grace.

Galatians 5:1-16

But we who live by the Spirit eagerly wait to receive by faith the righteousness God has promised to us. For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised.

What is important is faith expressing itself in love.

You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? It certainly isn't God, for He is the one who called you to freedom.

This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough! I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings.

Galatians 5:1-16

God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you. Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, no one would be offended. I just wish that those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves.

For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.

Galatians 5:1-16

For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won’t be doing what your sinful nature craves.

Interpretive Key for Galatians

- Literary Type: theologically dense letter
- Author: Paul, formerly Saul or Tarsus
- Recipient: a network of churches planted by Paul in Galatia
- Problem: some very influential false-teachers from within Christianity have undermined Paul's gospel to the gentiles by adding Torah-allegiance on top of faith in Jesus (Jesus + Torah)
- Tone: fiery and frustrated
- Stakes: a potential split into two denominations
- Outline:
 - a. defends the (Jesus + nothing) gospel He preached, (ch.1-2)
 - b. explains how this gospel creates a multi-ethnic (Jew + gentile) family whose core identity is in Christ, (ch.3-4)
 - c. demonstrates how this gospel produces freedom from sin through the Spirit's leadership (not Torah) (ch.5-6).

ACTS 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be My witnesses, telling people about Me **everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

- **Acts 1** - Jesus gives “to the ends of the earth” commission
- **Acts 2** – 3,000 Pentecost conversions! ... in Jerusalem.
- **Acts 3-4** – Powerful healing and teaching ministry ... in Jerusalem.
- **Acts 4-5** – Earth-shaking prayer services, all-in capitol campaign, explosive church growth ... in Jerusalem.
- **Acts 6** – New leaders commissioned ... in Jerusalem.
- **Acts 7** – Stephen is martyred ... in Jerusalem!
- **Acts 8** - Persecution scatters everyone but the apostles who stay ... in Jerusalem

ACTS 8:1

A great wave of persecution began that day, sweeping over the church in Jerusalem; and all the believers except the apostles were scattered through the regions of Judea and Samaria.

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If we're now free from Torah,
what was the point of it to begin with?

1. Torah played a positive role – as our temporary tutor/guide.

3:24 - The law was our guardian until Christ came; it protected us until we could be made right with God through faith.

2. Torah played a negative role – as our eternal accuser/curse.

3:11 - So it is clear that no one can be made right with God by trying to keep the law.

What exactly did Jesus do to free us from Torah?

3. Jesus met our end of the law covenant in His perfect righteousness.
4. Jesus paid our penalty of disobedience w/His death and resurrection.
5. We have been liberated from both the penalty and precepts of the law.

3:13-14 - But Christ has rescued us from the curse pronounced by the law. When He was hung on the cross, He took upon Himself the curse for our wrongdoing. For it is written in the Scriptures, "Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree." Through Christ Jesus, God has blessed the Gentiles with the same blessing he promised to Abraham, so that we who are believers might receive the promised Holy Spirit through faith.

If Torah is fulfilled, what will now guide us in God's will and ways?

6. Jesus has replaced Torah with a better guide, the Holy Spirit.

7. The Holy Spirit liberates us from law to love.

5:14-16 – For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.

“Christians have been liberated from law to love”

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2. Torah played a negative role – as our eternal accuser/curse.
3. Jesus met our end of the law covenant in His perfect righteousness.
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6. Jesus has replaced Torah with a better guide, the Holy Spirit.
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Legalists (aka the Fundies)

Those who choose to remain under the law.

Antinomians (aka the Selfies)

Those who abuse their freedom to indulge self.

“Don’t think of fundamentalism as a theology.
Think of it as a psychology.”

-Richard Land

- “Climate change is the issue of our time.”
- “The Justice Department is out to get Trump.”
- “Gender difference matters in marriage.”
- “I have a prophetic gift to hear from God that you should honor.”
- “Mega-churches are shallow.”
- “Taylor Swift is on the NFL broadcast too much.”

Three Traits of Fundamentalists

1. **Certainty** – Hold their pet-peeve beliefs with absolute certainty
2. **Ferocity** – Act against objectors with rage, bitterness, and dismissal
3. **Solidarity** – Build insular community that excludes anyone not all-in

The main problem with the legalistic-fundamentalist-cancel-culture mindset is that it denies the sufficiency of Jesus' death and resurrection to save us.

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Those who abuse their freedom to indulge self.

GALATIANS 5:13

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for *self-indulgence*, but through love become slaves to one another.

“To have any kind of livable society some choices have to be restricted, some authorities have to be respected, and some responsibility has to be assumed.”

-Charles Taylor

Our Culture

- Absolute Negative Freedom
- Freedom from
- "You do you"

Christianity

- Positive Freedom
- Freedom for
- "Love thy neighbor"

The main problem with the antinomian-you-do-you-selfie mindset is that it seizes authority from the Holy Spirit to guide us toward self-sacrificial love.

GALATIANS 5:14-16

For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another. So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives.

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Denies the sufficiency of Jesus' death and resurrection to save us

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Seizes authority from the Holy Spirit to guide us toward self-sacrificial love

GALATIANS 5:1

Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don't get tied up again in slavery to the law.

From the slavery of law to love,

May we be free today.

From the slavery of self-indulgence to self-sacrifice,

May we be free today.

In Jesus' name, amen.