

PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE GALATIAN CHURCHES

CHAPTER 5:1-12

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“GIVE ME LIBERTY...” – PART 1

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Liberty, Freedom, Spiritual Independence,

INTRODUCTION

to the text

Galatians 5:1-12

“...Give me liberty or give me death”
(Patrick Henry)

Liberty From

Tyrannical governments, dictatorships, and communism. all agree - you cannot give a man liberty because he will self-destruct. A man, a nation, or a world must be under the rules and regulations of others or else a man, a nation, or a world will be overcome by anarchy.

And so billions of people today live with little or no freedoms.

No Freedoms to think independently. No freedoms to desire a bigger life. No freedom to launch out beyond the horizon of their puny world.

Remember why our founding fathers and our relatives came to America - that we might worship God without interference and live without unreasonable taxation.

The bible teaches that until a man is liberated - he is dead. Dead in sin, dead in this world - dead in legalism!

...And so the cry for Liberty!

And Liberty can be Ultimately defined by one little word - "Grace"

There is no real life without liberty

1 Timothy 5:6

But she who lives in pleasure (lives in sin) is dead - while she lives.

You can go through the motions of life
without really living...

1.) *Life demands freedom*

vv. 1

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Paul the Apostle
Has liken the Old Testament Law to a **Schoolmaster** .
He has liken it to **Hagar**
...And now Paul likens the Law to a **Yoke of Slavery**.

Life demands freedom

a.) We're determined to go forward

Stand fast therefore



Stand Fast grk 4739 steko (stay'-ko);

fix your feet firm - to be stationary with the intent to persevere:

Ephesians 6:14-15

14 Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, 15 and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace;

Mark 6:7-9

7 And He called the twelve to Himself, and began to send them out two by two, and gave them power over unclean spirits. 8 He commanded them to take nothing for the journey except a staff-- no bag, no bread, no copper in their money belts—9 but to wear sandals, and not to put on two tunics.

We're determined to go forward

Philippians 3:13-14

13 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, 14 I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Life demands freedom

b.) We're strengthened by God

in the liberty by which Christ has made us free,...



Liberty

grk 1658 eleutheros (el-yoo'-ther-os);

to be unfettered and able to move about. Go in and out as one pleases; to be a citizen of a liberated country.

Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

We're strengthened by God

Our Christian Freedom can be
Measured by Our Liberty

Not to Sin / Not to Act up / But to
Advance the Kingdom

Advancing the Kingdom!!!

True Freedom is Active – not leisure

Life demands freedom

c.) *We're not going back*

and do not be **entangled again** with a yoke of bondage.



entangled grk 1758 enecho (en-ekh'-o);

to be cut off from. To break off or to cease advancing. (by)
keeping a grudge: to have an ongoing quarrel against another.

Your Argument is With Christ!

To be entangled again
means to willfully go back to the prison after once
having been set free

Some people just can't handle freedom.

“Give me some Do's and Don'ts... *please!*”

It's the fallen human nature
that keeps score

2 Corinthians 10:12

For we dare not class ourselves or compare ourselves with those who commend themselves. But they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise.

and do not be **entangled again**
with a yoke of bondage.

A Yoke is Used to Enforce the Will of
Another

Israel was Under the Yoke of Rome.
Usama Bin Laden is Trying to Yoke the
World to Terror

The Legalist tries to Yoke you to Their Control

Leviticus 26:13

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that you should no longer be their slaves; I have broken the bands of your yoke and I have made you walk with your heads held high.

When a Man is Set Free by God – He's Liberated!

A yoke of bondage

In those days if a man was only concerned to make a fast buck, he would take a yoke that had been discarded or broken and he would use it on a borrowed ox. He didn't care about how the ox felt or how long it lived. He was only interested in using that ox so he could make a quick buck.

But if a man was a farmer, and he cared for his livestock and his oxen, he would take his oxen to town and have them fitted - "sized to a yoke". The yoke was created specifically for that ox and no other. It fit perfect and it even prompted obedience to the farmer because the yoke was "encouraging"

Matthew 11:28-30

"Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 "For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

"Take My yoke upon you..." –
"For My yoke is **easy** and My burden is light."
The word easy here in the Greek language is
"Gracious or Graceful"

**The New Believer's Yoke is Broken by
Jesus Christ**

(a spiritual healing begins)

Being Yoked to Jesus is a Joy

How's Your Yoke?

Is it over-easy or is it hard-boiled?

A man or woman that has true biblical faith in God
will not become a rebel – but the contrary!

Acts 15:7-11

7 And when there had been much dispute regarding grace and the law, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. "So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged the gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us Jews...

9 "and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. 10 "Now therefore, why do you test God by putting a yoke on the neck of the disciples which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? 11 "But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved in the same manner as they."

2.) Liberty brings wealth

vv. 2-6

2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, (1) **Christ will profit you nothing.** 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that (2) **he is a debtor to keep the whole law.** 4 You have (3) **become estranged from Christ,** you who attempt to be justified by law; (4) **you have fallen from grace.** 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Here Paul Gives Us (4) Things That Rob Us of Our Liberty

Liberty brings wealth

1.) Zero profit to the one who does it his way

v.2

Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised,
(1) - Christ will profit you nothing.

Circumcision was to be only a sign...
Not an Avenue of Redemption
They Looked at the Outward *more...*

Romans 9:31-33

31 but Israel, pursuing the law of righteousness, has not attained to the law of righteousness. 32 Why? Because they did not seek it by faith, but as it were, by the works of the law. For they stumbled at that stumbling stone. 33 As it is written: "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offense, and whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

Galatians 2:16

16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

Rather - Liberty brings wealth

Ephesians 1:17-18

17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him,
18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints,

Romans 11:33

33 Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments...

Ephesians 1:7

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace

Philippians 4:19

And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Liberty brings wealth

2.) Bankrupted by old debts

v.3

And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised
(2) - that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

The law here is the Old Testament which is an Old Debt
(born into this debt - we inherited the debt)

James 2:10

For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point,
he is guilty of all.

Imagine the insecurity
and eternal danger this belief is...

Imagine all your life you have struggled to never be a part of evil, anger, or
lustful thoughts. You only did good, and you did it all the time and never
did you do any wrong - ever...

And so while you're on your way to deliver food
for the carebear ministry, you see a brood of
little chicks crossing the street, you jump out
of the car to rescue the ducks (chicks) but end
up slamming your fingers in the door and you
let out a cry "\$%#\$*%#&%". Just then a mack
truck hits you in the middle of a bowling word

**Based Upon Your Own Standard
- You're Going to Hell**

A Parabolic Teaching

Luke 7:41-50

41 "There was a certain creditor who had two debtors. One owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. 42 "And when they had nothing with which to repay, he **freely** (by grace – literal translation) forgave them both. Tell Me, therefore, which of them will love him more?" 43 Simon the Pharisee answered and said, "I suppose the one who was forgiven the most." And He said to him, "You have rightly judged."

Romans 3:23

For all have sinned, and "**come short**" of the glory of God;

(Insufficient , not enough *as in funds*)

Are you demanding?

>>> Then you will never really know if that husband or wife,
if that daughter or son really loves you.

>>> Are they obeying you because they have to?
Or are they obeying you because they know that you want
the very best for them?

Then be like God and give them liberty

Legalism Dwarfs - - Liberty Enlarges!

Romans 8:1-4

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, 4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

Liberty brings wealth

3.) Broken by the past

v.4a

You have (3) - become estranged from Christ,

O.T. times when a man sinned...
He would go and offer a sacrifice for his sin.

**" J u s t t o m a i n t a i n f e l l o w s h i p
w i t h G o d "**

...but then Jesus came!

...estranged from Christ

broken fellowship

Liberty brings wealth

4.) *Frustrated by failure*

v.4b

you who attempt to be justified by the law;
(4) - you have fallen (away) from grace.

Frustrated by failure

What does it mean to "have fallen from grace?"

First –

It does not mean that they lost their salvation.



Fallen grk 1601 ekpipto (ek-pip'-to);

To drop out of the race. To fall further and further behind. To fade away.

It means that they were backsliding away from God's desired path of travel

They were not guilty of overt sinning.

(Drunkenness, false doctrine, fighting, or evil practices)

But of neglecting the work of Jesus

**Either it's by the Grace of God or by
Your Human Perfection**

To keep the perfect holiness of God...

Galatians 3:10

For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

Liberty brings wealth

e.) We're waiting for the ultimate liberty

v.5-6

For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **6 For in Christ Jesus** neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but **faith working through love.**

True Saving Faith

Will produce more godly fruit and practical works than anything else because the motivation is love for God, and the glory of his name in the earth.

Jesus, please use my life to bring you glory

Verse 5

**For we through the Spirit
eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.**

What is that Hope that a Christian waits for?

1 Thessalonians 1:10

and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come. (tribulation period)

Philippians 3:20

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Titus 2:13

looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ,

Hebrews 9:28

so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

1Thessalonians 4:16-18

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Why do we eagerly wait?

At that moment, our redemption will be complete

Matthew 25:21

"His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

3.) *And happiness comes at his expense* vv. 7-12

7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is. 11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then the offense of the cross has ceased. 12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even cut themselves off!

a.) *Knowing Jesus gives us a reason* v.8-9

You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth?
8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you.

Behind the scenes of the movie "**Chariots of Fire**"
Eric Liddell was a Christian who loved God and loved to run.

*"How is it that you seem to enjoy
the discipline and conditioning?"*

*"It's my joy to run,
because when I run - I sense God's pleasure."*

Verse 7

Who (it's not me) **hindered you**
(stepped in front of you – took cuts)
from obeying (doing the right thing) **the truth?**

To Run

In the Greek Olympic Games you had to be a confirmed Greek citizen. And you had to hold to your own lane when running

The Judaizers would **take cuts**
in front of a runner just to slow him down

Legalism prevents you from obeying the truth

LEGALISM, CALVINIST, ARMENIANS, MORALIST

They hinder a man's growth in the Lord...

And happiness comes at his expense

b.) Knowing the Lord encourages us

v.9-10

9 **A little leaven leavens the whole lump.** 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

Unchecked Sin

in a gathering of believers will soon destroy the faith of people...

A little leaven leavens the whole lump

Leaven spreads like cancer.
It infects the whole lump of dough until the whole lump is leavened.

Growing Up with Sourdough Pancakes
The entire house would fill up with the smell of Sourdough

Verse 10

I have confidence in you, **in the Lord**,
that you will have no other mind

the leaven of the legalist is here. But I'm sure that you will remove it from the lump so
that the souring will not take place...

1 Corinthians 8:1
...Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up!

And happiness comes at his expense

c.) *Knowing God makes me appreciate Him* v.11-12

11 And I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why do I still suffer persecution? Then
the offense of the cross has ceased. 12 I could wish that those who trouble you would
even cut themselves off!

I wish that they would cut on (circumcise) themselves.
If they are into keeping the law to gain salvation, then they will
need to cut everything off – castration is what would be needed!

It's no wonder that Legalism hurts

*Paul says,
"Go ahead Judaizers – cut everything off so you cannot
have any more legalistic children."*

Church & Personal Application

Verse 10

I have confidence in you, - in the Lord,

A Healthy Church, A Healthy Family,
A Healthy Christian,

Is One who is Powerful in the Grace of God;
Enjoying Freedom, Knowing he is Wealthy in God
and Running without Hindrance

Is there a yoke in your life?

How can I identify a yoke that exists in my life?

If there is, how is it broken? - Let Jesus break it - not you

He does it by the word of God - the bible