

Why Our Freedom in Christ Is So Important

Galatians 5:2-4, 7-12

Review:

From what has Christ set us free? In Galatians Paul is talking about freedom from the obligation to obey the law of Moses (including circumcision).

In Christ,
you don't have to carry the burden of living up to God's expectations, and
you don't have to carry the burden of living up to anyone else's expectations.

1. Understand the eternal danger of removing the offense of the cross (2-4, 11)

a. What is the offense of the cross?

"If I myself can make some small contribution... then my self-esteem is uninjured."¹

b. How do you remove the offense of the cross?

You remove the offense of the cross if you accept any necessary _____ to the grace of God.

c. Why is that eternally dangerous?

i. The one who adds any necessary goodness has fallen away from grace (4)

Romans 11:6 *But if it is by grace, it is no longer on the basis of works; otherwise grace would no longer be grace.*

ii. The one who adds any necessary goodness will receive no benefit from Christ at the judgment (2)

iii. The one who adds any necessary goodness is severed from Christ (4)

iv. The one who adds any necessary goodness must be perfectly good (3)

¹ Bruce, F. F. (1982). [The Epistle to the Galatians: a commentary on the Greek text](#) (pp. 237–238). Grand Rapids, MI: W.B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.

2. Don't let anyone knock you off the course of living in line with the gospel of grace (7-10a)

3. Realize that spiritual insurrectionists deserve temporal rebuke and eternal punishment (10b-12)

Conclusion

Matthew 23:13-33 ¹³ *“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut the kingdom of heaven in people’s faces.... ¹⁵ you travel across sea and land to make a single proselyte, and when he becomes a proselyte, you make him twice as much a child of hell as yourselves... ¹⁶ You blind guides!... ¹⁷ You blind fools!... ¹⁹ You blind men! ... ²⁴ You blind guides!... ³³ You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?*

Matthew 18:6 *But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin [skandalizō: cause to stumble], it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

John Stott: “I venture to say that if we were as concerned for God’s church and God’s Word as Paul was, we too would wish that false teachers might cease from the land.”²

² Stott, J. R. W. (1986). [*The message of Galatians: Only one way*](#) (p. 136). Leicester, England; Downer’s Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.