

The Epistle to the Galatians
Lesson #19 • Galatians 5:7-12

“Christian Liberty • Part 2”

• HANDOUT •

► In Part 2, which concludes the study on Christian Liberty, Paul changes his emphasis. He turns his focus to comparing the message of the false teachers with the message of the Gospel.

First, Paul admonishes the Gentile Believers in Galatia to turn away from the teaching of the Judaizers. He points out that the message of the false teachers require they follow all the precepts of the Law – not just a select part of it – and this includes circumcision, in order to obtain a righteous standing before God.

Then Paul contrasts their teaching with the Gospel message, which clearly states that it is only by trusting in Jesus, and His work on the Cross, that one can have righteous standing before God. Finally, those who are authentic Believers will not only embrace this truth, but they will obey it. Paul begins Part 2 with a question:

Galatians 5:7-9 • You were running a good race. Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth? That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

- Q: Paul most often used athletic imagery to describe the Christian life. What is the imagery he is utilizing here?
- Q: By using this imagery, what is Paul teaching?
- Q: What does it mean to “run a good race?” What would constitute the race being considered a “good” race?
- Q: Paul asked the question: “who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?” What is significant about Paul's use of the words “cut in?”

Q: What is Paul referring to when he states: “That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you?”

1. Persuasion:

2. The One who calls you:

► The ultimate point of this two-part statement:

Q: What is the point that Paul is making when he says, “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough?”

Galatians 5:10 • I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion will pay the penalty, whoever he may be.

Q: In what is Paul confident?

Q: *What does the statement reveal: “The one who is throwing you into confusion ... whoever he is?”*

Galatians 5:11 [ESV] • But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed.

Q: What is Paul talking about when he asks why is still being persecuted if he was preaching circumcision?

Q: Why would anyone accuse Paul of preaching that circumcision was necessary?

Q: How does Paul respond to the claim that he was preaching circumcision?

Q: What did Paul mean when he said “In that case, the offense of the cross has been removed?”

The word "offense" is the Greek word:

Q: Why would the Cross arouse such strong emotions in people?

To the **Gentiles:**

To the **Jews:**

► **But, to the Christian Believer, then and now, the cross:**

Now that Paul has defended the theology of his teaching, he adds a personal remark ...

Galatians 5:12 · As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

Q: Just to make sure we are all on the same page, who are the “agitators” in this statement?

Q: What does Paul wish these “agitators” would do?

Q: Isn't this excessively boorish and Paul's wish rather obscene?

Q: It is not like Paul to lose control of his temper. What might have been Paul's ultimate goal for writing this in such a brash manner?

Q: What would emasculation accomplish within the community of faith?

Deuteronomy 23:1 • He who is emasculated by crushing or mutilation shall not enter the assembly of the LORD.

Q: How would we summarize the points that Paul has made, thus far, concerning the Judaizers' legalistic teaching?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



Next Time • Lesson #20

~~ Life in the Spirit ~~

Part 1 of 3
Galatians 5:13-21

