

# WEEKLY WORSHIP GUIDE

Galatians 5:1-12--April 14th, 2024



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## **Sermon Recap:**

### **For Freedom**

#### **I. Choose Your Path (v.1-6)**

Paul declares that we have been set free **by** Christ, **for** freedom. However, false teachers are preaching a message that endangers that freedom. Confident that the Galatians will make the right choice, Paul presents two paths to justification (innocence before God):

##### **a. Justification by Works**

- If we choose to be justified by our own efforts to be obedient to the law, we must understand that we must keep 100% of the law. By nature, we are incapable of this obedience.
- Choosing this path severs a person from Christ. They fall from grace.
  - This does not indicate that this person "lost their salvation." It was evidence that they never were saved to begin with.
  - A genuine believer will never turn from Christ.

##### **b. Justification by Faith**

- The Holy Spirit calls and saves a person, gifting them with faith.
- Faith that hopes for righteousness: certainty that they will be made fully righteous on the last day when their salvation is complete.
- "Faith the works in love"- not an abstract or inactive faith, but one marked by love (Matthew 22:37).

#### **II. Beware the Leaven (v.7-12)**

- "A little leaven leavens the whole lump." Error is dangerous. It spreads. It's like yeast in the dough.
- False teaching has potential to spread throughout the church if not dealt with early.
- The danger of works based salvation is that those who follow it will bear the penalty of the law (v.10).
- The cross is offensive to the lost. It displays that nothing man can do can reconcile him to God. God had to take sovereign initiative to save his people.
  - This is must be present in the preaching of the true gospel.
  - It was absent from and contradictory to the message of the false teachers.
- Paul desires that these false teachers would "emasculate themselves."
  - Harsh words that convey the seriousness of their error.
  - They are severing people from Christ and freedom.
  - To emasculate themselves would severe them from fellowship with God.

**SUMMARY:** Through faith in Christ alone, you have been set free...act like it. Live in free grace of Christ through faith marked by love. Stand firm in Christ alone, never turning back to the shackles of the law.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- How would the world today define freedom? How would Scripture define freedom?
- What has Christ set us free from?
- According to verse one, why did Christ sent us free?
- What are the two paths presented by Paul?
- What is justification?
- How is a person justified before God?
- Why is a person who tries to satisfy the demands of the Old Testament law “severed from Christ” and “fallen from grace?”
- Explain what Paul means when saying “by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness?”
- What is the mark of true Christian faith?
- What is the danger of a gospel that preaches works based salvation?

## **Application:**

- In what ways were you like a slave prior to coming to Christ? How is your life different now?
- Is it a life marked by faith?
- Is it a faith marked by love?
- What is the object of your faith?

