



Galatians Lesson 5 Chapter 5

Paul has spent the last four chapters of his letter explaining his strong stance on the issue of adherence to the Law for salvation. He challenges the Jewish Galatian believers with the example of their own great patriarch Abraham. Paul has made it clear that salvation was by faith for Abraham, and the Law, which came in a covenant many years later, didn't dissolve that original promise of salvation to Abraham. The idea of justification through the works of the Law is clearly impossible. No person can keep the Law perfectly, therefore, a Savior that can impute righteousness to the ungodly is necessary. In fact, to rely on the Law for salvation is a burden that will put one into bondage to a system that was

never meant to be a means of salvation. Now in chapter 5, Paul will explain the yoke of bondage created by the Law, and he reiterates that freedom is only found in Christ Jesus through faith. He will also identify the selfish behavior that working for one's own salvation brings out among those who adhere to it. It causes a person to become prideful, self-sufficient, unkind, and critical because it is based on the flesh. Only by the gift of the Holy Spirit can one gain a love and sincere servant attitude toward others. And only by walking in the Spirit can the fruit of the Spirit be experienced in the lives of believers.

READ CHAPTER 5

1. *How is the Law a "yoke of slavery"? Consider the purpose of a yoke. What imagery does this bring up in your mind?*

2. *How can the idea of “freedom” in Christ be distorted? What do you think it really means? See also Galatians 5:13.*



“In the statement ‘you have fallen from grace’ the verb ‘have fallen’ is exepesate which means ‘to fall off.’ It does not mean that you have lost the grace that was yours at one time, but you are off the path of grace since you have chosen justification by law instead of justification by grace. The two steps, justification in and through the law and justification in and through grace, are two parallel lines that never meet. To be justified by both the law and grace is impossible. Grace has a law entitled in it, but the law has no grace. This expression actually means that you could not be justified by grace since you sought your justification in or through the law or a set of rules.” (Zodhiates Key Word Study Bible)

3. *Is it possible today for someone to be “fallen from grace” because they seek to be justified by law? If so, how might you identify someone in that condition?*
4. *How does Paul describe the activity of faith in verse 6? Explain what you think that means.*
5. *What is Paul’s concern expressed in his statement in verse 9? In what ways have you seen that happen in the church today?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
