

## The Book of Galatians

## Chapter 5

## Background

- Written by Paul possibly as early as A.D. 49.
- The purpose of this letter is to counter the spread of false doctrines concerning salvation, especially the false teaching that believers must keep the Law for salvation.
- Outline
  - Defense of the Gospel – Chapters 1-4
  - Application of the Gospel – Chapters 5-6

## Chapter 5

## I. Walking in Freedom – vs. 1-15

- We begin continuing the thought of being free born as Christians from the previous chapter
- Circumcision was the physical sign of being a Jew and under the Law. It is symbolic to Paul of being under the Law.
- vs. 2 – They were attempting to add the sign of circumcision to salvation.
- vs. 3 – If you were to submit to circumcision, why not embrace all the Law?
- vs. 4 – If you trust in anything but Christ alone then you aren't trusting in Him.
- vs. 5 – You trust in either works or God for justification.
- vs. 6 – This is an important verse. We all (Jew, Gentile, or whatever) have one Gospel
- vs. 7-8 – The Christian life is likened to a race. The Galatians began well but were thrown off course not by the race official but distractions along the way.
- vs. 9 – Being off just a little off will matter over time. Being just one degree off course is 92 ft. off after just one mile. If flying to the moon (238,900 miles) you would be off by 4,170 miles
- vs. 11 – The false teachers must have claimed Paul supported circumcision of the Gentiles, so Paul asks if they agreed why were they arguing?
- vs. 13-15 – Though believers are free from observing the Law, they should not be idle. That freedom includes responsibility and great opportunities.
- vs. 14 – quoted from Leviticus 19:18,34. Also used by Christ in Mark 12:31.

## II. Walking in the Spirit – vs. 16-26

- vs. 16 – If we have no Law to guide us, how then shall we live? In the Spirit!
- vs. 17 – Paul deals with this in greater length in Romans 7-8.

- vs. 18 – “No man can serve two masters” – Matthew 6:24
- vs. 19-23 – Paul contrasts the actions of those that walk in the flesh to those that walk in the Spirit
  - The evil actions of the flesh are things the Law condemns but the good actions of the Spirit the Law cannot ascend to.
- vs. 25 – If the Spirit is powerful enough to save us, then He is powerful enough to walk in.
- vs. 26 – These were some of the problems the Galatians were facing thanks to the focus on works through keeping the Law.