



THE BOOK OF GALATIANS

The Truth About The Gospel

The Dangers of Legalism, Liberalism, & Literalism

Lesson #5 = *The Exodus of the Gospel* (Galatians 5)

Sermon for Evening Worship by Ray Reynolds on February 15, 2015

Introduction: The book of Galatians presents an effective case for the gospel of Christ. It challenges the basic principles of legalism, yet also reveals the dangers of liberalism and literalism. Paul shows the necessity of balance and understanding within the Christian community. In the kingdom of God there is room for legalism, liberalism, and literalism... but it can be dangerous if one group dominates the thoughts and/or vision of the church family. Everyone matures at a different rate. Not everyone sees things exactly as another. What Paul advocates, in this letter, is that God loves us ALL the same. Instead of focusing on all of our differences, we need to find our common identity in Christ. In this fifth chapter Paul discusses Christian liberty. He also contrasts the works of the flesh and the fruit of the Spirit. In order to walk with God, we have to have an exodus! Let's study together.....

Discussion:

I. Freedom of Grace (5:1-6)

- A. The Burden of the Old Law (vs.1-4)
- B. The Blessing of the New Law (vs.5-6)

II. Freedom of Fulfillment (5:7-15)

- A. Infected By Legalism (vs.7-12)
- B. Inflicted By License (vs.13-15)

III. Freedom to Choose (5:16-21)

- A. Commended For Walking in the Spirit (vs.16-18)
- B. Condemned For Works of the Flesh (vs.19-21)

IV. Freedom of the Spirit (5:22-26)

- A. The Spirit of God Releases Good Fruit (vs.22-23)
- B. The Spirit of God Reveals Good Work (vs.24-26)

Conclusion: This section holds the key to understanding the entire book. The apostle Paul knows that he cannot be with the brethren all of time. He can protect them from false teaching. He cannot observe their behavior on a regular basis. So he empowers them to look into their own lives to make necessary changes. He does this by reminding them of something Jesus taught (**Matthew 7:15-20, John 15:1-8**). We need to be bearing fruit! What can you do to avoid the works of the flesh? How can you bear the fruit of the Spirit? What are you going to do with the gospel? Will you share it? Will you obey it?



LOCATION: 2414 West 1st Street Gulf Shores, AL 36542
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. Box 223 Gulf Shores, AL 36547
OFFICE PHONE: (251) 968-7769 or (251) 968-7020
E-MAIL: gscoc@juno.com