

Falling From Grace Galatians 5:1-15

I. Call of Liberty - 5:1

1. Christ made us free from bondage
From bondage of sin & Satan's dominion
From enslavement of pagan religion
Free from the bondage of the Law
Free to serve God willingly as adult sons
2. Stand fast in liberty, free from bondage
Call of liberty, stand in defense of liberty
Those who are free serve voluntarily
God wants us to serve willingly out of love
Return to bondage discredits our liberator

II. Consequence of Departure - 5:2-4

1. Circumcision nullifies Christ's work - 2
If circumcision is part of salvation
Christ's redemptive work is not sufficient
2. Circumcision puts you under Law - 3
Circumcision is sign of Covenant of Law
Submission to one binds you to the other
Law is a unit, can't just take certain parts
3. Circumcision moves you from grace - 4
To find righteousness by law, must keep it
Salvation comes as a gift of grace

III. Completion in Christ - 5:5, 6

1. Righteousness comes by the Spirit - 5
He produces righteousness in us - Rom.8:3,4
Spirit indwells us by faith in Christ's sacrifice
Under Law, faith looked forward to Christ
2. True righteousness comes by faith - 6
Abraham was declared righteous by faith
Circumcision, not an issue in our salvation
Faith in Christ is only way into righteousness
Motivated by love to live in harmony with God

IV. Concern for Galatians - 5:7-9

1. You started out well, continue - 7
Their initial response was by faith
They embraced God's message of grace
2. Someone hindered them - 7
You were distracted by another message
3. This false message is not from God - 8
God called by grace, this is not of God
4. Error soon spreads to impact all - 9
Embracing circumcision is no small thing
End result is a departure from grace

V. Confidence in God's Truth - 5:10-12

1. Paul confident they will not depart - 10
Believes their faith is genuine, truth will prevail
Trusting God to keep those who are His
2. God will deal with false teachers - 10
He will judge those who teach false doctrine

3. Don't listen to their arguments - 11
May say: "Paul preached circumcision"
He did before his conversion
Would he now suffer if still preaching it?
4. His desire; false teachers be "cut off" - 12

VI. Challenge to Liberty - 5:13-15

1. Don't use liberty as license to sin - 13
Liberty does not make us free to serve self
Makes us free to serve God out of love
Serving God means serving others willingly
2. Love fulfills the law of God - 14
Motivates us to truly love our neighbor
God's love constrains us to love others
3. To serve self can be devastating - 15
The sinful flesh seeks its own way
It attacks anyone who gets in its way

