



FUNDAMENTAL GRACE BIBLE STUDY

Galatians

4 September 2017

Lesson 20: Chapter 5:1

Standing Fast in Liberty

1. Galatians 5 Context

- a. Justification (i.e. position in Christ) has been dealt with: by grace, through faith, not by law
- b. Having shown that they are “children of the free”, Paul sets the stage for service in the body
- c. Paul doesn’t stray from the issue the Galatians have, but he does go further to address walk
- d. Walking in the Spirit: how faith “works” in the wake of battle of Spirit and flesh in the believer
- e. A key comparison passage to keep in mind is Col1:4-11
- f. Posture: Standing, entangled, bondage, fallen, wait, run, walk

2. Definition of Terms

- a. *Fast* def. – set, stopped, fixed; immovable – Jug4:21
- b. *Free(dom)* def. – state of exemption from the power/control of another; liberty
- c. *Liberty* def. – freedom from restraint of body, will or mind
- d. *Yoke* def. – a piece of timber; fashioned to fit the neck; a hindrance to mobility
 - i. Can be seen as a means of improvement (e.g. resistance training)
- e. True freedom is spiritual
 - i. Constraint of another: “*Permission to speak freely, Sir?*”

3. 5:1

- a. “*We are...children...of the free*” Paul’s point, as always, is that we are not under the law
- b. “*Stand fast...in...Christ*” true liberty comes from Christ – 2Cor3:17
- c. Paul exhorts standing fast in the faith – 1Cor16:13; Phil1:27; 4:1; 1Ths3:8; 5:21; 2Ths2:15; 2Tim1:13; Ti1:9
- d. To hold fast implies outside resistance to the object: 1) people or 2) wrong doctrine
- e. Liberty implies you have been liberated from something: A: Sin, Law & Death – Rom6; 1Cor15:56
 - i. Warning: Not to be confused with the “*law of liberty*” – Cf. Ps119:45; Jas1:25; 2:8-14

4. Free Things

- a. “*I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations.*”
– James Madison
- b. God gave Adam & Eve free reign over the garden to eat from any tree but one – Gen2:16
- c. Satan questioned God’s word, Eve added to it and Adam rejected it – Gen3:1-7
- d. Jesus appeals to the truth making men free, but Satan beguiles – Jn8:32; 2Cor11:3; 1Cor15:33
- e. Justification is free – Rom3:24
- f. Faith is free – Rom4:3-5
- g. Righteousness is a free gift – Rom5:15-18
- h. All spiritual blessings are free – Eph1:3; Rom8:32
- i. All scripture is given freely to us to know truth in Christ – 1Cor2:12; 2Tim3:16
- j. Salvation (i.e. righteousness), eternal life is a free gift – Rom6:23; Eph2:8



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The Declaration of Independence (4 July, 1776)

Preamble

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

... We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States;

The Constitution of the United States (17 September, 1787)

Preamble

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

The Bill of Rights (25 September, 1791)

Preamble

The Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added: And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

Pauline Examples Deconstructing Law Bondage

1. Authority
 - i. Apostleship – his office not of men, but by the Godhead – Gal1:1
 - ii. Message – his gospel not after man, but by revelation of Christ preeminent – Gal1:11,12
2. Conversion
 - i. Grace – separated from Jewish Religion unto a calling by grace – Gal1:13-15
 - ii. Audience – called by grace to preach Christ to Gentiles w/no access to God – Gal1:16
3. Autonomy
 - i. Damascus – operated for 3 years in Damascus w/out visiting 12 apostles – Gal1:17,18
 - ii. Jerusalem – visits 15 days & commanded to leave by Christ – Gal1:18; Ac22:17-21
 - iii. Antioch – base of operations prior to & throughout church est. journeys – Ac11:26
 - iv. Preaching – began through Galatia prior to Jerusalem Council – Ac13:2,14
 - v. Jerusalem – 14 yrs later private comm. of his gospel at Jerusalem Council – Gal2:1-5
4. Message
 - i. Christ – preaching Christ according to revelation kept secret – Rom16:25-27; Gal1:12
 - ii. Law – forgiveness/justification not according to the law of Moses – Ac13:38,39
 - iii. Apostles – acknowledged Pauline authority of gospel of the uncircumcision – Gal2:7-9
 - iv. Audience – the uncircumcision, including unbelieving Israel – Ac7:51
 - v. Inheritance – promised by faith of Jesus Christ, not law – Gal3:22-25
 - vi. Law Function – a schoolmaster bringing us to Christ for justification by faith – Gal3:25



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