



ST PAUL'S LUTHERAN

Galatians 5:1-6

Christ Has Set You Free. You Are Free.

Paul has great concern for the Christians in Galatia. Some false teachers had come in among them and started to have them believe that their salvation was partly what Christ had done for them, and partly what they did to keep the law (Jesus + what I do), especially the ceremonial laws from Mt. Sinai, and the covenant of circumcision. This letter is a beautiful biblical witness to the truth that we are saved by **grace alone** through **faith in Jesus Christ alone**, and this is revealed to us by **Scripture alone**.

Verse 1: Christ has set you free. It is a fact. What are you freed from?

What are you freed for?

How should we use our freedom?

How do we stand firm in this freedom?

What yoke of slavery does your sinful nature try to entice you to pick up and wear?

Verse 2: Circumcision is the cutting off of a little piece of flesh around the tip of a male's penis. Usually this is done in the days following a boy's birth. Now people can choose to circumcise or not circumcise their baby boys. But in Paul's day, it was symbolic for the Jews of entrance into the covenant under God's mosaic law. Paul warns them that if they want to go back under this old covenant to try to earn God's favor or grace, they're saying they don't need Christ and the full salvation he brings. What might lead someone to think they can be saved by the law whether the Mosaic Law or any other law?

If you walk away from Christ, what do you lose?

Verse 3: Paul calls to each individual Christian – "every man" to warn them against thinking you can be saved by your fulfilling of the law or your performance. Have you fulfilled the law perfectly?

Even thinking you can do it in part makes you take responsibility for all of it. Who becomes the person responsible for you getting to heaven then?

Verse 4: Jesus + Nothing = Salvation, Forgiveness, Life.
Jesus + saved by any law = Fallen from Grace.
You can't hold on to Jesus *and* your works. You have to let go of one or the other. It's either all Jesus, or all your works! This terrifies me because:

This frees me because:

Verse 5: Paul switches to using "we." Now he is talking about the confidence we have in being saved completely by Jesus' work for us. He includes himself and the Galatians. He is not giving up on them. He had to warn them. We have a certain hope because of what Jesus has done for us. We wait patiently for Jesus. This is all a gift from God, even faith itself is a gift (Ephesians 2:8-9).

We are saved by _____ alone, not by _____.

Verses 6: You are not saved by circumcision or uncircumcision, nor by any thing you do or don't do. You are saved completely by God's grace through faith. You are in Christ Jesus, safe and saved, forgiven and freed. Don't be yoked into trying to save yourself, an unbearable burden, and lose Christ. Now what matters for the freed? Our faith is active in love. We do good works because we are saved, not to be saved. Live freed to glorify God and serve your neighbor.

What are ways you can give glory to God this week in your freedom?

What are ways you can serve others this week in your freedom?

Name: _____ Date: _____