

# DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

*Our Mission: Reaching out to leaders who can change the world.*

**Jesus + \_\_\_\_\_ = Salvation?**

June 2012

## **Lesson #12 - Galatians – Free to Serve**

### **INTRODUCTION**

How do you react when someone cuts in line in front of you? Cuts in front of someone behind you?

### **OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION**

Read Gal 5:1 – 15

*Note: As W. Grundmann has put it: “The Christian stands in the tension of a double reality. Basically freed from sin, redeemed, and reconciled ... he is actually at war with sin, threatened, attacked and placed in jeopardy by it.”<sup>11</sup> The fact of justification propels the Christian into a world of struggle, an in-between time bounded by the great accomplishment of redemption in Christ’s finished work on the cross on the one hand and the yet-to-be-realized consummation of God’s salvific purposes at the second advent of Christ on the other.<sup>1</sup>*

1. What is the yoke of slavery that Paul refers to? v. 1
2. What was wrong (if anything) with circumcision?

*Note: Circumcision was the seal of the old covenant, so Paul warns the Galatians that to turn back to the old covenant is to rob themselves of the blessings Christ had purchased for them. Christ cannot profit the sinner who rejects grace and trusts law; Christ cannot profit the saint who seeks to live by law instead of grace.<sup>2</sup>*

3. How would turning to the Law (being circumcised) obligate Galatian Christians? v. 3; Acts 15:1-2
4. What would be the consequences of justification by Law? v. 4 What would that look like?
5. What does it mean to fall from grace? v. 4
6. How does Paul sum up the significance of circumcision? What really matters? Deut 27:26; Gal 3:10
7. How did Paul describe the Christian experience? v. 7 What might prevent you from being effective?
8. Why is the cross offensive (a stumbling block)? v. 11; Rom 9:32-33; 1 Cor 1:23; 2 Cor 2:15
9. Who was persecuting Paul? Why? Who’s persecuting you? Why or why not?
10. How might freedom be abused? How would you know if freedom is being abused?
11. How are we *supposed* to use our freedom? Why is it so hard?
12. What is the effect of not loving one another? v. 15

### **APPLICATION**

- What are some practical ways that you can love your neighbor as yourself?
- How have you reacted when someone questions your freedom to express your faith? What can you do about it?

*Lord Jesus, thou who art the way, the truth, and the life; hear us as we pray for the truth that shall make all free. Teach us that liberty is not only to be loved but also to be lived. Liberty is too precious a thing to be buried in books. It costs too much to be hoarded. Help us see that our liberty is not the right to do as we please, but the opportunity to do what is right.*

*Peter Marshall, Before the U.S. Senate*

<sup>11</sup> W. Grundmann, “ἀμαρτάνω,” TDNT 1.313. Grundmann also describes the believer’s status in Christ as “sinless.” However, as R. Fung has noted, this statement can only be applied to one’s positional sanctification in Christ (*Galatians*, 283, n. 24). See 1 John 3:4–6.

<sup>1</sup> George, T. (2001). *Vol. 30: Galatians* (electronic ed.). Logos Library System; The New American Commentary (353). Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers.

<sup>2</sup> Wiersbe, W. W. (1997). *Wiersbe's expository outlines on the New Testament* (528). Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books.