



GALATIANS

STUDY GUIDE

Galatians 5:1-12

KEY POINTS

- Freedom in Christ:** Paul emphasizes the freedom that comes through faith in Jesus Christ. He urges believers not to submit again to a yoke of slavery, referring to the burdensome requirements of the Jewish law. Instead, through faith in Christ, believers are set free from the condemnation and bondage of sin.
- Faith Working Through Love:** In verse 6, Paul highlights the importance of faith expressing itself through love. True Christian living is characterized by a faith that is active and demonstrated through love for God and others.
- Beware of False Teaching:** Paul warns the Galatians about the danger of false teaching. In verses 7-9, he uses the metaphor of leaven to illustrate how even a small amount of false teaching can permeate and corrupt the entire community of believers.

SCRIPTURE

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

2 Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision, Christ will be of no advantage to you. 3 I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. 4 You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace. 5 For through the Spirit, by faith, we ourselves eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.

7 You were running well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion is not from him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in the Lord that you will take no other view, and the one who is troubling you will bear the penalty, whoever he is. 11 But if I, brothers, still preach circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been removed. 12 I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Exposition

- What is the significance of Paul's opening statement, "For freedom Christ has set us free"? How does this set the tone for the rest of the passage?
- In verse 1, Paul warns against submitting again to a yoke of slavery. What is the yoke of slavery he is referring to, and how does it contrast with the freedom in Christ?
- Paul mentions circumcision in verse 2. Why is this particular practice significant in the context of the Galatian believers and their struggle with legalism?

Themes and Theological Insights

- What are the main themes addressed in this passage?
- How does the message of the cross challenge conventional wisdom and religious expectations?
- What attitudes and behaviors should characterize a person who is living in the freedom of Christ?

Application

- Reflect on verse 11 where Paul states that if he is still preaching circumcision, then the offense of the cross has been removed. How does this statement underscore the radical nature of the Gospel message?
- How does this passage emphasize the importance of standing firm in the freedom that Christ has given, rather than returning to a system of rules and regulations for righteousness?
- How can the principles outlined in Galatians 5:1-12 be applied to our lives today? In what ways can we guard against legalism and false teachings while walking in the freedom of Christ?

PRAYER PROMPTS

- Thank God for the freedom we have in Christ, and for setting us free from the bondage of sin and legalism.
- Pray for opportunities to demonstrate Christ's love in practical ways in your daily life.
- Ask God to shield you from any deceptive teachings or influences that might lead you away from the true Gospel message.
- Reflect on the significance of the cross and pray for a renewed appreciation for the central message of salvation through Christ's sacrifice.
- Pray for a heart that seeks reconciliation and unity within the body of Christ, even when there are disagreements or differing viewpoints.