

“Don’t Lose Your Grip on Grace”

Galatians 5:1-12

- I. The _____ of a different gospel (5:1-6)
 - A. _____ becomes of no value (2)
 - B. The _____ becomes an obligation (3)
 - C. A _____ becomes legalistic (4-6)

- II. The _____ of a different gospel (5:7-12)
 - A. They _____ the truth (7)
 - B. They are not of _____ (8)
 - C. The _____ everybody (9)
 - D. They will be _____ (10)
 - E. They _____ others (11)
 - F. They should be _____ (12)

The implications of this Christian freedom as Paul develops it are vast and far-reaching, but essentially he sees freedom as a reality effected in and through the Christ-event, which has broken the power of sin and neutralized the individual hostility against God; which at the same time has covered the guilt and stain of sin and erased the past; which has crushed all enslavement to self, to religious convention, to the present powers of evil, and to cosmic forces; and which has triumphed over every force that dominates humankind, including human morality itself. But that is only one side of the Pauline coin - the “freedom from what?” side; there is also the significant “freedom for what?” side, and this many-faceted emphasis in Paul, though it can be simply stated, is infinitely complex in its outworking: a Christian is now free to obey God in a radical fashion by serving his fellow human beings in self-less love.

- E.J. Epp

True Christians will not reject the true way of salvation, but they confuse themselves and others when they try to live by works. The security of salvation from the divine side is guaranteed by God to His own (Rom. 8:28-39; 11:29), but from the human side it is manifested by perseverance in grace (see John 8:31; 15:4-9; Acts 11:23; 13:43; 14:21-22; Rom. 2:7; Heb. 2:1; 13:14; 14:4; 10:23; I John 2:19). Paul is here calling for such perseverance in grace by the genuine believer.

- John MacArthur