

“Back on Course”

Galatians 5:16-26

East Berlin Community Church
Pastor Keith A. Mosebrook
March 1, 2020

Introduction

- Following a GPS to one’s destination
- Getting “Back on Course” in our study of Galatians
 - Paul is fighting for the truth of the gospel that salvation is by God’s grace through faith plus nothing.
 - In Galatians 1-2, a biographical section, Paul defends his apostleship and message
 - In Galatians 3-4, a doctrinal section, Paul gives a classic defense of justification by faith alone.
 - Abraham, their spiritual father, was declared right with God on the basis of his faith.
 - The Law of Moses was never intended to save for it condemns rather than justifies.
 - The Law does not annul nor replace the covenant God made with Abraham
 - The Law did serve a purpose in God’s economy but only until Christ came.
 - Paul’s summary statement: Galatians 4:4-7
 - Bottom line: Salvation has always been by God’s grace through faith plus nothing.
 - In Galatians 5-6, an ethical section, Paul shows the ramifications of being justified by faith.

“Back on Course”

A. The Right Path—Galatians 5:1 The path to FREEDOM

B. Two Deviant Paths—Bumped off course

1. **Legalism**—adding anything to the finished work of Christ
 - a. In salvation—add “works” to the equation
 - b. In sanctification—man-made list of dos and don’ts”
 - c. The need to stand fast in the liberty which is ours.
2. **License**—anything goes! Galatians 5:18

C. “Walking in the Spirit” on the Right Path

1. **We will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh**—Galatians 5:16
2. **We will be in constant warfare with the flesh**—Galatians 5:17-21
 - a. We can choose to obey either our flesh or the Spirit
 - b. At times, it appears that the pull to the flesh is too strong to resist—Galatians 5:17b
 - b. We are capable of committing any and all “works of the flesh” that Paul lists in verse 19-21
3. **We will exhibit the character of Christ (the fruit of the Spirit)**—Galatians 5:22-23
 - a. Fruit produced in us as we are “abiding in Christ”—John 15:4
 - b. From our fellowship with Christ and obedience to His commands flows the various fruit.
4. **We will operate outside of the realm of the law**—Galatians 5:23b
 - a. No laws forbid the “fruit of the Spirit”
 - b. Law does not apply to those who are walking in the Spirit

D. How to practically “walk in the Spirit”?—two admonitions

1. **We need to practice what we already know to be true.**—Galatians 5:24-25
 - a. We have been crucified with Christ, therefore choose to obey God rather than the dictates of the flesh.
 - b. We have been made alive in Christ. Therefore walk in the Spirit.
2. **We need to beware of spiritual pride**—Galatians 5:26
 - a. Easy to think that one has arrived spiritually.
 - b. Only one thing we should glory in—the cross. Galatians 6:14