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Gal. 5:1-18 Law + Grace

The whole letter of Galatians is on the subject of GRACE. The letter was written when Paul found out that Judaizers were following him around in Galatia & adding to his message about Christ - they were saying that not only should the new Gentile believers ^① accept Christ as their Messiah, but they should also ^② become Jews & be circumcised to be saved.

Paul taught that Christ plus anything else is heresy and undermines the grace of God & the righteousness of God.

Ch 1-4 Refutation of Salvation by Works

4) Here in Ch. 5 Paul wants to apply grace to ^{their} personal life-style. What Paul argues in this ch. is Grace Produces Freedom.
→ Let's examine what Paul means by FREEDOM - freedom to what and freedom from what.

Let's read 5:1-2

Grace produces freedom, & this freedom means freedom from the law.

(v. 1) "keep standing firm" - "yoke of slavery" → (4: 8-11) Before three Gentiles became believers they were in bondage to pagan idols not they were heading towards the bondage of the law -
"You came to be known by God"

5] & yet here you are returning to a system of law where you are trying to merit God's acceptance by your performance - this time with the Jewish law. Paul says this is "bondage".

We still do this today if we are religious people & most of us are. "Religion", in the Biblical sense of the word, is a system of self-improvement to attain the favor of our God.

Even in a group of believers in Christ, after we come to know Him, one of our strongest temptations is to revert to a religious mentality - i.e. to go back to a "works" outlook in our relationship with God. Look at (Gal. 3:1-3).

[6]

Paul points out that once they've experienced conversion & being liberated from that bondage ~~to~~ of works - they are indeed foolish to be drawn back into that bondage again of performing for God, a reverting ^{back} to a work's heart attitude for acceptance with God.

Today ^(OMIT) This is especially true with those who have been raised in a legalistic environment - a Christian one: it is easy to slip back into a "work-for-acceptance" attitude in our heart. Paul says this should be resisted.

III (v. 2-4) Basically Paul says you have to choose between law & grace: these 2 views of life - styles are mutually exclusive.

They don't mix. If you try to combine law & grace e.g.

"I'm saved by grace, but I walk ~~under the law~~ with both law & grace" -

you will always short circuit grace & walk under the law. They are like oil & water → don't mix & law comes out top.

~~Paul singles out circum-~~
~~cision here because, in principle,~~
~~it means going back under~~
~~the whole system of the O.T. law~~

~~Circumcision symbolizes~~
~~a whole change of mentality~~

Rather than trusting Christ for their new life & for the power to live a holy life.

omit omit.
They are coming to a legalistic system that will proscribe for them what their behavior should be. Paul says that if they do this Christ will be of no benefit to them. (V. 2)

What does Paul mean?

In their own practical every day walk Christ will not be of any benefit to you. Why? The reason is very plain: Christ is the Enemy of human works

Christ's death on the cross stands as the ultimate condemnation of human works and of religious observance.

If you can add one good work to what Christ did on the Cross then He died in vain - His death was God's greatest mistake.

1. The first step in writing a paper is to choose a topic. This is often the most difficult part of the process. You should choose a topic that interests you and that you know something about. It is also important to choose a topic that is not too broad or too narrow. A good topic should be specific enough to allow you to focus your research, but broad enough to allow you to find enough information to write a paper. Once you have chosen a topic, you should do some preliminary research to see what has already been written about it. This will help you to narrow down your topic and to identify the key issues and questions that you want to explore in your paper.

2. The next step is to gather information. This involves reading books, articles, and other sources of information. You should look for information that is relevant to your topic and that provides new insights or perspectives. It is important to keep track of the sources you use, so that you can cite them properly in your paper. You should also take notes on the information you find, so that you can refer back to it as you write. It is a good idea to organize your notes as you go, so that you can see the connections between different pieces of information. This will help you to develop a thesis statement and to structure your paper.

3. The third step is to develop a thesis statement. This is a statement that expresses your main argument or claim about your topic. It should be clear, concise, and specific. It should also be debatable, meaning that it should be something that other people might disagree with. Your thesis statement should be based on the information you have gathered, and it should be supported by the evidence you present in your paper. It is important to revise your thesis statement as you write, so that it reflects the direction of your research. A good thesis statement will help you to stay focused on your topic and to organize your paper around your main argument.

4. The final step is to write the paper. This involves putting all of the information you have gathered together and writing it in a clear and organized way. You should start with an introduction that introduces your topic and your thesis statement. The body of your paper should be organized into paragraphs, each of which focuses on a specific point or argument. You should use evidence from your research to support your arguments and to show how they relate to your thesis statement. It is important to write clearly and to avoid using too much jargon or technical language. You should also pay attention to the format and style of your paper, so that it is easy to read and follows the guidelines of your instructor. Finally, you should proofread your paper carefully to catch any errors or typos. A well-written paper will be clear, organized, and supported by strong evidence.

9 In the Sermon on the Mt. Jesus was teaching a righteousness that can never be attained. His intent was to unmask self + R + "religious-ness" & prove that God looks on the heart - our motives

Christ had to die on the cross because even our deeds + deeds are "filthy rags" (Isa. 64:6) & don't come close to making us accepted to God.

For that reason, Christ can't be of any benefit to one who lives by the law + self-effort. Christ can only be of benefit to one who knows he's a sinner & throws himself on the mercy of God - Jesus is our "Savior" - & can only be of benefit to us when we have despaired of helping ourselves and know we can't live up to God's

