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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.

April 21-18 2nd class

The whole letter is written in
 the light of GRACE the
 letter was written when you
 were young (that is the part
 which was not personally
 written to you in the
 first place but which was
 written to you now with
 the idea that you should
 know it all 1 and that
 you should know it all 2
 as the 1 and 2 are
 the same thing and that
 you should know it all
 and that you should know
 it all 3 and that you
 should know it all 4
 and that you should know
 it all 5 and that you
 should know it all 6
 and that you should know
 it all 7 and that you
 should know it all 8
 and that you should know
 it all 9 and that you
 should know it all 10

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 these 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).

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[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.

I had quite a lot of letters
 from my friends and was
 very glad to hear from
 them. I had also a letter
 from my mother and she
 was very kind to write
 to me. I had also a letter
 from my father and he
 was very kind to write
 to me. I had also a letter
 from my sister and she
 was very kind to write
 to me. I had also a letter
 from my brother and he
 was very kind to write
 to me. I had also a letter
 from my friends and they
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 were very kind to write
 to me.

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 -

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.

U.S. - 4 - Bureau of Land Management
You have a right to know
the status of the land
that is being managed
by the Bureau
of Land
Management.
This information
is available
to you
and anyone
else who
is interested
in the
land.
If you
want to
know more
about the
land that
is being
managed by
the Bureau
of Land
Management,
you can
write to
the Director
of the
Bureau at
the following
address:

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.

They are coming to a decision
that will give the
them what they believe
to be good for them
I think that will be

What does it mean?
I think it means
that we should
be of a good
nature. Christ is
the answer to
our problems.

Christ is the
answer to our
problems. He
is the one who
has died for us
and risen again.
He is the one who
has given us
the gift of life.

Christ is the
answer to our
problems. He
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He is the one who
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the gift of life.

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 + R ^{desires} 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

