

Galatians 5:1-6

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

1a. STAND FAST THEREFORE IN THE LIBERTY BY WHICH CHRIST HAS MADE US FREE

This statement concludes Galatians chapters 1-4, and is both a command, a directive, and a rebel yell in the face of judgment and condemnation.

You are freed from sin, the slavery of sin, and the law of sin that leads to the curse: death.

Romans 8:1-2 *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Nothing that can prevent YOU *believer*, according to any law, from eternal life. You have it, it is yours. By being free, you are now a child of God.

John 8:34b-36 *“whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.*

We must “stand fast” in “freedom.” How do we not move but be free at the same time?

You remain in it. Are you staying put in the freedom that comes through Christ? Do you bask and delight in the freedom, by being in Christ?

I fear that some people come to Christ, being set free, but stay in a jail cell. Being so fixated on what other people think about them, rather than what God thinks of them.

1b. DO NOT BE ENTANGLED AGAIN WITH A YOKE OF BONDAGE
What is this yoke of bondage? Paul is equating it to keeping the law to avoid sin.

9 but if you show partiality, you commit sin, and are convicted by the law as transgressors. 10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. **James 2:9-10**

The apostolic understanding of the law in their teachings includes both the ceremonial and the moral aspects of the law.

Each and every person is born a slave to sin, and is in a yoke of bondage. Paul reminds us of this in **Romans 7:1** *…that the law has dominion over a man as long as he lives?*

How can we break this yoke of bondage?

Matthew 11:28, *28 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."*

SO THE QUESTION IS, ARE YOU STUCK IN BONDAGE?

We must keep the royal law of love, and keep it above all laws.

23 And this is His commandment: that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ and love one another **1 John 3:23**

This is God's will for you. Do not be entangled.

2-3. [2]INDEED I, PAUL, SAY TO YOU THAT IF YOU BECOME CIRCUMCISED, CHRIST WILL PROFIT YOU NOTHING. [3]AND I TESTIFY AGAIN TO EVERY MAN WHO BECOMES CIRCUMCISED THAT HE IS A DEBTOR TO KEEP THE WHOLE LAW.

Two seals: the seal of circumcision by obeying the Law and the seal of the Spirit by faith.

"But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for "the just shall live by faith." **Galatians 3:11**

Some people try to gain salvation through human effort of religion and merit - a legalistic system of checks and balances, but none of that will do any good. There is always something that we do as humans that is not good enough for a perfect eternal God of love.

Legalistic lawful living begins with circumcision, and lawful living is of the flesh and will and lawful living is not possible. It is anti-cross (5:11), anti-faith (ch. 5), anti-salvific (3:11), anti-spirit (5:17), anti-life (5:25).

4. You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

You cannot lose your salvation:
27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me. 28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. 29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand. **John 10:27-29**

The text itself is talking about being back into bondage, and being under the law.

As if a person who was once in a jail cell is set free. And as he leaves one jail cell voluntarily walks into another and slams shut the door to follow the law. The only problem is that the door doesn't lock, and he is free to go whenever he wants. He's not really in jail, he's just trying to impress his former inmates.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Are you as a believer still stuck in jail, even though Christ has thrown open your cell to freedom?

Jesus is saying, STAND UP in your freedom, pick up your mat, and walk! Be free.

5-6. [5]For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. [6]For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

It is not what you do do, and not what you don't do. There is nothing that can take away from our salvation.

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. **Ephesians 2:8-9**

This can easily be confused… we don't have to, but we do?

And all the other works we do even while making mistakes, are deposited for future rewards. It is always a plus, and never a minus. This is why ONLY faith working itself through love avails anything.

Do not take away the work of Jesus Christ. Make sure he gets all the glory. Stand in your freedom Christian and enjoy it! Jesus paid His life for it.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. **Ephesians 2:10**

6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work. **Romans 11:6**

Jesse Cesario
Tokyo Baptist Church
March 25-26, 2023

Welcome FIRST TIME guests!

Thank you for visiting. Please send an email to gift@tokyobaptist.org for a free gift.

First time guests Connection:

COMMITMENT CARD

If you would like to believe in Jesus or have questions about baptism, we'd love to hear from you!
Email: cc@tokyobaptist.org or visit https://t-b-c.us/cc to let us know!

TBC Life SIGN-UP

weekly email news

http://t-b-c.us/tbclife

TBC CLASSES OFFERED ONLINE

class 201 Maturity

April 15th, Saturday
1:30pm – 5:30pm

class 301 Ministry

May 13th, Saturday
1:30 - 5:30pm

Classes held in Lange Hall

https://t-b-c.us/classes

Small Groups Information



SG Lesson
t-b-c.us/sg1323p

SG Sign-up
t-b-c.us/sgsu

For Online Giving please visit:
https://tokyobaptist.org/give

Scripture taken from the New King James Version®.
Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.