

## Justification and spiritual walk by faith

### **Galatians 5:1-15**

Paul really shifts focus now! He urges his believing children in the faith to walk away from obedience to the Law and its outward symbol, circumcision, as a means of justification and spiritual walk. He tells them they've "fallen from grace", not meaning they are spiritually unsaved, but they've fallen from the high perch that is the only and best view to gazing at Christ Jesus. They've fallen off the step-ladder, so to speak regarding the life and walk of faith, which is by grace alone, empowered and illumined by the Spirit. *This is the real practical part of the letter.*

#### **Slavery**

v1, because the Law's engine operates in the same sphere as the flesh, it's results can be called slavery! Walk away from that heavy yoke!

V2-3, The problem is not having been circumcised. *The problem is allowing it to be done to them as the decisive outward act of entering into and being under the covenant of the Law* as a means of justification or spiritual walk.

- V3, if they do this they have to obey every last yod and tiddle! It's not just avoiding pork. It is not wearing clothes with mixed fabric, it's letting their garden lie fallow every 7 years. It is tithing to the storehouse. It is the whole enchilada!

4-6, Being severed from Christ as the source of living waters, and having fallen from grace is a frightful and powerless place to be. More and more reliance on the flesh will have bad results for them!

- The key to the spiritual walk is faith in God's Christ, working itself out in love for Him and others. *He'll prove this in relation to the Law in v14.*

#### **Being bumped out of their running lane**

v7, They were running really well in grace! What kind of maniac bumped them out of their running lane of the truth? There is nothing more frustrating than to grab a concept in the mind, and then to lose it!

V8-10, In v8 the Spirit is the running coach who told them how to run ("calls you"). V9, only a little bit of falsehood can ruin one's spiritual walk! V10, The mouthpiece of this legalistic garbage is going to face the field judge and be thrown out of the games!

V11-12, The Cross and the way of "by grace alone thru faith alone in Christ alone" (*sola gratia, sola fidei and solus Christus*) ARE THE NARROW GATE! That is a stumbling block to those who insist on "holiness first, justification later." Paul says he wishes they preachers of this would go *all the way* and cut themselves off all the way, like some pagan priests did, thus disqualifying themselves from the Levitical priesthood.

#### **Now about freedom and license**

v13, Freedom from the Law is not license to indulge the flesh, but freedom to serve one another in true love.

V14, The Christian, walking in the love of the Spirit, fulfills the Law incidentally!