

## GALATIANS 5-6

### In Defense of Spirit-led Liberty

### STUDY AHEAD

Paul's message about GRACE caused some false teachers to assert that he was giving people 'a free ticket to sin.' On the contrary, Paul will argue that when a person 'receives Christ' he/she receives the gift of the indwelling Spirit of God, giving him/her the ability to walk in the power of the Spirit and, thus, to fulfill the principles of the Law.

**1. Galatians 5:1-12** Paul reveals his true emotions here. Can you feel the weight of his passion for Christ? Note on 5:4. The words "severed from Christ" and "fallen from grace" do not refer to an individual "losing their salvation." Rather, Paul is warning the Galatian believers as a group that they are in danger of falling from the foundation (principle) of salvation by grace that he taught them. Yes, it is possible to be truly saved, to be a child of God, and yet to be led down paths of erroneous teaching.

**2. Galatians 5:13-15.** How does Paul summarize the intent of the entire O.T. Law? Paul is echoing what Jesus taught (see Matthew 22:34-40).

**3. Galatians 5:16-26.** On Galatians 5:17, read Romans 7:14-25 where Paul describes his personal struggle to overcome the flesh.

**4. Galatians 5:19-23.** Paul speaks of the "deeds" of the flesh in the plural; yet, he speaks of the "fruit" of the Spirit in the singular. Why do you think Paul lists 9 different qualities of the Spirit-led life, yet he calls them all the "fruit" (1) of the Spirit?

**5. Galatians 6:1-5.** Why does Paul say, "*Bear one another's burdens*" (6:2) and then immediately say, "*Each one shall bear his own load*" (6:5)? Can you do some study to find the difference between the words "burden" and "load" in these two verses.

**6. Galatians 6:7-8.** What does it mean to "sow to the Spirit" as opposed to "sowing to the flesh"? Compare Romans 8:1-17 where Paul mentions the Spirit 13 times (!) in a section teaching us how to live out the Christian life.

**7. Galatians 6:11-18.** Paul unveils the motives of the false teachers. What were their motives?