

## Galatians Chapter 5

### Verse 5

1. Because of God's Spirit living within us, according to this verse, we are waiting for something. What are we waiting for? - The hope of righteousness.
  - The word "wait" means to "expect fully."
  - The word "hope" in the Bible does not refer to wishful thinking. It speaks of believing in an absolute fact or truth. It speaks of anticipation, expectation, and confidence.
  - As believers, we are confidently expecting righteousness.
2. The righteousness we have in Christ will be fully realized in our **bodies** when Christ returns for the church. **Romans 8:23-25**
3. Only Christ can bring this righteousness, so we wait for Him (**1 Thessalonians 1:10**) by faith. We look for Him in faith. **Philippians 3:20-21; Colossians 3:3-4**
4. Notice how this verse correlates with the preceding verse:
  - If we think righteousness comes by law-keeping, then there is no need for us to look for Christ's return and keep our eyes upon Him. Christ is of no effect. **Galatians 5:4**
  - But if we believe that all righteousness is found in Christ, and that He is our only hope of righteousness, then we, by faith, keep our eyes fixed on Him. vs. 5
5. The attitude of verse 4 causes you to focus on yourself, but the attitude of verse 5 causes you to focus on Christ.

### Verse 6

1. When you are in Christ, circumcision becomes a non-issue. It is irrelevant.
  - Isn't this amazing? What was absolutely crucial under the Old Testament law system now means absolutely nothing.
  - This is why Paul told the Jews at Rome that circumcision is that of the heart. **Romans 2:17, 28-29**
  - As believers today, we have a circumcision made without hands, the circumcision of Christ. **Colossians 2:11-13**
2. The outward rite of circumcision availeth nothing spiritually.
  - What does avail? - "*Faith which worketh by love.*"
3. We don't exercise faith in response to a set of rules and laws. Our faith is motivated by love, and what a wonderful motivating force it is.
  - Love was the motivating factor when Christ died on the cross. **Galatians 2:20**
  - The love of Christ is what compels us to trust Him by faith each day. **2 Corinthians 5:14**
4. A walk of faith by love is so much sweeter than a life of legalism by law!

## Verse 7

1. When Paul says, "*Ye did run well,*" he is using an analogy from the world of athletics.
  - When Paul speaks of running the race, it is never used in regards to running for salvation, but rather it is used in regards to living the Christian life.  
**1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Philippians 2:16**
2. The Galatians were moving forward in their Christian lives at a nice spiritual pace, but now they had slowed down.
3. Paul knew that this was the result of false doctrine that had been introduced to them by someone else. This is why he says, "*...who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?*"
  - The word "obey" carries the idea of being firmly persuaded and confident.
4. What truth had the Galatians been moved away from? In the context of this book, they had been moved away from confidence and trust in Paul's gospel.
  - Paul had received his gospel of grace by direct revelation of Jesus Christ, therefore it was absolute truth. **Galatians 1:11-12, 2:5, 14; 1 Timothy 2:7** (Truth and verity are the same word.)
  - False teachers had infiltrated the churches teaching another gospel, which Paul said was not good news at all. **Galatians 1:6-7**
  - These false teachers were "troubling" and "hindering" the Galatians in their spiritual walk.
5. Christians, beware of those who would hinder you in your walk of grace with Jesus Christ. There would be those who would put their yoke of bondage on you and slow you down (**Galatians 5:1**), but do not allow this to happen!

## Verse 8

1. This persuasion away from Paul's gospel of grace did not come from Paul or Jesus Christ.
2. Paul had taught them clearly that the law and circumcision could not help them in their spiritual walk. **Galatians 5:6**
3. **1 Corinthians 7:18-20** is a great parallel passage with this.
  - Circumcision is irrelevant in this dispensation of grace.
  - Our watchfulness (keeping) should not be with the rules and rites of the Mosaic Law, but rather God's commands for us, the body of Christ.
  - Where do we learn of God's commands for the church? From the apostle Paul. **1 Corinthians 7:17, 14:37; 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2; Romans 11:13, 15:16**

## Verse 9

1. What does "leaven" picture in the Bible? It pictures false doctrine and wickedness. **Matthew 16:6-12; 1 Corinthians 5:8**
2. What does "unleavened bread" picture in the Bible? It pictures sincerity and truth. **1 Corinthians 5:8**

3. So, what is Paul teaching the churches? When false doctrine is allowed to continue in a church body, like leaven, it spreads and poisons the entire body.

**1 Corinthians 5:6**

- In Corinth, it was the false doctrine of permissiveness concerning sin.
  - In Galatia, it was the false doctrine of legalism concerning the rules of the Mosaic Law.
  - Both of these false doctrines are on different ends of the spiritual spectrum, but both are equally and extremely dangerous.
4. But notice, it only takes a **little** leaven to poison an entire church. Christian, you must be on guard and support your pastors when they have to correct sin and false doctrine. This is part of their spiritual function. **Acts20:28-31; Titus 1:9-11, 13**