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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Refuge Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.**

601 NW 2nd Street, Gainesville, FL 32601; 352.336.7602

Web Site: www.RefugeGainesville.com

**Elder Michael Williams, Pastor**

**Bishop M. Ruel McCoy, Sr., Diocesan**

**"APOSTOLIC LIBERTY"**

**(I’M TO FREE NOT TO SERVE THEE)**

**Galatians 5:1-13**

***Galatians 5:1 "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."***

We are to stand up for God and continually stand in the salvation the Lord provided for us. We are no longer under the bondage of the law, we are free to serve the Lord.

***II Thessalonians 2:15 "Therefore, brethren, stand fast, and hold the traditions which ye have been taught, whether by word, or our epistle."***

A person who had just been set free, would never choose to go back into bondage, if they were thinking clearly.

***Galatians 5:2 "Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing."***

It appears that these Galatians believed if they were circumcised, that would somehow put them in better standing with the Lord. It is as if they are believing this to be like baptism. Circumcision and sacrifices are almost as if they are saying that the shed blood of Jesus is not enough.

***Hebrews 9:12 "Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption [for us]."***

***Hebrews 9:13 "For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh:"***

***Hebrews 9:14 "How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?"***

You can see that there was nothing left for us to do, Jesus did it all for us.

***Galatians 5:3 "For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law."***

Circumcising is a recognition of the law. To recognize the law in this manner, would be to deny the power of grace in Jesus Christ. If you go back to the law to make you perfect in the sight of the law, then you are under the covenant of the law, and not under the covenant of grace.

***Galatians 5:4 "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."***

You have decided to look for salvation in another, if you go back to the law. Grace is actually a freeing of yourself, but a freeing from the law, as well. Wherever you put your trust, is what you are depending on to save you. This would be turning away from Christ as your Justifier, and looking to the law for justification.

***Galatians 5:5 "For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith."***

Christians are not like the rest of the world who have no hope. We have hope of the resurrection. Our hope is in Christ Jesus. He is our blessed Hope. Our righteousness is His righteousness that He clothed us in.

***Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what [is] the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"***

***Galatians 5:6 "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."***

Circumcision is of the flesh. This, then, makes no difference either way, because Christianity is of the spirit. Christianity is a personal relationship with Christ.

***Romans 2:28 "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither [is that] circumcision, which is outward in the flesh:"***

***Romans 2:29 "But he [is] a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision [is that] of the heart, in the spirit, [and] not in the letter; whose praise [is] not of men, but of God."***

We see in all of this that Christianity has very little to do with the flesh. The only thing it does have to do with it is, that we must cut away the flesh that the spirit might live. To be in a position that we desire to be with Christ. We must crucify our flesh and live in the spirit.

***Galatians 5:7 "Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?"***

Paul is telling them that they started out correctly. They were running the race of life well. Now they have listened to those who would come in and destroy. We must apply the blood of Jesus to our ear, so only things of God will be heard in our inner mind. We should not listen to others, and let them sway us. We should be thoroughly convinced, and never waver in our belief.

***Galatians 5:8 "This persuasion [cometh] not of him that calleth you."***

They have listened to another doctrine other than what Paul had brought. The Lord God of heaven called you, stay with Him. God did not send the message to get back under the bondage of the law.

***Galatians 5:9 "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump."***

This is the same thing as saying; one rotten apple will ruin the whole barrel, if it is not removed. Leaven is sin. It is a sin to doubt the message of grace. Anything that displeases God is sin. Faith is the only thing that pleases God. It seems that some of these people in the church were listening to the Judaizers.

***Galatians 5:10 "I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be."***

It is a very dangerous thing to teach anything but the pure gospel message. Paul says; I know you will consider this and make the right decision. He knows, if they have time to consider what he is telling them, they will not accept going back into the law. Grace is too good to trade it for law.

***Galatians 5:11 "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased."***

One of the reasons they had difficulty with what Paul was saying, is the fact that he circumcised Timothy to appease the Jews. Paul had not circumcised Timothy, so that Timothy would be in better standing with God. He had done it, because the group of people Timothy would be ministering to were Jews, and they would not have let Timothy preach.

***Acts 16:3 "Him would Paul have to go forth with him; and took and circumcised him because of the Jews which were in those quarters: for they knew all that his father was a Greek."***

Paul did not believe in circumcising Christians. Paul's major persecution had come from the Jews. They even followed Paul from town to town and caused people to rise up against him, because he taught that Jesus Christ was the Jewish Messiah. Paul suffered with Christ. Paul really counted it as gain to be persecuted bringing the good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. The teaching of the cross was an offense to the Jews.

***Galatians 5:12 "I would they were even cut off which trouble you."***

Paul was aware that those who were trying to put them back under the law, were there to destroy their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The best thing would be for these Judaizers to get out of the church, but it was highly unlikely that would happen.

***Galatians 5:13 "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."***

Our salvation is a free gift from God. He washed our sins away. When we become a Christian, we no longer serve sin.

***Romans 6:18 "Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."***

What this is really saying is that our flesh controlled our will until we became Christians. Now our spirit {filled with Jesus} controls our will. If we are true Christians, it is Jesus in us who controls our will. We are no longer flesh, we are spirit. Just because we are forgiven, does not give us a license to sin.

***Romans 6:19 "I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness."***

***Romans 6:20 "For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness."***

***Romans 6:21 "What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things [is] death."***

***Romans 6:22 "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."***

You see, we have been set free to live in Christ Jesus.

**QUESTIONS**

1. What are Christians to stand fast in?
2. We are not to be entangled with the yoke of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. What would a person, who had been set free, never choose to do?
4. What did these Galatians believe about circumcising?

6. What does the shed blood of Christ do for the Christian's conscience?

7. What would make a Christian debtor to the whole law?
8. Circumcising is recognition of what?
10. For we through the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.
11. What is the hope of the Christian?
13. Circumcision is of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
14. Christianity is of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
15. What question did Paul ask them in verse 7?
16. A little leaven \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the whole loaf.
17. What does leaven symbolize?
18. What is sin?
19. What did Paul have confidence they would do?
20. What was one of the reasons they thought Paul believed in circumcision?

21. Why had Paul done this?
22. Paul's major persecution came from where?
23. What did they not like about Paul?
24. They were not to use their liberty for what?

26. What have we been set free to do?