

GALATIANS 8

1. What does it mean that Christians are no longer slaves?
 - We are no longer slaves to trying to obey laws.
 - We are no longer slaves to trying to earn God's acceptance.
2. Who are these who by nature are not gods?
 - These are demons who have no power except what we allow them to have over our lives.
3. Before we believed in Christ, why did demons and evil have power over us?
 - Because we allowed them to do so.
 - Because we did not call on God to save us.
4. Does God know more about us than we know ourselves?
 - Yes.
 - God knows everything about us.
5. Why is it important to understand that God knows everything about us?
 - Then, we understand that God loves us even though He knows all of our sins.
 - Then, we understand that God does what is best for us.
6. Is there anything in our lives that God does that is not for our best?

- No.
 - There is nothing that God does in our lives that is not for our best.
7. If people in the church reject the Word of God, what does this teach us?
 - That they have never believed and been saved by Christ.
 8. How did Paul want the Galatians to become like him?
 - To give up trying to obey laws in order to be accepted by God.
 9. How did Paul become like the Galatians?
 - By believing in the Lord Jesus and suffering for his belief in Christ.
 10. Who are the enemies of the truth?
 - Those who reject the truths of God in the Bible.
 11. What is one of the main differences between a false teacher and a true teacher of the Word of God?
 - A false teacher wants people to follow them, but a true teacher of the Word of God wants people to follow God.
 12. How are all Christians like Isaac?
 - Like Isaac, it is because of God alone that we were born into the family of God.

Let's read Galatians 5:1

1-It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

--Before we believed in Christ, we were living under a yoke of slavery.

-What is the yoke of slavery?

-The burden of trying to please God with our own works, but always failing.

-All religions except for true Christianity are under this yoke of slavery.

-All religions except for true Christianity try to please God with their own works, but always fail.

-As Christ has taken away the yoke of slavery for all Christians and we are now free, we should stand firm.

-To stand firm is like a large tree with strong roots.

-Even if there is much wind and rain, the large tree with strong roots will stand firm.

-The world, our flesh, and Satan will try and hurt us with false teaching, temptations, and problems.

-How do we stand firm in the winds and rain of false teaching, temptations, and problems?

-With strong roots in Christ alone who saves us and keeps us.

Let's read Galatians 5:2-4

2-Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.

3-Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

4-You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.

-If we believe that we must do something to be saved, then what are we saying?

-That the death of Christ on the cross is not enough to save us.

-If we believe that we must do something to be saved, can we be saved?

-No.

-All religions except for true Christianity teach that we must do something to be saved.

-Only true Christianity teaches us that there is nothing that we can do to be saved, and that God alone must save us.

-Using their own works, people will try and try to save themselves.

-If we try to save ourselves, then we are saying that God is not powerful enough to save us.

-If we believe that circumcision or some other practice saves us, then we are saying that God is not powerful enough to save us.

-It is only when people understand that they cannot save themselves will they ask God to save them.

-Only those who believe that God alone can save them will ask God to save them.

-In Galatians 5:4, we read that “you who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace.”

-Does this mean that Christians can lose their salvation?

-No.

-Because of the power of the blood of Christ, no true Christian can lose their salvation.

-The Word of God is talking about those who have never truly believed in Christ.

Let's read Galatians 5:5

5-For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.

-For us Christians, we have believed in Christ alone to save us, and God the Holy Spirit lives in our lives.

-While we still sin because the flesh is still a part of our lives, what do we, by faith, eagerly wait for?

-A final righteousness when we will sin no more.

Let's read Galatians 5:6

6-For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

-If we believe in Christ, but are not circumcised, are we saved?

-Yes.

-Before God, what is that which saves us?

-Simply our belief in Christ.

-If circumcision does not save us, then why did God ask Abraham and the Jews to be circumcised?

-Circumcision was to teach Abraham and the Jews that God wanted them to believe in Him.

-God wants all people to believe in Him.

-Before Christ came to earth, God gave circumcision and the law of Moses to teach people to believe in Him.

-By sending Christ to earth, God gave Himself, the Lord Jesus, to teach people to believe in Him.

Let's read Galatians 5:7-8

7-You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth?

8-That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you.

-When Christians first believe in Christ, our faith is important to us.

-After first believing in Christ, however, is it possible that our faith may become less important to us?

-Yes.

-Here is an illustration:

-A woman is saved from her burning house by a man who saw that her house was burning, and saved her.

-At the beginning, the woman was very thankful to the man for having saved her.

-Later on, however, the woman did not think much about having been saved from her burning house.

-For us Christians, God has saved us from the Lake of Eternal Fire, and we should never forget that He has done this for us.

Let's read Galatians 5:9

9-"A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough."

-What does yeast do?

-When a little yeast is put into dough to make bread, it spreads rapidly into all of the dough.

-This is a picture of that which is very small spreading rapidly into everything.

-In the Bible, yeast is also a picture of sin (except for Matthew 13:33).

-In Mark 8:15, Jesus told His disciples this:

-“Watch out for the yeast of the Pharisees and that of Herod.”

-Yeast in the Bible, therefore, is a picture of sin spreading rapidly and touching everyone.

-What was the sin that was spreading rapidly in the Galatian churches which was touching everyone?

-The sin of believing that Christ’s death on the cross is not enough to save us, and that we must also obey Moses’ laws to be saved.

Let’s read Galatians 5:10

10-I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty.

-God and Paul are talking to the true Christians in the Galatian churches as well as to all true Christians.

-For true Christians, our belief is in the death of Christ alone which pays for our sins.

-For true Christians, our belief is in the death of Christ alone which give us eternal life.

-For true Christians, we have no other view or belief but in the death of Christ alone.

-We learn from the verse above that the false teaching was throwing the Christians into confusion.

-How do we know when a teacher is truly teaching the Word of God?

-There will not be confusion in the hearts of the Christians.

-There will only be peace.

-Even repentance of sin brings peace to the heart of the Christian.

-It is false teaching which attacks the true teaching which leads to confusion.

-For all of the false teachers, they will have to pay a penalty.

-In Matthew 18:6, the Lord Jesus said this:

-“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.”

-Not only will false teachers have to pay a penalty, but their punishment will be severe.

-In Luke 12, our Lord Jesus said this:

47-“The servant who knows the master’s will and does not get ready or does not do what the master wants will be beaten with many blows.

48-But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows.”

-This teaches us that those who know the truth well, yet reject it, will have a severe punishment.

-Those, however, who do not know the truth well, but still do not believe will have a lesser punishment.

-All, however, who do not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ will spend the rest of eternity in the Lake of Eternal Fire.

Let’s read Galatians 5:11

11-Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished.

-How is the cross offensive?

-Because the cross says that we can do nothing to be saved, and that Christ alone must save us.

-False religion and false teaching, like Satan, will continue to persecute Christians until Christ returns.

Let’s read Galatians 5:12

12-As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

-While this verse is difficult to read, it is teaching us a strong truth.

-Here is the truth:

-If false teachers truly believe what they are teaching, then they should prove that their teaching is true by doing it themselves.

-This is the problem with all false teachers.

-They ask other people to do that which they cannot do themselves.

-This is the difference between a true teacher and a false teacher?

-A true teacher will do what he teaches, but a false teacher will not do what he teaches.