

- I) V1-2 INTRO: Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free
In V31 Paul had reminded the Galatians of an important lesson
They are not under the bondage of Jewish law, but are free in Christ
- II) Here he exhorts them to **reject the false doctrine leading to bondage**
- III) V1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free
Stand fast: Literally, **keep on standing** in the freedom Jesus has given you
POINT
- IV) Persevere in the freedom Christ gave you! Remain free since Christ set you free
Remain planted firmly in the freedom you have over the domination of sin, of the fear of death and judgment, of the spiritual captivity of Satan, and the joy of grace that overcomes the demands of the law
- V) Do not be entangled **again** with a yoke of bondage
Entangled, a common word for ensnared by trap
Literally, stop being held in by a yoke of bondage
QUOTE
- VI) The Judaizers were trying to lasso the Galatians for the old yoke of Judaism, and some Jewish believers were being tempted to return to the Jewish law
WHAT DOES HE MEAN YOKE
- VII) **Yoke** was a term that spoke about the religious obligations you took upon yourself
It symbolized accepting God's commandments and the law for life's guidance
It represented acceptance of God's covenant
- VIII) A yoke represented something that connects and directs
It was used to harness the animal so it would labor under direction of the master
It represented two will, working as one
- IX) Jesus came to set us free from a yoke that produced bondage
He came to make it possible for us to be directed by Him in all our life
- X) He came to give us life and grace through faith in Him
Mt 11:28-30 Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. **Take My yoke upon you** and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light."

- I) **Notice how Jesus said** Take My yoke upon you
This is an invitation for us to connect to Him, so we take direction from Him
THE INVITATION
- II) Cease your striving to achieve what you cannot have **without Me**
This useless striving is the way unsaved people live
Eccl. 2:22-23 What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.
- III) We cease our striving when we confess our sins and have peace with God
Peace occurs when you yield to God and seek His forgiveness
- IV) When we confess our sins and stop fighting God, we can have peace
This is the result of trusting Jesus and having faith, in Him
Ro 5:1 Since we have been made right in God's sight by faith, we have peace with God because of what Jesus Christ our Lord has done for us
Ac 10:43 He is the one all the prophets testified about, saying that everyone who **believes in Him** will have their sins forgiven through His name
- V) Jesus' invitation is for **all who labor** (who are utterly exhausted from work)
It is for those who are **heavy laden**: Carrying a great weight
- VI) The burden of a guilty conscience weighs you down
Is 1:4 Ah, sinful nation, a people **loaded with guilt**, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the Lord they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him
- VII) When we reject the rest that Jesus offers, our life remains difficult
Pr 13:15 Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.
Because of this, Jesus invites us to come to Him
HE PROMISED
- VIII) V28 I will give you rest: (To revive, as from labor or from a long journey)
Your long journey will be over, because you can now rest in Him
- IX) V29-30 Take **My yoke** upon you and learn from Me for I am gentle and lowly
The yoke of the law was a great burden, as they could not bear it and succeed

Jesus sets us free because He came to fulfill the Law, and did so on our behalf

- I) When we come to faith in Him, we are set free from our own efforts and rest in Him
- II) V29 **Take My yoke upon you** and learn from Me
We are to learn from Him
We accept His teachings, which reveals that we are saved by Him
- III) He is gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest in your souls
Rest in Me, **for I am** gentle and humble
As you rest in faith, in Me, you will find rest for your troubled soul
- IV) V30 For My yoke is easy and My burden is light
My yoke is built out of kindness, and My burden (what I require) is not too heavy
Jer 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the **joy and rejoicing of my heart**; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.
1 Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.
THE INVITATION
- V) Jesus sets us free from the bondage of the law
Paul's question: If you've been set free, why entangle yourselves once again?
- VI) V2 I Paul say to you that if you **become circumcised** Christ will profit you nothing
Indeed I Paul: He now is speaking with what is called apostolic authority
- VII) What I am about to say has tremendous importance, so listen and understand
If you are circumcised, you render Jesus' death and resurrection **useless**
- VIII) You cannot combine Judaism and Christianity: it is one, or the other
If you are circumcised, you are pledging yourself to follow the Law of Moses
By doing so, you are committing yourself to keep the entire law
- IX) By doing this you are saying you don't need Jesus to be saved
You are relying on the law and rejecting God's grace in salvation
Gal 2:21 I do not set aside the grace of God; for if righteousness comes through the law, **then Christ died in vain**

- X) If you think circumcision will gain you any merit, you are wrong
Jesus' atoning death is sufficient:
- I) Circumcision cannot benefit you beyond what is **already provided** for you in Him
2 Pe 1:3 By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life. We have received all of this by coming to know him, the one who called us to himself by means of his marvelous glory and excellence.
- II) This has application to two groups attending the fellowship
TO THE UNSAVED IN CHURCH
- III) To think that circumcision will benefit you will ultimately leave you doomed
Circumcision is a pledge to keep **the entire law** to receive justification
Gal 3:10 As many as are the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to **do them**
TO THE SAVED
- IV) To think circumcision is needed is to quench the work of grace in their lives
They will not experience spiritual growth if they add works to grace
If circumcised, they will never attain the full knowledge of the depth of grace
- V) V3 I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor
To live under any of the law as a way of getting right necessitates obeying it all
KEY
- VI) To obey part of the Law is to disobey that part not obeyed, making you guilty
Jas 2:10 the person who keeps all of the laws **except one** is as guilty as a person who has **broken all of God's laws**.
- VII) V4 You have become estranged from Christ, **you who attempt to be justified by law**
Estranged: Separated, or loosed from
Fallen: To lose one's grasp on something; to drop away
You cannot live by grace and law: To be justified by law is to reject grace
FALLEN FROM GRACE
- VIII) There are two basic aspects we can look at
FIRST
- IX) For non-Christians sitting in Church services, observing the life of Christians
This refers to their being exposed to grace yet never personally embracing it
They may have a basic understanding, but no personal experience of grace

2 Co 6:1-2 As God's fellow workers we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For he says, "In the time of my favor I heard you, and in the day of salvation I helped you". I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.

I) **FOR CHRISTIANS**

It refers to removing yourself from a place God will work in you

II) To live a life under the law is to remove yourself from the joy of salvation
Quenching the Spirit and moving from the place of being blessed by God

DEVELOP

III) Grace is a revelation of the essential nature of God

God is a God of Love: As a loving God, His desire is to bless

Dt 5:29 Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear Me and keep all My commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever!

IV) Because He desire to bless He makes provision to do so **through grace**

Grace is the source of salvation and blessings to those the Lord loves (Eph 2:8-9)

Eph 1:7 In him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace

V) V4 With this in mind, Paul says You have fallen from grace

To attempt to serve God by the Law renders you ineffective and ultimately results in being shelved from service to Him

VI) V5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait **for the hope of righteousness by faith**

The Judaizers hope was righteousness based on the law, and not by faith in God

VII) It is the Spirit who makes faith effective and righteousness real

Christians rely in the finished work of Jesus on the cross

VIII) We are still in the flesh but we long for the day when all things are complete

In our daily life, we go through hardships and trials and deal with sin

IX) This produces in us a longing for all things to finally come to completion

To finally put off this body of death and to enjoy the freedom of being with God

Ro 8:23 we believers also groan, even though we have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, for we long for our bodies to be released from sin and

suffering. We, too, wait with eager hope for the day when God will give us our full rights as His adopted children, including the new bodies He has promised us.

X) V6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything

I) When you are saved it makes no difference if you are circumcised, or not
He is not saved if he is circumcised, nor is he lost if he isn't

II) V6 **What matters** is faith working through love
It is not the outer cutting away of flesh or rigid observance of religious law

III) It is faith founded on the love of God revealed by a love for people
Mt 22:35-40 One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' All the Law and the Prophets **hang** on these two commandments."

THE POINT

IV) Carefully keeping rules and laws will not provoke you to care for others
It is faith in Jesus that enables you to fulfill the requirements of the law
The aim of the law is for us to love God and love others

V) He now exhorts them to reject the false teachers

VI) V7 You ran well. **Who hindered you** from obeying the truth
Paul knew but he wanted them see it themselves: **It was the false teachers**

VII) V8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you
Persuasion: The effort of the Judaizers to influence you that **you are yielding to**

VIII) A genuine teacher would never knowingly teach error
1 Th 2:3-4 the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. On the contrary, we speak as men approved by God to be **entrusted with the gospel**. We are not trying to please men but God, **who tests our hearts**

IX) V9 **A little leaven** leavens the whole lump (It permeates and contaminates)
In this context leaven refers to how bad teaching infects the church

- X) Mt 16 Jesus warned His men to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees/Sadducees
They thought He was because they had forgotten to bring bread
Mt 16:12 He didn't warn them about the leaven of bread but their doctrine
Reject it because it infects and permeates
- I) A true teacher desires the Church to be fully developed in their faith
Eph 4:11-13 So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists,
the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of
Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the
Son of God **and become mature**, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
ON THEIR PART
- II) V10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind
This he is saying to the members who have not been affected
This would speak of the largest percentage of the church
- III) He is saying this because he loves them and believes the best for them
1 Co 13:7 (love) bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all
things
- IV) This serves as an encouragement to those who have not be seduced
By contrast, it also serves as a rebuke to those who have been influenced
HIS POINT
- V) You have not gone astray, and have remained faithful to Jesus
I have continued hope that you will remain true to the gospel
- VI) V10 but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is
Those leading you into error will receive proper judgment
Lu 17:1-2 Jesus said to His disciples, "It is inevitable that stumbling blocks will
come, but woe to the one through whom they come! It would be better for him to have a
millstone hung around his neck and to be thrown into the sea than to cause one of these
little ones to stumble.
- VII) Later, the Apostle Peter wrote concerning false teachers
2 Pe 2:1-3 But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there
will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even
denying the Lord who bought them, **and bring on themselves swift destruction.** And

many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed. By covetousness they will exploit you with deceptive words; for a long time **their judgment has not been idle**, and **their destruction** does not slumber

VIII) V11 And I brethren if I still preach circumcision why do I suffer persecution
It seems that the Judaizers had said he still preached the Law

I) How could this have happened?

When Paul took Timothy on his 2nd missionary journey, he had him circumcised
Ac 16:3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him
because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek

II) Timothy had a Jewish mother and a Gentile father, who resisted his circumcision

III) Timothy was Jewish by race and training, being taught the OT from his youth
By being circumcised, Timothy was enabled to preach the gospel to Jews
It wasn't so he would be saved, but to give him opportunity to minister

IV) It would seem that the Judaizers knew of Timothy being circumcised
They would have then used this to say Paul preached circumcision

V) Paul says that this is not the case

If he was preaching circumcision, it would have undermined the Cross
It was the cross of Jesus that was causing the stumbling of the Jews
1 Co 1:23 we preach Christ crucified, **to the Jews a stumbling block** and to the
Greeks foolishness but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power
of God and the wisdom of God

VI) V12 I could wish that those who trouble you would even **cut themselves off**
Who trouble you: Those who are agitating and disturbing you

VII) These false teachers are bringing you into bondage, causing disturbance
They are undermining the grace of God and stealing your joy

VIII) There is joy when we come to realize our sins are forgiven
This is one of the things Jesus gives to repentant sinners

Jn 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that My joy may remain in you, and that your joy may be full.

IX) Because of this Paul desires these false teachers to cut themselves off

THREE APPLICATIONS

X) **First:** That they would be cut off from the church (excommunicated)

In Gal 4:17 Paul said they wanted to exclude the Galatians, from him and Jesus
Here he could be saying they should be removed from the church: as leaven

I) **Second:** it could be a wish that the false teachers would receive God's judgment

Jer 44:11 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Behold, I will set My face against you for catastrophe and for cutting off all Judah.

II) **Third:** That they would castrate themselves as the most fanatic cult followers did

In the cult of Cybele (earth mother) male followers castrated themselves

After doing so, they were given women's clothing and assumed female identities

III) Let them take their command for circumcision further

Instead of stopping at circumcision, let them show how devoted they are

IV) His pastoral love comes out

Gal 4:19 My little children for whom I labor in birth again until Christ is formed in you

V) They are trying to uproot and overthrow your faith

May they be severely dealt with

Gal 1:9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

VI) Mt 18:6 But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea.