

Galatians 5:1-12

- In this section Paul warns the Galatians of two dangers they face.
 1. Those who teach law/beggary elements as a rule of life and a means of spirituality, 1-12.
 2. Those who operate in the flesh and call it liberty , 13-15.
- We need to learn to recognize both of these groups - avoid the legalist and learn how to gain victory over the flesh

- *V2 Christ shall profit you nothing* - **nothing** - to be of no value, no advantage. Failing to stand fast, robs us of the power of Christ in our lives, and replaces it with useless self effort.
- *V4 no effect* - to become inactive, invalid, to make void.
- *fallen* - to be driven off course.
- When we replace relationship with religion, we “fall from grace.” Not a loss of salvation, but we close the door to grace and true growth.

- DANGER - the life may look good, meet the standard, but in truth it is empty, miserable, and experiencing no growth.
- *“Christianity is faith working through love, not flesh working through self effort. For the believer, any good works he is a part of are the product of his faith and not a substitute for it.”* —D. Jeremiah
- Saving faith=love - Christ honoring life and works
Ephesians 2:8-10.

- *V8 - persuasion* - a treacherous, deceptive teaching.
- A message contrary to the clear context of Scripture. The idea that anything apart from a walk of faith, empowerment by the Holy Spirit, and obedience to the Word, will grow us or make us “better” Christians is treacherous.

- V11 The offense of the cross
- Paul's sufferings Acts 16:22-23, 2 Corinthians 11:23-29, Galatians 6:17
- The cross crushes human pride (offensive to man)
- The cross for salvation - leaves out man's works, effort, and character.
- The cross for service / growth - Man's efforts apart from Christ are useless.

- The offense of the cross
- All human religious achievement apart from the empowerment of Christ is worthless(eternal value).
- Any system or way of living that takes the focus off of the complete and all sufficient work of Christ is false, empty and worthless.