

**BIBLE SURVEY, PT 8-NEW TESTAMENT
(THE EPISTLES--GALATIANS, PT 2)--
"LIMITING OUR FREEDOM IN CHST"**

>>>>We're in a "Bible Survey" series
>We've covered OT/4 Gspels/ Bk of Acts
>& now—we're taking a wk each to look
at all the major "letters" of the NT...

*Bec they define our Chr faith more
than any other part of B

>So far--we've covered Rmns/ 1&2 Cor's

*Last wk Galatians, pt 1 "Enjoying
Our Freedom in Christ"

[ENHANCED CD OR WEBSITE]

I- REVIEW

A.SAW: AP wrote Galatians in 48 AD to
the churches he'd est'd on 1st m. jour
in SEastern Turkey= "Galatia" MAP
1.Perge/ P.Antioch/ Icon/ Lystra/ Derbe
2.**Purpse=deal with** false teaching...
3. Tht'd crept in to these churches...
4.Led by a grp false tchrs: "**Judaizrs**"

B.ERROR: Jdazrs taught a "plan of salv"
=**relying on J's blood + hn wrks**"

1.They told yng Galt'n Chr's: "Yes,
trusting J's work on cross is good

2. "*But by itself—it's not enuf*"

3. "To be saved/eter life/hvn...U still hvta *becme Jsh & keep OT Law*

C. In Bk of Gal—P defends the **TRUE** Gspl

1. **Gd's TRUE** "plan of salv" fnd in B

2. **NAMELY:** "*relying on J's blood + no hmn works of any kind*"

D. **SAW:** These Judaizers were not just teaching tht hn wrks form the basis of our *salvation*

1. *ALSO teaching* tht hn wrks form the basis of our relat with God... *even AFTER* we're saved...

2. Tht Gd's love/favor *fr us as Chr's*
*Depends on our hn performance

E. In Bk of Gal--P *ALSO* refutes *this* error

F. **LOOK WHAT PAUL SAYS:**

1. Gal 3:26—"Fr thru faith in JC, U are all sons/daughters of Gd"

2. Gal 4:5—"Fr in Christ, we hve recv'd the adoption of sons/daughters."

3. Rm 6:14-(Thrfore--as an adopted child of Gd)U are not undr Law (hn-performance system w/Gd) but under grace"

ILLT: My c'ren don't have to perform any certain way to earn my love/favor

*Thy *HVE* my love/favor—nvr lose it!

***BEC THEY'RE FAMILY!**

APPL: (P) As adopted C'ren of Gd, *WE* don't hvta perform any certain way to earn Gd's love/favor

*We *HVE* His lve/favr—**NVR LOSE IT**

***BEC WE'RE FAMILY TOO!**

G. [WHY]Rm 8:39-"Nthng in creation(evn our bad perfrmance) shall be able to separate us frm the love of Gd tht's in Christ Jesus our Lord"

H.**BTTM LINE:** As F--I can do **anythng I want** w/out it evr endangerng the **family bond** btw me & my HF

1. B calls this our "**freedom in Crst**"

2.Tells us to rejoice/stand strong in it

3. Gal 5:1(P)-"It was fr frdm tht Chst set us free; threfore, stand firm in tht freedm & do not let yurself be subected again to a yoke ofbndage (ie, prfrmnce systm in rela to Gd)

K.**NOW--this wk--it's impt to bring some bib balance** to all tht we said 1st wk:

1. While it's true...tht we hve this wonderful *freedm in Chrst*...
2. It's jst as true: tht Gd asks us to *limit* tht frdm at certain x's/ crcm's

>>>>Pt 2-"Limiting our Fredm in Chrst"
[READY???

I- GALATIANS, PT 2—"LIMITING..."

- A. The dominating vs fr tdy=mem'ry vss
- B. Gal 5:13-"Fr U were calld to freedm, brethren; only do not turn yur freedm into an opprt fr the flesh"
- C. NOW—ther're 2 diff ways tht chrches try to mke sure Chr's don't do this (ie, "*turn their frdm into opport fr flesh*")
- D. WAY #1 =by legislating a list of "do's & don'ts" tht Chr's must adhere to
 - *If thy really wnta be "good Chr's"
 1. We call this "LEGALISM"
 2. & we've all seen it in action
 3. Chr's aren't allowd to go to movies / play cards/ cut grass on Sunday/ gamble/ listen to secular music/ wear two-piece/ wear short skirts/ dance/ get tatoo/ drink glass wine/
.. & Gd help U if U have a cigar

4. This "wrks approach" to Chr life
robs pple of their freedm in Chst
 *It does wht P says nottodo in Gal5:1
 *It puts us bck into a "yke of bndge"
 *Back into a prfor'ce-basd rela w/Gd
 *It trns Ch life into a life of drudgry
 *& it gives outsiders a horribly-
distorted view of true bib Chr'y
5. **& yet**--the vast majority of chrches
 / Chr org's in Amr use this METHD
 to try & keep their sheep in line

ILL: Chuck Swindoll (Grace Awakening):

"Thre are grace killers on the loose...
 Instd of gvng ple permission to be
 abslutely free in Cst, they project
 this grim-faced list of do's&don'ts,
 which results in blvrs spending
 their whole life in bondage"

**[BUT THERE'S A 2nd WAY to keep Chr's
 frm turning our freedom=license]**

- D. **WAY #2** =by teachng pple Gd's prin's
 in B for "limiting" their frdm in Chst
1. We call **THIS... "BIBLE TEACHING"**
 2. We call THIS.. "DISCIPLING PPLE"
 3. We call..."**BLDG MATURE CHR'S**

- II-This 2nd way=we do it at MBC-here go
- A. 1 Cr 10:23(P)-"All thngs may be lawful
fr me, but not all thngs are profitable
- B. **IOW**--just bc I hve freedm in Chrst to
do anythng I want w/out losing Gd's love
1. **DOES NOT MEAN**...tht I **SHOULD!**
- C. **ANTHR WAY: Gd measures sp maturity**
1. **NOT** by how much of my freedom
in Chrst I insist on exercising
2. **BUT** by hw much of it I'm willing
to defer...when Gd asks me to!
- D. To help us determine when this is...
1. Gd gives us 6 prin's in the B
2. To use as "spiritual sieves"
3. If a cntmplatd action gets caught
in 1 of these sieves--Gd's telling me
to "limit my freedom" here

III- HERE ARE THESE SIX (6) SIEVES

1- Is it intrinsicly offnsvc(sin)to Gd?

1. Adultery/ pornog/ lying/ cheating/
stealing/ other criminal activity
2. As uncomfortable as it may mke us
*Our freedm in Chrst applics here
*Rm 8:39-"Nothing in creation...
3. **BUT**-Gd tells us not to exrcise our

freedm in Chst in these areas
of **SIN...OUT OF LOVE FR HM**

4. 1 Pt 1:14-"As obedient c'rn...like the Holy One who calld U, be holy in all yur behavior"
5. V.16-"Fr it is written, 'U shall be holy, for I am holy.'"

#2-If I do it, will it harm *me* physcally?

- 1.1 Cor 6:19-"Your body is a Temple of the HS, who is in U, whom U've received from Gd. U are not your own, U were bought w/a price. Thrfre, honor God in yur body"

2. Thre're lots of thngs we hve *freedm in Chst*—but which will harm our bodies--whch are **not** our proprty

ILLST: As F, do I have *freedom* to smoke cigarettes? **Yes, you do!**

APPL: But smkng-related illnesses cause more deaths than any other activ'ty

ILLUST: As F, do I have *freedom* to drink a bottle of whsky evry nite? **Yes, U do**

A: But jst ask yur *liver* hw it feels ab this

#3-If I do this, will it help me sp'lly?

- 1.Heb 12:1--"Let us throw off every

weight, & the sin tht so easily besets us, so we can run with endurance the race that is set before us”

2. So here’s Q: ”Will this action help mke me a mn/wn of Gd--or will it be extra wght tht slows me dwn sp’ly

ILL:Baseball game--batter in the on-deck circle-uses donut on bat(extra weight) to warm up & get ready to bat

*But in 50 yrs of watching baseball

*I’ve never seen a batter go up to the plate with donut on his bat

*Want as little weight on bat as poss

AP: IN SAME WAY--Gd tells us not to load lives up with “extra weight” sp’lly

*Tht turns our "race for Gd" into a "crawl for Gd"

3. Gofrm "preachin" to "meddling"

*Noway a F can watch movies with nudity & explicit sexuality--& claim this is helping thm sp’lly

**”Free” to do it? YES!

**“Sp’lly profitable”? NO!

*No way a F can date a non-blvr who’s cnstantly urging thm to

do things tht disobey Gd--&
claim this is helping thm sp'lly
"Free" to do it? **YES!

"Sp'lly profitable"? **NO!

4. **I think we all get the idea!**

5. If it's not sp'lly helpful—don't do it

4-If I do this, will it identify me with
unrighteous thngs even tho I may not
actually be doing anything wrong?

*1 Th 5:22-"Avoid all ap'rance of evil

2. Rom 14:16--"Do not let your good
be evil spoken of"

ILL: Guy-spent nite at fiance's apt

*He: "I slept on the couch!"

*He: "Thre's no vs in B tht says 'Thou
shalt not spend night at fiance's
apt'--I have freedm in Chst here"

*I: "**Indeed U do**-but let me remind U

**"Whn U come outa her apt at
8AM the next morning...

**"Thre's not one prsn in that apt
complex who's gonna assume
tht U slept on the couch!

APPL: Many times, we can exercise some

freedom in Chrst with a pure heart

*But Q: "Give off aper'ce of evil?" **NO!**

5-If...will it hurt a flw blvr's Chr walk?

1.Rom 14:21--"It is not good to eat
meat or drink wine or do [**SAY**]
ANYTHING tht causes yur
brother (sister) to stumble"

ILL: Ladies-as F, do U have the *freedom
in Chrst* to wear really short skirt? **YES!**

Frdm* to wear a tiny 2-piece? **YES!

*But there's not a normal Chr male in
existence fr whm this isn't going
to stir up impulses tht he's *trying
hard to control* for Christ's sake

*Whn U do this--U're hurtnng yur Chr
brother/& *misusing* frdm in Chst

IL: **Men**--we can do this by inviting a Chr
brthr who's in AA--to come watch the
game-& thn *breaking out the beers*

APP: **LISTEN**: The *mark* of a *mature FOC*
is the attitude that says:

*"I care so much ab my *flw Chr's walk*

*Tht I'll set aside *any freedm I hve to*
in order not to **hurt** their walk

E. # 6-If I do this, will it hurt my platform

for evangelism with non-blvrs?

1. Col 4:5--"Walk in wisdom when it comes to those who are outsiders"

2. In 1 Cor 9, P lists all the liberties he has as an Apostle of LJC

*Then he says: (1 Cor 9:12)--"But I hve used *none* of these rights, lest I hinder the Gspel of Chrt"

3. Folks--once we "go public for JC"... pple start *watching us like a hawk*

*& they hve certain *expectations* as to how a Chr shld act

*We mght not*like* these.but thy're *real...& often deeply felt*

*& if we *violate* thm(freedom)— it'll destroy our evag platfrm

SAY: "Why shld I let some non-blvr put *THEIR* limits on *MY freedom in Chst*"

A:Bc-*hopefully-like AP*-we believe tht ple's souls=more impt...thn our Chr lib'ties

CONCLUSION

>>>>In B--Gd gives us 6 sieves to pass every exercise of our *frdm in C* thru

>>>>If gets caught--"*limit*" our "freedm"
#1-If, will it *offnd holinss of Gd(sin?)*

#2-If I do, will it harm me physically?

#3-If I do, will it help me spiritually?

#4-If I do, will it cause ple to think I'm doing smthing wrong--even if not?

#5-If I do, will it hurt the sp. walk of anothr brother/sister in Christ?

#6-If I do this, will it compromise my evangelistic platform w/non-blvr's?

SAY: **WOW!** Afr I pass something thru all these sieves—thre're a lot of things I hve the freedom to do—but shouldn't!

A: **BINGO!**

>>>>REM: Gd measures sp maturity:

1. NOT by how much of my freedom in Chrst I insist on exercising

2. BUT by hw much of it I'm willing to defer... when Gd asks me to!

>>>This is the bib balance—of how to exercise our freedm in Christ in a respon'ble, godly way