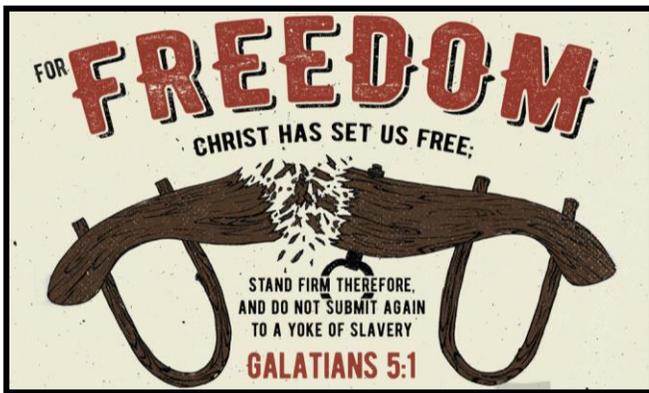


# WINTER QUARTER SUNDAY SCHOOL 2016-2017

## THEME: CREATION AND SALVATION

### UNIT THREE – THE CHURCH IS BORN

#### “STAYING THE COURSE—LIBERTY TO DO THE RIGHT THING”



Sunday School Lesson No. XII— February 19, 2017  
Presented by Rev. Frank A. Davis, III  
Pastor-Teacher

Lesson Text: Galatians 5:1-17  
Required Reading: Galatians 5:1-17  
Motto Text: 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.”

Reliable Resources: Precepts for Living by UMI; Union Gospel Press Expositor and Illuminator; Word Search 10

Electronic Library; Libronix Electronic Library; H. L. Wilmington’s Bible Handbook; Key Words of the Christian Life by Dr. Warren Wiersbe; Galatians Commentary by Lehman Strauss; Butler’s Analytical Bible Expositor

#### INTRODUCTION

As we focus on the lesson this week, we continue to be challenged by the Apostle Paul to stay the course. This is what he wanted the believers at the Galatians churches to do. Paul had laid the proper foundation of Christian Doctrine in the previous chapters. He positively identified himself and his adversary so that the Galatians could be reminded of their own Christian origins.

Paul opens Chapter 5 by placing before the church the freedom they have in Christ to fulfill their Christian **duty**! In Chapter 4 beloved, remember Paul’s contrast between the son of Hagar and the son of Sarah to illustrate that believers who wished to prove their Christianity by adding the deeds of the Law were reverting to the Old Covenant of Law! It was as though they were placing themselves under slavery with a cruel taskmaster, and not living under Grace, which they were called unto by Paul’s preaching. A review of Chapter 4:19-31 truly illustrates that God was not calling the Christians back to a life by which even Israel could not be justified! Paul remembered what God said to Abraham in Genesis 21, “**Cast out the bond woman and her son.**” Now beloved, if he who was born in bondage had to be cast out of Abraham’s house, will God allow the believer to revert from Grace back to the deeds of the Law to remain saved? The answer is found in Galatians 4:30, “**Cast out the bondwoman and her son...**” The church is not under the schoolmaster of the Law, but is under the Gospel of Grace! The motive of the Law was “do to avoid punishment;” the motive of Grace is “do out of a loving relationship of thanksgiving what has already been done in love!”

Now let us Stay the Course by using our Liberty To Do The Right Thing! Now beloved, Paul’s adversaries the Judaizers, contended that Grace was a license to sin! But Paul contended that one who is truly born again would never misuse their Liberty!

#### Anticipated Power Points:

- We Stand as God’s Finished Product. Galatians 5:1-4
- We Stand in God’s Forgiving Power. Galatians 5:5-6
- We Stand in Christ in Spite of Foolish Persuasions. Galatians 5:7-10
- We Stand Despite Fearful Persecutions. Galatians 5:11-12
- We Stand as Faithful Presenters of Christ’s Cause. Galatians 5:13-17

#### LESSON OUTLINE

We Have Liberty To Do The Right Thing because...

##### I. We Stand as God’s Finished Product. Galatians 5:1-4

(When Jesus died at Calvary, He said “*It is finished.*”) John 19:30

- A. We are no longer slaves. vs. 1 (Galatians 4:7)
- B. We are not bound to old signs. vss. 2-3 (Circumcision)
- C. We cannot bear our own sins. vs. 4

Note: Paul wanted the Galatians to know that one is not saved two ways! They had already received Christ by Grace, and to move from that state mentally or physically only placed an extra burden on them that was not from Christ. (Watchman Nee says “Law means I must do something for God; grace means that God does something for me.” They were sons, not slaves! Yet the Judaizers would have them live like slaves to a Law they could never fulfill. Remember as believers **WE STAND AS FINISHED PRODUCTS!**

We have Liberty to do the Right Thing because...

**II. We Stand in God’s Forgiving Power. Galatians 5:5-6**

It is not through acts of righteous deeds in the flesh that we know that we are forgiven! But Paul declares the work of God’s forgiveness in us in Galatians 2:20. We are crucified with Christ...! I John 3:14 *“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren...”*

We have Liberty to do the Right Thing because...

**III. We Stand in Christ in Spite of Foolish Persuasions. Galatians 5:7-10**

**A. The Galatians started a good race. vs. 7**

**B. The Galatians nearly shipwrecked to ruin. vss. 8-9**

Beware of leaven. It only takes a little poison to ruin an entire dinner. II Kings 4 tells of a prophet, wanting to add to the dinner pot of the prophets, added something that would have brought death to the pot. But thank God, the Lord’s senior prophet brought healing to the consumers.

**C. The Galatians were safe in God’s righteousness. Jude 24, “Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy.”**

We have Liberty to do the Right Thing because...

**IV. We Stand Despite Fearful Persecutions. Galatians 5:11-12**

The price of presenting Christ can be very high! Paul understood that and was willing to suffer persecution to his very testimony for standing true to Christ’s Truth! People will never forget your past, so we must keep fervent our present, which will one day become our past!

We have Liberty to do the Right Thing because...

**V. We Stand as Faithful Presenters of Christ’s Cause. Galatians 5:13-17**

Paul concludes the lesson this week by reminding all believers that our standing in liberty will never lead us to fulfill personal and selfish desires! We stand as faithful presenters of Christ! In other words, when we have a situation before us we ask, “What Would Christ Do?”

**A. Our liberty should not be a launching pad for sinful, selfish practices. vs. 13**

**B. Our liberty should imitate the “Golden Rule”: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”** Paul quoted Leviticus 19:18 to the Galatians which even demonstrated that the ethics of the Law would make one neighbor-conscious.

**C. Our liberty should cause us to look before we leap!** Paul pictures a den of ravenous beasts without regard for one another, self-willed and destructive!

**D. Our liberty is a gift to use only for God’s glory. vss. 16-17**

How are you using the liberty you have received in Christ Jesus? Where do you stand? Those of us who are using our liberty for Christ will not use it as a **license to sin**, but as a tool to **love the brethren!** Liberty does not work when one walks in the flesh, but when we walk in the Spirit.

**CLOSING**

**Beloved, Stand...**As God’s Finished Product...In God’s Forgiving Power...In Christ in Spite of Foolish Persuasions...  
Despite Fearful Persecutions...As Faithful Presenters of Christ’s Cause! My friend, I ask today: **“Where Do You Stand?”**

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**Bibleway Missionary Baptist Church, New Orleans and Little Bethel Baptist Church, Amite City, LA**

**Mailing Address: Post Office Box 19768, New Orleans, LA 70179-0768**

**Phone: (504) 486-7876 Email: [bible32@bellsouth.net](mailto:bible32@bellsouth.net)**

**Website: [www.thestudyhour.com](http://www.thestudyhour.com)**

**TV Broadcast: WHNO TV-Channel 20, Sunday, 6:30 a.m.**

**Looking Ahead**

**February 26, 2017**

**Galatians 5:18 – 6:10**

