

The Practical Side

Gal 5

1. Intro

1. Last week we saw Paul telling us that the Law was like a guardian to us; useful until we came of age (Christ).
2. He reminds them not to turn back to the basic elements that they were freed from.
3. And then he gives the an illustration concerning Hagar and Sarah, bondage vs freedom.
4. Today he moves us from a doctrinal position to one of application
 1. How do we then live out our life?
5. He first states that there is a distraction that is causing them problems.
6. He then moves to the battle between our natural self and what the Spirit desire
7. He concludes with a comparison of the works of the natural and the works of the Spirit.

2. Summary (1)

1. Paul gives a summary of everything that has gone on before. (1)
 1. We have been given freedom which is the redemptive work of Christ.
 2. "Make sure", shows the commitment required to maintain our freedom.
 3. "Again" is falling back into their former pagan beliefs and practices.

3. The Distraction (2-12)

1. Circumcision would give them superior spiritual status (2-4)
 1. It would be like bringing superstition into our belief of Jesus.
2. The bottom line is that our faith working through love (6)
3. They had started out well, but were beginning to get sidetracked (7)
 1. He equates the distraction as yeast in dough (9)
4. He then gets very personal to those that are trying to bring this about. (10, 12)

4. The War Within (13-21)

1. Paul's makes it clear that the freedom which the gospel gives is not the freedom to sin, but freedom from sin. (13)
2. Biblical freedom does not cater to the flesh, but crucifies it (cf. 24) (13)
3. Loving your neighbour (14) is the outworking of loving Christ (Matt 22:36-7)
 1. A horizontal relationship revealing itself from the working out of the vertical relationship.
4. Our natural desires are in opposition to the desires of the Holy Spirit. (17)
 1. Each of us battle daily with the things that Paul lists here.
5. The continued practice of any fleshly desire is going to affect our relationship with the One who saved us. (21b)
 1. How can I taint a life that Christ has paid for?

5. The Outworking (22-26)

1. The results of having the Spirit at work in our lives is the fruit that it bears.
2. There is no law that will produce such things (23b) (they are internal)

3. If we belong to Christ we will have crucified (nailed) those passions to the Cross. (24; xf 19-20)
 1. Those things are dead to us. We do not dig up dead things and revive them.
4. Paul sends a caution about thinking too much of ourselves.

6. Application

1. Circumcision doesn't apply to us today (as law), but we must be aware of any return to the Law that draws us away from grace.
 1. Be careful of putting something in place to increase our "spiritual status" (or decrease)
2. If it is better to "keep out" of sin than to "get out,".
3. Scripture should be the mirror that we use to look at our lives.
 1. The use of scripture should give us foresight.
 2. Foresight is considering the implications of our actions.

7. Conclusion

1. Are there things in our lives that are causing us distractions?
2. Are we victorious in the battle between the natural and the Spiritual?
3. Can people look at us and identify us as Christians because we show the fruit of the Spirit?