

GALATIANS
Heaven's Freedom!
Complete, Wonderful Freedom in the Anointed One!
Pastor Katy Reeves

REVIEW:

First and foremost, the true gospel is about the grace of God, through the Messiah, taking away the sins of the world and through that grace-gospel, transforming back into the image of the Creator God--becoming once again sons and daughters of the Most High God. If people tell us differently, "let them be condemned and cursed." (1:9)

The revelation of the grace gospel came from God. Not only that, this grace gospel has been entrusted to the Church by Jesus Christ Himself!

While denominational affiliation is okay, sometimes it can lead to what Peter struggled with: religiosity in addition to our relationship with Christ. Let's follow Paul's advice by acting consistently with the revelation of grace by dying to our old identities--even religious ones. Let's identify simply as a Christian--a "little Christ", as the word means literally.

At the heart of the grace gospel is the revelation-truth that we're made right with God by what HE has done for US. Jesus freed us from the curse of the law so we can serve and love God without the fear of not being enough.

Remember that we only receive God's righteousness by faith in Jesus, not by keeping the law.

Jesus expanded the law that the Jews had been taught; He made it a matter of the heart, not the works of the flesh. In the Kingdom it's all about your motive AND your obedience, not *just* your obedience.

It is through that faith that grace is released to transform us into the image of God, which is LOVE.

Galatians 5:1-14 Passion Translation – A Life of Freedom

Let me be clear, the Anointed One has set us free—not partially, but completely and wonderfully free! We must always cherish this truth and stubbornly refuse to go back into the bondage of our past.

I, Paul, tell you: If you think there is benefit in circumcision and

Jewish regulations, then you're acting as though Jesus the Anointed One is not enough. I say it again emphatically: If you let yourselves be circumcised you are obliged to fulfill every single one of the commandments and regulations of the law!

If you want to be made holy by fulfilling the obligations of the law, you have cut off more than your flesh—you have cut yourselves off from the Anointed One and have fallen away from the revelation of grace!

But the Holy Spirit convinces us that we have received by faith the glorious righteousness of the Anointed One. When you're placed into the Anointed One and joined to him, circumcision and religious obligations can benefit you nothing. All that matters now is living in the faith that is activated and brought to perfection by love.

Before you were led astray, you were so faithful to Messiah. Why have you now turned away from what is right and true? Who has deceived you?

The One who enfolded you into His grace is not behind this false teaching that you've embraced. Not at all! Don't you know that when you allow even a little lie into your heart, it can permeate your entire belief system?

Deep in my heart I have faith that the Lord Jesus the Anointed One, who lives in you, will bring you back around to the truth. And I'm convinced that those who agitate you, whoever they think they are, will be brought under God's judgment!

Dear friends, why do you think the religious system persecutes me? Is it because I preach the message of being circumcised and keeping all the laws of Judaism? Not at all! Is there no longer any offense over the cross? To tell you the truth, I am so disgusted with all your agitators—I wish they would go even further and cut off their legalistic influence from your lives!

Beloved ones, God has called us to live a life of freedom in the Holy Spirit. But don't view this wonderful freedom as an opportunity to set up a base of operations in the natural realm. Freedom means that we become so completely free of self-indulgence that we become servants of one another, expressing love in all we do.

For love completes the laws of God. All of the law can be summarized in one grand statement: Demonstrate love to your neighbor, even as you care for and love yourself.

The Apostle Paul opens with remarkable truth: Jesus, the Anointed One, has set us free!

- Not partially free.
- Not halfway or almost free.
- Not even 99.99% free.
- He has set us completely and wonderfully free!

Free from what?

- The bondage of our past religious rituals and regulations!
- Religious rituals don't do what we think they do.
- Instead of leading to life, they lead to death.
- Instead of freedom, there's bondage.
- Instead of 'making it', we find that we've 'missed it'.

The grace gospel is different.

- In light of God's love-gift, we don't read our Bibles because we HAVE to but because the rarest treasures of life are found in His Truth...
- Nothing brings the soul such sweetness as seeking His living Words.

We follow Jesus in obedience, not out of obligation but because Jesus is gentle, humble, easy to please, and because it is in Him that we find refreshment and rest.

- Did you notice how passionate and fiery Paul is in these verses?
- It is a very serious matter, this false gospel that had captured the Galatians.
- Paul could not have been more clear in verse 1: In the Anointed One we have total and complete freedom—there are no requirements other than faith in Him.
- You cannot be in faith and in disobedience.
- Obedience is only found in faith.

Think about it: every time we obey His Word; every time we yield to His instructions; every time we follow His ways, we are operating in faith.

- Faith is what you believe.
- Faith is being fully convinced.
- Faith is what pleases God.
- *Obedience is what the faith life looks like.*

If you believe Jesus when He tells you to 'give generously and you will experience abundance'; and you *do* give generously--you are

demonstrating faith that you believe you will experience abundance.

- Every time you obey His Word you show Him that you really love Him and you trust His Word to be true.
- AND! You can expect supernatural help when needed!
- You have accessed Heaven's resources when you obey His ways.
- Other examples?

Paul is telling us that when you add to simple faith rules and regulations, you are telling Jesus that what He did on the cross was not enough.

- What really happens is this: simple faith is not enough, because folks don't want to obey ALL that Jesus tells them to do so they try to figure a way around the things that they don't want to obey by adding things that they can do to replace the ones that they don't want to do.
- In doing this they think they can appease God by reasoning, 'Well, I'm not doing everything Jesus says to do, but I'm doing extra things that will make up for it.'
- Do you see this is what the religious folks of Jesus' day were doing?
- Nullifying the Law with their man-made traditions.
- Paul is clearly and passionately telling us that this is a false gospel!

If you embrace rules and regulations, then you are no longer operating in simple faith.

- You have cut yourself off from the Anointed One.
- You have fallen away from the revelation of grace!
- Grace is what transforms you back into the image of God!
- The goal is to become the good tree, where producing good fruit just comes naturally.

When you are IN the Anointed One all that matters is living in the faith that is activated and brought to perfection by love.

- Religious obligations can benefit you nothing if you are in Christ.
- Do not be led astray by this false teaching.
- If you allow just a little lie in your heart, it can permeate your entire belief system!
- That was worth repeating.
- Just a little yeast will contaminate the entire dough.
- Just a little lie will mess up your entire belief system.
- Guard your heart; guard what you believe; make sure it's Truth.

Believe the Truth; and make sure you believe ALL the truth.

- Don't be religious and pick and choose what you will believe and what you will replace with religious traditions.
- We are accountable for the Truth that we know.
- This is the danger that Paul is talking about.
- The Galatians knew the Truth, but were led astray to believe that what Jesus did was not enough...this lie, if believed will cause a ripple effect in your belief system.
- "What else is not accurate?"...
- This thinking leads to the way that 'seems' right; which leads to death...

God has called us to live a life of freedom in the Holy Spirit.

- But freedom is not an opportunity to set up a base of operations in the natural realm.
- I love this wording!
- It's not a reason to live from the flesh.
- Freedom means that we become so completely free from self-indulgence that we become servants of one another expressing love in all we do!
- See, love completes the laws of God!
- All the law can be summed up in 'demonstrate love to your neighbor, even as you care for and love yourself.'

There is no other law that needs to be kept. Love fulfills every law!

- You are free from religious duty.
- Free from working for God's love.
- Free from legalistic rituals.
- All that counts is faith expressing itself through love!