

LAW AND LIBERTY

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ON LINE HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

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Lesson 1

CHRISTIAN LIBERTY

Scripture to be studied: Galatians 5:1-14

The aim of the lesson: To challenge students to become love slaves of Jesus Christ.

What your students should know: Christian liberty is freedom to serve the Lord by helping others.

What your students should feel: Gratitude to God for the liberty He gives.

What your students should do: Each day this week, out of pure love for God and His Son, do something that will help either a weak Christian or one who is not a Christian.

Lesson outline (for teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Law is slavery, (Galatians 5:1b-4).
2. Liberty is freedom, (Galatians 5:1).
3. Liberty is governed by love, (Galatians 5:6, 13).
4. Liberty results in service, (Galatians 5:13b).

The verse to be memorized:

Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
(Galatians 5:16)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

In the book of Galatians, Paul explains that the Galatian believers fell from their high position in God's grace to the level of trying to earn salvation. As a result they were bound like slaves, unable to enjoy the freedom which Christ gives His own. In the light of what he has taught in the four opening chapters of the book, Paul uses the last two chapters to discuss Christian liberty and the correct way to practice it. This series, therefore, is extremely practical and deserves serious study.

THE LESSON

Most people today are treated kindly by their masters (employers). This was not always so. In early Bible times servants were often slaves. If they failed to do what their masters required, they were beaten like animals. (See Exodus 1:11; 3:7; 5:6, 10, 13-14.) When the Israelites were the Egyptian's slaves, they cried to God to be set free. They hated their slavery.

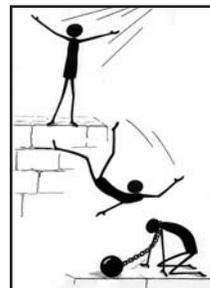
God answered them saying, "I have heard your groanings . . . I will bring you out from slavery . . . I will make you free. (See Exodus 6:5-7.) In due time God kept His promise and

His people were set free. That was certainly a wonderful day.

The Galatians, too, were once slaves, slaves to the false gods which they worshiped. Their idol worship filled them with fear. Then Paul preached the Gospel of salvation to them. They received it gladly, found peace and happiness through trusting in the Saviour, and were free from their slavish idol worship.

1. LAW IS SLAVERY

Galatians 5:1b-4



Show Illustration #1

For a while the Galatians enjoyed God's saving grace. (*Teacher:* Point to figure on top line.) Then some other teachers taught them that receiving Christ as Saviour was not enough. If they wanted to be certain of eternal life, they would also have to observe special days and perform rituals contained in the Jewish law. Unfortunately, the Galatians accepted this false teaching.

So Paul wrote them, "Do not allow yourselves to be bound like slaves. You used to be slaves to sin. Now you are making yourselves slaves to the law. You have fallen down from the heights of grace." (See Galatians 5:1-4.)

Instead of enjoying God's gift of free salvation, the Galatians were making slaves of themselves by trying to follow part of the law. (*Teacher:* Point to chained figure on bottom line.)

Have you made the same mistake as the Galatians? You may have thought, I have been saved by God's grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Now I must do or not do certain things if I am to be KEPT saved. The result is that you're never certain that you've done enough right things or that you've done too many wrong things. And you're never sure of your salvation. Not being sure of your salvation is the worst kind of slavery. Like oxen in a yoke, you are in bondage (Galatians 5:1). You are not free.

2. LIBERTY IS FREEDOM

Galatians 5:1

Paul says to you (as he said to the Galatians), "Because Christ has set you free, stand fast in that liberty . . . for you