

"On the Way" 365 Bible Reading Plan**GALATIANS 5****Galatians 5**

"Stand Fast Therefore" are the first words of chapter 5 of Galatians. Paul has taken the previous chapters to explain the essentials of salvation by grace through faith, plus or minus nothing. He has made clear the purpose of God's law. The law was never meant to be a means of salvation but rather a child-conductor to take us to the Master who can alone grant us life and liberty. The Galatians needed to hear from the Apostle Paul that if he or anyone else preached another Jesus than the one who was preached to them, they were false apostles and would be cursed.

This is a current problem in our culture among many churches. People are preaching a Jesus other than Jesus, the spotless Son of God and the only means of salvation. Jesus is altogether Holy and the One who demands repentance and trust as the means of procuring salvation.

"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage." (Galatians 5:1) "The yoke of bondage" is any teaching that adds anything to the means of salvation other than trusting Jesus alone! It is not Jesus, plus baptism. It is not Jesus plus holding on. It is not Jesus plus anything. It is Jesus and His substitutionary death, burial, and resurrection to pay

for our sins. Consistently and confluent throughout the Bible, repentance and trusting in God's provision for salvation through blood is the only way to be saved. But once a person is saved, their life is brand new. Their life is changed forever. This does not mean that there will be perfection or perfect obedience for the rest of one's life or that there will not be failures and sin in someone's life. What it does mean is that there is a heart change. There is a lifestyle change in attitude and behavior. There is a change in how one views God and the Son of God, the Lord Jesus of Nazareth. According to verse one, this is a choice to be made in fulfilling a direct command. Choose not to be entangled in a "yoke of bondage." A yoke is an idiomatic way of speaking of a teaching or way of life. You will begin to love Jesus, and He will become precious to you.

When the Lord said, **"Come unto me all you that are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest, take my yoke upon you and learn of me..."** (Matthew 11:28-29) He was, in effect, saying, "Enroll in my school." This is why He said, **"and learn of me..."** A yoke was a teaching, a doctrine. Peter said, **"You have put a yoke on us that neither we nor our fathers could bear."** (Acts 15:10. **Emphasis mine**)

Trust in Jesus, and your attitude and behavior will change, and you will begin to love Jesus!

Prayer and Action Steps

Lord, thank You for saving me. Help me to live for You and love You more. Amen