

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 02 Sept Galatians 1:1-24 True Gospel
- 2) 09 Sept Galatians 2:1-21 True Grace
- 3) 16 Sept Galatians 3:1-22 True Life
- 4) 23 Sept Galatians 3:23-29; 4:1-7 True Heirs
- 5) 30 Sept Galatians 4:8-31 True Freedom
- 6) 07 Oct Galatians 5:1-26 True Fruit**
- 7) 14 Oct Galatians 6:1-18 True Compassion
- 8) 21 Oct James 1:1-18 With Perseverance
- 9) 28 Oct James 1:19-27 With Obedience
- 10) 04 Nov James 2:1-26 With Works
- 11) 11 Nov James 3:1-18 With Control
- 12) 18 Nov James 4:1-17 With Submission
- 13) 25 Nov James 5:1-20 With Anticipation

INTRODUCTION

- Paul uses some strong language again to persuade his friends to get back on the right track, "You have fallen from grace..."
- Then he shows how we can know we are living by the Spirit when we see specific characteristics or fruit come out in our words and actions
- In essence, Paul shows that the LAW, if adhered to as God designed it for us, shows forth our LOVE for Him and for others

Passage	Comments
Gal 5:1	<p>Freedom in Christ vs Slavery to the World</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we stand firm in our faith? <input type="checkbox"/> We are obedient to God's word while being blessed or under duress <input type="checkbox"/> We opt to take the path of least resistance and do things the easy way or the way we feel like it • How do we subject ourselves to slavery? <input type="checkbox"/> We take the path of least resistance and do things the easy way or the way we feel like it <input type="checkbox"/> We opt to be obedient to God's word while being blessed or under duress
5:2-6	<p>How to Fall from Grace</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v4. We "Fall from Grace" when we chose not to do things God's way – but our way. Falling from grace is not losing one's salvation, but stepping outside the provisional care of God where our selfish or sinful ways withhold good things from us Jeremiah 5:25 • We must position ourselves to be blessed by God or Fall into His Grace by being obedient to His moral laws, not to the defunct or fulfilled ceremonial laws. • v6. How does Faith work through Love? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Consider this. When we choose to be obedient to God's moral laws and principles (e.g., be kind one to another, encourage one another, keep speed limit) Then God works through our words and actions to accomplish great things for His kingdom and allow all things to work for our good .. Jn 14:15; Rom 8:28
5:7-12	<p>Tough Language for a Serious Problem</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • vv7 & 12. "Who hindered you?" "May they CASTRATE themselves" Tough language from an Apostle. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Paul is using a play on words for emphasis. ♦ Is Paul making a mountain out of a molehill? Or is legalism that deadly? Yes, legalism is that deadly! • v11. If circumcision or any other false teachings are needed to save us or make us better believers, then the Lord's death on the cross was in vain
5:13-15	<p>Fulfill the Law Through Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul basically is saying if we are not loving one another then we are devouring one another. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ What would this look like in church? <input type="checkbox"/> It's all about me! <input type="checkbox"/> If I don't get my way, there is Hell to pay <input type="checkbox"/> What you have to say is nonsense • Ponder this. The 10 Commandments are about LOVE

The Laws of God (Ex 20) are All About Love for Him & for Others

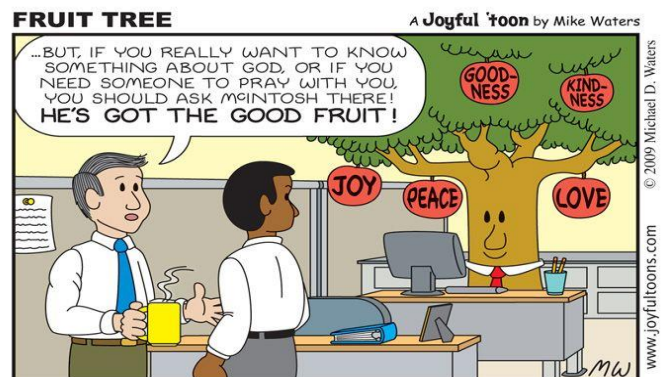
1. You shall have no other gods before Me.	1. Love God with your whole heart, soul, and mind
2. You shall not make idols.	2. You are solely devoted to God
3. You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain.	3. You respect Him too much to dishonor Him
4. Keep the Sabbath day holy	4. You are holy as God is holy
5. Honor your Mom and Dad	5. You love your parents
6. You shall not murder.	6. You love your neighbor
7. You shall not commit adultery	7. You respect neighbor's wife
8. You shall not steal.	8. You respect neighbor's goods
9. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.	9. You look after your neighbor's reputation
10. You shall not covet.	10. You seek neighbor's welfare

Passage	Comments
5:16-18	<p>Walk by the Spirit – Be Obedient</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v16. There is nothing mystical or magical about "walking by the Spirit." It simply means being intentionally obedient to God's moral laws. Then God can lead. • v17. Yet, we know our selfish or fleshly desires pulls hard on us. Oh, who will win the battle? Rom 7:24 • v18. If we are obedient to God's word, then we are being led by His Spirit – and we are not under the Law! The Law is only for Law-breakers 1Tim 1:9
5:19-21	<p>The Deeds of the Flesh</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fifteen wicked or unsavory behaviors are listed • Can Christians do these sins? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No • v21. Those who habitually "practice" such sins seem doomed for Hell. They have no interest in repenting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ If a true child of God is caught up in such sins, their Heavenly Father has the right to discipline them, and possibly bring them home early 1Cor 11:30
5:22-23	<p>The Fruit of the Spirit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eight savory behaviors or characteristics are listed for a vibrant Christian. How many are evident in our lives? <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> One <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> All • v23. "...against such there is no law" again, see 1Tim 1:9
5:24-26	<p>Crucify Wrong Passions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v24. How do we crucify our fleshly desires? Don't feed them! Live, Walk, be Led by the Spirit. This is done by Obedience • v26. Now, the hard part. Once we are living, walking, and being led by the Spirit, because we are obedient believers, don't stick your nose up at others and be arrogant & boastful

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- It is very possible to live and walk by the Spirit as we intentionally obey God's word. We may not be perfect at it at all times, but God sees our heart's intent, and He then is able to lead us.

NEXT WEEK: Galatians 6. Paul demonstrates how we can fulfill the LAW of Christ by showing LOVE to those around us



The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. — PROVERBS 11:30 NIV