

FOOD TIME: (30-45 minutes) – Remember to give some direction for this time.

MEETING TIME: (45 minutes)

Galatians chapter 5 is such a powerful chapter because it reminds us of the freedom that we have under Christ. Paul's exhortation of that is one that focuses on the sacrifice that Jesus has made for all. He speaks this to a church that is locked in that justification of the law. They have a hard time understanding that the law was a guide for them, but it was fulfilled with the sacrifice that Jesus made on the cross. Paul is reminding us here that the Spirit is the one that takes over as our Guide and our Counselor. The freedom that comes from being led by the Spirit is one that provides a life that is guided by faith in our Savior. That spiritual freedom means that we can surrender things to Him in the knowledge that through Him, we can overcome that yoke of bondage.

READ Galatians 5:1-6

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. **2** Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. **3** And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. **4** You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by the law; you have fallen from grace. **5** For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. **6** For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision no uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

FACILITATE Discussion Questions

1. What is Paul telling the church to stand fast in and why?
2. Why is it so difficult sometimes to not be entangled with that yoke of bondage?
3. How is justifying the law going to make someone fall from grace?
4. When someone does get stuck in that cycle, who can we lead them to and why?
5. Verse s 5 and 6 are so powerful. How can you walk out your faith so that others may no longer be under the yoke of bondage?

PRAY- Take the last 10 minutes to pray about the needs of the group.

APPLICATION- Paul here continues to bless us with such powerful words of exhortation. Verses 5 and 6 encapsulate the message here as he brings everything back to the redemptive power of Jesus Christ in our lives. That we should live in the hope of His righteousness by faith, and that it is through our faith in Him that we can love. As an application piece this week, there are two things to think about. First, is there something that you are currently struggling with surrendering to God? Is it something that you have sat in condemnation over and are becoming convicted to change because God is calling you to? If so, pray to the Lord that He can lift that weight off our shoulders. Surrender it to Him. Second, as you know the freedom that Christ provides through our salvation, ask yourself how you are living in grace, and how you show that in your everyday actions. Are you someone that says all the right things, but then when no one is looking, you act a completely different way? If we live out that character that God wants us to live out, then others will recognize that and see that we live so that God's name can be glorified in everything that we do. It is a hard challenge this week but look to how you can show that grace that Christ shows us on a daily basis.