

**Lesson 8 - Galatians 5:1-15****Main Idea**

Paul urges his readers to resist the dangerous message of bondage and encourages them to live in the freedom of Christ.

**Study Questions**

1. Respond to this sentiment: Adding a little to the gospel is not a major problem, as long as we believe in the cross.
2. What does it mean to be set free by Christ?
3. Does eternal security give us freedom to sin without fear of the consequences? Explain. Now do many in our culture define freedom? How does Paul define it?
4. What is the difference between the kind of work that misses God's grace and the kind that pleases him?
5. Does the phrase "fallen from grace" (5:4) refer to losing your salvation? If not, then what does it mean?
6. If we are already made righteous in Christ, then to what does the phrase "the hope of righteousness" refer?
7. Explain the difference between hope as the Bible defines it and hope as many people use the word today?
8. What was your reaction to Paul's words in 5:12? Why do you think he said that?

9. Why should our freedom in Christ lead us to a life of love for one another and our neighbours?
10. Have you ever seen people in the church “bite and devour one another”? (5:15). What were the causes? How does this passage speak to this problem?

### **Gospel Glimpses<sup>1</sup>**

**Hope of Righteousness.** What we feel about ourselves right now I neither what we truly are nor what we will one day be. Whereas our society is driven by external markers of status and worth, the Christian’s vindication is currently hidden. The Spirit gives us faith that on the last day we will share in the glorious righteousness of Christ. We will then know with certainty that we are approved and loved by God, even if the reality is hard for us to recognize right now. And we will be transformed into Christ’s likeness, so that we are perfect in every way, without any remaining blemish of sin. The Christian life in this age is a life of waiting, holding on to this certain hope even as we don’t fully experience it. This confidence of our future righteousness is what enables us at present to forgo the natural striving to exalt ourselves in the eyes of others.

### **Personal Reflection**

- In what ways is this text relevant to your life?
- What steps can you take this week to put what Paul says into practice?
- List any questions you have about 5:1-15.

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<sup>1</sup> Geoff Ziegler, Galatians pg.65