

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS **NO OTHER GOSPEL:**
FREEDOM IN CHRIST

LESSON 11: "Live Free or Die"

Date: November 30, 2014

TEXT: Galatians 5:1-12

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, the history of Christianity has been filled with freedom fighters like Martin Luther and the apostle Paul. Both men believed in the motto "live _____ or _____" in their spiritual ministries. And, yet, whereas that motto is meant to communicate the ultimate _____ that patriots are willing to pay in order for political liberty to be enjoyed, it means more than that in the examples of Martin Luther and the apostle Paul. As Paul writes this letter to the Galatian Christians, that motto actually describes what he knows to be at _____ in the battle for spiritual liberty — not his death, but theirs. If they refused to live free in Christ Jesus, then the alternative was indeed spiritual and eternal death.

So, contemporary Christian, biblical truth has not changed, nor has this gospel-motto, "Live free or die"! In the character of a freedom fighter, Paul issues two warnings in Galatians 5:1-12.

WARNINGS AGAINST _____ (vv. 2-6)

In all his effort to rescue his readers from bondage to the Law, Paul certainly understands that God's standard hasn't _____. Before, during, and after the Law, God's standard has always been perfect holiness, both in outward obedience and inward attitude (cf. the Sermon on the Mount, especially Matthew 5:48). Nonetheless, Paul also understands that the Law is completely _____ of providing such perfection or of mercifully dealing with man's inevitable failure. The only way that positional righteousness (what Paul has been referring to as being "justified" in chapters 2-4) and practical righteousness (what Paul will be addressing in chapters 5-6) can ever be actualized in the life of an individual is not "by the works of the Law" (2:16), but "through the _____, by _____" (v. 5; cf. 2:16, 20).

The alternative to this life of Spirit-dependent faith is what we call "legalism," the attempt to rightly orient oneself to God, _____ His favor and _____ His wrath, through self-effort and obedience to law.

1. *Legalism* _____ *Christ (v. 2).*

2. *Legalism* _____ *the Law (v. 3).*

3. *Legalism* _____ *from grace (v. 4).*

4. *Legalism* _____ *righteousness (vv. 5-6).*

WARNINGS AGAINST _____ (vv. 7-12)

1. *Legalists* _____ *the truth (vv. 7-8).*

2. *Legalists* _____ *the church (vv. 9-10a).*

3. *Legalists will be* _____ *by God (v. 10b).*

4. *Legalists* _____ *gospel-preachers (v. 11).*

CONCLUSION

In verse 11, Paul reintroduces the heightened and charged language that he's used at other times in his epistle to make two final points. He asserts, "I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves" (cf. Philippians 3:2)! On the one hand, Paul suggests that like the cultists of Cybele who castrated themselves in religious fervor, the legalists might as well as go to that abhorred extreme in their _____ human activity (cf. Deuteronomy 23:1). On the other hand, he is reissuing his sentiments as to how these legalists ought to be treated (cf. 4:30). They should be _____! Indeed, Paul the freedom fighter knows the stakes in this battle for spiritual liberty—"live free or die"!

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE GALATIANS **NO OTHER GOSPEL:**
FREEDOM IN CHRIST

LESSON 11: "Live Free or Die"

Date: November 30, 2014

TEXT: Galatians 5:1-12

INTRODUCTION

Since its inception, the history of Christianity has been filled with freedom fighters like Martin Luther and the apostle Paul. Both men believed in the motto "live _____ or _____" in their spiritual ministries. And, yet, whereas that motto is meant to communicate the ultimate _____ that patriots are willing to pay in order for political liberty to be enjoyed, it means more than that in the examples of Martin Luther and the apostle Paul. As Paul writes this letter to the Galatian Christians, that motto actually describes what he knows to be at _____ in the battle for spiritual liberty — not his death, but theirs. If they refused to live free in Christ Jesus, then the alternative was indeed spiritual and eternal death.

So, contemporary Christian, biblical truth has not changed, nor has this gospel-motto, "Live free or die"! In the character of a freedom fighter, Paul issues two warnings in Galatians 5:1-12.

WARNINGS AGAINST _____ (vv. 2-6)

In all his effort to rescue his readers from bondage to the Law, Paul certainly understands that God's standard hasn't _____. Before, during, and after the Law, God's standard has always been perfect holiness, both in outward obedience and inward attitude (cf. the Sermon on the Mount, especially Matthew 5:48). Nonetheless, Paul also understands that the Law is completely _____ of providing such perfection or of mercifully dealing with man's inevitable failure. The only way that positional righteousness (what Paul has been referring to as being "justified" in chapters 2-4) and practical righteousness (what Paul will be addressing in chapters 5-6) can ever be actualized in the life of an individual is not "by the works of the Law" (2:16), but "through the _____, by _____" (v. 5; cf. 2:16, 20).

The alternative to this life of Spirit-dependent faith is what we call "legalism," the attempt to rightly orient oneself to God, _____ His favor and _____ His wrath, through self-effort and obedience to law.

1. *Legalism* _____ *Christ (v. 2).*

2. *Legalism* _____ *the Law (v. 3).*

3. *Legalism* _____ *from grace (v. 4).*

4. *Legalism* _____ *righteousness (vv. 5-6).*

WARNINGS AGAINST _____ (vv. 7-12)

1. *Legalists* _____ *the truth (vv. 7-8).*

2. *Legalists* _____ *the church (vv. 9-10a).*

3. *Legalists will be* _____ *by God (v. 10b).*

4. *Legalists* _____ *gospel-preachers (v. 11).*

CONCLUSION

In verse 11, Paul reintroduces the heightened and charged language that he's used at other times in his epistle to make two final points. He asserts, "I wish those who unsettle you would emasculate themselves" (cf. Philippians 3:2)! On the one hand, Paul suggests that like the cultists of Cybele who castrated themselves in religious fervor, the legalists might as well as go to that abhorred extreme in their _____ human activity (cf. Deuteronomy 23:1). On the other hand, he is reissuing his sentiments as to how these legalists ought to be treated (cf. 4:30). They should be _____! Indeed, Paul the freedom fighter knows the stakes in this battle for spiritual liberty—"live free or die"!