

Law-Works Have No Place for Christ

Galatians 5:2 (NASB)

Behold I, Paul, say to you that **if** you receive circumcision, **(then)** Christ will be of no benefit to you.

- > **%Behold+** is emphatic in the Greek
- > **%This** is a 3rd class conditional in the Greek
- > The issue is dire because of what circumcision implied
- > This error is identified in Acts 15:1, 2 and corrected in the same chapter

2

Circumcision Implies
Commitment to the Whole Law

Galatians 5:3 (NET)

And I testify again to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is **obligated to obey the whole law.**

- > **%Testify+** is as in a court setting
- > **%whole law+** means **%every point without distinction+**
- > This implies being under bondage and the curse (Galatians 3:10)

3

Severed from Christ and
Fallen from Grace

Galatians 5:4 (NASB)

You have been **severed from Christ**, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have **fallen from grace.**

- > These are the dire consequences of trusting law-works
- > **%Severed+** and **%fallen+** are emphatic in the Greek as the first and last words in the sentence

4

We Believe and Confidently Hope

Galatians 5:5 (NASB)

For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.

- We is emphatic and signifies true believers
- Christian hope is both certain now by faith and fully realized in the eschaton
- That there are eschatological realities and present hope shows the already/not yet aspects of our faith

5

Faith Working Through Love

Galatians 5:6 (NASB)

For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but **faith working through love**.

- Being in Christ changes everything
- Our status as Jew or Gentile is not the issue
- Faith alone does not imply faith is and remains alone (Ephesians 2:8-10)

6

Implications and Applications

- There is utter incompatibility between law-works and faith
- Love is the fruit of faith, not the cause of it
- The warning against falling from grace is God's means to keep us from it

7

Either Law-Works OR Faith

Acts 15:1, 2 (NASB)

Some men came down from Judea and began teaching the brethren, %**unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.**+And when Paul and Barnabas had **great dissension and debate with them**, the brethren determined that Paul and Barnabas and some others of them should go up to Jerusalem to the apostles and elders concerning this issue.

8

People of Faith Love God and One Another

Colossians 3:14 (NASB)

Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

9

Do Not Fall from Grace

Hebrews 3:12, 13 (NASB)

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you **an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.** But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called %**today,**+ so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

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