

“Freedom or Slavery?”  
**Galatians 4:8-12a**

**I. The Apostle Paul reminds the Galatians of who they were before they knew Christ (v. 8).**

- A. They served in a religion of works.
- B. They served gods that did not even exist.
- C. They were slaves to their oppressive lifestyle.

(1 Corinthians 8:4)

**II. The Apostle Paul asks the Galatians why they want to go back to slavery (vs. 9-10).**

- A. Trusting in their own works of righteousness was placing the Galatians back into bondage.
- B. Their own works could never make them righteous before God.

(Jeremiah 2:4-5; Colossians 2:16-17; 20-23)

**III. The Apostle Paul pleads with the Galatians to walk in Christ (vs. 11-12a).**

- A. The Galatians were making vain the true faith.
- B. The Galatians are implored to live in the freedom that they have in Christ.

(Galatians 2:14)

## Scripture References and Notes

Matthew 15:1-6

<sup>1</sup> Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, <sup>2</sup>“Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread.” <sup>3</sup> And He answered and said to them, “Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? <sup>4</sup>For God said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,’ and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.’ <sup>5</sup> But you say, ‘Whoever says to *his* father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given *to God*,” <sup>6</sup> he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And *by this* you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

Matthew 5:17-20

<sup>17</sup> “Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. <sup>18</sup> For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. <sup>19</sup> Whoever then annuls one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others *to do* the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever keeps and teaches *them*, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>20</sup> “For I say to you that unless your righteousness surpasses *that* of the scribes and Pharisees, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven.

1 Corinthians 8:4

Therefore concerning the eating of things sacrificed to idols, we know that there is no such thing as an idol in the world, and that there is no God but one.

Jeremiah 2:4-5

<sup>4</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O house of Jacob, and all the families of the house of Israel. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the LORD, “What injustice did your fathers find in Me, That they went far from Me And walked after emptiness and became empty?”

Colossians 2:16-17

<sup>16</sup> Therefore no one is to act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day— <sup>17</sup> things which are a *mere* shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.

Colossians 2:20-23

<sup>20</sup> If you have died with Christ to the elementary principles of the world, why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as, <sup>21</sup> “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!” <sup>22</sup> (which all *refer to* things destined to perish with use)—in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men? <sup>23</sup> These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, *but are* of no value against fleshly indulgence.

Galatians 2:14

But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in the presence of all, “If you, being a Jew, live like the Gentiles and not like the Jews, how *is it that* you compel the Gentiles to live like Jews?”

Galatians 5:4-5

<sup>4</sup> You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

<sup>5</sup> For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness.