

Sunday, August 6, 2023—Galatians 5:1 Standing Fast In Liberty

### Galatians 5:1

- **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**
- **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**—the words “stand fast” carry the idea of remaining stationary, or not moving. The verb translated “stand fast” is the present tense, active voice, and imperative mood. Paul is commanding the Galatians to actively stand in the present.
  - Ephesians 6:11, 13-14
  - Philippians 1:27; 4:1
  - I Thessalonians 3:8
  - II Thessalonians 2:15
- Paul wanted the Galatians to not move away from something. He wanted them to take an active stand and remain in a fixed location.
- The location Paul wanted the Galatians to stand fast in was the “liberty” they had been given in Jesus Christ. The word “liberty” comes from the Greek word which means freedom.
  - Galatians 2:4
- Notice that it is because of Christ, that the Galatians enjoyed this freedom. Freedom in Christ entails the following:
  - Romans 6:18—free from sin.
  - Romans 4:3-4—free from the Law.
  - Romans 6:11, 8:2—free from self-bondage.
- **and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage**—the word “entangled” means: “Twisted together; interwoven in a confused manner; intricate; perplexed; involved; embarrassed; ensnared” (*Webster’s 1828 Dictionary*).
- Note the word “again.” Recall what we learned from Chapter 4. Both Jews and gentiles had been “entangled” in their respective religious systems.
  - Galatians 4:3—Israel under the Law.

- Galatians 4:8-9—Gentiles in their former idolatry.
- “Yoke of bondage” is clearly a reference to the Mosaic Law when one considers the context of the entire book.
  - II Corinthians 6:14
- Yokes are used on animals. When one yokes animals together, they are connected so they can be driven wherever someone wants them to go. Paul is saying here that believers ought not to be harnessed together with the Mosaic Law, or any other law for that matter, to gain either salvation or sanctification but should rather “stand fast” in the liberty they have been given in Christ.