

GALATIANS 5 NLET

PAUL ENJOINS THE GALATIAN DISCIPLES TO LIVE FREE

1 So then, with respect to the Freedom to which¹ an anointed One has set us free, keep on standing. ² And, stop being again held with a yoke of slavery!

*PAUL CITES THE HAZARDS OF SEEKING
TO BE JUSTIFIED BY LAW*

2 Look! I, for my part, - Paul – say to you that, if ever you are being circumcised, an anointed One shall bring no benefit to you!

3 Now, I again testify to every man being circumcised that he is indebted to keep the entire Law.

4 You have been parted from the³ Anointed One, as many as are being justified by law. You have fallen out of the Grace.

PAUL TESTIFIES TO THE SUPERIORITY OF FAITH

5 For, we, for our part, by agency of the Spirit⁴ and by means of faith are eagerly awaiting a hope of righteousness. 6 For, in connection with an anointed One – Jesus – neither does circumcision have any power nor does un-circumcision. Rather, faith being in action with love *has power*.

*PAUL URGES THE GALATIAN DISCIPLES TO CONSIDER
WHO AND WHAT IS PERSUADING THEM*

7 You were running well! Who foiled you so as not to be persuaded by the Truth? 8 The persuasion is not from the One Who is calling you.

PAUL INDICATES

THE INSIDIOUS NATURE OF A FALSE TEACHING

9 A little leaven leavens a whole – *namely*, the thing which is kneaded.

PAUL EXPRESSES HIS CONFIDENCE IN THE GALATIAN DISCIPLES

10 I, for my part, have been lastingly persuaded in regard to you in connection with YaHWeH⁵ that you shall think no other *thing*.

*PAUL INDICATES THE FATE
OF THE ONES WHO ARE TROUBLING THEM*

Now, the one who is troubling you – whoever⁶ he might be – shall bear the Condemnation.

*PAUL INDICATES THAT HE COULD AVOID PERSECUTION
BUT IT WOULD UNDERMINE THE POWER OF THE CROSS*

11 Now, I, for my part, brothers, if I am still heralding circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? Then and there, the deathtrap of the Cross has lastingly been made of no effect.

*PAUL INDICATES HIS SCORN
TOWARD THE ONES WHO WERE UPSETTING
THE GALATIAN DISCIPLES*

12 I wish *that* the ones who are upsetting you shall even make themselves eunuchs!

*PAUL REMINDS THE GALATIAN DISCIPLES
THAT THEY HAVE FREEDOM TO LOVE*

13 For, you, for your parts, have been called to a condition of freedom, brothers, only, not the freedom toward a pretext for the Flesh. Rather, by way of the Love slave away for one another. 14 For, the entire Law by one expression is being filled full⁷ – *that is by the expression: “You shall love the neighbor that is yours as yourself.”*⁸

*PAUL WARNS THE GALATIAN DISCIPLES
NOT TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES*

15 Now, if you are biting and eating one another up, keep on looking out! Do not even begin to be destroyed by one another.

¹ 80% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the translated as ‘so then, ... to which’ to which’ here. On the basis of 6.3% the NU omits them.

² 91.9% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the word translated as ‘So then,’ here (which would change the translation of ‘And,’ to ‘also’). On the basis of 6.3% the NU includes it.

³ 97.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the definite article ‘the’ here.

⁴ ‘by agency of the Spirit’ – You may notice that the word ‘spirit’ is not preceded by a definite article in Greek and so may be referring to a person’s regenerated human spirit here and would read ‘with spirit’.

⁵ ‘YaHWeH’ – The Greek has the word ‘Lord’ (κυριω) without a definite article here. Mark, Luke and other New Testament writers often use this unarticulated word to indicate a reference to YaHWeH, the eternally existing God of the Old Testament. This is especially clear in New Testament quotations from the Old Testament where the name YaHWeH appears.

⁶ 94% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘whoever’ here instead of ‘who, if ever’.

⁷ 97% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have ‘is being filled full’ (a present, passive verb) here instead of ‘has been lastingly filled full’ (a perfect, passive verb).

⁸ A reference to Leviticus 19:18

*PAUL ENCOURAGES THE GALATIAN DISCIPLES
TO WALK IN ACCORD WITH THEIR REGENERATED SPIRITS*

16 Now, I say, by spirit keep on walking. And, by no means fill full the desire of flesh. 17 For, the Flesh sets its desires upon *things* against the spirit. Now, the spirit *sets its desires* against the Flesh. Now,⁹ these *things* are continually set over against one another, with the result that whatever¹⁰ thing you might not wish to do, you might do.

18 Now, if by spirit you are being lead, you are not under law.

PAUL ENUMERATES THE DEEDS OF THE FLESH

19 Now, the deeds of the Flesh are apparent. Such things are:

- adultery¹¹,
- fornication,
- moral depravity,
- licentiousness,
- 20 idolatry,
- drug use,¹²
- enmities,
- quarreling,
- jealousies¹³,
- fits of anger,
- intrigues,
- dissensions,
- advancing of factions
- 21 malices,
- murders¹⁴,
- carousals,
- revelries, and
- the things similar to these –

which things I am telling you beforehand – even¹⁵ as also I foretold – that the ones who are practicing such things shall not inherit a kingly office from God!

PAUL ENUMERATES THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

22 Now, the Fruit of the Spirit is:

- love¹⁶,

⁹ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'Now,' here instead of 'For,'.

¹⁰ 96% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'whatever' here instead of 'what, if ever'.

¹¹ 92% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include 'adultery' here.

¹² 'drug use' – or possibly 'witchcraft'

¹³ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), have 'jealousies' (plural) here instead of 'jealousy' (singular).

¹⁴ 95% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of

- joy,
- peace,
- long-suffering,
- kindness,
- goodness,
- trustworthiness,
- 23 gentleness,
- self-control.

Against the things such as these there is no law.

PAUL STATES WHAT DISCIPLES DO WITH THE FLESH

24 Now, the ones *who* belong to the Anointed One¹⁷ have crucified the Flesh together with the sufferings and the desires.

PAUL STATES THE POTENTIAL OF LIVING BY SPIRIT

25 If we are living by spirit, by spirit we also might be in line.

PAUL WARNS AGAINST

AN UNHELPFUL ATTITUDE AND TWO DAMAGING BEHAVIORS

26 Now, let us not come to be –

- vain-glorious ones,
- ones who are challenging one another,
- ones who are bearing ill-will toward one another.

transmission (f35), include the word 'murders' here. The NU omits it.

¹⁵ 98.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), include the word translated as 'even' here.

¹⁶ 'love' – The Greek noun here is ἀγάπη, one of several words for 'love'. This is an intelligent, intentional, active, and self-sacrificing kind of love (Lenski).

¹⁷ 97.5% of the Greek manuscripts, including the best line of transmission (f35), do not include the name 'Jesus' here.