

## GALATIANS HANDOUT

### THE BELIEVER’S “DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE”

Galatians has been considered by many to be the “Magna Carta” of Christian liberty and the Christian’s “Declaration of Independence.” Where the gospel declares freedom from the Law because of Christ’s fulfillment of it, Judaizers pushed for believers to work within the confines of the Mosaic Law.

Paul clearly argues that believers cannot earn salvation or be justified before God by their own actions. The Law had purpose, but it is not what saves someone. Only faith in Christ can accomplish that!

THE FUNCTION		THE EFFECT	
Of Law	Of Grace	Of Law	Of Grace
Based on works (3:10)	Based on faith (3:11, 12)	Works put us under a curse (3:10)	Justifies us by faith (3:3, 24)
Our guardian (3:23; 4:2)	Centered in Christ (3:24)	Keeps us for faith (3:23)	Christ lives in us (2:20)
Our tutor (3:24)	Our certificate of freedom (4:30-31)	Brings us to Christ (3:24)	Adopts us as sons and heirs (4:7)

Chart by Dean Niforatos

### BEWARE GOING BACKWARDS

The human default is works. When we sin, we try to appease God. When we’re uncertain of things, we bow to human wisdom and understanding. Our default is human effort over relying on God’s sufficient grace.

One of the strongest indicators of relying on works and human reasoning is **prayerlessness**. The ultimate result is succumbing to the flesh – having “flesh flashes” when life’s hardships confront us (Gal. 5:19-21) rather than walking in the Spirit and exhibiting the fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23). The only way we can overcome the trend of decline toward human default (works & flesh) is to stay intimately connected to the Father through prayer (Gal. 4:6).

Don’t go backwards! To return to works and human effort is to desert Christ! This doesn’t mean we don’t align our behavior with the Word; we must live out the faith we proclaim for it pleases God. To rely on grace while choosing to continue in sin is to reject Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. He came to set us FREE from the bondage of sin, not give us permission to remain in it. But do not go backwards by relying once again on human effort to appease God. You can’t do it – and Christ set you free from it!