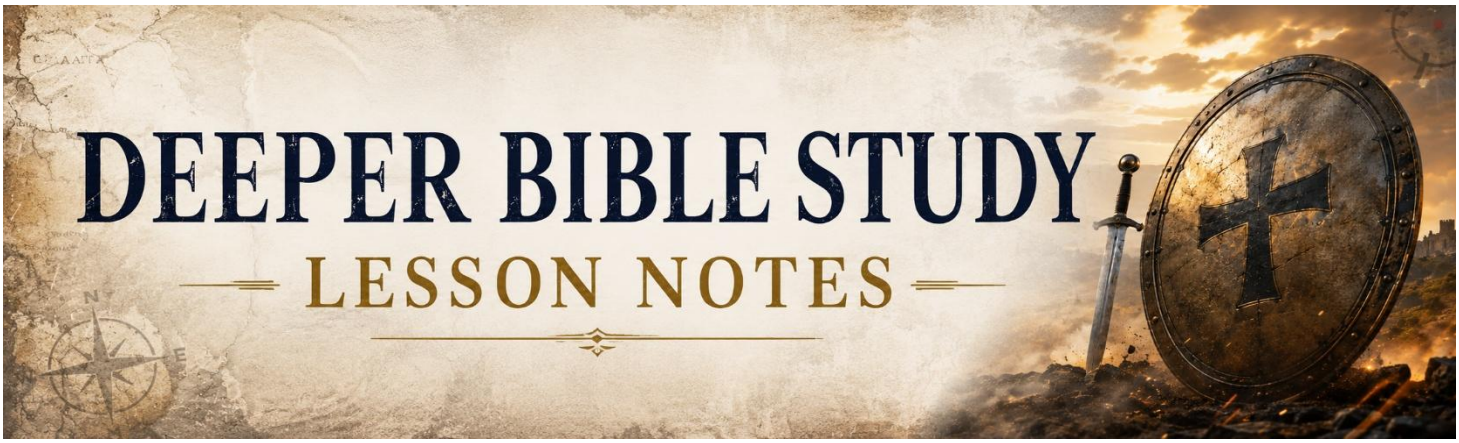


**FAITH EXPRESSED IN LOVE (GALATIANS 5:6-15) | PASTOR ADAM AZIZ**

## THE ONLY THING THAT MATTERS

**Galatians 5:6 (NLT)… For when we place our faith in Christ Jesus, there is no benefit in being circumcised or being uncircumcised. What is important is faith expressing itself in love.**

- **NEITHER SIDE GETS POINTS…**
  - You can be proud of what you DO and you can be just as proud of what you DON'T DO.
    - **No matter how you put it… it is still a _____.**

- **"FAITH EXPRESSING ITSELF IN LOVE"**
  - **ENERGEŌ** *(en-er-geh-oh)* **=** to be at work, to be operative. It is where we get our English word energy.
  - The verb is in the middle voice… faith works ITSELF out.
    - **Faith is the _____… love is the _____.**

- **LOVE IS NOT THE _____ OF OUR SALVATION… IT IS THE _____ OF IT.**
  - We are not saved by love… we are saved by faith.
  - But the faith that saves is never ALONE.
  - *James 2:17 (NLT)… So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.*
    - **Paul is fighting works as the root… James is fighting faith with no fruit… It is the same tree.**

## WHO CUT IN ON YOUR RACE?

**Galatians 5:7-8 (NLT)… You were running the race so well. Who has held you back from following the truth? It certainly isn't God, for he is the one who called you to freedom.**

- **THE GALATIANS DID NOT START WRONG… THEY GOT INTERRUPTED.**

- **ENKOPTŌ** *(en-kop-toe)* **=** to _____. A runner cutting into your lane… or a military word for tearing up a road so an army cannot advance.

- **THE ENEMY RARELY TRIES TO MAKE YOU STOP RUNNING… HE PUTS SOMETHING IN YOUR _____.**
  - Paul says "WHO"… not "what." Deception almost always has a FACE.

- **THE DISCERNMENT TEST (VS 8)…**
  - **PEITHŌ** *(pay-tho)* **=** to be persuaded… **PEISMONĒ** *(pice-mo-nay)* **=** PERSUASION.
  - *John 10:4-5 (NLT)… After he has gathered his own flock, he walks ahead of them, and they follow him because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger; they will run from him because they don't know his voice.*
    - **Does this voice sound like the One who _____ me?**

## A LITTLE YEAST

**Galatians 5:9-10 (NLT)… This false teaching is like a little yeast that spreads through the whole batch of dough! I am trusting the Lord to keep you from believing false teachings. God will judge that person, whoever he is, who has been confusing you.**

- **IN SCRIPTURE, YEAST ALMOST ALWAYS PICTURES CORRUPTION.**
  - Before Passover, every Jewish family searched the house by candlelight… not for a bag of yeast… for a _____. *(Exodus 12:15)*

- **YEAST WORKS 3 WAYS…**
  - QUIETLY — you cannot see it working.
  - SLOWLY — it takes time.
  - TOTALLY — it does not stop until the whole batch is affected.

- **LEGALISM NEVER SHOWS UP AS A WHOLE NEW RELIGION… IT SHOWS UP AS A LITTLE _____.**
  - Jesus +
    - **The moment it is Jesus _____… it is no longer Jesus.**
  - Deception does not alarm you… it makes you DROWSY.

- **"GOD WILL JUDGE THAT PERSON, WHOEVER HE IS."**
  - *James 3:1 (NLT)… we who teach will be judged more strictly.*
  - *Proverbs 30:6 (NLT)… Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you and expose you as a liar.*
  - *Revelation 22:18-19 (NLT)… And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the words of prophecy written in this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone removes any of the words from this book of prophecy, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.*

## THE OFFENSE OF THE CROSS

**Galatians 5:11-12 (NLT)… Dear brothers and sisters, if I were still preaching that you must be circumcised—as some say I do—why am I still being persecuted? If I were no longer preaching salvation through the cross of Christ, no one would be offended. I just wish that those troublemakers who want to mutilate you by circumcision would mutilate themselves.**

- SKANDALON ***(skan-dah-lon)*** = **the trigger stick of a trap.**
  - It is where we get our English word SCANDAL.

- **THE CROSS TELLS THE PROUDEST PERSON: YOU CANNOT SAVE YOURSELF… YOU ADD _____.**
  - The flesh will tolerate a Jesus who _____ you… but it will fight a Jesus who _____ you.

- **WHEN YOU REMOVE THE _____ OF THE CROSS… YOU REMOVE THE _____ OF THE CROSS.**
  - *1 Corinthians 1:18 (NLT)… The message of the cross is foolish to those who are headed for destruction! But we who are being saved know it is the very power of God.*

- **THE BACKGROUND OF VS 12…**
  - Galatia was home to the worship of the pagan goddess Cybele, centered in the city of PESSINUS. Her priests mutilated themselves in devotion to her.
    - **A "Bible-based" ritual without Christ is no different than PAGANISM.**

## CALLED TO FREEDOM… TO SERVE

**Galatians 5:13 (NLT)… For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.**

- **2 DITCHES ON THE ROAD OF GRACE…**
  - LEGALISM on one side… LAWLESSNESS on the other.

- APHORMĒ ***(af-or-may)*** = **a military term for a base of operations… a _____.**
  - Do not let your freedom become the flesh's beachhead.

- DOULEUŌ ***(dool-yoo-oh)*** = **to serve as a _____.**
  - Freedom in Christ is not freedom FROM people… it is freedom _____ people.

- **THE SERVANT WHO CHOSE TO STAY…**
  - *Exodus 21:5-6 (NLT)… But the slave may declare, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children. I don't want to go free.'… his master must take him to the door or doorpost and publicly pierce his ear… After that, the slave will serve his master for life.*
    - **He was free to leave… and he chose to stay because of LOVE.**

- **JESUS KNEW HE HAD ALL AUTHORITY… SO HE PICKED UP A _____.**
  - *John 13:3-4 (NLT)… Jesus knew that the Father had given him authority over everything… So he got up from the table, took off his robe, wrapped a towel around his waist.*
  - "Through THE love serve one another"… not just any love… the love of JESUS.
    - **Kingdom freedom says… "Nothing can stop me from doing what LOVE requires."**

## THE WHOLE LAW IN ONE COMMAND

**Galatians 5:14 (NLT)… For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."**

- **PAUL QUOTES LEVITICUS 19:18… THE LEGALISTS' OWN BOOK.**
  - **PLĒROŌ** *(play-ro-oh)* **=** to FULFILL… to fill to the brim.
  - *Romans 13:10 (NLT)… Love does no wrong to others, so love fulfills the requirements of God's law.*

- **THE LAW COULD _____ LOVE… BUT IT COULD NEVER _____ IT.**
  - The law is a _____… the Spirit is a _____.
    - **What the law DEMANDED… the Spirit PRODUCES.**

- **"AS YOURSELF"…**
  - Love people with the same SPEED and INSTINCT you take care of yourself.
    - **Love is never proven on the people you AGREE WITH.**

## CHURCH CANNIBALS

**Galatians 5:15 (NLT)… But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.**

- **3 WORDS THAT GET WORSE…**
  - BITING *(daknō)* — a snap… a nip.
  - DEVOURING *(katesthiō)* — to eat down… swallow whole.
  - DESTROYING *(analiskō)* — to consume completely. *(Luke 9:54)*

- **VS 15 IS THE FRUIT OF RELIGIOUS LEGALISM.**
  - When you relate to God by a scorecard… you start relating to PEOPLE by a scorecard.
  - People who live under the law turn into law ENFORCEMENT.
    - **Religious legalism always ends in _____.**

- **GRACE-LESS CHURCHES DO NOT JUST LOSE FREEDOM… THEY LOSE _____.**
  - The greatest threat to a church is not the devil outside the walls… it is the _____ inside the walls.