



# Gospel Freedom

Galatians 5:1-15

# Acts 15:1

But some men came down from Judea and were teaching the brothers, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.”





“The law is the light that reveals how dirty the room is, not the broom that sweeps it clean.”

- Phil Williams













“He loves  
me...”

“He loves  
me not...”





# Galatians 5:1-15

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# Acts 15:10-11

Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?

But we believe that we will be saved through the grace of the Lord Jesus, just as they will.”









## 2 Chronicles 35:3 (NASB)

[King Josiah]... said to the Levites who taught all Israel and who were holy to the LORD, “Put the holy ark in the house which Solomon the son of David king of Israel built; it will be a burden on your shoulders no longer.”







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# Matthew 11:28-30

Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.





## 1 John 5:3

For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.



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# Romans 2:28-29

For no one is a Jew who is merely one outwardly, nor is circumcision outward and physical. But a Jew is one inwardly, and circumcision is a matter of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the letter. His praise is not from man but from God.



# Colossians 2:11-12

In [Christ] also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised him from the dead.





“The flesh is a built-in law of failure, making it impossible for the natural man to please or serve God. It is a compulsive inner force inherited from man’s fall, which expresses itself in general and specific rebellion against God and His righteousness.





The flesh can never be reformed or improved.  
The only hope for escape from the law of the  
flesh is its total execution and replacement by a  
new life in the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- Mark Bubeck



# Galatians 5:3

I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law.





# James 2:10

For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.









# Galatians 5:4

You are severed from Christ, you who would be justified by the law; you have fallen away from grace.



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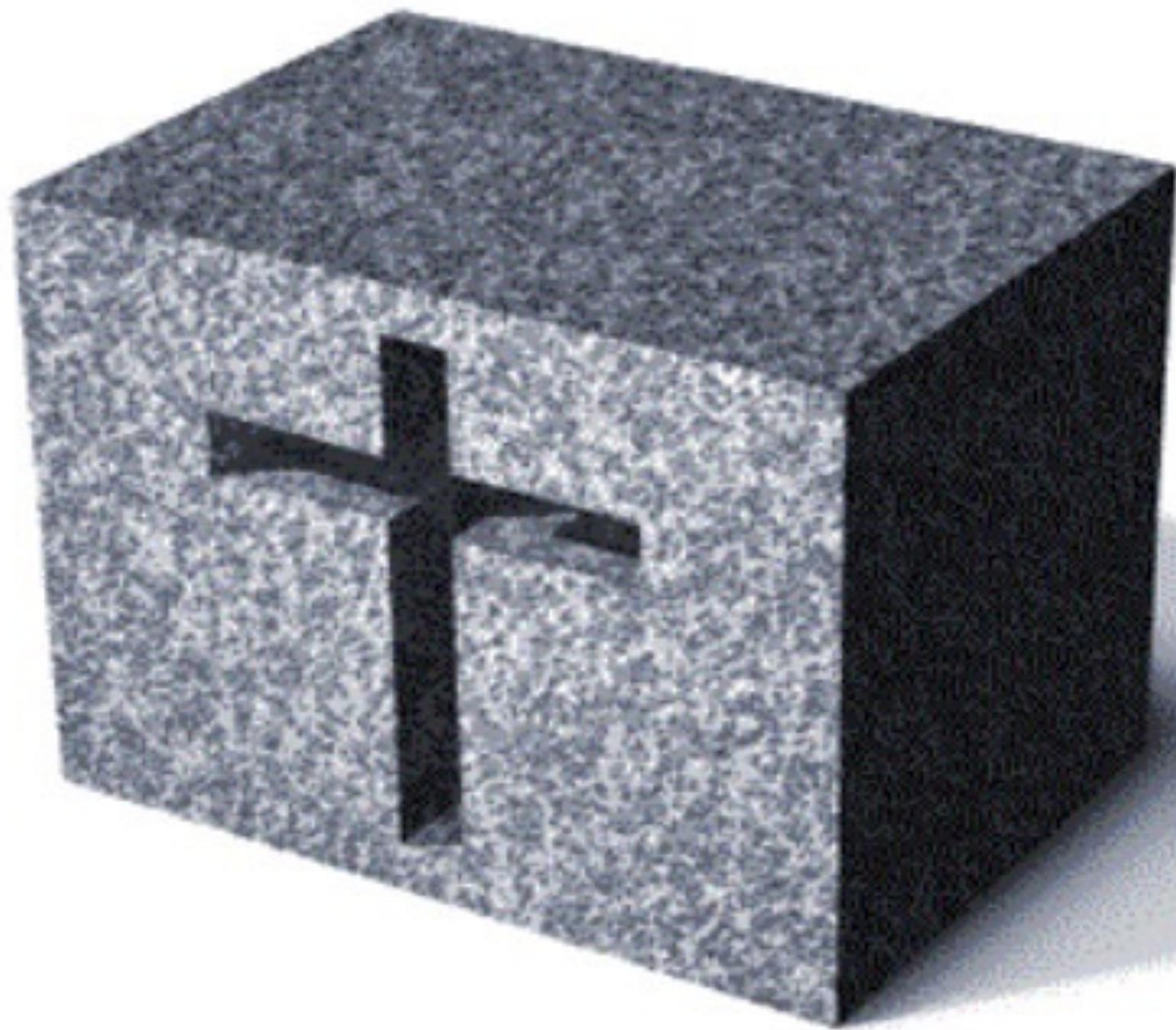

# Romans 9:30-32

What shall we say, then? That Gentiles who did not pursue righteousness have attained it, that is, a righteousness that is by faith; but that Israel who pursued a law that would lead to righteousness did not succeed in reaching that law.

Why? Because they did not pursue it by faith, but as if it were based on works. They have stumbled over the stumbling stone...







**The  
Stumbling  
Block**

Legalists trust in Christ a lot.  
But they don't trust in Christ alone.





# Legalism and Licentiousness

To those tempted to fall into legalism, Paul says, “Don’t lose your gospel freedom.”

To those tempted to become licentious, he says, “Don’t abuse your gospel freedom.”



# Galatians 5:13-15

For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another.





“This liberty from systems of merit expresses itself in our duty to ourselves, our neighbor, and our God. It is freedom not to indulge the flesh, but to control the flesh; freedom not to exploit our neighbor, but to serve our neighbor; freedom not to disregard the law, but to fulfill the law.



**John Stott**

Everyone who has truly been set free by Jesus Christ expresses his liberty in these three ways: first in self-control; next in loving service of his neighbor; and thirdly in obedience to the law of his God.



**John Stott**



This is the freedom with which  
'Christ has set us free' (v. 1) and to  
which we were called (v. 13).

We are to stand firm in it, neither  
relapsing into slavery on the one  
hand, nor falling into license on the  
other."



**John Stott**





Sacrifice - the horrific slaughter of the Son of God for me



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Ransom – the infinite payment for my release as a prisoner





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Propitiation - the quenching of God's fierce wrath that was against me



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Substitution – the voluntary exchange of Jesus on the cross in place of me



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