

Ridin' For The Brand: Up The Galatians Trail

Livin' Free

1. Ridin' in the freedom of God's grace

Galatians 5.1-6 Christ has set us free to live a free life. So take your stand! Never again let anyone put a harness of slavery on you. **2** I am emphatic about this. The moment any one of you submits to circumcision or any other rule-keeping system, at that same moment Christ's hard-won gift of freedom is squandered. **3** I repeat my warning: The person who accepts the ways of circumcision trades all the advantages of the free life in Christ for the obligations of the slave life of the law. I suspect you would never intend this, but this is what happens. When you attempt to live by your own religious plans and projects, you are cut off from Christ, you fall out of grace. **5** Meanwhile we expectantly wait for a satisfying relationship with the Spirit. **6** For in Christ, neither our most conscientious religion nor disregard of religion amounts to anything. What matters is something far more interior: faith expressed in love.

Romans 11.5-6(NIV)...at the present time there is a remnant chosen by grace. **6** And if by grace, then it is no longer by works; if it were, grace would no longer be grace.

2. Livin' in the freedom of God's truth

Galatians 5.7-12 You were running superbly! Who cut in on you, deflecting you from the true course of obedience? **8** This detour doesn't come from the One who called you into the race in the first place. **9** And please don't toss this off as insignificant. It only takes a minute amount of yeast, you know, to permeate an entire loaf of bread. **10** Deep down, the Master has given me confidence that you will not defect. But the one who is upsetting you, whoever he is, will bear the divine judgment. **11** As for the rumor that I continue to preach the ways of circumcision (as I did in those pre-Damascus Road days), that is absurd. Why would I still be persecuted, then? If I were preaching that old message, no one would be offended if I mentioned the Cross now and then—it would be so watered-down it wouldn't matter one way or the other. **12** Why don't these agitators, obsessive as they are about circumcision, go all the way and castrate themselves!

John 8.31-32 Then Jesus turned to the Jews who had claimed to believe in him. "If you stick with this, living out what I tell you, you are my disciples for sure. **32** Then you will experience for yourselves the truth, and the truth will free you."

3. Showing that freedom through love to each other

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. **14** For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." **15** But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.

John 14.15 "If you love me, show it by doing what I've told you.

All verses are from "The Message Bible" unless noted