

Eagerly wait for the hope of Righteousness.

Read Galatians 5:5 – Waiting for Righteousness. Why is Paul telling the Galatians we are waiting for righteousness?

- The time Paul wrote this letter around 50AD, and this is a time of transition from the Mosaic age to the Messianic age.
 - The [first study guide](#) went through the 2 ages and what was the significance. Please review.
 - 30 years after Jesus' resurrection. The fulfillment of the New Covenant was not complete until the destruction of Jerusalem in 70AD.
- The transition between Pentecost and the destruction in 70AD is called, "the already, but not yet". Though some scholars and theologians, and many lay-Christians do not believe this "already but not yet" ended in 70AD it did. See the book of Revelation, Daniel, and Isaiah. Also, see my [resources guide](#), specifically Berean Bible Church and Labor Not in Vain for more information around this and the end of the age.
- We have righteousness today because of Christ. Why did the Christians during the time of Galatians not have it? Why did Paul say we eagerly await the hope of righteousness?

- They had righteousness because of what Jesus did (Romans 4:5) but were waiting for the completion with Jesus' return. That is why it is the "already, but not yet". Paul and these Galatians lived in what the Bible calls "the last days". It was the last days of the Old Covenant.

1. These last days began at Pentecost and ended in 70AD. We Christians today live in what the Bible calls "the age to come".
2. From Pentecost to the destruction of Jerusalem by the Roman Empire was 40 years. That was the time frame for the "already but not yet."

- Jesus return in 70AD and using the Roman Empire destroyed Jerusalem, the Temple, and the Old Covenant. The Jewish religion perished during this war and the New Covenant of God officially began. Jesus speaks of this beginning in:

1. Matt 23:29 - Matt 25:46
2. Mark 13: 1-37
3. Luke 21: 1-37
4. Book of Revelation

Read Galatians 5:6-9 – A little leaven leavens the lump.

- Vs. 6 – In Christ, the law no longer matters. We are like Christ in the eyes of the Almighty. That is why Paul uses the words "in Christ". In Christ there is

no Jew (Circumcision) and Gentile (Uncircumcised). The Law nor the lack of the Law counts for nothing. Only faith working through love.

- Vs 7- 9 – Paul is wanting them to examine who is hindering their growth in Christ. Who is it that is diverting the Galatians from the truth of the Gospel, the freedom of the Gospel? The persuasion to go back to the Law is not from Jesus.
 - A little leaven leavens the lump. Paul is telling them do not tolerate anyone within your congregation who speak lies and turn you away from the true gospel of Christ. Tolerating lies will eventually corrupt the whole body. Jesus spoke of this same thing in Matt 16:6-12.
Beware the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

Read Galatians 5:10-12 – The one troubling you will bear the penalty.

- Paul has faith that these “young believers” (new to the faith not in age) will pull out of this and grow wiser, stronger in Christ. But, to the Judaizers causing these Galatians to stumble Paul knows judgement will come for them. Jesus warns of people hampering the growth of His bride and their Christian faith. Matt 18:6-7.
 - After reading Matt 18:6-7 what is a millstone?
 - "A "millstone" was used for the grinding of corn or grain, every household had one. The household millstones were about 2

feet across and 6 inches thick. It took two women to use it. It probably weighed between 75 to 100 pounds. How would you like to go swimming with that around your neck? You get the point, right? Well, this is even stronger than you may think. The Greek word used for "millstone" here is *mulos onikos*, which means: "a millstone belonging to a donkey." This was not the average household millstone, but one so large that a donkey was used to turn it. So, Jesus is saying, "You'd be better off dead than to lead a Christian to sin." We need to be very careful how we treat each other. This is an important biblical truth." [David B. Curtis](#)

- Vs.11 – Evidently these Judaizers were spreading lies that Paul taught circumcision and he is disputing this lie. The offense of the cross has been removed if Paul is wrong and he should be put back in good standings with his Jewish brethren.
- VS. 12 – The Greek here is amputate or castrate. Paul is telling them this shocking statement because he wants them to understand how dangerous what the Judaizers are telling is.

Read Galatians 5:13-15 – The whole Law is fulfilled in one word: Love!

- By loving your neighbor as yourself you are living out the Law. Jesus said, all of the Law and Prophets hang on these 2 commandments. Love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. First and greatest commandment. Second, is love your neighbor as yourself. By doing the second, you fulfill the first.
- Paul says in Vs. 15 that if you continue to devour and pick at one another the Church body will cease to exist.
 - “wherever there is conflict there is legalism; and where there is legalism, there is conflict. It is always going to be that way because legalism feeds our pride, and pride causes contention.” – [David B. Curtis](#)

Other Questions to Ask Yourself?

1. Who are you serving in love?
 - a. Are you forgiving a Christian brother or sister that may have done you wrong? Even when they may not say they are sorry or even care what they have done to you.
 - b. Look at your bank account. Does it reflect the commitment you speak about to Christ? Do you lavish more and more upon

yourselves, or are you allowing the Lord to use the resources He has given to you to bless others?

- c. Do you see your job as a way to get ahead? Are you simply seeking another promotion, or are you seeking to promote the cause of Christ in the workplace? Do you serve those you work with, or are they a burden to you?
- d. Husbands, are you serving your wife? Do you spend time thinking of ways that you can bless your wife and lighten her load?
- e. Do you go out of your way to serve your kids, or do you see them as another burden on your schedule?
- f. Wives, how about taking a look at your relationship with your family. Do you begrudgingly do the things you do around the house for your family, or are you aware that by serving your husband and kids that you are serving the King of glory?