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BIB 367 (NZ/NLS)

Professor Garcia

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Outline: Gal 5:2-15

1. Judgment for those who turn from the Gospel

- a. Circumcision/Christ (5:2-6, 1 Corinthians 7:18, 4:11, Gen 17: 12:12-13, Exod 12:48)
- b. Circumcision/Cross (Gal 5:6, 6:12-14)
- c. Offense of the Cross/ Removed (5:11, 4:29, 1 Peter 2:8)
- d. The Law of Love (5:13-15,)

In Chapter 13, “Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision the author explains Paul’s arguments as “the other missionaries who wanted the Galatian Gentile believers to be circumcised and Paul would have none of it” (313). In Gal 5:2-6, “circumcision is set in antithesis with Christ: for the Galatians to be circumcised would mean denying the scandal of the cross, is a way of avoiding persecution for the cross; circumcision involves a misdirected boasting in the flesh and not the cross” (313).

Graig Keener, on the other hand, speaks about the slave foreigners who needed to be circumcised to become part of the covenant people (Gen 17:12-13), as well foreigners in the land who wanted to join the Passover festival, Exod 12:48 (231). Keener states that the Jewish practices usually were treated as circumcision for becoming part of the covenant people. He also

explains how some Judeans would prepare to impose on the Gentiles by force to wish for them to remain in the land God had promised to his people.

In the NKJV commentary Galatians 5:2-15 states that trying to be saved by keeping the law and being saved by Grace are two different paths. “Christ will be of no benefit to you” means that Christ’s provision for our salvation will not help us if we are trying to save ourselves.” The commentary explains that obeying the law in other words, “will not make it easier for God to save us. Therefore, accepting his gracious gift of eternal life through faith. Paul states that no amount of work, discipline, status, ritual, or moral behavior can earn our salvation. So, trying to keep all of God’s law would only separate us further from God because it takes our focus off Christ’s death and resurrection. We are saved by faith not by doing any deeds, and completely forgiven by God for our rebellion's sinful nature against Him. When we receive God’s forgiveness, we experience a love for God, and for others this can also be forgiven for those who wrong us with the Help of the Holy Spirit of course. Paul was being persecuted for speaking a true gospel, and if he had preached any other gospel (false) perhaps no one would have been offended. However, because of the truth gospel the Jews and the Judaizers both persecuted him. Paul was able to know between the freedom to sin and the freedom to serve. He believes that freedom to sin is no freedom at all because it binds us to Satan, others and even our own sinful nature. God owns us so we are to obey and do what God wants and glorify Him by extending His loving service to others.

Works Cited

- Keener, Craig S. “Galatians.” 2018, doi:10.1017/9781108642392.
- “Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision, but...! (Gal. 5.2-12; 6.12-16; cf. 1 Cor. 7.7-20)
- Nelson, Thomas. *Life Application Study Bible*. Thomas Nelson, 1975.