

FREEDOM

(For FREEDOM Christ has set us free! Gal 5:1)

desert breeze
community church



Saturday & Sunday, November 7/8, 2015

Ray Davis

“Freedom of the Gospel” Galatians 5:1-15

If salvation is a gift from God by grace through faith in Christ Jesus then what incentive do I have to live a holy life? If you can't earn your salvation by your behavior, and can't “un-earn” it by your behavior than what would motivate you to obey God? It is the Freedom of the Gospel that gives us life changing incentive and motivation to live a life wholly devoted to Christ!

What is Freedom? V1a “For freedom Christ has set us free.”

- It's not doing whatever you want to do but doing what you were designed to do. Gen3; Pro14:12, 16:25
- We were designed to know, love and serve God supremely - and we flourish when we are faithful to that design. 1John4:19; Matt22:34-40; Ex20:1-17
- All have sinned and fallen short of this design (Rom3:23) but God has sent His Son to set us free (Rom6:26). Vv5-6, 13b-14
V5 “Hope” = does not mean “wishful thinking” but “I know so.”
“Righteousness” = it is a completely right record and right relationship with God. All the worth and value you'll ever need!
V6 Faith in Christ literally energizes love and neither religious moralism nor licentious non-religiosity can do this because both are selfish & insecure. 13b but through love serve one another...

Can We Lose or Abuse Our Freedom? Vv1b, 13a

- We lose our freedom through legalism (I obey therefore God accepts me). V1b “stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” Vv2-4
- We abuse our freedom through license (God accepts me therefore I don't have to obey). V13a “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh...” v7 “You were running well who hindered you from obeying the truth?”
- The Gospel sets us free from the penalty (condemnation) of sin and the power (motivation) to sin by giving us all the worth and value in Christ we'll ever need. Rom8:1-2

How Does Freedom Change Everything? Vv5-6, 7-12, 13-15

- In the Gospel, Christ values us and has died for us not for what we bring Him (for we are no profit to Him), but because He loves us for our own sakes (in and of ourselves). V5 For the hope of righteousness...V6b Faith working through love.
- To the degree we see that is to the degree we will love Him for His own sake (in and of Himself). We serve God not for what he brings us, for we already have everything guaranteed, but for who he is and what he has done for us. Also, now we can serve others not for what they bring us, but for who they are in themselves. Vv7-12, 13-15
- The more joy we have in our gracious salvation (v5), the more we are compelled by love and gratitude to do good for the pure beauty of good, for the pure delight in God, and for the pure love of others (v6).

Growing Notes

- 1) Paul tells us that Christians need not fear any condemnation from the law because we are righteous in Christ. When many people hear this, they say, “Boy! If I believed that, I'd be able to live any way I wanted!” Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
- 2) Read Galatians 5:1-15. What stands out to you? The thesis of Paul's letter to the Galatians is stated in 5:1a. How is freedom both the means and the end of the Christian life? Even if you are in Perryville Prison but have Christ you are more free than those outside of those prison walls without Him. Do you agree or disagree? Explain.
- 3) Why is freedom not doing whatever you want to do but doing what you were designed to do (Gen3; Pro14:12)? What were we designed to do (Matt22:34-40)? How does vv5-6, 13-14 give us a glimpse of Gospel freedom? How can we lose or abuse our freedom (Vv1b, 13a)? What are the consequences (vv2-4, 7-9, 15)?
- 4) How does freedom change everything (Review the last three points)? How does Gospel freedom give us life changing incentive and motivation to live a life wholly devoted to Christ? If we find ourselves unloving, the solution is not to seek to love better or more; it is to look at Christ's sacrificial love for us until our hearts are melted by His love and overflowing with His love to others. Explain. Pray.