

Living in Freedom
Gal. 5:1-15
6/6/10

Into:

- What is freedom?
 - A popular thing to talk about this time on year between Memorial Day and Independence Day
 - Some may say it is being able to exercise all their rights
 - Some may say the ability to do whatever whenever they want
 - A 15 year old my feel like it is getting their license
 - A college student may think of freedom as being done with school
 - An employee my define freedom as one day being their own boss
 - A person close to retirement age may be counting the days till he is free
 - Having no restrictions
 - A choice, not in bondage

Background of Gal.:

- Galatia is providence in Rome
- Paul ministered there and now they are being lead astray by false teaching
 - Judaizers – gentile Christians needed to follow all of the Jewish law
 - Questioning of Paul’s authority
- Paul spent the first couple of chapters defending his authority and the authority of the message
- He then taught on the law in the next few chapters

Gal. 5:1: Christ has set you free

- Freedom...why Christ has set us free
 - “has set us free” – to make free, fig. to exempt (from liability), to deliver
 - New English Bible – “Christ sets us free, to be free men”
 - Seems obvious
 - But how often do we live as free men?
 - John 8:31-36** – ³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
 - ³³They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"
 - ³⁴Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. ³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.
- Stand firm...do not burden yourselves with the yoke of slavery
 - Stand firm – to preserve, stand fast,
 - Do not give up any ground
 - What kind of yokes is there?
 - The actual yoke...explain
 - Are there other yokes besides the “yoke of slavery”
 - We are creatures created to worship therefore, we will be enslaved to something

-“The Jews referred to the “yoke of the law” as a good thing, the essence of true religion. Paul argued that for those who pursued it as a way of salvation, the law was a yoke of slavery.” – MacArthur

-David talked about the law in high regard in the Psalms

-In it’s proper perspective it is a good thing...the problem comes when we try to use it for something it was not intended for

-Matt. 11:28-30 -- ²⁸“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

-Don’t go back!

-We do it all the time.

-He is going to give some ways we go back under the yoke of slavery

Gal. 5:3-6: You don’t live in freedom when we are enslaved to the Law and rituals

-Mark my words!

-Notice tone of voice

-Paul is still trying to convince them that he is telling the truth

-If you let yourselves be circumcised...

-The Judaizers taught that the gentile Christians must follow Jewish law starting with circumcision and then follow diet, festivals, etc.

-Paul is not opposed to circumcision itself...he is opposed to circumcision as a mean to some spiritual benefit

-Modern day example

-Spiritual Disciplines

-Participation in a Ministry

-Christ has no value to you

-Gal. 2:20-21 – ²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

-Gal. 3:2-3 – I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ³Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort?

-Must obey the whole law

-James 2:10 – For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.

-You who are trying to be justified by the law

-Alienated

-Fallen from Grace

-Gal. 3:10-11 – ¹⁰All who rely on observing the law are under a curse, for it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law." ¹¹Clearly no one is justified before God by the law, because, "The righteous will live by faith

-By faith...through the Spirit

-Eagerly await the righteousness for which we hope

-We have the all the righteousness accredited to us already...we are just waiting for the completion in our glorified state

-Remember the true meaning of hope

-Not a hope so...rather knowing it is coming and resting in that

-For in Christ

-Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision have value

-The only thing that counts

-“The only thing that holds any weight”

-Faith expressing itself through love

-Interlinear: “faith through love working”

-ESV: “Faith working through love”

-The ACT of loving one another is Work and is a way we see our Faith in Action

-How well have you been showing faith lately?

-Why don't we do this?

-We are so busy trying to justify our selves by doing

“good” things...we don't take time to look around and see who needs love

Gal. 5:7-12: You don't live in freedom when you allow legalism to control you.

-You were running a good race

-Who cut you off?

-A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough

-The one that is doing this will pay the penalty

-“I have confidence in the Lord “ – he is trusting in God for this

-If I was still preaching circumcision

-Why am I still being persecuted?

-b/c the offence of the cross would be abolished

-If circumcision was still the truth...the cross would not be a stumbling block

-As for the agitators

-I wish they would emasculate themselves

-What is Paul getting at here?

-If circumcision is a way to please God then they will be even more religious if they go even farther.

-He is trying to point out the ridiculous idea that we can impress God or justify ourselves through our actions.

-Legalism...adding extra to the Law

-This is how we try to make ourselves look more spiritual than others around us.

-“That person does this, and I don't do that”

-“That person sits in the back and I sit up front”

-oh we may not think it exactly but we do it none the less

-Paul shows us here that the craziness of this thinking...there is always something more you can do in order to make yourselves look more spiritual

Gal. 5:13-15: You don't live in freedom when you go back to living in sin.

-You were called to be free

-Not to sin

-Rom. 6:15 – ¹⁵What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

-But serve one another in love

-The whole law can be summed up in one commandment

-Stop biting and devouring each other

-You will be destroyed

-Look at what is next...we need to do this with the help of the Holy Spirit

-Living by the Spirit is the way you are able to live in the freedom Christ came

-I encourage you to study the rest of chapter five and other passages to see how this is done

Application:

1) Are you free?

2) How are you using your freedom?

-Living under the law... and rendering the cross useless

-Living legalistically...and removing the cross as an issue

-Living in sin... and making a mockery of the cross

-Glorifying the Lord by loving one another

3) Are you following a religion or are you following Christ!