

"What Is Christian Freedom?" (Part 1)

Galatians 2:1-5

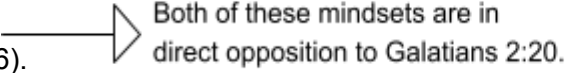
"Who are the freest people in the world? How free do I really want to be in Christ? Are we really living in the freedom that Christ has given us? The people who are freest in the world are those who are freest from the world." (Jon Bloom)

- The Battlefield: The Apostle Paul was fighting on three fronts:
 - 1) Paul was *fighting* against the teaching that a Gentile/Jewish believer needed to be circumcised to be saved. (Acts 15:1)
 - 2) Paul was *fighting* against the teaching that a Gentile/Jew had to keep the Law to be saved. (Acts 15:5)
 - 3) Paul was *defending* his Apostolic authority and his Apostolic teaching (the gospel). *"...I found it necessary to write appealing to you to contend for the faith that was once for all delivered to the saints."* (Jude 1:3)

Paul is fighting for the truth, power, and purity of the gospel!

"One of the main reasons that we are given the Word of God is so that we can live radical lives for Christ. The Christian life is radical in the sense of how we live and for whom we live."

- An overview of Galatians 2:1-5:
 - For the first seventeen years of Paul's Christianity (Galatians 1:18; Galatians 2:1) it seems like he was taught by Christ alone (Galatians 1:12,16-17). Paul took Titus with him to Jerusalem to show the life changing power of the gospel in the life of the Gentiles (Acts 15:7-12), despite him not being circumcised or keeping the law of Moses for salvation. The revelation that Paul is talking about is probably Agabus' prophecy from Acts 11:28-30 (Galatians 2:2). When Paul got to Jerusalem he realized that there was unity in the gospel of Jesus Christ and that the Judaizers were lying about the position of James, John, and Peter; "those who seemed influential" (Acts 15:10-11).
- Unpacking Christian Freedom:
 - A great definition of Christian Freedom is found in Galatians 2:20. What is Christian freedom? *"To live for Christ."* What is the means of Christian Freedom? *"Being crucified with Christ."* How do I grow in Christian Freedom? *"Having faith in the Son of God."* What is the joy of Christian Freedom? *"He loved me and gave Himself for me" — I'm free!*
 - We have two battles in Christian Freedom:
 - 1) To not be brought back into slavery, in *thinking* or *practice* (Galatians 2:4; 5:1).
 - 2) To preserve the truth of the gospel so that people are not severed from Christ (Galatians 2:5; 5:4).
 - There are two great enemies of Christian Freedom: *"...false brothers....brought in....to spy out our freedom...."*
 - Legalism: (Galatians 2:15-16; 5:3,6)
 - Libertinism: (Galatians 5:13; 1 Peter 2:16).


 - 1) We are living for ourselves. 2) We are denying the necessity of Christ's death for salvation or holiness (Galatians 2:21). 3) We are having faith in our own ability and wisdom. 4) We are loving ourselves more than Christ.
 - Neither freedom from authority nor being our own authority offer us freedom. Neither man made religion nor freedom from religion offer us freedom. Neither self-made attempts at morality nor giving ourselves to immorality offer us freedom. Neither submitting to my own desires nor submitting to the desires of others offers me freedom. Only submission to Christ offers me freedom!
 - What is Christian Freedom? *"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* (John 8:36)
 - I am free from the condemnation that comes from my sin. (Romans 8:1)
 - I am free from the guilt that leads to death, knowing that Christ will always forgive me. (2 Corinthians 7:10)
 - I am free to live for eternal reward, not live for temporal satisfactions. (Matthew 6:19-20)
 - I am free to forgive, reconcile, and to love as Christ forgives and loves. (Ephesians 4:32)

(Continued →)

Worship: There Is A Fountain — Citizens What A Friend We Have In Jesus — Various Artists Whate'er My God Ordains Is Right — Sovereign Grace Music **Closing Song:** 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord) — Matt Redman

Service Times: Sundays: Pneumatology Class 4/Prayer 4:30/Church 5:30; Tuesdays: (In-Home) Bible Study: Women 6:30/Men 6:30 & 7; Thursdays: Prayer 6:20/Church 7

- I am free from the pressure of trying to please men and can instead live to please God. (*Galatians 1:10*)
- I am free to strive to obey the Bible without the burden of trying to be justified by my obedience. (*Galatians 2:21*)
- I am free to be generous because Christ has promised to meet my needs. (*2 Corinthians 8:1-4*)
- I am free to live to serve others because I have been crucified with Christ. (*1 Peter 2:16*)
- I am free to pursue Christlikeness above all other pursuits. (*Matthew 6:33*)
- I am free not to worry or be anxious about tomorrow or have fear of eternal judgment (*Matthew 6:34; 1 John 4:18*)
- I am free to have joy and strength in the midst of tremendous hardship and difficulty. (*2 Corinthians 12:9-10*)
- I am free to live and to die for Christ and for His glory. (*Philippians 1:21-26*)
- I am free to put my family's spiritual health as a priority above the experiences of this life. (*Ephesians 5:22-6:4*)
- I am free to offer myself as a living sacrifice to God, holy and acceptable to God. (*Romans 12:1-2*)

“Free people think freedom comes from being free to do whatever you want to do, to hear whatever you want to hear and only what you want to hear, and to have no one impose on you anything that you don’t want. There are no absolutes in the moral world; there therefore should be no moral restraints. There is no recognition of accountability, responsibility, or judgment. And so we hear that people demand freedom to say what they want, freedom to think what they want, freedom to do what they want, freedom to disagree, freedom to dissent, freedom from authority, freedom from ethics that are imposed on them – freedom. But they’re not free. That all is a deception. There is no freedom to the unregenerate soul, because that soul is bound to sin. The only freedom they have is the freedom to choose the sin that most appeals to them. There’s no freedom from sin. Therefore there’s no freedom from guilt. Therefore there’s no freedom from fear. There’s no freedom from judgment. There’s no freedom from eternal punishment. It is a lie. It is the deception of our time that people are really free. They are bound in sin to the degree that the Bible says they are slaves to sin, free to choose which sinful master they prefer, but nonetheless slaves. They are bound in the chains of transgression and iniquity, headed for a sentence from God that will assign them to eternal punishment. They’re not free.”

(John MacArthur)

Announcements:

★**HOUSEWARMING POTLUCK AND BONFIRE:** *THIS* Saturday, October 15th, at 3pm everyone is invited to the housewarming potluck and bonfire at Frank and Kira Carter’s residence (8855 Township Road 57 NE; Roseville). Hotdogs will be provided, please bring a food item to share and your own lawn chair! Please RSVP to Kira (740) 475-9935.

★**FELLOWSHIP DINNER:** We are having a Fellowship Dinner TONIGHT immediately following the worship service. EVERYONE is invited to stay to enjoy the dinner and fellowship with us.

★**DONATIONS:** Throughout the month of October we will be collecting monetary donations for our potential move into the “new” building in November. These donations are to cover any of the seen and unforeseen expenses we will have in getting the building ready for us to move into. There is a container on the back table for your monetary donations. You can also give on Venmo, please make sure to note that it is for the “new” building fund.