

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

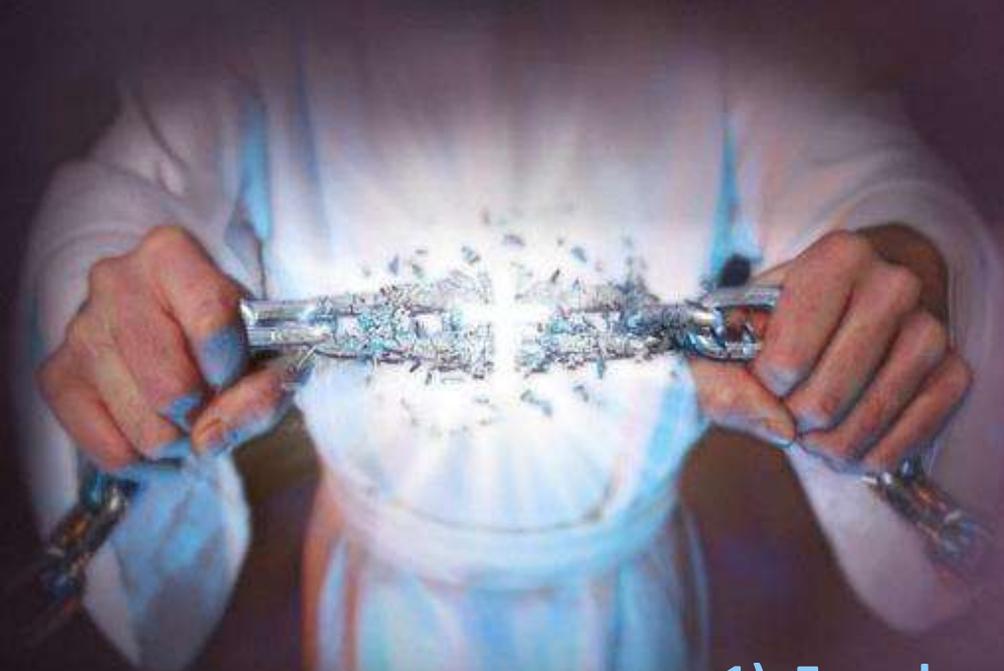
Lesson 11 for
September 9, 2017



First, Paul wrote about the freedom we have in Christ. Then he compared that freedom with the slavery of legalism that the false teachers taught.

That freedom shouldn't be used incorrectly, so Paul told the Galatians how to deal with the Law once they have been saved by Christ.

- 1) Freedom in Christ. Galatians 5:1.**
- 2) Freedom and legalism. Galatians 5:2-12.**
- 3) Freedom and licentiousness. Galatians 5:13.**
- 4) Freedom and Law. Galatians 5:14-15.**



FREEDOM IN CHRIST

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” (Galatians 5:1)

What are we free from in Christ?



From sin (Romans 6:18)



From condemnation (Romans 8:1)



From the world's corruption (Galatians 1:4)



From the curse of the law (Galatians 3:13)



From idolatry (Galatians 4:8)



From the slavery of the law (Galatians 5:1)



From the devil (Hebrews 2:14)

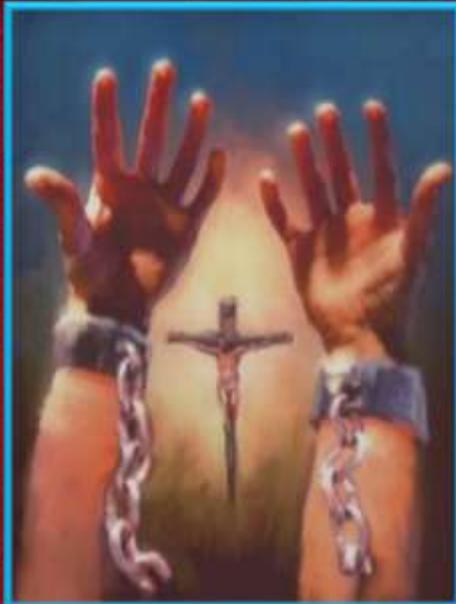


From eternal death (Hebrews 2:15)



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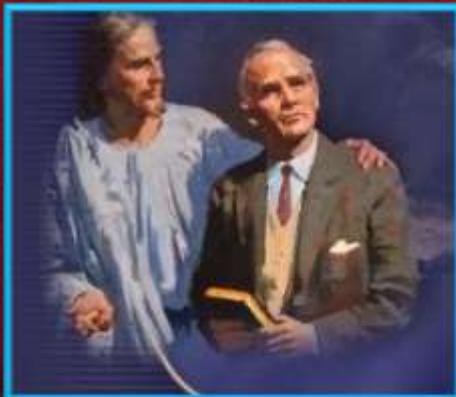
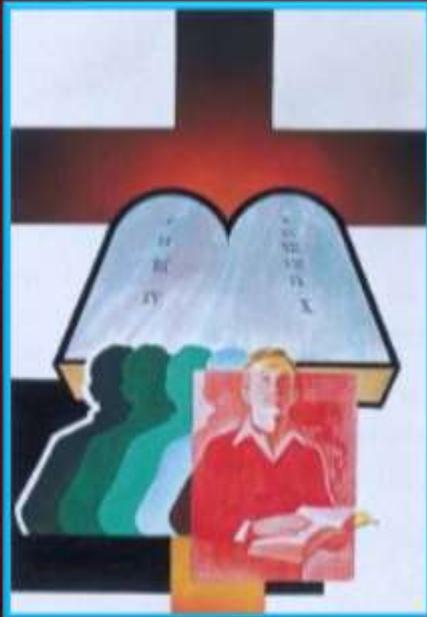


We haven't paid for our own freedom. Jesus paid the price at the Cross (1 Corinthians 6:20; 7:23).

We don't need to do anything (*to keep the law*) to become free.

We do our Father's will (*we keep the law*) because we ARE sons and daughters of God.

Our freedom is built on our relationship with Jesus Christ.



FREEDOM AND LEGALISM

“Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all.” (Galatians 5:2 NIV)

Why was a little cut in the flesh so important to Paul? It seemed like an insignificant action (Galatians 5:2-12)

- 1. Those who were circumcised were committing to keep ALL the law to be saved (v. 3).**
- 2. That is justification by works, so they were rejecting the justification God gives in Christ (v. 4).**
- 3. That’s a big hindrance in the way of spiritual growth (v. 7).**
- 4. Circumcision removes the “offense” of the Cross. When you want to save yourself, the message of the Cross is offensive to human pride, because we have to acknowledge that we are completely dependent on Christ (v. 11).**



That’s such a great danger that Paul wrote this about those who taught circumcision: “I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!” (v. 12 NIV).

FREEDOM AND LICENTIOUSNESS



“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” (Galatians 5:13)

How should we live if we’re not saved by our own works? Should we ignore every law and rule? Can we knowingly live in sin and be saved anyway (1 John 3:4)?

“We are those who have died to sin; how can we live in it any longer?” (Romans 6:2 NIV).

Instead of indulging our sins, our freedom leads us to serve [to become slaves] for love.

If we willingly become servants [slaves] because we love our neighbor, then we’re fulfilling the law (Romans 13:10).



FREEDOM AND LAW

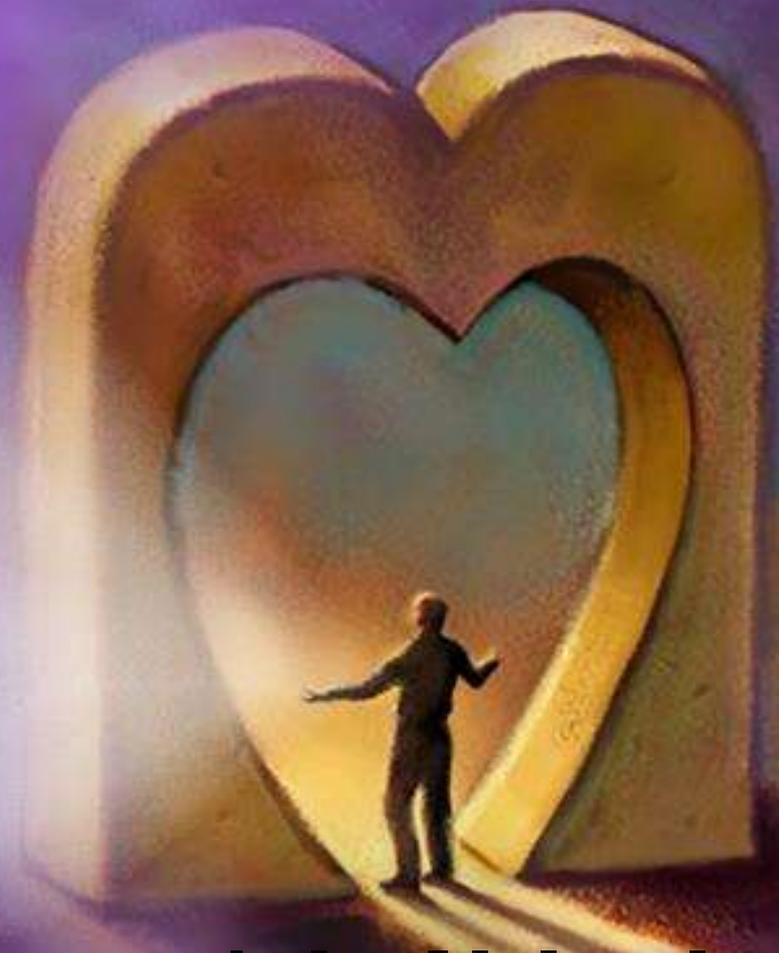
"For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (Galatians 5:14)

In verse 3, Paul wrote that we don't need to keep the law. Nevertheless, now he's encouraging us to keep it.

Jesus made it clear: *keeping* the letter of the law and *fulfilling* the purpose of the commandment are different things (Matthew 5-7).

Paul used the word "fulfilling" because means more than just "doing." That obedience is caused by Jesus in us.

It is not an abandonment of the law, nor a reduction of the law only to love; it is the way through which the believer could experience the true intent and meaning of the whole law!



“It is our duty to love Jesus as our Redeemer. He has a right to command our love, but He invites us to give Him our heart. He calls us to walk with Him in the path of humble, truthful obedience. His invitation to us is a call to a pure, holy, and happy life—a life of peace and rest, of liberty and love—and to a rich inheritance in the future, immortal life. Which will we choose—liberty in Christ, or bondage and tyranny in the service of Satan? ... If we choose to live with Christ through the ceaseless ages of eternity, why not choose Him now as our most loved and trusted friend, our best and wisest counselor.”

E.G.W. (Lift Him Up, March 25)