



Experiencing True Freedom!

Jesus' revolutionary mission: To set us free!

Jesus: "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed." Lk 4:18

Jesus: "...the truth will set you free." They answered, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin." John 8:32-34

If Jesus came to set us free, why are so many Christians living enslaved lives?

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... Galatians 5:1

Beware these 3 common thieves of freedom...

1. _____
You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? ... After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain perfection by human effort? Gal. 3:1, 3

Jesus: "My yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matt. 11:30

"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." 2Cor. 12:9

2. _____
Now that you know God ... how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles? Do you wish to be enslaved all over again? Gal. 4:9

They are trying to make themselves good enough to gain God's favor by keeping laws and customs -- but that is not God's way of salvation. They don't understand that Christ gives to those who trust him, everything they are trying to get by keeping his laws! Christ ends all that! Rom. 10:3- 4 (LB)

The result: What has happened to all your joy? Gal. 4:15

3. _____
You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. Gal. 5:13

The result: The one who sows to please his sinful nature, from that nature will reap destruction. Gal. 6:8

...a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him. 2 Pet. 2:19

The cure: So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. Gal. 5:16

What is enslaving you?

Jesus: "If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed!" John 8:36

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom! 2 Cor. 3:17

Daily Meditations

This week's memory verse:

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery... Galatians 5:1

Monday

Happy Independence Day! As we celebrate our country's liberty today, let's consider our personal liberty in Christ. Look back over your notes. Which of the three "thieves of freedom" have you experienced?

How has the Lord helped you regain your freedom in the past when you've dealt with one of these thieves?

What Scripture spoke to you the most in the message this past weekend?

Thank God for the country you live in. Ask Him to give our leaders guidance and wisdom. Ask Him to help you guard your freedom in Christ from the three thieves we spoke about this past weekend.

Tuesday

Read Galatians 5:1-10. What does Paul mean, "it is for freedom Christ has set us free"?

What does Paul mean here by "yoke of slavery"?

How have you been enslaved to legalism or perfectionism?

Why do you think this issue moves Paul so strongly? What's at stake here?

Ask God to help you navigate between the dangers of legalism on the one hand, and hedonism on the other. Thank Him that you are saved completely by the grace of God!

Wednesday

Read Galatians 5:13-26. How have you seen Christian freedom abused?

Of Paul's list of "acts of the sinful nature", which are weak spots for you?

Of Paul list of the fruit of the Spirit, which are most evident in your life?

Where on this list do you really need to grow?

What do you think Paul means by "living in the Spirit"?

Ask God to help you not abuse your freedom in Christ. Ask Him to help you live in the Spirit and focus on His desire.

Thursday

Read John 8:31-36. To what sorts of things today do people become enslaved?

How does "the truth set you free", as Jesus said? How have you seen this happen?

To what sin are you a slave? How has the Son set you free?

Ask God to set you free from an enslaving sin, attitude, or habit today. Ask Him to show you what actions you can take, and what truths you need to learn, in order to be set free. Thank Him for His forgiving grace!

Friday

Read Hebrews 2:14,15. From what fear did Jesus set people free, according to these verses?

From what other fears does Jesus set us free? From what fears has he set you free?

From what fears would you like to be free?

Ask God to set you free from specific fears in your life. Spend some time meditating on the power of Jesus Christ to set you free! Thank Him for His love and grace!

Saturday

Complete any devotions you may have missed and polish up the memory verse. Please pray for the services this weekend. Thanks!

Some devotional questions this week adapted from *The Serendipity Study Bible* and *NavPress LessonMaker*