

30 May

 Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Galatians



Let's hear your story

1. Have you ever had to explain to a friend or family member what it means to be set free by Jesus Christ?
2. What does v.1; tell us about Jesus Christ? (**He has set us free**).
3. What does v.2; tell us about circumcision? (**Christ will be of no advantage to us**).
4. What does v.4; tell those who believe that through the law they can be justified or righteous before God? (**They have fallen away from grace**).



Let's go deeper

5. What counts according to Paul in v.6? (**Faith working through love**).
6. What is the meaning of v.9? (**Leaven stood for evil influence, the legalistic commitment is dangerous and can corrupt everything**).
7. What were believers called to in v.13? (**Called to freedom**).
8. How should they use their freedom? (**Through love serve one another**).
9. In which way is the whole law fulfilled in one word? (**You shall love your neighbour as yourself – see v.14**).



Let's apply this

9. What are the practical implications of walking in the Spirit?

The Christian life is a life of liberty. Jesus came to set the captives free, not to keep them in bondage or put them in bondage all over again. It is easy to think liberty is "the right to sin," or "the privilege to do whatever evil my heart wants to do." Instead, this liberty is the Spirit-given desire and ability to do what we should do before God

- Are there any areas in your life or mind (lies) that you are still under bondage?
- Ask Holy Spirit to help you walk in the liberty and freedom of Christ.

SUMMARY:

- Book of Galatians

Read: Galatians 5:1 – 15

v.1; It is Christ who has made us free. We don't make ourselves free. Freedom is a gift from Jesus, given to us and received by faith. When we struggle to free ourselves, we just become more entangled with a yoke of bondage.

The liberty is our freedom from having to earn our own way to God, the freedom from sin, guilt, condemnation, freedom from the penalty, power and presence of sin. Stand fast means that it takes effort to stay in this place of liberty. Someone who is legally made free in Jesus can still live-in bondage; they can be deceived into placing themselves back into slavery.

v.2 – 4; When we embrace the law as our rule of walking with God, we must let go of Jesus. He is no longer our righteousness; we attempt to earn it ourselves. For the Galatians in this context, to receive circumcision – the ritual that testified that a Gentile was coming under the law – meant that he no longer trusted in Jesus as His righteousness, but trusted in himself instead. So, Paul could say "Christ will profit you nothing."

v.5 – 6; Those walking in the Spirit waits for righteousness by faith; they are not trying to earn it by performing good works. No one is a legalist through the Spirit. Those walking in the Spirit know that being circumcised or uncircumcised means nothing. What matters is faith working through love, both of which were absent in the legalists.

v.7 – 12; Paul remembered their good start in the faith, but he also knows that it isn't enough to start well. They were still in danger of falling from grace. Paul knew that the false teaching came from a person (**who hindered you**); but it didn't come from Jesus. At the root of it all, the Galatians were leaving Jesus to pursue the false and empty teachings of man, in this case legalism.

In the Jewish way of thinking, **leaven** almost always stood for evil influence. Paul is saying that the legalistic commitment they have right now may be small, but it is so dangerous that it can corrupt everything.

v.13 – 15; The Christian life is a life of liberty. Jesus came to set the captives free, not to keep them in bondage or put them in bondage all over again. It is easy to think liberty is "the right to sin," or "the privilege to do whatever evil my heart wants to do." Instead, this liberty is the Spirit-given desire and ability to do what we should do before God. This is the antidote for using liberty as an occasion for the flesh. The flesh expects others to conform to us, and doesn't care about others. But when we through love serve one another, we conquer the flesh.