

Title What's Free in 2018?
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Sermon Notes

Galatians 5:1 It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.² Behold I, Paul, say to you that if you receive circumcision, Christ will be of no benefit to you. ³ And I testify again to every man who receives circumcision, that he is under obligation to keep the whole Law. ⁴ You have been severed from Christ, you who are seeking to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. ⁵ For we through the Spirit, by faith, are waiting for the hope of righteousness. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love.⁷ You were running well; who hindered you from obeying the truth? ⁸ This persuasion *did not come* from Him who calls you. ⁹ A little leaven leavens the whole lump of dough. ¹⁰ I have confidence in you in the Lord that you will adopt no other view; but the one who is disturbing you will bear his judgment, whoever he is. ¹¹ But I, brethren, if I still preach circumcision, why am I still persecuted? Then the stumbling block of the cross has been abolished. ¹² I wish that those who are troubling you would even mutilate themselves.¹³ For you were called to freedom, brethren; only *do not turn* your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ¹⁴ For the whole Law is fulfilled in one word, in the *statement*, "YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF." ¹⁵ But if you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.¹⁶ But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please. ¹⁸ But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the Law. ¹⁹ Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are: immorality, impurity, sensuality, ²⁰ idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions,²¹ envying, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. ²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ Now those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become boastful, challenging one another, envying one another. *NASB*

Big Idea:

Galatians 2:20-21

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me. ²¹ I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness *comes* through the Law, then Christ died needlessly. *NASB*

For Reflection & Application:

Monday:

- Read Ephesians 2:8-9. Is there any room for works in the pure gospel of grace?

Prayer: "Lord, if I'm honest with myself, I know that there is no amount of good works that I can add to what you have done for me on the cross when You died for my sins. I believe in You alone for my salvation."

Tuesday:

- Read Galatians 5:1. Is it possible to be free in Christ and not experience freedom in Christ?

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, I believe that You have set me free, but I don't feel that I am experiencing that freedom, and I want to be transformed into who you want me to be. Please show me how I can take the first steps to fly out of my cage and experience freedom in You."

Wednesday:

- Read Galatians 5:1 and Galatians 3:1-5. What does Paul mean when he says to stand firm? Stand firm is what?

Prayer: "Dear Jesus, I am humbled by the love and grace you have shown to me when you made me your child by your grace alone through faith alone in you alone, and nothing else. Help me to hold tightly onto this message of grace throughout my life, remembering my helplessness and your abundant grace, that I may experience freedom in you."

Thursday:

- Read Galatians 5:16-26. What is the difference between striving hard to "do" the fruit of the Spirit vs. walking by the Spirit, allowing the Spirit to bear the fruit in you?

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, I know that my flesh is in opposition to your Spirit, so please help me to humbly put aside my fleshly desires and lead me to walk by your Spirit, that I may be transformed and bear your fruit"

Friday:

- Read Galatians 5:24-26, and 2:20. What do these verses say about how to walk by the Spirit? How can we walk by the Spirit in 2018?

Prayer: "Heavenly Father, it scares me to give up control of my life, yet I am also excited to see where walking by the Spirit will lead me. I understand that I have been crucified with Christ, so please help me now to live by faith in Jesus in view of his abundant love and grace for me, and experience true freedom in Christ."