

Ministry of The Holy Spirit
Freedom
Galatians 4:7-31

Last time...

- The relationship between the Law of God and the Promise of God continued
 - The purpose of the Law: to lead us to Christ that we might be justified by faith
 - By faith in God's Promise, we are children of God in Christ Jesus
- As God's children, we are the heirs of the Promise (of eternal Life)
 - Jew and Gentile
 - Male and female
 - Bondservants and free

This time...freedom

Not freedom (political) as often symbolized by the flag of USA

Freedom of speech...still true?

Freedom of worship...unquestioned and unopposed by all?

Freedom of press...really?

All temporary and subject to winds of political change

But true, real freedom...from sin and death, in Christ...irrevocable, forever

We continue in Galatians 4

v8-9 knew not God...have known God:

How is it then, as sons and heirs of God through Christ,

- when you knew not God...
 - pagans, serving pagan gods and superstitions
 - in servitude to idols, revealed by Word of God as
 - Ps 115:4-8
 - the work of man's hands
 - mouths but speak not
 - eyes but see not
 - ears but hear not
 - noses but smell not
 - hands but handle not
 - feet but walk not (must be carried)
 - 1 Cor 10:20 the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God

- but now after you have known God...
 - Gen 1:1 Creator
 - Ps 103:8-14 merciful, gracious, slow to anger, has not rewarded us according to our iniquities
 - Is 43:25 blots out our transgressions for His sake and will not remember our sins
 - Is 45:21-23 transcends time...tells us the future before it happens e.g. mystery of the promised Messiah

 - John 1:17-18
 - Heb 1:1-3 Heir, Creator, express image of His Person
 - Col 1:15-20

 - known the Truth
 - John 14:6...by Me, not by the Law
 - John 8:31-32
 - worshipped the God of the Living (Matt 22:31-32), Whose Promise is Life to whosoever will believe
 - serve the living and true God, like the Thessalonians (1 Thes 1:9)

- how do you return to religion and bondage after tasting the freedom of a right relationship with God in Christ?

v10-11 observe...I am afraid of you:

Now, after being bewitched by a false gospel of salvation by works,
you are observing the Jewish holy days in the Jewish Law, all of which

- were given to lead you to Christ to be justified by faith (Ch 3:24)
- speak of, point to, and are fulfilled in Jesus Christ! (Col 2:16-17)

You have been bewitched to embrace outward (of the flesh) religious observances
instead of the inward (of the Spirit) liberty in Christ
You have become legalistic and judgmental, instead of Christ-like

I am afraid for you,
I am worried about you
I am concerned that all my time and effort is speaking Truth into your
lives was for naught

Because I did not labor day and night among you teaching a form of bondage,
but the freedom from bondage

v12 beseech...be as I:

Brethren...brothers and sisters, family

I beseech you...I beg you

be as I am...

- a child of God and not an enemy of God (James 4:4, a letter they got)
- living, freed from the curse of the Law (Ch 3:11-14)
- dead to the Law and alive to Abba Father in the Spirit of Christ
- an heir of God according to His Promise (Life)

One can feel Paul's heartbreak toward these churches who have taken their eyes off of Jesus Christ

He was a pastor/shepherd, not a theologian

Pastor shepherds are burdened with care and heartbreak for God's children

Theologians tend to be burdened with knowledge (vs faith) and condemnation

v13-15 infirmity of the flesh...where then is the blessedness:

Paul reminds them of how

- he came to them – infirmed in the flesh
 - his eyes
 - Ch 6:11
 - 2 Cor 12:7-10 his thorn in the flesh
 - not to mention all the persecution of the Jews that came with preaching the Gospel of Grace (Acts 13-14)
- they received him as a messenger of God
 - did not despise or reject or judge him because of his infirmity
 - would have given their own eyes to him if they could have...
 - loved him

But you have changed, you have much different sentiments toward me

v16 become your enemy...the truth:

You loved me...so what happened?

How did such love turn into such hostility and acrimony?

How did I become your enemy?

How did the Truth I spoke become "hate speech"?

Answer?

v17 They:

Answer: they

- of Ch 1:6-7
- false teachers
- wolves in sheep's clothing
- not helpers of your joy (2 Cor 1:24) but robbers of your joy

The false teachers have with great zeal (an emotion, of the flesh) lured, seduced, bewitched the churches in Galatia with their false, flesh-appealing, and pride-satisfying doctrine

But not for their good; rather, for their harm

The false teachers are not promoting or facilitating spiritual growth, they are hindering and destroying it

The false teachers are striving to

- exclude the Galatians...from the kingdom of God
Matt 18:3 except be converted and become as little children,
 shall not enter the kingdom of heaven
Matt 23:13 the Pharisees shut up the kingdom of heaven to men
- gather disciples unto themselves
Acts 20:27-30 happened first in Galatia

The false teachers are parasites, feeding on the Body of Christ

v18-20 travail in birth again...I stand in doubt:

Paul is telling the Galatians that their zeal, as his zeal once was (Ch 1:14), is misdirected and needs a "course correction"

God alone is good

It is profitable to be zealous for the truth of God

- zealous in the Spirit
- for the Gospel of Grace – salvation by grace thru faith in Jesus Christ

All other religious zeal is unprofitable, even accursed

- of the flesh (Rom 10:1-4)
- for the gospel of works – salvation by man's works (Ch 1:8-9)

My little children...a term of endearment

1 Cor 4:14-15 I write not these things to shame you, but as my beloved sons I warn *you*. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel.

Paul feels like he is continuing to give birth...the on-going, hard work of discipleship until Christ is formed in their hearts

Rom 8:29 conformed by God into the image of Jesus Christ
Rom 12:1-2 not conformed to this world but transformed by the
 renewing of our mind, to present our bodies/lives as a
 living sacrifice
Matt 16:24

He is travailing, in pain, because the “abortionists”, the spiritual mutilators,
are bewitching them with a not-good news of condemnation vs grace,
poisoning their spirits

He is fighting for these “children”!!!

The world is a very dangerous place for children...both outside and inside
the womb

The world is a very dangerous place for “baby Christians” until their faith
is disciplined, tested, strengthened, grown
Thus, the hard work of making disciples

Paul is Ch 6:1-2 for these brethren

With 2 Tim 3:16-17 in mind, Paul laments the inability of a letter to communicate
another part of his message – his tone of voice in his heartbreak

v21 do ye not hear:

Do you really understand what you are saying and believing?
You desire to be under, subject to, the Law...God’s justice, devoid of grace and
mercy, that rightfully and justly demands perfection

Do you hear the Law...

- leading you to Christ and the Promise of God (Life)
- declaring you guilty and condemning you to death
- Acts 15:7-12

v22-27 For it is written...two sons...allegory:

For it is written...the very words of God in the 1st Book of Moses, Genesis...
before the Law was given

Real people, real events, real places...and prophetic of a far larger reality

By the Holy Spirit, our Teacher and Guide into all truth, Paul reveals that the
two real sons of Abraham, Ishmael and Isaac, were also allegorical...
types, shadows, illustrations

one by the bondmaid...Hagar

- Ishmael
- a work of the flesh (corrupt and not pleasing to God),
not of faith (pleasing to God)
- a type/shadow/illustration of the bondage of the Law of God
(Ch 3:10, sin and death)
- the covenant of the Law (Ch 3:19a)
- given on Mount Sinai
- corresponding to Jerusalem, center of the Jewish religion
 - then...soon to be destroyed by the Romans
 - now...to this day! (e.g. Orthodox Jews at Western Wall)
 - future...Rev 11:8 (Sodom and Egypt)
 - works without a sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin...
still in bondage to sin, the bondage of corruption

other by a freewoman...Sarah

- Isaac
 - a work of faith and of the Spirit of God...set free by faith
 - a type/shadow/illustration of the Promise of God (Life)
 - "Jerusalem which is above"
 - The kingdom of God/heaven
 - The New Jerusalem
- Rev 3:12 a promise to Philadelphia
Rev 21:2-4
Rev 21:10-11a

Paul quotes Is 54:1...which follows after...Is 53

The Father's work of salvation and Jesus' work of faith,
NOT man's anything but sin

v28-29 we...as Isaac...persecuted:

Applying the allegory to us, we are as Isaac

- children of the Promise thru faith (John 1:12-13, John 3:5)
- a work of the Spirit and not of the flesh (Ch 3:3)
- free from bondage (Ch 3:25-26)
- persecuted by the children of bondage/the flesh

Just as Ishmael persecuted Isaac, so do the Judaizers persecute you

- Gen 21:8-9
- Ch 1:7
- Acts 20:28-30

v30-31 what saith Scripture:

What does Scripture, the very words of God, say?

Gen 21:10

Cast out the wolves in sheep's clothing!

2 Peter 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

Man's work of the flesh will not be an heir with God's work of the Spirit
Death will not be an heir with Life
Darkness will not be an heir with Light

So then...the concluding statement

By the faith of Christ

By the Promise of the Spirit thru faith

By salvation by grace thru faith

We are NOT in bondage to sin and death

We have been set free from bondage and spiritual tyranny!

John 8:31-32, 36

By the very words of God and not by the theologies of man

By sound doctrine (Scripture) and not by man's doctrine

We stand in liberty/freedom in Christ Jesus

Application/Lesson

So, as born-again children of the Living God, do not let false teachers and legalistic Christians torment or seduce you with lies and ear-tickling fables

Keep your eyes on Jesus and in your Bibles!

This flag does not set us free, Jesus Christ set us free!

Live free!

Phil 3:1-14

If you have been comforted, encouraged, instructed in righteousness and it is in your heart to be an ambassador for this Good News, please come for prayer to receive by faith the power of God to do so

If you want hands laid on you in prayer, come forward