**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Liberated Living |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Galatians 5:1 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1767 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Jesus came to set the captives free.
      1. He breaks the power of cancelled sin.
   2. Satan wants to enslave us.
      1. He wants to make us slaves and servants of sin.
      2. He is not looking for casualties.
         1. He is looking for converts that he can enslave.
   3. We have a world that speaks much about freedom but knows so little about it.
   4. People want to cast off restraint, but it is Jesus who has come to set us free.
   5. Galatians 5:1
      1. Some translations say, “the yoke of self-effort,” instead of “the yoke of bondage.”
   6. In today’s message, we will discuss the freedom that we have in the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. the dimensions of a life of liberty (galatians 1:6-12)
   1. We are free from the bondage of legalism.
      1. Galatians 1:6-7
         1. Some people were deserting the Gospel (in verse six), and some were perverting the Gospel (verse seven).
         2. They were deserting the Gospel because of those who were perverting the Gospel.
            1. Satan is a pervert.

He has no original material.

All he can do is take that which is good, pure, holy, and righteous, and pervert it.

He would rather pervert the Gospel than deny the Gospel.

If he can pervert the Gospel and get us to believe a corrupted Gospel rather than the true Gospel, then we’ll be satisfied with the substitute and become synthetic Christians.

* + - * 1. God wants us to believe the true Gospel.

So, Satan has to come up with a substitute or imitation gospel.

Galatians 1:7

* + 1. Galatians 1:7-8
       1. “Let him be accursed” can be translated, “let him be condemned to Hell.”
       2. Let the curse of Almighty God be upon him.
          1. This may sound narrow-minded or restrictive, but we are not talking about matters of preference.

We are talking about matters of eternal destiny.

* + - * 1. Anyone who perverts the Gospel of Jesus Christ is worthy of God’s greatest judgment.
    1. Galatians 1:9
       1. It is not the messenger that validates the message.
          1. Even if a holy angel came to us and proclaimed that he had a new gospel, Paul said, “Let him be accursed.”
          2. Paul said that if he changed his mind about the Gospel that he had preached and brought to us a new and modern gospel, then the judgment of God would be upon him.
    2. Galatians 1:10
       1. The Apostle Paul said that he was an ambassador, not a politician.
          1. He did not come to please them.
          2. There is but one Gospel, not two or three.
       2. Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.
          1. Some may call this narrow-minded.

We want our airline pilot and doctor to be narrow-minded.

But somehow in the matters that matter the most – our eternal destiny – people say that it just does not matter what we believe.

They want to believe that all roads lead to Heaven.

They do not.

* + - 1. There is one Gospel, and it is the Gospel of grace.
    1. Paul gives us three tests to determine whether or not it is the true Gospel:
       1. The source test.
          1. Galatians 1:11-12

This Gospel is not an invention of man.

It was something that God gave.

It is not in man’s invention but in God’s revelation.

Paul said that this is direct and divine revelation.

* + - * 1. Any true Gospel has to come from God Himself.

It is not good enough to just go to the church of our choice.

We must go where they preach God’s Word.

* + - 1. The salvation test.
         1. Galatians 1:6

Any gospel that is not the Gospel of grace is not the true Gospel.

* + - * 1. How are we saved?

Ephesians 2:8

We cannot beg, buy, borrow, or earn it.

It is the grace of God, and it was bought by Christ on the cross.

When He finished it, it was accomplished.

We cannot deplete it or add to it.

* + - * 1. It is the supernatural work of God.
      1. The subject test.
         1. Galatians 1:6
         2. The Lord Jesus is the subject of the Gospel.

It is about Him.

It is about His death, burial, and resurrection.

* + - * 1. 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

Nothing else but the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins.

Not a gospel that speaks about Him or alludes to Him, but a Gospel that centers in Jesus Christ.

* + 1. What is salvation?
       1. It is not a creed.
          1. It is not saying that we believe certain things.

People can believe the plan of salvation and still go to Hell.

We are not saved by the plan of salvation.

We are saved by the Man of salvation.

* + - 1. It is not a code.
         1. Some believe that if they live right, then they will go to Heaven.
         2. Galatians 2:21

If we can be saved by living right, then Calvary was a blunder.

* + - 1. It is not a cause.
         1. Some believe that if they love everybody, then they will go to Heaven.
      2. It is not a church.
         1. It is not being a member of a good, fundamental, Bible-believing church.
      3. It is Christ.
         1. The reason there is so much religious mayhem in the world today is because people have met creeds, but not Christ.

They have entered into codes of living, but not Christ.

They have joined churches without meeting Christ.

* + - * 1. Salvation is not believing something.

Salvation is receiving Someone.

* + - * 1. Jesus is not just a good way to Heaven.

Jesus is the only way to Heaven.

Acts 4:12

Any other gospel is a false gospel.

* + 1. How does this liberate us?
       1. If we do not understand that we are saved by the grace of God, then we will always be in bondage to legalism.
          1. A person will never be able to know that they are saved.
       2. If we understand that we are saved by the grace of God, then we are free from the bondage of legalism and self-effort.
       3. When we are saved by the grace of God, it all depends upon Him.
          1. We don’t have to question if we are saved.
          2. We can know that we are saved.
       4. We are the sons and daughters of God, not the slaves of God.
          1. Galatians 4:7
          2. If we are trying to be saved by the law by being good, then we are servants.

If we are saved by grace, then we are sons and daughters.

* + - * 1. A servant is accepted on the basis of what he or she does.

A son is accepted on the basis of who he is.

* + - * 1. The servant is anxious that he might please his master and be accepted based on his workmanship.

The son is resting in his father’s love and knows that he is accepted.

The son is accepted because of his relationship with the father.

* + - * 1. The servant is accepted because of his productivity.

The son is accepted because of his position.

* + - * 1. The servant knows that if he fails, then he may lose his position.

The son knows that if he fails, he may be lovingly corrected, but he is still the father’s son.

* + 1. Grace is God’s love shown to us where there is no merit on our behalf.
       1. It does not depend upon anything that we do.
       2. God does not say, “I love you because…” or “I love us since…” or “I love you if…”
          1. Those are conditions.
       3. God’s love for us is unconditional.
          1. If God’s love for us depended upon anything in us, then if that thing changed, God’s love toward us would change.
          2. But it depends upon God, and His love toward us will not change.

There is nothing we can do to stop God from loving us.

Romans 8:38-39

* + - 1. God’s love is an action toward us, not a reaction.
         1. It comes out of God’s nature.
         2. It is not based on what we are but on who He is.

Therefore, we don’t try to put ourselves in a position where God can love us.

We react to the love of God that is there.

* + - * 1. God does not change us so that He can love us.

He loves us so He can change us.

* + - 1. There is nothing that will change us and liberate us like the grace of God.
    1. We are free from self-effort.
       1. This is something that we put upon ourselves.
       2. Jesus came to set us free by His grace.
  1. He came to set us free from criticism.
     1. Galatians 2:4-5
     2. The Bible tells us in the Gospel of John that the law came by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.
        1. The law was rules, regulations, rituals, requirements, and restrictions.
        2. The law was to show us what kind of sinners we are; that we cannot be saved by keeping the Law.
           1. Galatians 2:21
           2. The law can never save us.

If the law could save us, then why did Jesus come?

The law came to show us that we need to be saved.

* + 1. The Pharisees added to the law their own list of requirements.
       1. Paul called them false brethren.
          1. Galatians 2:4
       2. The list makers don’t come from outside the church but from inside.
       3. They would like to put us into subjection.
       4. This is not talking about God’s genuine, holy commandments.
          1. These are, instead, external matters of preference that people try to put on us and make us subject to criticism.
       5. The Apostle Paul was a freedom fighter.
          1. Galatians 2:11-21

Simon Peter had been living by grace but had gone backward and allowed Judaizers to begin to criticize him.

Galatians 5:1

* + 1. We ought to be concerned with what others think; we don’t want to wound a weaker brother’s conscience.
       1. Romans 14
       2. We ought not to unnecessarily wound or grieve someone.
       3. But don’t let the professional weaker brother (the list maker) put you under bondage.
          1. It is their problem until you allow it to be your problem.
          2. You cannot make yourself sick to make them well.
    2. Under legalism, we’re in bondage to ourselves.
    3. Under criticism, we’re in bondage to others.
  1. He came to set us free from the bondage of fatalism.
     1. Galatians 4:3
        1. In this passage, “the elements of the world” refers to the elemental forces of nature.
           1. The stars, planets, and the world of nature is fatalism.
     2. Galatians 4:9-11
        1. Paul was talking about those who are wrapped up in astrology.
           1. There are those who believe in fate and horoscopes.

This is of the devil.

* + - * 1. Astrology means “the word of the stars.”
    1. There are those who believe they had a disaster because the stars weren’t right.
       1. With a child of God, there is no disaster.
          1. Romans 8:28
    2. God is God.
    3. We are not victims of fate.
       1. We cannot say, “This is just the way I am.”
    4. We are what we are by the grace of God, and that sets us free.
    5. Under fatalism, we are slaves to circumstance.
       1. But the grace of God will set us free from all of that.

1. the dynamics of a life of liberty (galatians 2:20-21)
   1. It is all centered in the cross of Jesus Christ.
      1. Galatians 2:20-21
         1. If we could be saved by being good, then Calvary was a blunder.
      2. Galatians 3:1
      3. The cross is our Statue of Liberty.
      4. It is the cross that tells us of our freedom.
         1. The cross sets us free from legalism because every demand of the law was paid for with the blood of Jesus Christ.
         2. The cross sets us free from criticism.
            1. People can criticize us, but we know who we are.
            2. Jesus loved us enough to die for us.
         3. The cross sets us free from fatalism.
            1. We were in the heart and mind of God before the foundation of the world.
            2. Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world.
   2. Galatians 2:20
   3. It is an executed life.
      1. We are crucified with Christ.
         1. When Jesus died for us, we died with Him.
         2. His death had our names on it.
         3. He was our substitute, so we died with Him.
      2. He didn’t just take our sins to the cross.
         1. If He had only taken our sins, then that would still have left us.
         2. He took us to the cross.
            1. We died.
      3. The problem is not what we do.
         1. It is what we are.
      4. Romans 6:23
         1. Our sin demanded death.
         2. Jesus died for us, and we died with Him.
   4. It is an exchanged life.
      1. Galatians 2:20
      2. Not only did He die and we died with Him, but He also arose and we arose with Him.
         1. The law has no more demand on us.
         2. We have paid in full, yet we live because Jesus Christ died and rose again.
      3. Jesus gave Himself for us that He might give Himself to us.
         1. And now He inhabits our humanity.
   5. It is an energized life.
      1. Galatians 2:20
         1. The life we now live, we live by the faith of the Son of God.
         2. It is not faith “in” the Son of God.
            1. That is true, but this is not what this passage is saying.
         3. It is faith “of” the Son of God.
            1. His faith is in us.
            2. His life is in us.
            3. He inhabits our humanity.
      2. This is the grace of God that sets us free.
   6. Sometimes we see a person that we think is a wonderful servant of God and wish we could be like that.
      * 1. It is not what that person is doing, but it is what God is doing in that person.
           1. Anyone will do if we let God in us be God.
2. CONCLUSION
   1. Galatians 2:20
      1. That is liberty.
   2. Do not let anyone put you under bondage.
   3. Galatians 5:1
      1. Stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has set you free.
         1. Free from the bondage of legalism.
         2. Free from the bondage of criticism.
         3. Free from the bondage of fatalism.
         4. Free indeed.
   4. True freedom can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
   5. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   6. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16