

SERMON OUTLINE

SERMON TITLE: Liberated Living

SERMON REFERENCE: Galatians 5:1

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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Jesus came to set the captives free.
 - i) He breaks the power of cancelled sin.
- b) Satan wants to enslave us.
 - i) He wants to make us slaves and servants of sin.
 - ii) He is not looking for casualties.
 - (1) He is looking for converts that he can enslave.
- c) We have a world that speaks much about freedom but knows so little about it.
- d) People want to cast off restraint, but it is Jesus who has come to set us free.
- e) Galatians 5:1
 - i) Some translations say, “the yoke of self-effort,” instead of “the yoke of bondage.”
- f) 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)

- a) We are free from the bondage of legalism.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) Satan is a pervert.
 - (i) He has no original material.
 - (ii) All he can do is take that which is good, pure, holy, and righteous, and pervert it.
 - (iii) He would rather pervert the Gospel than deny the Gospel.
 - 1. 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.
 - (b) God wants us to believe the true Gospel.
 - (i) So, Satan has to come up with a substitute or imitation gospel.
 - 1. Galatians 1:7
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) This may sound narrow-minded or restrictive, but we are not talking about matters of preference.
 - (i) We are talking about matters of eternal destiny.
 - (b) Anyone who perverts the Gospel of Jesus Christ is worthy of God’s greatest judgment.

- iii) Galatians 1:9
 - (1) It is not the messenger that validates the message.
 - (a) Even if a holy angel came to us and proclaimed that he had a new gospel, Paul said, “Let him be accursed.”
 - (b) 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.
- iv) Galatians 1:10
 - (1) The Apostle Paul said that he was an ambassador, not a politician.
 - (a) He did not come to please them.
 - (b) There is but one Gospel, not two or three.
 - (2) Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven.
 - (a) Some may call this narrow-minded.
 - (i) We want our airline pilot and doctor to be narrow-minded.
 - (ii) But somehow in the matters that matter the most – our eternal destiny – people say that it just does not matter what we believe.
 - 1. They want to believe that all roads lead to Heaven.
 - a. They do not.
 - (3) There is one Gospel, and it is the Gospel of grace.
- v) Paul gives us three tests to determine whether or not it is the true Gospel:
 - (1) The source test.
 - (a) Galatians 1:11-12
 - (i) This Gospel is not an invention of man.
 - (ii) It was something that God gave.
 - 1. It is not in man’s invention but in God’s revelation.
 - (iii) Paul said that this is direct and divine revelation.
 - (b) Any true Gospel has to come from God Himself.
 - (i) It is not good enough to just go to the church of our choice.
 - (ii) We must go where they preach God’s Word.
 - (2) The salvation test.
 - (a) Galatians 1:6
 - (i) Any gospel that is not the Gospel of grace is not the true Gospel.
 - (b) How are we saved?
 - (i) Ephesians 2:8
 - (ii) We cannot beg, buy, borrow, or earn it.
 - (iii) It is the grace of God, and it was bought by Christ on the cross.
 - 1. When He finished it, it was accomplished.
 - 2. We cannot deplete it or add to it.
 - (c) It is the supernatural work of God.
 - (3) The subject test.
 - (a) Galatians 1:6
 - (b) The Lord Jesus is the subject of the Gospel.
 - (i) It is about Him.

- (ii) It is about His death, burial, and resurrection.
- (c) 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
 - (i) Nothing else but the Gospel is the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our sins.
 - 1. Not a gospel that speaks about Him or alludes to Him, but a Gospel that centers in Jesus Christ.
- vi) What is salvation?
 - (1) It is not a creed.
 - (a) It is not saying that we believe certain things.
 - (i) People can believe the plan of salvation and still go to Hell.
 - 1. We are not saved by the plan of salvation.
 - 2. We are saved by the Man of salvation.
 - (2) It is not a code.
 - (a) Some believe that if they live right, then they will go to Heaven.
 - (b) Galatians 2:21
 - (i) If we can be saved by living right, then Calvary was a blunder.
 - (3) It is not a cause.
 - (a) Some believe that if they love everybody, then they will go to Heaven.
 - (4) It is not a church.
 - (a) It is not being a member of a good, fundamental, Bible-believing church.
 - (5) It is Christ.
 - (a) The reason there is so much religious mayhem in the world today is because people have met creeds, but not Christ.
 - (i) They have entered into codes of living, but not Christ.
 - (ii) They have joined churches without meeting Christ.
 - (b) Salvation is not believing something.
 - (i) Salvation is receiving Someone.
 - (c) Jesus is not just a good way to Heaven.
 - (i) Jesus is the only way to Heaven.
 - 1. Acts 4:12
 - 2. Any other gospel is a false gospel.
- vii) 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.
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) We don't have to question if we are saved.
 - (b) We can know that we are saved.
 - (4) We are the sons and daughters of God, not the slaves of God.
 - (a) Galatians 4:7

- (b) If we are trying to be saved by the law by being good, then we are servants.
 - (i) If we are saved by grace, then we are sons and daughters.
- (c) A servant is accepted on the basis of what he or she does.
 - (i) A son is accepted on the basis of who he is.
- (d) The servant is anxious that he might please his master and be accepted based on his workmanship.
 - (i) The son is resting in his father's love and knows that he is accepted.
 - (ii) The son is accepted because of his relationship with the father.
- (e) The servant is accepted because of his productivity.
 - (i) The son is accepted because of his position.
- (f) The servant knows that if he fails, then he may lose his position.
 - (i) The son knows that if he fails, he may be lovingly corrected, but he is still the father's son.
- viii) 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..."
 - (a) Those are conditions.
 - (3) God's love for us is unconditional.
 - (a) If God's love for us depended upon anything in us, then if that thing changed, God's love toward us would change.
 - (b) But it depends upon God, and His love toward us will not change.
 - (i) There is nothing we can do to stop God from loving us.
 - 1. Romans 8:38-39
 - (4) God's love is an action toward us, not a reaction.
 - (a) It comes out of God's nature.
 - (b) It is not based on what we are but on who He is.
 - (i) Therefore, we don't try to put ourselves in a position where God can love us.
 - (ii) We react to the love of God that is there.
 - (c) God does not change us so that He can love us.
 - (i) He loves us so He can change us.
 - (5) There is nothing that will change us and liberate us like the grace of God.
- ix) 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.
- b) He came to set us free from criticism.
 - i) Galatians 2:4-5
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Galatians 2:21
 - (b) The law can never save us.
 - (i) If the law could save us, then why did Jesus come?
 - 1. The law came to show us that we need to be saved.
- iii) The Pharisees added to the law their own list of requirements.
 - (1) Paul called them false brethren.
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) 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.
 - (a) Galatians 2:11-21
 - (i) Simon Peter had been living by grace but had gone backward and allowed Judaizers to begin to criticize him.
 - 1. Galatians 5:1
 - iv) 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.
 - (a) It is their problem until you allow it to be your problem.
 - (b) You cannot make yourself sick to make them well.
 - v) Under legalism, we're in bondage to ourselves.
 - vi) Under criticism, we're in bondage to others.
- c) He came to set us free from the bondage of fatalism.
 - i) Galatians 4:3
 - (1) In this passage, "the elements of the world" refers to the elemental forces of nature.
 - (a) The stars, planets, and the world of nature is fatalism.
 - ii) Galatians 4:9-11
 - (1) Paul was talking about those who are wrapped up in astrology.
 - (a) There are those who believe in fate and horoscopes.
 - (i) This is of the devil.
 - (b) Astrology means "the word of the stars."
 - iii) 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.
 - (a) Romans 8:28
 - iv) God is God.

- v) We are not victims of fate.
 - (1) We cannot say, "This is just the way I am."
 - vi) We are what we are by the grace of God, and that sets us free.
 - vii) Under fatalism, we are slaves to circumstance.
 - (1) But the grace of God will set us free from all of that.
- 3) THE DYNAMICS OF A LIFE OF LIBERTY (GALATIANS 2:20-21)
- a) It is all centered in the cross of Jesus Christ.
 - i) Galatians 2:20-21
 - (1) If we could be saved by being good, then Calvary was a blunder.
 - ii) Galatians 3:1
 - iii) The cross is our Statue of Liberty.
 - iv) 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.
 - (a) People can criticize us, but we know who we are.
 - (b) Jesus loved us enough to die for us.
 - (3) The cross sets us free from fatalism.
 - (a) We were in the heart and mind of God before the foundation of the world.
 - (b) Jesus was slain before the foundation of the world.
 - b) Galatians 2:20
 - c) It is an executed life.
 - i) 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.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) We died.
 - iii) The problem is not what we do.
 - (1) It is what we are.
 - iv) Romans 6:23
 - (1) Our sin demanded death.
 - (2) Jesus died for us, and we died with Him.
 - d) It is an exchanged life.
 - i) Galatians 2:20
 - ii) 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.

- iii) Jesus gave Himself for us that He might give Himself to us.
 - (1) And now He inhabits our humanity.
- e) It is an energized life.
 - i) 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.
 - (a) That is true, but this is not what this passage is saying.
 - (3) It is faith “of” the Son of God.
 - (a) His faith is in us.
 - (b) His life is in us.
 - (c) He inhabits our humanity.
 - ii) This is the grace of God that sets us free.
- f) 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.
 - (a) Anyone will do if we let God in us be God.

4) CONCLUSION

- a) Galatians 2:20
 - i) That is liberty.
- b) Do not let anyone put you under bondage.
- c) Galatians 5:1
 - i) 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.
- d) True freedom can only be found in the Lord Jesus Christ.
- e) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- f) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16