



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

# *Free Indeed*

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LESSON 4

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## **Christ Hath Made Us Free**

### **Galatians 5:1**

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”*

As children of God, we have liberty in Christ. In John 8:36, the Lord Jesus declares, *“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”* Christian liberty is one of the myriad gifts given to us by our Heavenly Father. God’s people have true freedom.

While Christian liberty is a popular topic for discussion, the biblical use of the believer’s liberty is often misunderstood. The Apostle Paul addresses the subject of Christian liberty extensively. According to Paul, liberty is bidirectional. In Christ, the

child of God is set free *from* certain things and is then made free *to do* certain things. Liberty comes with responsibility.

A concise summary of Christian liberty is found in the prophecy of Zacharias in Luke 1:74-75. He declares, “*That God would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.*” Christian liberty is not freedom to live for ourselves. True Christian liberty sets us free from our enemy and makes us free to live for God.

Satan is a master of concealment. He successfully cloaks the hooks of deceit in the guise of religious terms and smooth speech. This is what Paul contends against. The book of Galatians records Paul’s valiant fight to preserve Christian liberty as others sought to shackle early Christians with the Mosaic Law and dead orthodoxy.

Paul recognizes the dangers of false teachers. He immediately goes into action to stand against them, their false gospel, and false freedom. Paul takes a strong stand, leading the charge to defend the gospel of Christ and Christian liberty. He anchors his defense in the truth, stating in Galatians 5:1, “*Christ hath made us free.*” Our freedom is not free. The Lord Jesus purchased our freedom. Therefore, when we think of Christian liberty, our first thought ought to be of Calvary. We should remember Christ paying the price for our freedom with His own precious blood (Revelation 1:5). We ought to consider our Saviour stepping out of the borrowed tomb, conquering death, hell, and the grave. We should meditate on our Mediator, seated at the right hand of the Majesty on high, interceding for us. Such thoughts anchor our freedom in its source and us to

our responsibility to serve God *“without fear, in holiness and righteousness...all the days of our life”* (Luke 1:74, 75).

In Christ, we are set free. The Apostle Paul highlights numerous shackles from which Christ delivers us. Consider the following blessings of Christian liberty.

## **We Are Free from Condemnation.**

*“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.”* -Romans 8:1-2

In Adam, all people are spiritually dead, physically dying, and enslaved to sin (Romans 5:18). In Christ, the pronouncement of judgment against us is removed. We are no longer condemned to the punishment of sin. The child of God is free from *“the law of sin and death”* (Romans 8:2). In Christ, we are set free from the slavery of sin. The controlling influence of our old nature is broken. Therefore, we do not have to walk after the flesh; we can walk after the Spirit. There is no condemnation because we are set free from the penalty and judgment our sin rightfully deserves.

## **We Are Free from the Curse of the Law.**

*“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”* -Galatians 3:13

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the Law. The Mosaic legal system is humanly impossible to fulfill. Like an overzealous schoolmaster, the Law highlights

every infraction, condemning everyone under its authority. The curse of the Law is the penalty of death.

At Calvary, the Lord Jesus Christ was made a curse for us. In Galatians 3:13, Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 21:22-23. Under the Law, capital punishment was typically by stoning; to die by hanging upon a tree declared that a person was under the direct curse of God. The Lord Jesus was made a curse for us. On Calvary, every curse and judgment our sin deserved was aimed at Him. He died on a tree, the symbol of the curse of the Law. He died wearing a crown of thorns, the symbol of the curse from the Fall (Gen. 3:17-19). Because Christ died for us, we are now free from the curse and condemnation of the Law.

## **We Are Free from the Ceremonial Demands of the Law.**

*“Be it known unto you therefore, men and brethren, that through this man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins: and by him all that believe are justified from all things, from which ye could not be justified by the law of Moses.” -Acts 13:38-39*

In Christ, believers are completely justified. What the Law of Moses could never do, faith in Christ does. The Law and all its ceremonial demands were a yoke upon the necks of Israel that proved too heavy for the people to bear (Acts 15:10). Contrast this with the easy yoke and light burden of Christ (Matthew 11:30).

Notice the word *justified* in Acts 13:39. Luke employs the same word in the parable of the Pharisee and the Publican. In Luke 18:14, the Lord Jesus says that the publican, who acknowledged his sin and cried out for mercy, went to his house *justified*. Luke emphasizes a truth that cannot be ignored. We are justified by faith, not by the keeping of the Law. The Law could not justify the Pharisee. In Christ, we are set free from the ceremonial demands of the Law.

## **We Are Free from the Influence of This Present Evil World.**

*“Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father.” -Galatians 1:4*

The *present evil world* refers to the current world system characterized by an anti-God culture and mindset. In Christ, all children of God are delivered from the controlling influence of the world, the flesh, and the Devil that seeks to conform them to the world. In Christ, God’s people are set free to be transformed into the image of our Saviour. In this, the Father answers the prayer the Lord Jesus prays in John 17:15-17. We are *in* the world but kept *from* the evil of this present world. We are sanctified and made holy for His glory. Being born again, we have a new mindset; we have the mind of Christ. As citizens of Heaven, we have a biblical worldview, a new culture, and new values.

## **We Are Free from the Bondage of Satan.**

*“Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son.” -Colossians 1:13*

God the Father has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. This wording describes a conqueror who rescues the oppressed and leads them to safety. This is what God has done for us. Without Christ, we are in the snare of the Devil, held captive by his will (II Timothy 2:26). By Christ, we have been rescued, removed from the kingdom of darkness, and placed into the Kingdom of Light. We are no longer strangers or aliens, but citizens and adopted children, joint heirs with Christ Jesus.

## **We Are Free from the Dominion of Sin.**

*“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”*  
-Romans 6:11-14

Two thoughts seem to dominate Paul’s mind in Romans chapter six. The first is that Christ died for us. The second is that we died with Him. Salvation is possible through His death, burial, and resurrection. Sanctification practically takes place as believers understand that they are crucified with Christ and raised to newness of life in Him. We reckon ourselves dead unto sin but alive unto God through Jesus Christ. The

child of God who yields himself to God is set free from the dominion of sin. In Christ, sin has no power over us, for “*he that is dead is free from sin*” (Romans 6:6-7).

## **We Are Free from the Fear of Death.**

*“So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”*

-1 Corinthians 15:54-57

Sigmund Freud, the father of modern psychoanalysis, once wrote, “And finally there is the painful riddle of death, for which no remedy at all has been found, nor probably ever will be.” Those who do not know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord are left to wrestle with the uncertainty of dying. Haunted by the specter of death, they look towards the grave with a sense of foreboding. The terrible trio of the Law, sin, and death cries out against them. But for the child of God, the Law has no power, death has no sting, and the grave has no victory. Christ Jesus has conquered them all.

The riddle of death is solved in the resurrection of Christ. Death is defeated, and the child of God can live in the assurance of life eternal. In Christ, we are set free from the bondage of fear. Hebrews 2:14-15 teaches us that Jesus Christ took on flesh to destroy the Devil and deliver us from the fear of death. Fear is displaced by the knowledge that being absent from the body is to be present with the Lord (II Corinthians 5:6-8).

## **We Are Free from the Wrath to Come.**

*“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” -1 Thessalonians 1:10*

What is this wrath to come? Paul is not referring to eternal judgment, but to the outpouring of God’s wrath upon this world during a time of global tribulation known as Jacob’s Trouble (Jeremiah 30:7). The child of God is not appointed to wrath (I Thessalonians 5:9). Our freedom in Christ includes the blessed assurance that we will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air before that time of judgment begins (I Thessalonians 4:16-17). We can live in the confident expectation of hope that Jesus Christ is coming again (Titus 2:13).

## **Stand Fast in the Liberty Wherewith Christ Hath Made Us Free.**

Christian liberty is not an abstract theological concept—it is a present reality purchased by Christ and lived out daily by His people. The believer’s freedom is rooted in the finished work of Calvary and confirmed by the empty tomb. Our liberty is neither self-generated nor sustained by self-effort. Our freedom flows from our union with Christ, Who bore our condemnation, fulfilled the Law, defeated Satan, and conquered death on our behalf.

Our liberty is first freedom *from* bondage. In Christ, we are free from condemnation, no longer living under the constant threat of judgment. The weight of

guilt has been lifted, and the sentence against us is removed. We are set free from the enslaving influences of this present evil world and from the power of darkness that once held us captive. We are free from the dominion of sin, no longer helpless under its rule, and we are free from the fear of death, knowing that Christ conquered the grave and is alive forevermore.

Christian liberty does not end with deliverance; it moves us towards devotion. True freedom in Christ is also freedom *to* serve God. As Zacharias prophesies, we are delivered so that we might “*serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life*” (Luke 1:74-75). Liberty does not give us a license to live for self, indulge the flesh, or return to former chains. Rather, it offers us the joyful ability to live unto God, empowered by His Spirit, and guided by the truth of His Word.

The practical blessings of our freedom in Christ are immense. We can live in peace rather than anxiety, in assurance rather than fear, in obedience rather than obligation, and in hope rather than despair. Christian liberty produces gratitude, humility, and a desire to walk worthy of Christ. We are free to love God with our whole heart and live for Him all the days of our lives.

Act upon Paul’s command to “*stand fast.*” Guard against false teachings that seek to enslave the conscience, and false freedom that disguises bondage as liberty. Remain anchored in Christ, remembering the price He paid for your freedom. May we cherish this precious gift and stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free.