

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Galatians 5:1-4

INTRODUCTION

- A. Freedom is a much desired word and state.
 - 1. It brings to mind patriotic songs and statesmen of the past.
 - a. America the Beautiful; God Bless America.
 - b. Patrick Henry, "Give me liberty or give me death!"
 - 2. It's the privilege of going where we want to go, doing what we want to do (with exceptions), working where we want to work.
- B. Somehow, we tend to lose our dreams and faith when freedom and religion are brought together.
 - 1. It's easier to be told what to think – how to feel – what to do than to think for ourselves.
 - 2. Cults have made advances into various Christian groups primarily because of this.
 - a. "Turn your possessions over to us and we'll take care of them for you. We'll feed and clothe you."
 - b. The corporate cult – give your life to this god and when you're worn out, you receive a watch and a plaque for the wall.
 - c. The master cult is the government cult – "We'll take care of you from the cradle to the grave."

I. A NEW "GOSPEL" WAS BEING HEARD. Gal. 1:3-8

- A. Paul's Gospel, 1 Cor. 15:1-8.
 - 1. Those in bondage have been liberated.
 - 2. Those in slavery have been set free.
 - 3. Freedom, an inalienable right for everyone who seeks it.
 - 4. This is the "good news."
 - a. Without price, one may cast aside the shackles of an old life and be born again.
 - b. Education, color of skin, social status, the past – are of no concern.
 - c. Man can be free from sin, the guilt of sin, self, and the world's bondage.
- B. Contrast in freedom, Rom. 6:20, 22.
 - 1. If you serve sin, you have freedom:
 - a. From the control of righteousness (NIV).
 - b. To be the slave of Satan.
 - c. To serve your own lusts, Rom. 6:21, 23.
 - 2. If you serve Christ, you have freedom:
 - a. From sin.
 - b. From an evil conscience, 1 Peter 3:21.
- C. Paul was concerned because another gospel was being proclaimed.
 - 1. His gospel was certified, Gal. 1:11-12.
 - 2. Things have changed, Gal. 2:3-4.
 - a. Paul pleads with them to allow the truth of the gospel to continue with them, Gal. 2:5.
 - b. Paul isn't talking about the freedom to have kitchens in the church building or a volleyball court in the church yard.
 - c. He is talking about a "Give me liberty in Christ or give me death!"
 - d. There is no middle ground – either we have freedom or we do not.
 - e. Paul felt so strongly about this that he withstood Peter, Gal. 2:11.

II. THE GOSPEL, Gal. 2:16.

- A. It was hard for the Jews to exchange Moses for Christ.
 - 1. They had been under Law-Works principle so long, it was difficult to conceive of the Grace-Faith power.
 - a. The banner that had floated over them for so long was “Do this and thou shall live.”
 - b. Grace-Faith declares, “Live and you shall do this” (Gal. 2:20).
 - 2. Note Paul’s admonitions: Galatians 3.
 - a. Vs. 2, only a fool tries to do heaven’s work with human power.
 - b. Vs. 3, if it took grace to save us, will it not take grace to keep us?
 - c. Vs. 6, Abraham had no plan other than to serve God. He promised God nothing.
 - i. Genesis 12:1-4, God had the plan.
 - aa. I will make you into a great nation (v. 2).
 - bb. I will bless you and make your name great (v. 2).
 - cc. All nations blessed through you (v. 3).
 - ii. Abraham obeyed by faith, Gen. 12:8, called on the name of the Lord.
- B. Those, and only those, in Christ Jesus can find this freedom. Gal. 3:26-29, Freedom for all who will.
- C. Guard your freedom – do not again be entangled with another “gospel.”
 - 1. Gal. 5:16, 18, 22-23, 25
 - 2. Gal. 5:24. This answers the problem that many of us have: “If you give this much freedom, they’ll be consumed with evil desires.”
 - a. Those free from sin have become servants of God, Rom. 6:16-18.
- D. Jesus broke the very principle of sin.
 - 1. Romans 6:1-2
 - a. This death to sin allows God, in me, to have **POWER OVER SIN**.
 - b. I was immersed into the death of Christ, v. 3.
 - c. I was raised in the power of Christ, v. 4.
 - d. I am now alive to God, v. 11.

CLOSING

- A. I AM FREE:
 - 1. From sin and guilt and ignorance.
 - 2. From past sins and all evil.
 - 3. To think and reason and read God’s Word.
 - 4. To pray and develop and grow.
 - 5. Freedom is responsibility and this allows me to grow on to maturity.