

April 11

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.

By God's effectual grace, we have been called into the liberty of grace, of salvation, and eternal life in Christ Jesus. Therefore, every believer—chosen, redeemed and called to faith in Christ—is free in Christ. We are exhorted here to stand fast—to highly esteem, maintain, and defend—this liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. What has Christ freed us from?

First, Christ has made believers free from sin. Sin still dwells in us, we are still tempted by sin and we still sin. But Christ has made us free from the guilt of sin in our conscience. God wrote his word in our hearts, so we now know that God receives us in Christ and there is no more offering for sins. The old covenant law never did this but by Christ's one offering has. (Hebrews 10:2-3; 14-17) Also, Christ made us free from the dominating power that sin once held over us. (Rom 6:14-18, 22) Moreover, Christ set us free from the wages of sin which is death. Our flesh will die because of sin but the new man will never die. (Rom 6: 23) And Christ made us free from sin's condemnation. (Rom 8: 1-4)

Secondly, Christ made us free from the ceremonial law: from circumcision, sabbath days, feast days, sacrifices, and all the burdensome, carnal rites and ceremonies of the Mosaic dispensation. Those things pictured Christ; now we have Christ and we are free from the ceremony. (Col 2: 16-23) Touch not and taste not, the observance of days and neglecting the flesh does not have the honor of subduing the sin of the fleshly man; just the opposite, they puff up the pride of the fleshly man. Christ alone through the Holy Spirit has the honor of subduing the fleshly man. So we are free from the ceremonial law. Also, and be sure to get this, Christ has made us free from the moral law. That in no way means that believers are free to violate God's law. Such teaching is contrary to scripture. But the Word of God teaches that all who are born of God to faith in Christ, are free from the yoke, bondage, curse, and legal rule of all the law. We read repeatedly, "the just shall live by faith." In fact, God the Holy Spirit uses Paul to illustrate our freedom from all law, using one of the ten commandments to do so. (Read Romans 7: 1-4) Just as a wife brings forth a child by her husband's seed within her, so the believer's fruit is brought forth, not by law, not by our fleshly will and power, but by Christ our Husband, whose incorruptible Seed—the gospel word—abides in us forever. (Rom 7: 4; 1 Pet 1: 23-25; Php 1: 11) Christ has established the law for his people and that perfect righteousness is ours through faith in Christ. (Rom 3: 21-22, 27, 31) In Romans 4, he goes on to say that Abraham established the law through faith. And look at this, Abraham did so 430 years before the law was given at Mt. Sinai. (Gal 3: 17-18)

In addition, Christ has given us freedom to approach his throne of grace, freedom to use the gospel ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Table, and freedom to use all things he has given us for his glory.

Oh, brethren, what liberty Christ has given us by his obedience unto death on our behalf! "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."