

February 8, 2015

“The Liberator - A Walk in Grace”

“So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free...” Galatians 5:1a NLT

Part 6

“Free Servants or Burdened Slaves”

Galatians 4:20-5:15

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1

A. Jesus called us to be free servants...

1. Jesus calls us to be free by grace through faith! “God saved you by his **grace** when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God.” Ephesians 2:8 NLT

2. Jesus brought us into a relationship with Him that brings freedom!

“So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free.” John 8:36

3. Jesus walks with us in this new freedom.

“But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.” 1 John 4:4

4. Jesus lives through us.

“My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

B. Jesus did not call us to be burdened slaves...

“As Jesus was speaking, one of the Pharisees invited him home for a meal. So he went in and took his place at the table. His host was amazed to see that he sat down to eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony required by Jewish custom.” Luke 11:37-38

1. A burdened slave looks on the outside and is judgmental.

“Then the Lord said to him, ‘You Pharisees are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and wickedness!’” Luke 11:39

2. A burdened slave takes care of the minutia and neglects the bigger issues.

“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you are careful to tithe even the tiniest income from your herb gardens, but you ignore justice and the love of God. You should tithe, yes, but do not neglect the more important things.” Luke 11:42

3. A burdened slave is filled with pride and self-importance.

“What sorrow awaits you Pharisees! For you love to sit in the seats of honor in the synagogues and receive respectful greetings as you walk in the marketplaces.” Luke 11:43

4. A burdened slave is hypocritical seeking to conceal his evil.

“Yes, what sorrow awaits you! For you are like hidden graves in a field. People walk over them without knowing the corruption they are stepping on.” Luke 11:44

5. A burdened slave looks at his faith as burdensome.

“‘Yes,’ said Jesus, ‘what sorrow also awaits you experts in religious law! For you crush people with unbearable religious demands, and you never lift a finger to ease the burden.’” Luke 11:46

6. A burdened slave depends on the past rather than walking in the present.

“What sorrow awaits you! For you build monuments for the prophets your own ancestors killed long ago.” Luke 11:47

7. A burdened slave becomes a hindrance to the faith of others.

“What sorrow awaits you experts in religious law! For you remove the key to knowledge from the people. You don’t enter

the Kingdom yourselves, and you prevent others from entering.” Luke 11:52

C. Freedom servants are free not to sin...

“Christian freedom is not licence, for the simple but tremendous reason that the Christian is not a man who has become free to sin, but a man, who, by the grace of God, has become free no to sin.” –William Barclay

1. Freedom does not allow us to indulge our sinful nature.

“For you have been called to live in freedom, my brothers and sisters. But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature.” vs 5:13a

2. Freedom frees us to serve one another.

“Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.” vs 5:13b

3. Freedom frees us to love our neighbor as ourselves.

“For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself’.” vs 5:14

4. Freedom does not allow us to battle and conflict with others, but rather live in peace with one another.

“But if you are always biting and devouring one another, watch out! Beware of destroying one another.” vs 5:15

D. So...

“But now you are **free** from the power of sin and have become slaves of God. Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life.” Romans 6:22

1. Keep running the race!

2. Keep free from burdens!

3. Keep honest in your faith!

4. Remember you are a free servant!

“Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not **burdensome**.” 1 John 5:3 NLT