

Ga 5:1 (ESV) For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

1. Last week we began to look at our freedom in Christ

- A. Something we need to guard – not allowing legalism to rip it from our lives

2. We saw two wonderful things this freedom delivers us from

- A. **FIRST:** We were delivered from the guilt of sin

Is 43:25 (ESV) “I, I am he who *blots out your transgressions* for my own sake, and *I will not remember your sins.*”

- 2). God **WIPES OUT** the record of our sins – rap sheet in heaven completely clean

- 3). Then promises He will never bring them up against us – chooses not to remember

- B. **SECOND:** We saw how we are delivered from the wrath of God

- 1). We looked at how Jesus became our propitiation

- 2). We saw how this word means to **EXHAUST**

- a). Jesus exhausted the wrath of God until there was **NONE LEFT** against us

- b). That’s why we say God is not angry with us – what would He be angry about?

- 1a). Jesus exhausted that righteous anger we deserved because of our sin

Question: How do we know Jesus paid the full penalty – exhausted the wrath – nothing left?

- A. The *resurrection*

- 1). We all agree all of our sin was placed on Jesus – imputation

- 2). If only 99% of that sin placed into His account was paid for – He doesn’t go to heaven

- a). He would have sin in His account – ours! Nobody goes to heaven with sin left on the books

1 Co 6:9 (ESV) ...do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God?

Speaking of the New Jerusalem: Re 21:27 (ESV) But nothing unclean will ever enter it...

- b). The fact that Jesus entered into glory proves our sins were paid in full – the receipt

Transition: This week we want to look at two more deliverances that our freedom in Christ would include

- A. Delivered from the tyranny of the devil

- B. Delivered from bondage to the law

I. DELIVERED FROM THE TYRANNY OF THE DEVIL AND HIS DEMONS

Turn: 1 Jn 4:4 (ESV) Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for *he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.*

Intro: Last week we saw that we are delivered from the devil’s false accusations

- A. We saw he is the accuser of the brethren and will try to defeat us by using our failures against us

We answer back with the Gospel: “Yes I have sinned but I am not rejected because of my failure I am accepted on the basis of Jesus and His perfection. Jesus has bore my sin and the wrath I deserved. Therefore my God is not angry with me. I agree I am a sinner but my hope is found in nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. I am accepted and will be for all of eternity.”

Transition: Last week we looked at the false accusations

This week how we’re delivered from the devil’s exaggerated threats

- A. How protected I am as a recipient of God’s saving grace in my life

Delivered from Satan’s Exaggerated Threats

1. The devil tries hard to scare believers so they won’t take chances for God

- A. He tries to convince us that he can do whatever he pleases – attack us anytime and any way he wants

B. This works – some are hindered from serving God – don’t want to anger the devil

Transition: We need to see the truth about this guy – he doesn’t have that kind of power!

A. We are going to see this at the last supper when he desired to attack Peter

2. Satan’s sifting of Peter – take a trip back to the last supper

Turn: Lk 22:28–30 (ESV) “You are those who have stayed with me in my trials, ⁽²⁹⁾ and I assign to you, as my Father assigned to me, a kingdom, ⁽³⁰⁾ that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

A. What a promise to these apostles who had left everything to follow Jesus

- 1). They will be a part of God’s eternal kingdom – fellowshiping with Christ at His table
Ruling with Christ judging the Israelites

B. Imagine the elation – the joy – but Jesus isn’t finished yet – He turns to Peter with a solemn warning

“Those thrones are in the future – you must face a test now that is going to rock you to the core”

Lk 22:31–34 (ESV) “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded (**has asked**) to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ⁽³²⁾ but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.” ⁽³³⁾ Peter said to him, “Lord, I am ready to go with you both to prison and to death.” ⁽³⁴⁾ Jesus said, “I tell you, Peter, the rooster will not crow this day, until you deny three times that you know me.”

Transition: I want to look at the sifting – but did you notice something there?

3. Satan must ask permission

Lk 22:31 (ESV) “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat,

Better: Luke 22:31 (NIV) “Simon, Simon, Satan has *asked* to sift you as wheat.

A. Satan has asked to sift you – he has come and sought permission to trouble you

- 1). Not “Watch out Peter! Satan’s going to attack you – nothing we can do about it”
“Who knows what he will do – how bad it will get! – sleep with your eyes open”

Point: He had to get permission first – but permission from who?

Asking for Permission

Turn: Job 1:6 (ESV) Now there was a day when the sons of God (**angels**) came to present themselves before the LORD, *and Satan also came among them.*

A. Satan wants to sift Job but there is a problem

Job 1:10 (ESV) Have you not put a *hedge around him* and his house and all that he has, on every side?

Job 1:10 (GWT) Haven’t you put a *protective fence around him*, his home, and everything he has?

- 1). I can’t get to him! You have this divine force field surrounding him on every side

Point: To touch us Satan has to go and get permission and God must lower this hedge of protection

B. God does grant permission but puts limits upon it – *this far and no further*

Job 1:12 (ESV) And the LORD said to Satan, “Behold, all that he has is in your hand. Only against him do not stretch out your hand.” So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

- 1). Chapter 2 the same process is repeated
Satan asking permission – God granting it but putting boundaries upon it

4. Three lessons we learn about Satan from the book of Job

A. He is a very powerful enemy: He can take life – ruin health – even cause natural disasters

- 1). This would be horrifying if we didn’t counterbalance it with the following truths

B. Satan can only use his power with the permission of God

- 1). He is *controlled by his creator!* He is on a very tight leash
- 2). He does not have the ability to attack us any way he wants – any time he wants

C. Satan can only use his power in a very limited way

- 1). When God grants permission – He puts limits on how far Satan can go
 - a). You can do this but not that – you can go this far and no further

Objection: But what if those boundaries are set out to far?

5. We will never be given more than we can bear

- A. God knows how far He can set those limits

1 Cor 10:13 (NLT) But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. *He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it...*

- 1). Satan was trying to sift – shake Peter's faith so strongly he would let go of it – turn from it
 - a). We know that by what Jesus said "Satan has asked to sift you like wheat BUT I have prayed that your *faith* will not fail"

Thought: I think we need to look at this a bit

- A. I hear Christians say all the time "God will never give us more than we can bear"

- 1). There is a YES and NO! to that – we need to understand this

- B. He won't give us more than we can bear

But He will allow circumstances to so stretch us that we feel we can't bear them

See this with Paul: 2 Cor 1:8-9 (NIV) We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, *far beyond our ability to endure*, so that we despaired even of life. (9) Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. **(Now the reason) But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead.**

- 1). Paul needed to feel overwhelmed – to drive him to God – to learn how to trust in Him
- 2). At the same time God was controlling those circumstances
 - a). They would be hard enough to overwhelm Paul and force him to look to God
But not hard enough to destroy him
- 3). These are necessary for growth – to force our eyes off ourselves and our puny strength

Notice the work it did in Paul: 2 Co 1:8-10 (ESV) For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself. ⁽⁹⁾ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead. ⁽¹⁰⁾ *He delivered us from such a deadly peril, AND HE WILL DELIVER US. On him we have set our hope that he will deliver us again.*

- a). Notice the growing confidence – look to Him and you learn He is trustworthy

- C. Listen to this promise

Isa 43:1-3 (NLT) But now, O Israel (or O Christian), the LORD who created you says: "Do not be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; *you are mine*. (2) When you go through *deep waters and great trouble*, I will be with you. When you go through *rivers of difficulty*, you will not drown! When you walk through the *fire of oppression*, you will not be burned up; the flames will not consume you. (3) For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, *your Savior...*

- 1). The promise is not that you won't go through deep waters and great trouble
 - a). The lesson is to look to Him – reminding ourselves that we are His!
His power and His love is greater than this trial!
 - b). Focus on Him and His truth rather than the trial

6. Summary: We are free from the exaggerated threats of Satan

- A. He can't do anything to us unless he gets permission from God
- B. When he gets permission – there are boundaries – it's not going to destroy us
- 1). God is working all things for our good – therefore it will develop us

- 2). We can trust that God knows what He's doing – how far He can allow this
- C. Then the promise
- 1 Pe 5:10 (ESV)** And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, *will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.*
- 1). I've had trials that seemed to much for me – seemed they would never end
- a). Now I look back with thankfulness for what they did – 1 Peter 5:10 is true
- 2). Notice what they would do in Peter's life
- a). First of all – in the end they wouldn't separate Peter from his faith p watch this
Lk 22:31–34 (ESV) “Simon, Simon, behold, Satan demanded to have you, that he might sift you like wheat, ⁽³²⁾ *but I have prayed for you that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned again, strengthen your brothers.*”
- 1a). I have prayed that your faith won't fail and WHEN YOU turn back
Jesus prays when we go into times of trial – His prayers are effective
- 2a). When you turn back strengthen your brothers
This trial is going to shape into you character so you are more usable in the kingdom
This trial is going to teach you lessons you'll be able to use for others
- b). Satan thought he could shake Peter's faith so much he'd walk away from God
God flipped that to use for Peter's good
- Thought:** Trust God! He never makes a mistake
He will never say “Wow. I really thought they could handle that! My bad.”
- Question:** What is the proper balance when it comes to thinking about the devil
- A. I try not to think of him much at all – I'd much rather think about the beauty of Christ
- B. But we do need to respect him as a powerful enemy – stay close – keep the armor on
- 1). But we don't walk around worried and terrified – “What is he going to do to me?”
- a). Only what God allows – and it is all planned perfectly to end up working for your good
- Transition:** Our freedom in Christ means:
- A. We've been delivered from the guilt of sin
We've been delivered from the wrath of God
We've been delivered from the tyranny of Satan

II. DELIVERED FROM BONDAGE TO THE LAW

Intro: We are delivered from relating to God through all the “Thou shalt's and thou shalt not's”

- A. Trying to keep God happy by the perfection of our performance

Transition: Let's look at the law – and how differently we relate to God now under the New Covenant of grace

- A. I want to show you that we actually will end up serving God in a greater way
- B. This is going to take some thinking – but it is important – we need to use our minds in Christianity

1. The analogy of marriage (turn to Romans 7)

- A. In Romans 7 Paul answers the question he posed in Romans 6:15

Ro 6:15 (ESV) What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means!

- 1). Won't saying we are not under law but under grace and it's unconditional acceptance increase sin?
- 2). In Romans 7 Paul shows us why freedom from the law doesn't result in greater sinning

- B. In Romans 7 Paul uses the analogy of a marriage

Turn: Ro 7:1–2 (ESV) Or do you not know, brothers—for I am speaking to those who know the law—that the law is binding on a person only as long as he lives? ⁽²⁾ For a married woman is bound by law to her husband while he lives, but if her husband dies she is released from the law of marriage.

- 1). Points out that two people are bound in a marital relationship only as long as both are alive
But if one partner dies the other is freed up to be joined to a new partner

Ro 7:3–4 (ESV) Accordingly, she will be called an adulteress if she lives with another man while her husband is alive. *But if her husband dies, she is free from that law, and if she marries another man she is not an adulteress.* ⁽⁴⁾ **(Now he goes on to show that is exactly what happened to the believer with the law)**

Likewise, my brothers, *you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another*, to him who has been raised from the dead, in order that we may bear fruit for God.

A. The picture: Before we were in Christ we were united to that old partner = Law

- 1). It was the standard we had to keep to be right with God
It was the standard we would be judged by

B. BUT Paul says a death has taken place

Ro 7:4 (ESV) Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law *through the body of Christ...*

- 1). We died to the law when we believed in Christ
- 2). That old us that was married to the law – united to a performance based acceptance with God
Was put up on the cross with Christ and we died with Him

Gal 2:20 (NIV) I have been crucified with Christ *and I no longer live...*

- a). This death of the old man freed me up to be married to somebody else

Point: Let's try to make this really simple – here is the point

A. The believer is no longer joined to the law we are now joined to the risen Christ

Again: Ro 7:4 (ESV) Likewise, my brothers, *you also have died* to the law through the body of Christ, *so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead...*

Thought: All that to say this - Here is a huge reason why being freed from the law doesn't make us lawless
Why it produces a greater holiness instead

A. When we died to that old partner = law – rules – trying to earn God's love
When that partnership was severed

That didn't mean we were now completely unattached from any relationship – just doing our own thing

- 1). We were joined to this new partner – JESUS! – in an intimate union with Him

B. Watch how it works – we were like the slave united to the law – a master that beat us – condemned us

- 1). But God rescued us – He stooped down in the person of Christ – entered into our desperation
He sacrificed Himself on the cross – bearing the shame – the wrath we deserved
- 2). Then He called us to Himself – drawing us – wooing us
- 3). The result – we fall in love with Him – this one who has been so kind – so merciful – so loving
a). *He captures our heart and our affections*

C. What happens when you are in love with someone you truly love and respect?

- 1). That love causes you to want to live in a way that brings them honor NOT dishonor
- 2). That is the Christian isn't it? We love Jesus (our rescuer – hero) we want to bring Him honor

Look at how v. 4 ends: Ro 7:4 (ESV) Likewise, my brothers, you also have died to the law through the body of Christ, so that you may belong to another, to him who has been raised from the dead, *in order that we may bear fruit for God.*

Thought: I'm reading a book by Nabeel Qureshi – “No God but one: Allah or Jesus?”

A. Follow on from his first book “Seeking Allah and finding Jesus”

B. He points out that the Muslim has difficulty with grace

- 1). Without law and the fear it produces why would anybody obey? = Obedience of the slave
- 2). They don't understand why a believer doesn't need law = We fall in love with Christ
a). Which causes us to want to obey – we desire to bring Him honor

Transition: So we don't need law because we fall in love with Christ

Plus – we don't need law because of God's gracious work in our heart

- A. This is the incredible New Covenant of grace we've been brought into – let's look at that
 - 1). This is the reason why no pastor should ever be afraid to teach grace – though some are

The New Covenant

Ro 7:6 (ESV) But now we are released from the law, (**Why have we been released?**) *having died* to that which held us captive, *so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code.*

Rom 7:6 (NLT) But now we have been released from the law, for we died with Christ, and we are no longer captive to its power (**We died to this old way of relating to God through our own performance – trying to be good enough – look at the results.**) *Now we can really serve God,* not in the old way by obeying the letter of the law, but in the new way, by the Spirit.

1. The Spirit and the letter are contrasted here – what does that mean?

- A. We could prove this by going through the Scriptures – don't have the time
- B. The newness of the Spirit = New Covenant – based on faith in Christ work
 - 1). The Spirit's ministry is to focus us upon Christ – empower us to serve Him
- C. The oldness of the letter is speaking of the Old Covenant – based on law – focused on us and our work
 - 1). The law commands but there is no power supplied to obey it

Point: The believer has been released from the law to relate to God in a new and better way

- A. Need to see few OT passages to see this difference – because of time we'll look at just a couple

The New Covenant Promised in Jeremiah (book to the right of Isaiah)

Turn: Je 31:31–34 (ESV) “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when *I will make a new covenant (there it is)* with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, (**Also with every NT believer**) ⁽³²⁾ not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ⁽³³⁾ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: *I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.* ⁽³⁴⁾ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. *For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”*

1. Here is the difference between external and internal obedience

Je 31:33 (ESV) For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: (**same covenant the Christian is under**) *I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts.* And I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

- A. The Old Covenant was external – it motivated us by fear – do this and live – fail and die
- B. The New Covenant has an internal desire placed into us by the Spirit – to want to obey

2. The blessings of the New Covenant come through God's forgiveness

He goes on: Je 31:34 (ESV) ...I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

- A. God's provided a way to be right with Him – through shed blood of Christ – exhausting the wrath
 - 1). He took God's anger so we could experience His love
 - 2). Because God loves us like this – our heart responds – we love Him back
 - a). The natural result is a desire to obey Him – how we show Him love

Thought: See the difference – law threatens us – do this or reap the consequences

Grace and love woo us – God has done this – He has rescued you forgiven you – took your wrath

- A. Therefore we fall in love with Him and respond to Him willingly - joyfully
- B. Want to obey in a greater way? Gaze upon God's love for you until it captures your affections

Transition: One more on why it is so important that we were delivered from the law

- A. And why being dead to law doesn't produce more sin like some are afraid of

The New Covenant Promised in Ezekiel (Jer – Lam - Ezekiel)

Eze 36:26–27 (ESV) And I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. ⁽²⁷⁾ And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

1. This is God's wonderful work in the New Covenant

- A. He takes away the heart of stone – that heart wired for rebellion
He gives us a new soft heart (nature) that is soft towards Him – wired for obedience
- B. Law – rules command but give no power to obey – so you feel burdened - overwhelmed
 - 1). But God changes us first – new heart
 - 2). Then puts His Spirit in us and look at what He does

Eze 36:27 (ESV) And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to obey my rules.

Point: A new nature wired to obey – The Spirit in us empowering us to obey

A book that comes alive that tells us how much we are loved - causing us to want to obey

- A. What a difference between this and approaching God through the coldness of a law – a rule – a ritual
 - 1). This is all based on loving relationship isn't it

Question: Do you see why dying to the law will never lead a believer into more sin?

- A. It allows the work of God in our life to produce something great!
People who love Him because they are so *ravished* by His love for them

Rom 5:5 (NLT) ...we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit *to fill our hearts with his love.*

- B. Struggling with obedience – go to God in prayer with your Bible out
 - 1). Let me see your love – let me see your beauty
Day after day until your affections are captured! Then you'll want to obey
 - a). Then the world will lose it's lustre

Transition: That's all that we have time for

CONCLUSION

1. What we have seen so far

- a. Delivered from the guilt of sin
- b. Delivered from the wrath of God
- c. Delivered from the tyranny of Satan
- d. Delivered from the law – to experience Him as His child