

Feb 12, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

Lesson Leaders:

James Haymon
Jose Cisneros

Class Leaders:

Inreach: Pat Hester
Secretary: Mary Clark
Deacon: C M Hester

Delivered From Bondage Gal 4:8-20

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson examines our freedom in Jesus and how we have been **Delivered From Bondage**. The study's aim is to realize that we can choose to enter into the freedom Jesus has bought for us. The study's application is to recognize that when we know, understand, and practice true freedom in Jesus, we will be blessed greatly and also be a blessing to others.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

The crux of the Galatian problem is revealed in our text. The Galatians started well. They responded to the preaching of the gospel. But starting is one thing; persevering and finishing is another. After they received the pure gospel of grace, they were threatened by teaching that demanded they fulfill the law to be saved. As young believers, they were being influenced to not hold firmly to grace. Two points should be made from our text. First, the Galatians had surely embraced the gospel of Jesus Christ. The first part of Galatians 4:9 is worded in an unusual way. Paul stated that they had come to know God. Then he corrected himself and said that, rather they were known of God. The latter is actually more theologically correct. It is not whether we think we have come to God that makes the difference. It is when God has come to us and secures us in His salvation that things are really settled. God saves us. In this sense the Galatians had truly become God's children through faith in Christ. The point is that no matter how religious a person thinks he is, a relationship with God is secured by the truth that God knows us as His own children. It is not our subjective feelings, our thoughts, or our opinions that matter, but the objective knowledge that God has saved us. This is an important point because it is always tempting to fall into the trap that some kind of religious action can save us. The Galatian believers were known by God. They were His own children, and for them and us, that is true salvation. A second point to be made from this text is that the Galatians had faltered in their understanding of salvation. They were being lured back to the belief that salvation was based partly in fulfilling the works of the law. This is bondage all over again. Paul called it returning again to the "weak and beggarly elements." The apostle was referring to the basic elements of human religion, which always involve the bondage of doing good deeds to secure salvation. In the case of the Galatians, they were being told to add Jewish works to salvation. These things are weak and beggarly (powerless and worthless efforts to obtain salvation or growth in holiness). Such elements are of the world (Gal. 4:3,10) and of the flesh (vs. 23). Religion that is based on works can define sin but cannot forgive it. It can point to righteousness, but it cannot provide it. Works based religion comes with something in the hand to offer God. True gospel religion comes with nothing; rather, it pleads for grace and mercy. True deliverance is the salvation of God, secured solely by the grace and power of God. By this means we are made free from our bondage to human religion. To be ultimately and truly delivered from bondage, we must come by faith alone, in Christ alone, by grace alone. The Galatians received this at first, but they were in danger of failing to persevere in it. Let us resist anything that would pull us away from depending wholly on Christ.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God's dominion in our lives releases us from the bondage of sin

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
Thank You for Your grace, Lord, that cleanses us inside. Your grace is greater than all our sin. We know we can't live without it. And we're grateful that we don't have to.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace

(Rom 6:14 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Feb 8, 2015)

Series: Creation & Salvation

UNIT: The Church Is Born

NEXT WEEK

Freedom in Christ

(Gal 5:1-17)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Delivered from the Bondage of Ignorance (Gal 4:8-11)

Ignorance of God (8-9)

Ignorance because of hardening of the heart (Eph 4:18)

Sometimes God shows mercy because of ignorance (1 Tim 1:13)

Ignorant people distort things and words about God (2 Peter 3:16)

Immaturity that comes from ignorance (Acts 18:24-26)

Repent because the times of ignorance has passed (Acts 17:30)

Ignorance because of traditions (10)

Traditions are temporary therefore focus on the eternal (2 Cor 4:18)

Beware of traditions based on principles of the world (Col 2:8)

Incorrect tradition is rebellion in God's sight (Titus 1:10-14)

All of man's traditions must become obedient to Jesus (2 Cor 10:5)

Defilement can come from man's tradition (Mark 7:8)

Ignorance causing laboring in vain (11)

Ignorance because of laboring without God (Ps 127:1-2)

Ignorance because of not continuing in the teachings of Jesus (2 John 8-9)

Ignorance because of sin not being repented of (2 Cor 12:20-21)

Ignorance because of being deceived (2 Cor 11:2-3)

Delivered from the Bondage of Misunderstood Relationships (Gal 4:12-16)

Misunderstood relationships through lack of acceptance (12)

Lack of acceptance through not living in peace with others (Rom 12:18-19)

Lack of acceptance through judging or condemning (Rom 14:3)

Lack of acceptance through not being in unity (2 Cor 13:11)

Lack of acceptance through not being in fellowship with the Holy Spirit (Phil 2:1-4)

Lack of acceptance through not listening to others (James 1:19-20)

Misunderstood relationships because of infirmities (13-14)

In infirmities God's power and grace are sufficient (2 Cor 12:7-10)

Sometimes infirmities are used so that God might be glorified (John 11:4)

Sometimes infirmities are used to help us learn God's Word (Ps 119:71)

Sometimes infirmities are allowed so that the work of God might be displayed (John 9:1-4)

Infirmities are allowed for both the righteous and the wicked (Eccl 9:1-2)

Misunderstood relationships through lack of trust (15-16)

The lack of trust in God leads to worrying (John 14:1)

The lack of trust in God leads to fearing man (Ps 56:4)

Trust that must be proved faithful (1 Cor 4:2)

Trust must rely on God not self (2 Cor 1:9)

The lack of trust can cause calamities (Acts 27:21-26)

Delivered From the Bondage of Misplaced Zealousness (Gal 4:17-20)

Harmful zealousness (17)

Going overboard in zealousness (Eccl 7:16-17)

Zealousness not based on knowledge (Rom 10:2)

Zealousness against godly practices (Phil 3:6)

Zealousness in man's traditions (Gal 1:14)

Healthy zealousness (18)

Zeal for the Church (John 2:17)

Zeal for keeping spiritual fervor and serving God (Rom 12:11)

Zeal for the welfare of others (2 Cor 7:7)

Zeal with willingness and a desire to complete (2 Cor 8:10-12)

Zealous to be together (19-20)

Together in joy (1 Thess 3:9)

Together to encourage one another (Heb 10:25)

Together in the name of Jesus (1 Cor 5:4)

Together to pray for one another (Col 4:12)