

Feb 19, 2017



Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

**The Oaks
Baptist Church**
Grand Prairie, Texas

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:

The price of our freedom from sin was paid by Jesus's blood

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

Thank You, Lord Jesus, for making the sacrifice that has secured my freedom and eternal life. May I learn to love You in a way that honors the love You have shown me.

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed

(John 8:36 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", Aug 31, 2016)

Series: Creation & Salvation

UNIT: The Church Is Born

NEXT WEEK

Holy Living in the Spirit

(Gal 5:18-6:10)

Freedom in Christ Gal 5:1-17

Aim and Application of the Lesson

The lesson teaches that there are contrasts between a life under the law and a life under grace, and how we can have **Freedom in Christ**. The **study's aim** is to understand that we are saved by God's grace, not by our works. The **study's application** is to live a life of freedom in the Holy Spirit and love to others.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

Lesson Introduction and Background

In Galatians, Paul was correcting a young church's slide into a false understanding of salvation. The church had been born aright—on the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, on salvation by grace through faith—but its spiritual growth had faltered due to unsound doctrine. They were being told to add works to grace. So Paul was emphasizing the great truth of liberty in Christ. Christian liberty means freedom, freedom from the debt we incur by our failure to live up to God's law. Through faith in Christ, believers are set free from the dominion of the law, that is, from having to try to work their way into God's favor and heaven. The Galatians had lost the precious sense of their standing in Christ. This happened through false teaching that added works to faith. Paul called them to return to and embrace grace, that they might once again live in the realm of liberty. Salvation is by grace through simple faith in Christ. Once liberty was firmly in place, Paul had two admonitions for pressing on in the Christian faith. The first was not to use freedom in Christ as an opportunity for the flesh. "Flesh" is a term that refers to our inward sinfulness, the ungodly appetites that lead to sin. If grace is understood in a false way, sinful indulgence can be a real temptation. Someone might think, if I am saved by grace and not by works, then I can go ahead and do anything I want. It cannot affect my salvation. Although it is certainly true that a truly regenerated believer cannot come into God's eternal judgment, a life of prevailing sinfulness is an utterly false response to grace. Indulging in sin fails to acknowledge the inward change that the new birth brings as the Holy Spirit invades the personality of the believer and creates a capacity to walk with God in the Spirit. To live our lives serving the cravings of the flesh is simply to return again to bondage, the exact opposite of what the Lord intends when He saves us. That is unthinkable! That is wrong! Salvation by grace through faith was meant to make us free to serve God, not to make us slaves to the basest part of our natures. That leads us to Paul's second admonition. Instead of serving the flesh, believers are instructed to serve one another in love. The nature of biblical love is demonstrated in concrete actions. It is a practical love that reflects the great commandment that we should love our neighbor as ourselves. Sincere love for God and others is the sum of the whole law. Love is not merely a feeling; it also involves a firm commitment to do all the good we can do in this world. Every Christian should be a blessing to others. That is why Paul emphasizes serving. In love we are to become the servants of all. Servanthood expresses love. We have been set free to serve. Far from being a license to serve our flesh and to sin at will, our freedom in Christ is an invitation to glorify God by becoming loving servants. The believer set free in Christ should spend his or her life looking for ways to glorify God through serving others.

(Adapted from the Bible Expositor and Illuminator Commentary)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Maintaining Freedom (Gal 5:1-6)

By standing firm (1)

Standing firm and giving ourselves fully to the work of the Lord (1 Cor 15:58)

Standing firm in the faith (1 Cor 16:13)

Standing firm using the full armor of God (Eph 6:13-18)

Standing firm by contending for the faith of the gospel (Phil 1:27)

Standing firm in faith because of having a great high priest in Jesus (Heb 4:14)

By choosing grace over law (2-4)

Grace over law because God's promises come by grace (Rom 4:16)

Grace over law because grace reigns over the law (Rom 5:20-21)

Grace over law because we are under grace not the law (Rom 6:13-18)

Grace over law because God has chosen His remnant by grace (Rom 11:5-6)

Grace over law because God makes grace abound in us (2 Cor 9:8)

Grace over law because God's grace is sufficient in all things (2 Cor 12:9)

Grace over law because we are saved by grace (Eph 2:8-9)

By expressing faith through love (5-6)

Faith through love because without love there is nothing (1 Cor 13:1-3)

Faith through love because of hope (Col 1:3-5)

Faith through love because godly labor is always accomplished through love (1 Thess 1:3)

Faith through love because it is a command (1 Tim 1:5)

Faith through love because God commands us to pursue this (1 Tim 6:11)

Faith through love because God knows our deeds (Rev 2:19)

Freedom is Threatened by False Teachers (Gal 5:7-12)

Through hindering believers (7-8)

Hindering through a different gospel (Gal 1:6-7)

Hindrances that should be thrown off (Heb 12:1)

Hindrances through hypocritical teachers (Matt 23:13-15)

Hindrances through rebellious deceivers (Titus 1:10-11)

Hindering by not acknowledging that Jesus is God in the flesh (2 John 7-11)

Through exerting great influence (9)

Influence through peer pressure (Ex 32:21-24)

Influence through false prophets that come as wolf in sheep's clothing (Matt 7:15)

Influence to turn away from the faith (Matt 24:10-13)

Influence through introducing destructive heresies (2 Peter 2:1-2)

Influence through performing signs and wonders (Matt 24:24)

Through confusing the Church (10-12)

Confusion through perverting the gospel (Gal 1:7-9)

Confusion through alienation (Gal 4:17-18)

Confusion through disputes (1 Cor 6:3-7)

Confusion through false doctrines (1 Tim 6:3-5)

Confusion through arguments over useless issues (Titus 3:9-11)

Demonstrating Freedom (Gal 5:13-17)

By serving one another (13)

Serve by bearing with the failings of others (Rom 15:1-2)

Serve by sharing and protecting others (1 John 3:16-18)

Serve as serving God (Eph 6:7)

Serve by using the gifts God has provided (1 Peter 4:10)

By fulfilling the law (14)

Fulfill by loving others (Rom 13:8)

Love is the fulfillment of the law (Rom 13:10)

Fulfill by being obedient to God (John 14:15)

By avoiding destructive behavior (15)

Avoid all evil (1 Thess 5:22)

Avoid wickedness (Prov 4:14-15)

Avoid evil desires (1 Peter 1:14-16)

Avoid godless chatter (2 Tim 2:16)

Avoid sexual immorality (1 Cor 6:18)

Avoid idolatry (1 Cor 10:14)

Avoid Satan (James 4:7)

By living by the Holy Spirit (16-17)

Living by the Spirit to set mind on the Spirit's desires (Rom 8:5)

Living by the Spirit to be sons of God (Rom 8:14)

Living by the Spirit by keeping step with the Spirit (Gal 5:25)

Living by the Spirit to reap eternal life (Gal 6:8)

Living by the Spirit to be guided into all truth (John 16:13)

Living by the Spirit as an obligation (Rom 8:12)