

Liberty In Christ Galatians 5 Verse 1

Ga 5:1 ¶ "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."

What liberty is Paul speaking to us of in this text? Paul is citing the Galatians, and the present-day church of God, that Christ has made them free from the law ordinances. He is telling the Galatians; that having been born again by God's free grace, they are no longer obligated to observe the law ordinances, which are a yoke of bondage. He begins by specifically speaking of circumcision and then begins to expand this thought, seen in: **Ga 5:13 ¶ "For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another."** Here he tells us that we are not to use the liberty we have in Christ Jesus to satisfy the lust of the flesh of our inherited sin nature. Rather, he admonishes us to use the liberty we have in Christ to love one another.

This is a warning to the present-day children of God: do not let the rituals of religious practice become your god, nor put faith in those practices. Do not get so focused upon denominations, which are the creations of man, that we forget to love God's children, for we are told of the eternal saving work of Jesus Christ in scripture: **Re 5:9-10; 9 "And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; 10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."**

When the church assembles, we should not assemble just because that is what we are supposed to do. When we assemble, we should check our hearts and minds as we gather and see if we really came to worship the Lord. If we do this, we are more apt to forget the rituals and practices of religious worship, and truly worship the Lord in Spirit and Truth, as Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well: **Joh 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."**

When we sing, we should not become exalted in the beauty of the melodies and harmonies of singing, but rather sing with understanding the words of the hymns and return them to God as worship. If we are worshipping God **"in spirit and truth"** as we sing to the Lord, we will be lifting our voices in praise to God, and we will have liberty in the Spirit. Then our voices will blend in sweet savor offerings to the Lord, and our songs will be melodious and harmonious, not only here on earth, but also a pleasing sound of worship to the Lord.

Remember the scripture in: **1Co 14:15 ¶ "What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."** But this text is Paul admonishing them about speaking in tongues, and edification from exercising the spiritual gifts God gives us. Some will say this text is not about liberty. We declare unto you that it is all about liberty. It is using the liberty we are given in Christ to build up one another in the faith as seen in: **Eph 5:18-21; 18 "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; 21 ¶ Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."** These scriptures help us to see and understand: God wants to hear, and see, worship from our hearts, minds, souls, and bodies, which are his creation, which are bought with the price, of the death of Christ on the cross. Wherefore, it is the whole duty of the child of God; to praise the Lord.

I was led to this scripture thinking of Brother Phillip the day of his burial. Brother Phillip is no longer incumbered in the frailties of the flesh. He is now free from the trials, tribulations, and pains of this mortal life. Brother Phillip is now free from all the rituals of religion. He is now experiencing the true liberty we have in Christ. Brother Philip now knows what it is to worship Christ, in Spirit and Truth, in perfect liberty in Christ.

But what of us who are left here on earth in the struggles of life? We still know the pains of loved ones passed from us to eternal life. We still must face living life. However, we also have **"the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free."** We have the liberty of looking forward to being in the place where our loved ones, who are children of God, are now rejoicing in the true liberty of Christ. We have liberty to believe that we shall be among the dead in Christ, raised in resurrection bodies like unto the resurrected body of Christ. We have the liberty in Christ to believe that we shall spend eternity worshipping our Saviour.

Jesus left us his Word of Truth, the King James bible, from which we have the liberty to glean of the promises of our Saviour and Lord, Jesus Christ. We still have liberty in Christ to join in assembled fellowship with

God's people. We have the liberty in Christ to enjoy the love of Christ that we share. We have liberty to go to God in prayer when the struggles of life are pressing upon us. We still have liberty in Christ to serve one another in love and kindness.

Brother Philip told me that what first drew him to the church in the love of Christ was the singing. I can witness with this because it was the same for me. Brother Philip now has the liberty to sing praise to God, with a voice that shall never be encumbered with the frailties of the flesh. Can you imagine being able to sing and never having a frog in your throat? Can you imagine singing; and not hearing me trying to clear my throat all the time? Can you imagine being able to sing with clarity of voice all the time? Can you imagine singing forever, in spirit and truth without any disharmony, as the seraphims seen in: ***Isa 6:3 "Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."***? Can you imagine the glory of singing the new song we are told of in: ***Re 15:3 "And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints."***?

We are told in: ***Mt 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."*** Wherefore, let us worship together, sing, pray, and preach, here in time, with "***the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free.***" Hallelujah! Amen!