

# FCCsunday

June 26, 2016

Galatians: The Freedom of Freedom in the Freedom of Christ  
FINAL MESSAGE

## THIS IS WHAT THE SOVERIEGN LORD SAYS

Galatians 6:14-18

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

### “Freedom of FCCers To Boast Wicked-Big in Jesus Christ” (Part 4)

The big idea: In Jesus Christ, and because of Jesus Christ, we have FREEDOM to boast wicked-big about the ways He has impacted us through the letter of Paul to the Galatians...and has, is and will SET US FREE!

Paul early “I am the least of the Apostles”.

10 yrs later “least of all Christians”.

End of his life " Chief of all sinners" -John Bryson

The old creation operates according to law: a conditional DO!

The new creation operates according to grace: an unconditional DONE!

The internal voice that says "do this and live" only gets out-volumed by the external voice that says "it is finished"! - Tullian Tchividjian

### FCCers Testimonies in Galatians

#### 1. Jeannie Tenney

Ok so I was listening, lo all these past months. I had no idea we have been in Galatians since September, no it really only seems like since October. How time flies. Will you asked what struck me most and I have to tell you this...it was the very last sermon. To my mind it all came down to the fact that Christianity defers from other religions in that it is about developing a relationship with God/Christ as opposed to merely following a prescribed set of rules. Yes that is it, I listened and heard what you said over the past chapters, however it was the very last one that struck home. This past Sunday it all came together. I guess it was one of those epiphanies.

Thank you for you, Jeannie

PS Just so you know and don't think I was being flippant, which I didn't mean to be. I think that coming to the awareness that Christianity is about developing a "relationship" with God/Christ is a VERY BIG THING.

## **2. Mike Lanza**

We cannot earn righteous. Salvation is a gift from God. Faith in Jesus Christ alone saves us from our sins! (I can't hear that enough).

## **3. David Monson**

Reinforcement, rebalance, recalibration...

## **4. Lauren Webber**

My wife and I have truly enjoyed and grown from the Galatians sermon series. One of the great benefits we appreciate is the posting of the message online so we can watch it again, and sometimes take more notes! It is hard to speak about a particular topic or sermon, because they are all so well done. Since we started attending in November '15, we missed the first half of the series, but have watched many of the previous messages. Even Fran's mother watches the sermons on the TV - although we don't know just how much she retains. My overall response: we are excited to be part of this local church which 'chooses' to preach the Word, in and out of season' without 'cushioning' what some might consider 'difficult' teaching. Thank you Danny for your faithfulness to the 'Whole Council of God.' And yes, we are working on channeling our 'inner-Pentecostal'...

## **5. Cyndie Ovalle**

What I learned from the letter to the Galatians was we are all in the same boat as them. We all fall away from what we were/are taught. We continue to go down paths we shouldn't.

Paul is trying to explain how important it is they embrace Christ. It clearly explains what justification is. That it is an promise of grace....thru the belief of Christ only. I think if we miss this we miss what the Gospel truly is. Without this TRUE gospel we are doomed. Sounds heavy but it isn't its lifting and LIFE CHANGING.

## **6. Fran Webber**

Basking in the Truth that sets us FREE! God's timing as always perfect in setting this time line of warnings and encouragements from the Book of Galatians. It is the Almighty amplifying wicked LOUD - Let Freedom Ring!!! I was struck by how MUCH we are loved by Him. What extreme lengths he has gone to for me personally and for us corporately. I am mindful of whose I am . There is a renewed sense of security in this Freedom in Christ which hydrates the soul as well as sets it on fire! I am encouraged to not give up hope in the battles of this life, and there are many , because I have the ultimate Freedom Fighter who advocates on my behalf

constantly to the point of giving his own life to save mine. There is no greater love. I can live in humility and confidence with a renewed sense of purpose in the times and seasons to come! From the losing your life to find it Dept.!

The Lord's timing of the book of Galatians for us is well, timely or as my son Gabriel says " on point ". Sets the stage for what is to come - the celebration of our National freedom! I think that the Father has been teaching us to get our hearts tenderized first before seeing the big picture. And yeah, it is wicked big! Thank you for being a freedom fighter for us. We are encouraged and uplifted. Truth in love and unafraid!

## **7. Nancy Murphy**

I thank you and praise God for this journey through the Book of Galatians. Before this study, whenever I thought about this book, I identified it as being about fruit of the spirit. I now realize Galatians is about so much more, because how can we bear fruit without a deeper understanding of the freedom that we have been given in Christ? I have learned that because Christ has set us free, we can and should walk daily in this truth. We know that we are not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ (2:16). In one of the Tuesday night studies, many of us admitted that we grew up with the idea that we had to be "obedient" and a "rule follower" in order to be a "good person" and gain God's approval. Our discussion of works vs. grace helped show me there were times in my life as a believer that I still lived as though I had to "work" for my salvation. Yet Paul is clear: "So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified." (2:16). Then we talked about what the purpose of the law was, if we didn't need to follow it to be saved. Of course, the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. So I am free from the law and I must live out this freedom every day, and not be burdened by a yoke of slavery. Yokes of slavery can take many forms, as we see in Paul's example of the Judaizers in the early church and the conflicts this caused. Personally, some of my own yokes have been self- imposed and heavy to bear. My personal yokes have been a poor self image, lack of confidence in myself, placing unrealistic demands upon myself, etc. I have often cared and worried more about what others thought of me than about my walk with the Lord, very self focused rather than God focused. But because this study centered on learning about my freedom in Christ and His unending love for me, my self absorption is being replaced by absorbing the freedom and the truth in His promises. I have freedom to pursue the truth of who I am in Christ, and freedom to live out the purposes He has for me. My value is in Christ alone! I

asked in the beginning, how can we bear fruit if we have no knowledge of the freedom we have in Christ? I am thankful for many people in this church who have ministered to me, helping to carry my burdens in prayer and in actions. They have borne the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self control. They have demonstrated to me the essence of the study: fully embracing our freedom in Christ leads to purposeful and loving actions that strengthen others and bring glory to God.

**8. Arthur Ovalle** (Dundee, FL – through online sermons)

learned this from your sermons..... Mark 15:17 They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him....(we crucified Him)  
Luke 15:22 22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate!  
GREATEST SUBJECT IN THESE STUDIES...‘FORGIVENESS OF SIN’!

**9. Peter Mills**

Two of the many things that I took away from this book were:

- (1) How strongly Paul admonished the Galatians. He was really upset and disappointed with them for having strayed so quickly and you can feel it.
- (2) My main take-away was Chapter 2:16 which cleared up a lot of things for me personally!

**10. Blair Kilgallen** (Colorado – through online sermons)

I just finished another Galatians sermon. How insightful and refreshing this series has been to my mind and heart. Your ability to dissect and clearly communicate law and gospel is evident. To be honest, it’s some of the best I’ve heard. The reason I’m telling you this is to encourage you – your messages are bringing glory to God.

Something else that you bring to the table is your infectious love and passion for the law and gospel.

One of the ways I know your brothers and sisters love you is because when you are explaining hard truths they laugh well. They have a sense that what you are saying about them and God’s love for them as sinners is right and good. You are breeding honest sinners who God will graciously give himself to. *Danny, I appreciate you and your devotion to Christ and his church there in Bradford. I know you struggle as well and the way I know it is that you confess it, regularly. I really believe that helps us in our walk and in conveying the message. Hope this finds you well this morning. Really appreciate the teaching on Galatians – very clear messages –*

you're hitting the nail on the head. I've imagined how your message of the gospel is challenging and spiritually growing your church.

### **11. (Anonymous, New England - through online sermons)**

I thought I would share a few verses from Galatians that impacted me again anew. Galatians 3:4,5 "Have you suffered so many things in vain - if indeed it was in vain? Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" No - we haven't suffered in vain -- the Lord supplies us with His Spirit as we suffer, just as He saved us through faith, when we suffer trials in faith, the Spirit is with us (and He gives us the faith to walk through suffering that way in the first place!!) Galatians 6:1-4 "Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself. But let each one examine his own work, and then he will have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another."

These verses speak to me in so many ways - as I've been in the middle of something which many other Christians have talked to me about and have said "I couldn't stay in that situation. I don't know how you did it/do it. How can you be around him still when he is doing this to you?" At first, I assumed I was dealing with a believer, and for the first year I dealt with him in that way and attempted to be gentle and loving in admonition, and I was always trying to examine myself and realize that I, myself, am nothing apart from the Lord. I would also answer questions like this from people by sharing that it wasn't ME "getting through" the situation. The Lord was holding my hand and leading me in it every step of the way. I look back now and honestly can ask the same things. How did I live in that for so long?? But I can read my journals, full of these scriptures. At the time they were literally covering my walls, so that I could dwell on them night and day. God's Word and His Spirit were reminding me constantly of my need of Him, and these verses in Galatians 6 -- causing me to keep my eyes on my own temptations and realizing if I began to think I was above being able to sin IN THE EXACT SAME WAY I WAS BEING SINNED AGAINST -- then I was WRONG -- We are all nothing without Christ, helpless sinners. Even in Christ, we still live as pilgrims here, sinning. But for the grace of God daily, I could have done the same thing. THAT is how I lived in that way for so long. Also -- lately and over the years, I have witnessed and had done to me as well -- Christians "correcting" brothers and sisters in Christ when they themselves are not being gentle or kind in doing so. Often, we Christians correct others for living in ways that we think are wrong, when actually, the Scripture doesn't speak to them. It's all about "wise counsel" and "the Lord wouldn't be pleased with that" or such things, when honestly, it's people living in Christian liberty being corrected by those who think

they are living too liberally. Often when this has occurred, it's been done to me by people I could choose to correct in MANY areas but have chosen not to, since I have chalked up differences to matters of personality rather than true spiritual discernment issues. Either way, I think this overall is an area where many Christians need to examine themselves. Lastly - Galatians 6:7-10 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked, for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith." So much in these verses. First that I am watching someone close to me reap what he has sown. Over the last several years - and in the ones preceding - Some thought I was protecting him from reaping what he had sown. But that is not so, in my mind. I was trying to keep the consequences to our children as far from negative as possible - in other words, I wanted to help him not sow such horrendous results in the relationships between him and the children, so I tried to maintain a life with all of us together. Either way, as he has sown in the flesh, and now that is what he is reaping, in that he has lost his relationship with me. It is very sad to see these consequences, but they are Biblical, and the Lord will use them in his life. Also - verse 9 -- not growing weary in doing good. My goodness -- this verse kept me going so much in the last few years. In tears, reading it and re-reading it. The thing is -- we think we know what it is we will reap if we keep going and do not lose heart. The reality is, though, that only the Lord knows the plans He has for us. We know they are good from His Word, and because we can trust His love and Sovereignty. I think sometimes we need that "goal" in mind in order not to lose heart, but in the end, God will have us reaping in good season, but we know not what that will be.