

Free Indeed

John 8:36 – Galatians 5:1



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FOCAL Read Responsively John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

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

We have as our texts today two wonderful passages. The *conditional promise* begins with “If”. **“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed”**. The *word of warning* begins with the military command **“stand fast”**. If you are a good soldier of Christ hold your ground. Set your spiritual feet and refuse to be moved. Stand with the Savior.

There are two forces at work in the world today: God's force, and Satan's forces. God's forces are focused on freedom, whereas Satan's forces are focused on bondage. Satan's forces can mimic that which is good. The devil is very tricky, and often sends his spies and stooges to hinder the work of God. The Apostle Paul did battle with those he called **“false apostles, deceitful workers, people who transform themselves into the apostles of Christ”**. These men followed the pattern of their father Satan in **transforming themselves into angels of light** while standing against the work of Christ (**2 Corinthians 11:13-14**). They, like the self righteous Pharisees who continually attacked the work of our Lord Jesus, continued to attack the work of God in the early Church. It was these **false brethren who crept into the Church unawares (Galatians 2:4)** who attacked Paul, Peter, the early Church, and who continue to attack God's Church today. They crept into the Church of Galatia and began

to teach that “you must keep this law” or that “you must keep that law” to be saved. These false apostles departed from the perfect Law of Liberty and began to teach that “if you don't do this thing or that thing” then you're not saved – nor can you retain your salvation. The Apostle of God said **“I will not give place to them, no, not even for a moment, for I want you to hear the True Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ” (Galatians 2:5).**

Dear friends, salvation is all of God. **Christ must make you free.** This is what our text tells us. If you would be saved you must come to Jesus and, with open hearts, accept His gracious call. You pay absolutely nothing for your salvation – Jesus paid it all on Calvary. It is as the old hymn says:

**Jesus paid it all, All to Him I owe;
Sin had left a crimson stain;
HE washed it white as snow.**

Jesus Christ must make you free. He alone can make you free from the fear of death. Jesus Christ alone is the **firstborn from the dead (Colossians 1:18)**. He alone has stepped beyond that veil we call “death” and, following three days in the grave, **raised from the dead to die no more (Romans 6:9-10)**. It is Jesus Christ alone Who has promised all who believe that **“I give unto them eternal life, and they shall never perish, and no one can pluck them out of My hand” (John 10:28)**. Jesus Christ, Eternal God and Son of Man, broke the shackles of death.

But not only that, Jesus Christ *broke the twin shackles of*

the Law and of Sin. All of humanity has been bound, like the slave of old, by a chain called “Sin” and another chain called “Law”. **By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men for that all have sinned (Romans 5:12)**. Adam brought death on the world. Every child born into this world is born under the chain of sin. **Then the Law entered (Romans 5:20)** – God gave His Law to Moses on Mount Sinai. The Law was not given to save us, but to show us that we were and would always be *in our own power sinners* – unable to do good enough to get into God's Heaven. Where sin abounded, we needed Grace to much more abound.

We have this Grace in Jesus Christ. **If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.** You **sin** when you break God's Law (**1 John 3:4**) – and **we have all sinned and come short of His glory (Romans 3:23)**. Jesus paid the penalty for your sin on Calvary – it is He that must make you free. If you call upon the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ He will save you. Dear friends, you must repent – turn away from – your old way of life and turn to Jesus. To paraphrase Adrian Rogers, God will always take the surrendered vessel – but you must surrender to Him. **The Son must make you free if you will be free indeed.** He must do it, not you. You turn to Him and say “Lord, take me”. And Beloved, the vessel God takes, He will clean. The vessel God cleans, He will fill. The vessel God fills, He will use.

But you must first surrender your lives to Him.

May God today touch your hearts with this Word.

1. Where Ever Christ Is Working, Satan Always Has His Opposing Forces

This first point may disturb you, but I assure you it is true: Where ever Jesus Christ is working through His Spirit, Satan always has his opposing forces. Look at the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ.

ILLUSTRATE Jesus preaches His wondrous **Sermon on the Mount**, the greatest sermon ever preached. Who was there that day listening? **The self righteous Pharisees and their cohorts, the Scribes**. When Jesus preached “**Your righteousness had better be of a greater caliber than that of the Scribes and Pharisees, or you'll never enter into Heaven**” (Matthew 5:20), that self righteous Christ hating group heard every word that He said.

ILLUSTRATE When Jesus went witnessing to the **lost sinners (Matthew 9:11)** the Pharisees – *always speaking behind Jesus' back* – started a little whisper campaign. “**Why does your Master eat with these sinners?**” (Matthew 9:11). Jesus quickly replied:

Matthew 9:12-13 ... They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. {13} But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Oh Beloved, Jesus didn't come for that self righteous - “I can get to Heaven on my own” - crowd. Jesus Christ – **The Great Liberator** – took on humanity and came to

this earth:

Luke 4:18-19 ... to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, {19} To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

Jesus Christ came to seek and to save **that which was lost (Luke 19:10)** – but wasted no time in trying to save those who self righteously would try and save themselves.

Don't you feel a little sorry for the Pharisees? Doesn't your heart ache for every person who rejects salvation by faith in Christ in favor of their own methods and their own ways?

Here was Jesus Christ – the Promise of the Father. Oh, for so many years the world waited for Jesus. When Adam foolishly disobeyed God, and by his actions brought sin and death into the world, God told Satan:

Genesis 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

The Evil One was going to be banished by the promised **Seed of the Woman**. Man messed up, but God – coming to us through His own creation – would reach out and set the captive free. Creation waited for the Redeemer. As

the great preacher C.H. Spurgeon said:¹

“Whole centuries rolled away, but the seed of the woman did not come. Messiah, the Great Bruiser of the serpent's head, did not appear. Why did He tarry? The world was foul with sin and full of woe, where was the Shiloh Who should bring it peace? Graves were dugged by millions, hell was filled with lost spirits, but where was the Promised One, mighty to save? He was waiting till the fullness of time should come; He had not forgotten. He was waiting until the Word should be given. And when it was given, lo! He came delighting to do His Father's will.”

It was Jesus Christ, King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Who came from above to walk among us. It was Eternal God in human flesh, the One of Whom Isaiah prophesied:

Isaiah 9:6 For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

And again,

Isaiah 42:1-3 Behold My Servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put

¹ From his sermon *The Unsearchable Riches of Christ*, #745, delivered April 14th, 1867, at the Agricultural Hall, Islington.

my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles. {2} He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. {3} A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth (see also Matthew 12:17-21).

Here He is, healing the blind while those in bondage to the Law find fault with Him. Here is Jesus, Manifest God, on fire with love for the lost, while the self righteous called Him a devil. They came upon Him in a Garden called Gethsemane, and sent a false apostle to betray Him with a kiss. These Pharisees – agents of Satan – beat Him, mocked Him, tried Him illegally and at night, and then turned Him over to the Roman idolaters to be judged.

Though Pilate found no fault in Him the self righteous trumped up charges against Him. They even blasphemed God before Pilate by demanding that a murderer named Barabbas be released while He Himself – Who had never done evil – be hung upon the Tree.

Matthew 27:22-23 Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let him be crucified. {23} And the governor said, Why, what evil hath he done? But they cried out the more, saying, Let him be crucified.

The devils came out to kill Him. They beat Him, they mocked Him, they spat on Him, they nailed Him to that bloody Tree. Did Satan win?

Absolutely not!

2. True Spiritual Freedom Always Comes From Jesus

FOCAL John 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

The devil can *never* win against Jesus. Though he sends his agents in, though his agents masquerade as agents of light, they must always be defeated. Why? **Because God is in control.**

God was in control when **Noah built a boat**. God was in control when **Abraham and Lot left ancient Babylon** (Ur of the Chaldees). God was in control when **Moses stood before Pharaoh**. God was in control when **Joshua took Israel into the Promised Land**. God was in control when **David stood before the giant Goliath**. God was in control when **Daniel was thrown in the lion's den**. God was in control when a **virgin named Mary became pregnant**. God was in control when, in His humanity, He was **laid in a manger in Bethlehem**. God was in control as His humanity **grew to adulthood in a little town called Nazareth**. God was in control when He – in His humanity – **left Nazareth and was baptized of John in Jordan**. God was in control when **Jesus began to preach, teach, and heal**. God was in control when the **self righteous and ungodly plotted against the Son of Man**. God was in control when the **Pharisees lied and, convicting Him of treason, nailed Jesus**

Christ to the Cross of Calvary. God was in control when He was **laid in an empty tomb for three days**. God was in control when **Jesus rose – victorious – from the grave**, and was seen of **above five hundred brethren**. God was in control when **Jesus ascended unto Heaven, to sit on the right hand of God the Father**.

The Bible tells us:

1 Corinthians 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Satan's greatest blunder – the stupidest thing he could have ever done – was to crucify Jesus. Jesus had promised to give His people true freedom. He said **“if the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed”**. How was He to accomplish this? This was purely an act of Grace, for He said:

the Son therefore shall MAKE YOU FREE

He did not say “I will make it possible for you to save yourselves”. Jesus did not say “I will become part of a self help system to help you get to God”. What did He say?

the Son therefore shall MAKE YOU FREE

How did Jesus do this? He told *everyone, even the Pharisees before they killed Him*. Jesus said that He was

going to lay down His life. He said:

John 10:17-18 ... I lay down my life, that I might take it again. {18} No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

Jesus Christ offers freedom, true spiritual freedom, to all who will believe on Him. The Bible says that Jesus Christ **frees the believer from the Law**. We are told that no ritual sacrifice or offering has the power to cleanse you or I from our violations of God's Law.

Hebrews 9:12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Jesus Christ made payment for the sin of the world, so that

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Not **might be saved**, but **shall be saved**. Jesus Christ **loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood (Revelation 1:5)**. And not only that, dear Believer, but when we get to Heaven we will not stand before God on the basis of our good works. What saith the Scripture? What did John the Revelator see when the Lord allowed him to look into Heaven? He saw

Revelation 7:14-15 these ... which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. {15} Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them.

If you get to Heaven, dear friend, you will get there because **the Son hath made you free, and you are free indeed**. You who were far off are **made near to God by the Blood of Jesus Christ (Ephesians 2:13)**. It is His Blood that **cleanses us from all sin (1 John 1:7)**. We are freed from the terrible chains of sin, of Law, and of death. **Though our sins were as scarlet, they are now – because of Him – white as snow (Isaiah 1:18)**.

Christ must make you free – He alone has that power. Have you been to Jesus for that cleansing power? Have you truly trusted in His Grace this hour? Are you washed, surrendered and trusting, to Him? Then what does God yet require of you?

3. You Are Freed So That You Can Serve The Lord

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

Knowing that Satan is always at work where Christ is at work, you who are Christ's are to always remember

that you were freed from sin so that you can serve the Lord. Jesus did not call the Apostles without purpose. He did not say:

**Follow Me part time, and sin when
I give you free time.**

That's the attitude that some who profess to know the Lord take, but that attitude is never honored by God. Those who are freed by Christ are called to **follow Christ**. Jesus said:

Luke 9:23 ... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me.

We who are freed from the shackles of **sin, death, and Law** are not freed so that we can run amok. We are freed that we might – in love – serve the Lord. The Scripture says:

1 Corinthians 7:22 For he that is called in the Lord, being a servant, is the Lord's freeman: likewise also he that is called, being free, is Christ's servant.

You, as Christ's children are called to do the will of God. As the Apostle said:

1 Peter 2:15-16 For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: {16} As free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of

God.

Do as the Scripture commands. If you are God's by faith in Christ then **stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath you free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage**. Reject Satan's minions who attempt to bind you with Law or Sin or Death. You were saved on that glorious day that your hearts fell in love with Jesus. Stand fast in that love. Obey Him, and do as He commands. Honor Him.

Mark them that cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them (Romans 16:17). They do not serve the Savior, but their own sensual interests. The Pharisees and false apostles **had a form of godliness, but denied the power thereof – from such turn away (2 Timothy 3:5).**

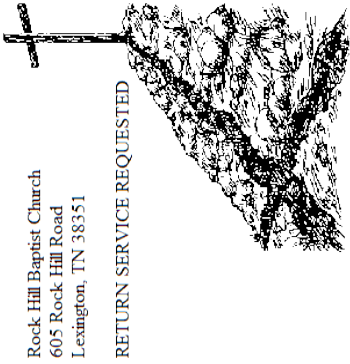
What is the **fruit of the Spirit of Christ**? It is:

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, {23} Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Ephesians 5:9-11 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) {10} Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. {11} And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

Stand fast against evil, and serve the Lord in the **liberty** **wherewith Christ has made us free**. Time is short, and Satan works hard to destroy America. Will you stand with the Savior Who so loves you?

May God touch your hearts with His Word.



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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED