



THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST BIBLE OUTREACH

+234 80 2327 0222

2 Kolex Close, Off Adeshina
Road Ijeshatedo-Surulere,
Lagos.

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10TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON OF FREEDOM

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

28th September, 2023

Text: Isaiah 49:24-25

[24] Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, Or the captives of the righteous be delivered?

[25] But thus says the Lord: "Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, And the prey of the terrible be delivered; For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save your children.

Topic: "WALKING IN THE FREEDOM OF CHRIST"

Text: Galatians 5:1-6; 16-18

[1] Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

[2] Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing.

[3] And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law.

[4] You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace.

[5] For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

[6] For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love.

Galatians 5:16-18

[16] I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

[17] For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

[18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

All liberty is precious, but political and physical freedom, are freedoms of the second order because freedom of the first order is spiritual freedom, and it supersedes other freedom!

-The letters to the Galatians written by Paul, effectively describe for us what it means to be free in Christ and what our basic rights are, as Christians!

We will look at these today as they are reported in the scriptures, and also consider what it means to "Walk in the liberty of Christ."



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In his letters to the Galatians, Paul describes our greatest freedoms as follows:

1. Freedom from the law of Moses. Paul asserts that Christ has delivered the Jews from their obligation to keep the Law of Moses.

In Galatians 2: verse 15-16, he elaborates: 'We who are Jews by birth and not Gentile sinners, know that a man is not justified by observing the law, but in faith in Jesus Christ.'

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.'

What is the implication of this statement for us as Christians today? You may ask: if observing the Jewish laws cannot justify us, why should we still obey the 10 Commandments and other Old Testament laws?

Paul was not saying that the law is bad, because in another letter to the Romans (chapter 7 vs. 12,) he wrote: 'The law is holy.'

Further, Timothy, a student of Paul and a teacher in his own right states in 1st Timothy Chapter 1 verse 8, and in 2nd Timothy Chapter 2 verse 15;

The law is good if used properly;

It was written for our learning and admonition;

Also said Paul in the Book of Romans: 15:4 and 1Corinthians 10:11

It is profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness reiterates Timothy, in 2nd Timothy 3: verses 14-17.

What Paul is saying then, is that the law alone cannot make us acceptable to God.

It however has an important role to play in the life of the Christian.

The laws of the 10 Commandments, for instance, guard us from sin, by giving us standards for behavior.

They convict us of sin leaving us with the opportunity to ask for God's forgiveness.

But Paul also wants us to realise that the law has its limitations. It must be properly handled, if we are to preserve our liberty in Christ!

Trying to keep the law cannot in itself save us, but it drives us to trust in the sufficiency of Christ because we know that of ourselves, we can never keep the 10 Commandments perfectly.


For, because we have all been infected by sin we of our own power cannot keep God's laws perfectly.

So, God has provided a way of salvation that depends on Jesus Christ, and not on our own efforts. Before this faith came, we were held prisoners by the law, says Paul in Galatians 3 vs. 23.



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So the law was put in charge to lead us to Christ... that we may be justified by faith.

The law of itself cannot possibly save us, but when we have become Christians, it can guide us to live as God requires!

"Because I have been crucified with Christ, says Paul, I no longer live, but Christ lives in me....I do not set aside the grace of God...for if righteousness could be gained through the law, then, Christ died for nothing!"

Paul reminds us that the cross, (and not the law,) is the only way to salvation!

3. Freedom from the traditions of men.

Christ himself, spoke of the danger of human traditions in Matthew 15, vs: 3-9, when He taught about inner purity. When asked by the Pharisees: "Why do your disciples break the tradition of the elders? They don't wash their hands before they eat?"

Jesus responded in verses 10 and 11: What goes into a man's mouth does not make him unclean, but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him unclean!

In verses 19 to 20, He went on to name specifically, the things that make man unclean: including, evil thoughts; murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, and slander. These are what makes man unclean!

The Pharisees thought that they were right with God because they followed strict rules including ritual cleansing of their hands before eating, and eating only what they regarded as 'clean foods'.

Jesus made it clear, and in James 3: 9-10, we are reminded that many times we believe we are godly people, because we maintain traditions that make us feel holy. For instance, we come to church every Sunday. We pray every day, but at the same time, we gossip, or talk about people behind their backs. -We forget that every time we speak our minds & what is in our hearts; are virtually on parade... and that is what is important to God!

Jesus also answered the Pharisees' question by challenging their use of tradition to mask obedience to God's word.


"And why do you break the command of God for the sake of your tradition? In Mark 7, he is reported as saying it this way: "You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions!"

For God said, "Honour your father and mother, and anyone who curses his father and mother must be put to death. But you say, that if a man says to his father or mother, whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban — that is a gift devoted to God, and so he does not honour his father with it. In this way, you nullify the word of God for the sake of your tradition.



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This was actually the practice of Corban, which literally means “offering”. Anyone who made a Corban vow was required to dedicate money to God’s temple that otherwise would have gone to support his parents.

So Corban had become a religiously acceptable way to neglect parents by the children.

— Although the giving money to God seemed worthy, but many people who took the Corban vow, were disregarding God’s clear command to care for, and honour parents!

Many traditions are not bad in themselves. Certain traditions in fact add richness and meaning to life, but we must not assume that because our traditions have been practiced for years, that they should be elevated to a sacred standing!

We must also be careful of adding rules and regulations to god’s word. It is dangerous to set up unbiblical standards for others to follow, and we must never use god as an excuse to neglect our responsibilities.

God’s principles never change! And his law does not need additions. Traditions should help us understand god’s law better, not become laws themselves!

4) Freedom from works of the flesh.

Christ offers deliverance from deeds of the flesh which endanger our salvation.

Paul warned against this in writing to the Corinthians. In 1Cor. 6: 9-11, he said, “Do you not know that the wicked will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, not idolaters, not adulterers, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor slanderers, nor swindlers will inherit the Kingdom of God.”

We live in a permissive society today, and it is easy for us even as Christians to overlook or tolerate some immoral behaviours — such as greed, and drunkenness, while remaining outraged by others, such as thievery and adultery.

But there are no “big sins” and “little sins” in God’s sight.

God expects his followers in any age or era, to have high standards, and to regard our bodies as His temple!

In Mark 7:20-13, Jesus also warned in that an evil action begins with a single thought.

So, allowing our minds to dwell on lust, envy, hatred or revenge will lead to sin.



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So we must not defile ourselves by focusing on evil. Instead, we should follow the advice Paul gave to the Philippians in Chapter 4:8 to “Think about what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely and admirable!”

So, when we Walk in the Liberty of Christ, we enjoy great freedoms, but in standing fast in that liberty, Paul reminds us that there is no freedom in sin!

To have this great freedom of which we have been speaking, we are also called upon to greatly restrict ourselves by abiding in the teachings of Christ.

Pastor A.S.O Olaleye

Lead Pastor, The GCBO

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