

Freedom is a gift of the Father through the Son; holding that freedom is the living of it by the Spirit.

1. The purpose of release from slavery 1
is the freedom which ensues:

[a] the exhortation arises out of the release; they need to keep standing in the place of freedom they now know

[b] the situation is either/or. One is free or a slave - to return to slavery annuls the benefit of the redeemer.

[c] It is about keeping the whole law, or being released

[d] To stand in freedom is to do so in Christ; to be keeping the whole law to be saved is to not be associated with Christ. To those who were once free this would be to leave an already established and know position - to fall away from grace.

2. Through his Spirit we find ourselves in a trusting relationship engendering a hope for the coming righteousness that is ours in union with Him.

3. In this union the decisive thing is not externals but faith which works in engendering love. This is Christian liberty.

4. Who has cut in to distract you from this? Their ideas don't come from God and furthermore, are dangerous to the whole of life.

[a] I am sure of the Spirit bringing you to the same conclusion as me!

[b] And the persons disturbing you will be judged by God.

5.1 τῇ ἐλευθερίᾳ ἡμᾶς Χριστὸς ἠλευθέρωσεν

for freedom Christ has set us free

στήκετε οὖν καὶ μὴ πάλιν ζυγῶ δουλείας ἐνέχεσθε.

stand therefore, and do not be again held by a yoke of slavery

2 Ἴδε ἐγὼ Παῦλος λέγω ὑμῖν ὅτι ἐάν περιτέμνησθε

Behold [Look!] I, Paul am saying to you, that if you allow yourselves to be circumcised

Χριστὸς ὑμᾶς οὐδὲν ὠφελήσει.

Christ benefits you nothing

3 μαρτύρομαι δὲ πάλιν παντὶ ἀνθρώπῳ περτεμνομένῳ

I am bearing witness again to every man who wants to be circumcised

ὅτι ὀφειλέτης ἐστὶν ὅλον τὸ νόμον ποιῆσαι.

that he is obliged to do [keep] the whole law

4 καταργήθητε ἀπὸ Χριστοῦ, οἵτινες ἐν νόμῳ δικαιοῦσθε,

you have cut yourselves off from Christ, you who would be justified by law

τῆς χάριτος ἐξεπέσατε

you have fallen away from grace

5 ἡμεῖς γὰρ πνεύματι ἐκ πίστεως ἐλπίδα δικαιοσύνης ἀπεκδεχόμεθα

for we, through the spirit by [out of] faith, eagerly await the hope of righteousness

6 ἐν γὰρ Χριστῷ Ἰησοῦ οὔτε περιτομὴ τι ἰσχύει οὔτε ἀκροβυστία,

for in Christ Jesus neither circumcision counts for anything nor uncircumcision

ἀλλὰ πίστις δι' ἀγάπης ἐνεργουμένη.

but [what does count is] faith working through love

7 Ἐτεχέτε καλῶς τίς ὑμᾶς ἐνέκοψεν [τῇ] ἀληθείᾳ μὴ πείθεσθαι;

You were running well; Who cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth

8 ἡ πεισμονὴ οὐκ ἐκ τοῦ καλοῦντος ὑμᾶς.

the persuasion is not [issuing] from the one who calls you

9 μικρὰ ζύμη ὅλον τὸ φύραμα ζυμοῖ.

A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough

10 ἐγὼ πέποιθα εἰς ὑμᾶς ἐν κυρίῳ ὅτι οὐδὲν ἄλλο φρονήσετε

I am sure in the lord that you will take no other view

ὁ δὲ ταρασσῶ ὑμᾶς βαστάσει τὸ κρίμα, ὅστις ἐὰν ᾖ.

The one perplexing you will bear the judgement whoever he may be

Freedom from and freedom to see faith working through love.

4[c] Remembering that he too, once was zealous for the law, Paul points out that his persecution by these false teachers is a sign that they recognise his message is different.

[d] And the real cause of that persecution is the message of the cross.

5. A Christian person is, in conscience, free from all and subject to none and, at the same time, free for all to be slaves to all in love.

[a] Our neighbour is the one who is the object of our love.

6. One of the marks of the entry of law as the basis for our justification is that we become competitive and end up destroying one another.

- 11 11 ἐγὼ δέ, ἀδελφοί, εἰ περιτομὴν ἔτι κηρύσσω
 and I brothers, if I am still preaching circumcision
 τί ἔτι διώκομαι.
 why am I still being persecuted?
 ἄρα κατήργηται τὸ σκάνδαλον τοῦ σταυροῦ
 In that case the offence of the cross has been removed [abolished]
- 12 12 ὄφελον καὶ ἀποκόψονται οἱ ἀναστατοῦντες ὑμᾶς
 I wish that those who are unsettling you would castrate themselves
- 13 13 Ὑμεῖς γὰρ ἐπ' ἐλευθερίᾳ ἐκλήθητε, ἀδελφοί
 For you brethren, were called unto freedom
 μόνον μὴ τὴν ἐλευθερίαν εἰς ἀφορμὴν τῆ σαρκί,
 only not freedom unto an opportunity [occasion] for the flesh
 ἀλλὰ διὰ τῆς ἀγάπης δουλεύετε ἀλλήλοις.
 but through love become slaves to one another
- 14 14 ὁ γὰρ πᾶς νόμος ἐν ἐνὶ λόγῳ πεπλήρωται,
 for all the law has been fulfilled in one word [statement]
 ἐν τῷ Ἀγαπήσεις τὸν πλησίον ὡς σεαυτόν.
 in the "You [sing] will love your neighbour as yourself"
- 15 εἰ δὲ ἀλλήλους δάκνετε κια κατεσθίετε,
 and if you bite and devour one another
 βλέπετε μὴ ὑπ' ἀλλήλων ἀναλωθῆτε.
 Watch out! lest you are destroyed by one another.