

Freedom in Christ:

Read Galatians 5:1 – 17:

How does adding to the Gospel of grace take away from it?

Freedom is something precious, so why do you think we are tempted to remove it so as to preserve it?

From our study in Colossians and the passage in Galatians, what should we use our freedom for? What will move us to do this?

Next week we will look at Rules for Holy living. What do we need to keep in mind from this week's study so that we do not misunderstand next week's?

Give thanks for the freedom we have in Jesus.

Groups week beginning 27th February 2023

Study 4: Freedom in Christ

Readings: Colossians 2:8 - 23
Galatians 5:1 - 17

What do you understand freedom to be?

Read Colossians 2:8 - 23:

Freedom Threatened:

How does v6 and 7 recap what Paul has already said in the letter?

Paul says, "just as we received we are to continue", what do you think this means?

Paul sees the threat of being taken captive in v8. What are some of the things that might have made captive the Christians in Colossea? Christians today?

In v16 Paul says some may judge us. He particularly raises food, religious festivals and the Sabbath. Why are these no longer binding? (Reading Mark 2:23 – 28, 7:14 – 23 may also help)

What do you think that Paul means by ‘the reality is found in Christ’? V17

How can someone who claims to be spiritual be disconnected from Jesus? (v18 – 19) What warning does this give to us?

Why does regulation even when it promotes good things can lead to the destruction of freedom?

Why is this approach to making holy Christians fundamentally flawed? (v22 – 23)

Freedom Confirmed:

In Colossians 1:22 what were we reminded? What was the basis of this position before God?

Paul in Colossians 1:15 argued for the divinity of Christ which he restates in Col. 2:9. Why is it significant that we share in Christ’s fullness? How does this influence how we live? (v11)

In Col. 2:13 we are told we were dead but God made us alive. Why does Paul emphasize God’s work? How does this influence how we live?

According to Paul how has God dealt with our sin? (v13 – 15) Knowing this how does this influence how we live our lives?

Having freedom does mean it can be abused. What is Paul’s solution to this over and against those who are trying to make the Colossians captive? Why does regulation destroy freedom?