

# Galatians

## Week 7—Freedom

Your assignment:

1. Read Galatians once a week (6 chapters).
2. Take the notes each week and review them as you read.
3. Be open to God completely shifting your relationship with Him.
4. Text any questions to 440.557.2822.

(Galatians 4:8-12)

Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist. So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years. I fear for you. Perhaps all my hard work with you was for nothing. Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws.

Paul is asking each of us this question—**Do You Feel Free?**

Ours is a culture preaching personal freedom.

- In all of the dreams you've pursued
- In all of the purchases you've made.
- In all the relationships you've started and ended.
- In all of your attempts to avoid feeling trapped, or afraid, or insignificant, or outside...

Are you convinced God likes you?

Here's the truth you need to know...God Couldn't Love You More And He'll Never Love You Less.

Jesus said that becoming a Christian is supposed to feel like a full and abundant life. So if Christianity doesn't feel like freedom, why not?

### **Our Deepest Desires Ruined Our Life Before God**

*(v.8)... Before you Gentiles knew God, you were slaves to so-called gods that do not even exist.*

- Before we knew God we “were slaves to so-called gods that didn't even exist.”
- For the Galatians, these were actually idols to which they made sacrifices of worship.

Our first instinct is to reject the idea that we're anything like this.

We held these desires up as a god.

- We needed them to complete us or make us feel loved or in control or valuable.
- Why else would you keep doing things that make you feel alone, insecure, anxious, afraid, abused, guilty, ashamed, rejected.

- At some point we realized that these things that we were worshiping or sacrificing for weren't giving us what we needed, but we couldn't stop.
- Why?... because we were slaves.

**Everyone Has Something They Do To Make People Like Them.**

*(v.9-10)...So now that you know God (or should I say, now that God knows you), why do you want to go back again and become slaves once more to the weak and useless spiritual principles of this world? You are trying to earn favor with God by observing certain days or months or seasons or years.*

We think we have to convince God to like us.

- If we're not careful we can think God is just like everything else in life.
- We tried to get what we want most.
- We assume we have to sacrifice to earn. Do you see that?

Paul says, You know God now so why are you acting like slaves to God?

Most people describe knowing God like this:

- I ask for God to forgive me
- I receive forgiveness for my sins
- I try my best to be good for God
- If I'm good God is good to me

There's a fancy name for this by the way if you want to know, it's called "**you get to heaven by being good**" It's the idea that God is willing to forgive me but I have to earn his love.

This is the reason you don't feel the freedom you thought you would have when you got saved.

- In your heart you believe God is just like every other power out there.
- Be good to him.
- Don't tick him off and he will eventually give you that thing you want more than anything else in the world.

Paul is saying "you're treating God the same way you treated all you former idols. I'll sacrifice for you as long as you are good to me."

- That's why every time you fail or fall you're mad at yourself because you're convinced God is mad at you, because you broke your end of the deal.

**THAT'S NOT CHRISTIANITY! It's slavery.**

It makes you a slave to behavior or performance.

**Freedom Only Comes When You Believe Jesus Earned It For You.**

*(v.12)...Dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to live as I do in freedom from these things, for I have become like you Gentiles—free from those laws.*

- There's no freedom in having to earn something from God.

- Christianity is not based on “earning something”—it’s based on “believing something”
- Every other philosophy or advice or religion says “earn it” but Christianity says “receive it”

Genuine salvation comes when you realize God sent Jesus to earn your salvation because you never would be able to.

You don’t have to earn His love and He will never quit loving you.

- Until you and I believe God loves us regardless, you’ll never be able to stop trying to be good for God.
- But the moment you get it. The moment you realize that Jesus earned it for you, you will live in a freedom you never dreamed possible.