

### Phase 3: "Freedom FOR"

- ◆ "Freedom For" means **opportunities for outreach** (serving in love).
- ◆ Phase 3 describes God's **eternal purposes** whether one is to be **free** or a **slave**.
- ◆ Freedom is for an opportunity of outreach to **connect people to Jesus**.

### Paul's Main Point in Galatians

- ◆ Paul's great message in Galatians; **freedom in Christ**.

### Three Principles of Freedom in Christ

FREEDOM PRINCIPLE 1: **REST** in what God has done for you.

- ◆ You can rest in what God has **done for you** because of what **Jesus** has done **to make us free**.
- ◆ Freedom is for **resting** in what God has done for you.

FREEDOM PRINCIPLE 2: **RESPOND** with a life empowered by the Holy Spirit.

- ◆ We are never **freed** until we are **restrained** by something that pulls us higher and higher.
- ◆ The loving life of **freedom** then is lived out **wisely** as we are **filled with** and **follow** the Holy Spirit.

FREEDOM PRINCIPLE 3: **REACH OUT** by becoming a contagious Christian.

- ◆ God's purpose for our lives today is to **proclaim liberty** throughout the world that is ours through **Jesus Christ**.
- ◆ We have a common need for the **gift of freedom** that God gives in Jesus Christ.
- ◆ We have freedom for **reaching out** and **transforming lives** with Jesus Christ.

### Conclusion

- ◆ Our freedom in Christ calls us to **celebrate it**, to **share it**, and to **live it out** each day. It is for **freedom** that Christ has set us free!

### Small Group Discussion Questions:

- 1) Thinking about your Christian walk, were there times when you were confused or doubted the Christian message? What things caused you to have those thoughts? What/who helped you see the "true Gospel" that Paul speaks of in Galatians?
- 2) Read Galatians 5:7-10. Can you think of things, people, or ideas in the American culture that "*cut in on you and kept you from obeying the truth?*" What has the impact been on your life? On the Christian church? What is your response?

3) In the movie *The Patriot*, Benjamin Martins speaks this line, "I have long feared that my sins would return to visit me." Have you ever had such thoughts? What is Paul's answer to that? Are there areas in your life that need to be confessed in repentance before God?

4) What does it mean for you to have "freedom in Christ?"

5) Some today equate "freedom" with moral relativism or the idea that I am free to do whatever I want. Is this what Paul is saying in Galatians? If not, what is he saying?

6) Discuss how each of the three freedom principles; rest, respond and reach out, is visible in your life. What principle would you like to see grow even more?

7) Reflect as a small group on the phrase, "We are never freed until we are restrained by something that pulls us higher and higher."



# Redeeming Notes

"Freedom in Christ-No Other Option" ..... Galatians 5:1-14  
Scott Nocton, Pastoral Intern ..... July 2, 2006

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*"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage."* The apostle Paul in Galatians 5:1

## The Problem in Galatia and Today

- ◆ Galatia is a region in southern **Asia Minor** (Turkey) where Paul had established churches. These are new **Gentile Christians** and these are **young** churches.

- ◆ The Jewish Christians (Judaizers) in Galatia were promoting a false Gospel substituting **God's gift** with man's **works**. Paul understood this to be **legalism**.

- ◆ It's not enough to be **saved by faith**, argues the legalist; we must **earn** God's approval.

## Three Phases of American Freedom

Phase 1: "Freedom OF"

- ◆ "Freedom Of" **guarantees specific freedoms** such as those listed in the Bill of Rights.

Phase 2: "Freedom FROM"

- ◆ "Freedom From" means being free from any type of **restraints, rules or requirements**.

- ◆ Many Americans are living in this second phase seeking freedom that goes along with **whatever they feel like doing** (moral relativism).