

# THE GREAT PARADOX OF FREEDOM

Living the Gospel, 16

Galatians 5:1-6

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TRINITY CHAPEL  
BIBLE CHURCH

## v.1: As Christians, we are free...

... from slavery (to the Old Testament Law)

... to stand in freedom (from the Law)

... from the guilt of sin

... to enjoy our favor from God

... through the liberating death of Christ

## v.2-4: If you seek your own salvation...

Sidenote: why is circumcision such a big deal?!

... you are trusting your own works

... you are not putting your faith in Christ

... you are returning to slavery

... you are not living in grace and truth

The point: Christ alone is sufficient for salvation

## v.5-6: What is the good of *knowing* the Gospel?

We wait for our God-given eternity

We live in our God-given present

We wait having faith in our promised perfection

We live a life of love, reflecting the grace and glory of God

We live out this paradox not because we *have* to, but because in Christ, we are free to

## Guided reflection: living the great paradox...

Phil 3:20

John 17:16

Phil 1:6

Eph 1:11

Gal 5:5

Jas 2:18

Phil 2:12

Mat 5:48

Phil 1:27

Gal 5:6

## Preview (v.7): How often do we know this, and try to do this, and fall flat on our faces?

"The picture seems to be one of an ox bowed down by a heavy yoke. Once it has been freed from this crushing yoke, it is able to stand erect again... [Christ] has struck the yoke from our shoulder and set us free to stand upright. How then can we dream of putting ourselves under the Law again and submitting to its cruel yoke?" – John Stott

"Grace is not simply leniency when we have sinned. Grace is the enabling gift of God not to sin. Grace is power, not just pardon... Therefore the effort we make to obey God is not an effort done in our own strength, but 'in the strength which God supplies (1Pet 4:11)'... Therefore the obedience which gives God pleasure is by grace through faith. It is the obedience of faith." – John Piper