



THE GREAT TRUTH OF FREEDOM—Living the Gospel Galatians 5:7-15

Ben did another great job this week. As many of you have experienced, the opportunity to walk through the passage lays an incredibly helpful foundation for memorizing the Word as we've been doing via the Word Project. Even if you haven't been able to commit each week's passage to memory, I hope that you have found time to revisit Galatians at some point during the following week. Keeping Scripture close to our hearts and firmly in our minds gives the Spirit that much more to work with. Here are a few words of encouragement. God is good. Love God and love others. Stay strong.

Getting Started

We're going to begin our group a little differently this week by focusing on how we interact with one another in a group context. Discuss the following questions as honestly and thoughtfully as you can.

- How easy is it for you to open up with others? What would make you more comfortable and willing to do so?
- When has talking helped and/or hurt you? Do you feel like you are heard when you do talk? Explain.
- How changes would you like to see in your life re being open and authentic?

Ben began his sermon by reviewing the beginning of the chapter. Let's revisit the groundwork of this week's sermon.

From last week: the paradox vv. 1-6

The Gospel is our true freedom...

From... slavery to the Law, and the guilt of sin

To... righteousness, through Christ alone

We live in a paradoxical response to this freedom...

As we wait... for our future perfection

As we live... reflecting the love of God

What does freedom mean to you as a Christian?

How are sin and slavery connected?

What is the paradox we face as believers?

In what areas does/does not your life reflect God?

Read verses seven through nine, review Ben's notes, and discuss your answers to the questions.

Freedom is hindered by... heresy vv. 7-9

Why? v.7: Heresy... causes you to stumble

v.8: Heresy... turns you away from God

v.8: Heresy... turns you back to slavery

v.9: Heresy... contaminates your life

v.9: Heresy... contaminates a community

What is the heresy facing the Galatians?

What heresies do we face today?

How are our everyday lives affected by heresy?

How can we safeguard ourselves against heresy?

Freedom is realized by... truth vv. 10-12

Why? v.10: Truth... reveals false teaching

v.10: Truth... warns of God's judgment

v.11: Truth... stands under persecution

v.11: Truth... can be difficult to accept

v.12: Truth... displays your true heart

What is the truth we need to hold onto?

How is the gospel nullified when we add works?

How does the truth of the gospel cause stumbling? What motivates the addition of works to the gospel?

Freedom allows us to... truly live vv. 13-15

Why? v.13: We DON'T live... in pursuit of God

v.13: We live... a life of service

v.14: We live... to love others

v.15: We live... in unquestioned integrity

Bottom line: Only when we embrace true freedom of the Gospel... can we effectively live as God has called us!

Why is it so tempting to use our freedom improperly?

What does it look like to truly live in freedom?

Why is loving one another essential to our faith?

How do we live lives of unquestioned integrity?

Application

We've spent another evening studying the Word of our God, seeking ways to put His guidance into practice. We've looked at the importance of holding fast to the truth of the Gospel and the vital importance of living out our love and obedience to the Father by loving one another.

Which of these two foci is easiest for you?

Why is it so difficult for most of us to really love others?

How confident are you in your ability to detect heresy?

What do you need to change to live in freedom?

Prayer

Praise God for Ben and his service to us this week. Praise God for everyone He has brought to serve TCBC. Thank God for freeing us and showing us the truth. Pray for continued guidance as we look to the future.