

What Have We Been Set Free To?

Scope of first five lessons- the biblical foundation of Christian Liberty:

- What have we been set free from?
- What have we been set free to?
- Are there limits to our liberty?
- Who rules your conscience?
- What role does the church and/or state have in these matters?

As a reminder of what we discussed last week- we discussed what have we been set free from:

The liberty which **Christ has purchased** for believers under the gospel, consists in their **freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the severity and curse of the law,**¹ and in their being **delivered from this present evil world,**² **bondage to Satan,**³ and **dominion of sin,**⁴ from **the evil of afflictions,**⁵ **the fear and sting of death,** the victory of **the grave,**⁶ and **everlasting damnation**⁷

We have not been set free into a neutral state. We are not our own, but belong to God.

- *1 Cor 6:19-20: Or ^pdo you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? ^qYou are not your own, ²⁰ rfor you were bought with a price. ^sSo glorify God in your body.*
- *Romans 14:7-8: For ^tnone of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸ For if we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, ^uwhether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹ For to this end Christ ^vdied and lived again, that he might be Lord both ^wof the dead and of the living.*

We are called to obedience to God, but it is no longer in a spirit of fear, but of delight. In our full access to the throne of grace, we can trust his word to be true and yield obedience to him. This lesson establishes the need for our willing and joyful obedience to Scripture as we work through the practical questions covered later in this series.

Michael Horton: *"We are not called to live the Gospel but to believe the Gospel and to follow the law in view of God's mercies."*

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LBC 21.1b: The liberty which **Christ has purchased** for believers under the gospel, consists.... also in their **free access to God**, and their **yielding obedience unto Him**, not out of slavish fear,⁸ but a **child-like love and willing mind**.⁹ All which were common also to believers under the law for the substance of them;¹⁰ but **under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged**, in their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected, and **in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace**, and **in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God**, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.¹¹

Free access to God, and their **yielding obedience unto Him**, not out of slavish fear (Rom 8:15), but a **child-like love and willing mind** (1 John 4:18-19).

AW Tozer: The Pursuit of God: Removing the Veil

Though the worshipper had enjoyed so much, still he had not yet entered the Presence of God. Another veil separated from the Holy of Holies where above the mercy seat dwelt the very God Himself in awful and glorious manifestation. While the tabernacle stood, only the high priest could enter there, and that but once a year, with blood which he offered for his sins and the sins of the people. It was this last veil which was rent when our Lord gave up the ghost on Calvary, and the sacred writer explains that this rending of the veil opened the way for every worshipper in the world to come by the new and living way straight into the divine Presence.

Everything in the New Testament accords with this Old Testament picture. Ransomed men need no longer pause in fear to enter the Holy of Holies. God wills that we should push on into His Presence and live our whole life there. This is to be known to us in conscious experience. It is more than a doctrine to be held, it is a life to be enjoyed every moment of every day.

Tozer, A. W.. A. W. Tozer books: The Pursuit of God and Other Classics (pp. 14-15). Kindle Edition.

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Romans 8:15: "For ^gyou did not receive ^hthe spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of ⁱadoption as sons, by whom we cry, ^j"Abba! Father!"

1 John 4:18-19: "There is no fear in love, but ^dperfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not ^abeen perfected in love. ¹⁹ ^eWe love because he first loved us"

Three Functions of the Law:

- First function is as a mirror reflecting both the perfect righteousness of God and our own sinfulness and shortcomings.
 - Romans 3:20: "For by works of the law no human being will be justified in his sight, since through the law comes knowledge of sin"
- Second use of the law is the civil use of the law, to restrain evil.
- Third function of the law is to serve as a guide and influence.
 - Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them."
 - Romans 7:6: "But now we are released from the law, having died to that which held us captive, so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code"

All which were common also to believers under the law for the substance of them (Gal 3:10-14); but **under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged**, in their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected, and **in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace**, and **in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God**, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of (John 7 and Heb 10).

- *Galatians 3:10-14: "For all who rely on works of the law are ^munder a curse; for it is written, ⁿ"Cursed be everyone who does not ^oabide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them." ¹¹ Now it is evident that ^pno one is justified before God by the law, for ^q"The righteous shall live by faith."⁴ ¹² But the law is not of faith, rather ^r"The one who does them shall live by them."¹³ Christ ^sredeemed us from the curse of the law*

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by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, ^t“Cursed is everyone who is hanged ^uon a tree”— ¹⁴ so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might ^vcome to the Gentiles, so that ^wwe might receive ^xthe promised Spirit⁵ through faith.

- *John 7:38-39: “Whoever believes in me, ^bas⁶ the Scripture has said, ^c‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of ^dliving water.’” ³⁹ Now ^ethis he said about the Spirit, ^fwhom those who believed in him were to receive, ^gfor as yet the Spirit had not been ^hgiven, ⁱbecause Jesus was not yet glorified.”*
- *Hebrews 10:19-25: “^pTherefore, brothers,³ since we have confidence to enter ^qthe holy places by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰ by ^rthe new and living way that he opened for us through ^sthe curtain, that is, through his flesh, ²¹ and since we have ^ta great priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts ^usprinkled clean ^vfrom an evil conscience and our bodies ^wwashed with pure water. ²³ ^xLet us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for ^yhe who promised is faithful. ²⁴ And ^zlet us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ ^anot neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and ^ball the more as you see ^cthe Day drawing near.”*

Martin Luther: “A Christian man is the most free lord of all, and subject to one, a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to every one.”

Philippians 2:1-4:

“So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from ^llove, any ^aparticipation in the Spirit, any ^baffection and sympathy, ² ⁱcomplete my joy by being ⁱof the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³ Do nothing from ^kselfish ambition or ^lconceit, but in ^mhumility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.”