

CHRIST HAS FREED YOU

Galatians 5:1 “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”

You must! If you only do this. . . In order to have a good life, obey the Ten Commandments. Six steps to a prosperous life. Perhaps you have heard one or more of these statements come from the mouth of a preacher, Bible teacher or fellow Christian. These types of statements cause you to wonder just what it is you must do, can do or ought to do to be in God’s good graces.

Jewish teachers had come into Galatia. (see Chapter 4) They were mixing the teachings of Jesus with what was required by Jewish law. One of these key teachings was in order for a man to be a child of God he had to believe in Jesus Christ and also be circumcised.

This teaching is addressed by St. Paul here in chapter 5, verse 1. St. Paul said, to submit once again to the belief that one had to be circumcised to be a child of God was rejecting the message of the Gospel. The Gospel’s message is Jesus came to set human beings free from the requirement to perfectly obey God’s law. Jesus addressed this issue in John 8:31-32, 36 “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. . . So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Peter wrote, “He (Jesus) himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By His wounds you have been healed. For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.” (1 Peter 2:24-25)

It is not what you do, but what Christ has done for you that merits God’s favor, forgiveness, eternal life and salvation. When God sees your faith in Christ, He sees your union with Christ. And when He sees your union with Christ, He sees the righteousness of Christ as your righteousness. So, faith connects you with Christ who is your righteousness. It is not what you do, but what Christ has done for you that sets you free to become a child of God.

Prayer: O Lord, prevent me from trying to earn your favor when Jesus has earned it for me. Preserve my faith in Him through whom your count me a righteous. In His holy name. Amen.

Jesus, Lover of my soul, Let me to Thy bosom fly
While the nearer waters roll, While the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Savior, hide, Till the storm of life is past;
Safe into the haven guide, Oh, receive my soul at last!

Other refuge have I none; Hangs my helpless soul on Thee.
Leave, ah, leave me not alone, Still support and comfort me!
All my trust on Thee is stayed, All my help from Thee I bring;
Cover my defenseless head With the shadow of Thy wing.

Wilt Thou not regard my call, Wilt Thou not accept my prayer?
Lo, I sink, I faint, I fall; Lo, on Thee I cast my care;
Reach me out Thy gracious hand! While I of Thy strength receive,
Hoping against hope, I stand, Dying, and, behold, I live!

Thou, O Christ, art all I want; More than all in Thee I find.
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint, Heal the sick, and lead the blind.
Just and holy is Thy name; I am all unrighteousness,
False and full of sin I am; Thou art full of truth and grace.

Plenteous grace with Thee is found, Grace to cover all my sin.
Let the healing streams abound; Make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the Fountain art, Freely let me take of Thee;
Spring Thou up within my heart, Rise to all eternity.
(TLH, 345)