



Series: Living in the Favor of Jesus
Passage Galatians 5:1-9, 4:21-31
Title Set Free Now Stay Free (Part 2)
Speaker: David Menard 10/23/2016

Discussion Starter: We are a “**Selfie Generation**”! Does this hyper focus on self (self-greatness, self-help, self-made man, etc.) set us free and give us life or does it have a negative effect? Explain your answer.

Liberty versus Bondage (Galatians 5:1-6)

- Galatians 5:1. What was Paul trying to convey when he asked them to “*Stand fast in the liberty which Christ has made us free*”? How has Jesus set us free and how does this liberty apply to us?
- Jesus never said: Do More or Try Harder. Jesus said: “***Come to Me, My yoke is easy and My burden is light***”. Paul warns the Galatians not to be entangled with the *try harder do more* yoke of bondage. Describe what the **yoke of bondage** looks like in your life? Secondly, how does that compare to the yoke that Jesus wants us to wear?
- Galatians 5:4. What happens to our relationship with Christ when we try to use self-works to earn our righteousness with God? Do you think that we should abandon all self-help efforts? Where do you think scripture tells us where we should draw the line?
- Galatians 5:5-6 Paul explains that “we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith”. As Christians we are positionally made perfectly righteous by Jesus. Nevertheless, in our present state we still must battle to die to our sin nature. How does our future, eternal state in Christ compare to our present state? And how does that “hope” transform your thinking in this present state?

The *PERSUASION* that hinders us does not come from God (Galatians 5:6-9)

- We know the ***persuasion*** to be self-righteousness does not come from God. In the sermon three distinct ***persuasions*** were discussed. Discuss both the attraction and the effects (or the fruit) of each ***persuasion*** below.
 1. A person who wants to be good / righteous by self-merit.
 2. A person who desires to be autonomous.
 3. A person plagued by the guilt and shame of their sinful nature.
- How do these three persuasions actually hinder God’s plan for our lives?

All God’s promises come to us by faith alone (Galatians 4:21-31)

- Sometimes it’s hard to hold on to God’s promises by completely by faith alone. What did Abraham do to ***help God*** fulfill what God had promised him? Can you relate? Explain why. How did this turn out for Abraham?
- What point is Paul making by using the example of Abraham’s two sons as a symbol of:
 - 1) The bondage of the law (self-help / righteousness). 2) The freedom of resting in God’s promises?
- Faith produces way more fruit than self–help. In Galatians 4:27 what does Paul imply by quoting Isaiah 54:1?
- Through God’s promise Sarah birthed an entire nation (Israel) and the Messiah (Jesus). How does Sarah serve as an encouraging picture to us when we are going through a barren, disappointing season of life?