

NO MORE BONDAGE!

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. (Gal 5:1)

If you take this verse out of context and just read this verse in isolation you might think that Paul is exhorting the Galatians not to get back into the bondage of gross sins of the flesh such as sexual sins or idolatry. However, if we read this verse in context, this verse is not speaking about being in bondage to sin but being in bondage to the **LAW**. When we think of being in bondage to something we usually think of sins like drug abuse, alcoholism, gambling, or sexual perversion, but not to **GOD'S HOLY LAW! What will shock most Christians is that being in bondage to the law is the root of all other bondages of sin.**

To understand this we must see what God's purpose was for giving the Law which includes the Ten Commandments. Many think God gave the Law to make bad people good. This is not the case! The Law was given to show bad people that they were bad! (**Romans 3:20**) The Law was not given to give life to people. (**Gal. 3:21**) The Law was given to show those living in the natural that they were dead spiritually. Many think God gave the Law to give people victory over sin. This is not true. God gave the law to give sin the victory over people. When Adam sinned all of us were made sinners because we were in Him when He sinned. Sin ruled over humanity but we did not know it. Before God gave the Law there was no transgression, because without rules rebellion can not display itself. Once rules come on the scene then rebellion is seen instantly. God gave the 600+ laws to Moses to show man his sin problem. Again the Law did not help us against sin but sin against us to reveal our need for salvation.

(1Co 15:56 KJVR) The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I find it interesting when the grace of God is preached so many will protest and say that it will give sin an upper hand in people's lives. God disagrees with this! Actually the strength of sin is not grace but the **LAW**. Why is this? It is because sin uses the Law against us as a secret weapon!

(Rom 7:5 KJVR) For when we were in the flesh, the motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death.

Rom 7:11 For sin, taking occasion by the commandment, deceived me, and by it slew me.

When we are under the law, which is trying to be as we ought to be in our lives by our own effort and performance, then sin will stir up all kinds of desires in us to break the Law. Sin resides in our flesh and sin is rebellion. When we try in our own efforts to be as we know we ought to be for God, then sin will produce desires that will oppose us. Notice that sin deceives us. How does it deceive? It deceives us because we think that God gave us the Law to make us better and

to be more like him, but the more we try to be like God in our own efforts the less like Him we become! Adam and Eve tried this and they ate us out of house and home! (**Gen. 3:5**)

Some might say at this point, "Well, if the Law won't help me be as I ought to be then what will help me!" The Apostle Paul came to that question in Romans 7 after his losing battle with sin and all His attempts to keep God's law.

Rom 7:23 But I see another law (sin) in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members.

Rom 7:24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?

Paul realized that there was a principle in his flesh which was sin that warred against His desire to keep God's law in his mind which always seemed to bring him into bondage to sin. Do you know what Paul's problem really was? It was not sin but **his law mentality**. It was his law mindset that was giving strength to sin and giving it the victory over him! Paul finally gave up all his futile efforts to live for God and keep the Law in his own efforts and cried out- "Who shall deliver me!" God was gracious to provide the answer to Him. He goes on to say- "I thank God through **JESUS CHRIST**."

What the Law could not do, **JESUS DID. (Romans 8:4)** Jesus fulfilled all the commandments during His life and fulfilled all the sacrifices in His death and **provided for us perfect and eternal righteousness**. Righteousness means to be just as you ought to be. He offers it **as a gift**. Adam was created righteous- just as he ought to be. He was made that way. Do you know that you were born again righteous- just as you ought to be! Ephesians 4:24 states that we have been created in true righteousness and holiness in Him.

At this point you might say, I am not under the Law! I do not offer animals as sacrifice and I love to eat pork! Well, examine your life and ask yourself, "Am I in bondage in some area of my life?" "Is sin getting the upper hand in any place in my life?" If the answer is yes, then to some degree you are in bondage to the Law!

(Rom 6:14 KJVR) For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

This verse says that sin shall not have dominion over you, because you are not under the law but under grace. The opposite is true also. Sin **shall have dominion** over you if you are under the law and not under grace. What does it mean to be under grace? This means that you believe that God did everything to make you just as you ought to be outside of your performance and efforts. Do you know that sin will lose its power when you realize that you are just as you ought to be by what Jesus did for you instead of what you do for Him? When you realize that God is not demanding anything from you to be like him, then you can start living FROM him and starting manifesting Christ likeness by His Spirit. If you

try to be like God in your efforts then the Spirit will stand by and let you go at it and He will not help you if you ask for it. However, if you trust in the gift of righteousness from Jesus then the Spirit will be mighty in deliverance and power to deliver you from sin and bring forth the image of Christ in your life. When you are under the Law of self effort then it is up to you to will and to do of God's pleasure. But when you trust in the gift of righteousness then the Spirit will work in you both to will and to do of His good pleasure. **(Phil. 2:13)** Your works will now be by product and fruit of that righteousness that is already in you when you got saved.

You have been delivered from the yoke of bondage, do not let yourself be brought into bondage by a law mindset. Stop focusing on sin and start focusing of Jesus and realize as He is so are you NOW in this life!! **(1 John 4:17)** It will make **ALL THE DIFFERENCE!**

Confession: I am no longer in bondage to the Law! Jesus forever fulfilled the Law for me! Jesus died for me and removed all my sins and transgressions past, present, and future! By his resurrection He has given me the gift of new life. When I got saved I received His righteousness into me and I became just as I ought to be in God's sight by a gift. I am not in bondage of trying to be what I should be, but I am as I ought to be right now because of Jesus. I submit to His righteousness. Holy Spirit I thank you that you are undertaking for me right now to put down the flesh in my life and to produce godly desires and the power to live them out. I believe you are working in me right now! Thank you Lord!