

Scripture Consulting Essentials

November 23, 2020

Freedom in Christ

Galatians 5:1, 4.

Galatians 5:1 (WT):

Christ freed us with freedom. Therefore, stand fast and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

Galatians 4:21-31.

The law puts people under bondage. It sets up obligations, self-condemnation, anxieties, fears, and worries about disease and conflicts and death and other oppressions. These thoughts bring people into mental bondage. We have been justified in Christ Jesus, and we are no longer condemned. We are free in Christ. However, we may sometimes allow the yoke of bondage to influence our minds contrary to what God's Word says about us.

I John 3:20-23.

The Greek word translated "condemn" in verses 20 and 21 means "to find fault with" or "to blame." It is not the word used in Romans 8:1, which speaks of "no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus." Finding fault with oneself limits our confidence in God. Although Christ has freed us with freedom, we may sometimes bring ourselves into mental bondage. We can get rid of that bondage by renewing our minds to prove the good, well-pleasing, and perfect Will of God.

II Corinthians 6:11-13.

Enlarged: Greek: *platus* = to enlarge, to make broad; hence, to relieve.

Straitened: Greek: *stenochōreō* = to compress, to squeeze, to constrict.

Bowels: Greek: *splanchnon* = inner body parts; often used to refer to compassions, feelings, or emotions. Their hearts were compressed by their feelings. II Corinthians 7:15 "inward affection."

II Corinthians 4:16-18.

John 8:31-32.

Jesus taught them God's Word, and by continuing in that Word, they would be his disciples and would know the truth. That truth of God's Word would set them free. The Truth of God's Word will set us free from anything that might put us in bondage. Set your thoughts and affections on things above. (Colossians 3:1-2)

Psalm 103:1-2.

The people of Israel to whom this psalm was written were not to forget all of God's benefits. There were many benefits from God to them under the Mosaic law. There was also bondage. To those in the Church today there are many more benefits. Christ has freed us with freedom. Because of Jesus Christ's accomplishments on our behalf, we have been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly realm. Let us not forget all His benefits to us.

Verses 3-4.

God has forgiven all our sins and healed all our diseases by Jesus Christ's sacrifice. He has redeemed our lives from destruction. God crowns us with His loving kindness and His tender mercy. He is a very loving heavenly Father Who sent His Son so that we might have all these benefits. Let us not forget them.

Loving kindness: Hebrew: *cheched* = loving kindness, compassion, mercy.

Tender mercy: Hebrew: *racham* (verb participle) = to have a deep love, compassion, tender affection like mothers and fathers have for their children. (Related noun means "womb")

Verse 5.

Our youth is renewed like the eagle's. (Isaiah 40:31.)

II Corinthians 4:16:

For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward *man* is renewed day by day.

Verse 8.

Merciful: Hebrew: *rachuwmm* (adjective) = loving, compassionate, tenderly affectionate like mothers and fathers for their children. (Related noun means "womb")

Mercy: Hebrew: *cheched* = loving kindness, compassion, mercy.

The English word "mercy" generally has the idea of withholding of merited judgment. It is sometimes used of kind and compassionate treatment. The Hebrew word is used in this latter sense. God judges with justice and equity, but He has shown great compassion and loving kindness for people by providing the perfect substitute for their iniquities so that they may be legally justified by His grace.

Verse 11.

Mercy: Hebrew: *cheched* = loving kindness, compassion, mercy.

Verse 13.

Pitieth (twice): Hebrew: *racham* (verb) = to have a deep love, compassion, tender affection like mothers and fathers have for their children. (Related noun means "womb")

God does not reward us according to our iniquities. He has forgiven our sins. He has cast them as far as the east is from the west, and He remembers them no more. Then we ought not to bring them up either. Remember them no more. God has forgiven you. So forgive yourself. Do not find fault with yourself. God is your Father, and He cares for you. Set your thoughts on things above.

Verse 17.

Mercy: Hebrew: *cheched* = loving kindness, compassion, mercy.

Verses 19-22.

God's kingdom is in heaven, where He rules over all. His angels (messengers) carry out His pleasure. Today, Jesus Christ is seated at God's right hand in that kingdom, where he makes intercession for us. We have been delivered from the power of darkness and transferred into the kingdom of God and His Son, and we are also capable of carrying out God's good pleasure. Our citizenship is in heaven, and we look forward to the day of Jesus Christ's return when we shall be gathered together in that heavenly kingdom. Let us not forget all His benefits to us.

We are children of God by the spirit born within us. We are redeemed. We are justified. We are blessed with all spiritual blessings in the heavenly realm. We have nine manifestations of holy spirit. We have many rights, privileges, honors, and abilities as children of God. We ought to stay focused with our affections and thinking on these heavenly realities with thankfulness rather than on the temporal realities of this age that produce bondage.

Christ freed us with freedom. Therefore, stand fast in the freedom that we have in Christ, and do not forget all of God's wonderful benefits to us.