



LESSONS OF LIBERTY

Gal. 5:1-15



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

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love.**

7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?



8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

13 For, brethren, **ye have been called unto liberty; only *use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.***

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, *even* in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.



“Loyalty to the country always. Loyalty to the government when it deserves it.” ~~ Mark Twain

“Freedom is the oxygen of the soul.” ~~ Moshe Dayan

“They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety.” ~~ Benjamin Franklin

<http://www.surfnetkids.com/independenceday/patriotic-quotes/page/2/>



John Adams

2nd U.S. President and Signer of the Declaration of Independence

"Now I will avow, that I then believe, and now believe, that those general Principles of Christianity, are as eternal and immutable, as the Existence and Attributes of God; and that those Principles of Liberty, are as unalterable as human Nature and our terrestrial, mundane System." -- Adams wrote this on June 28, 1813, excerpt from a letter to Thomas Jefferson.



Thomas Jefferson

3rd U.S. President, Drafter and Signer of the Declaration of Independence

"God who gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever; That a revolution of the wheel of fortune, a change of situation, is among possible events; that it may become probable by Supernatural influence! The Almighty has no attribute which can take side with us in that event." -- *Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII*, p. 237.



I. BE DETERMINED TO EXERCISE VIGILANCE

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." -- Edmund Burke

"It is the common fate of the indolent to see their rights become a prey to the active. **The condition upon which God hath given liberty to man is eternal vigilance;** which condition if he break, servitude is at once the consequence of his crime and the punishment of his guilt." -- John Philpot Curran: Speech upon the Right of Election, 1790. (Speeches. Dublin, 1808.) as quoted in the *Oxford Dictionary of Quotations*, NY, 1953, p167 and also in Bartlett's Familiar Quotations, Boston, 1968, p479



"But you must remember, my fellow-citizens, **that eternal vigilance by the people is the price of liberty, and that you must pay the price if you wish to secure the blessing.** It behooves you, therefore, to be watchful in your States as well as in the Federal Government." -- Andrew Jackson, Farewell Address, March 4, 1837

(Retrieved from <http://freedomkeys.com/vigil.htm>)

A. Be Aware of the Liberty Possessed – Gal. 5:1 **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free...”**

1. The Responsibility – **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty...”**



- Be determined to be vigilant to stand strong in your faith.

Original Word: στήκω

Transliteration: stékó

Definition: I stand fast, stand firm, persevere.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/4739.htm>

1 Cor. 16:13 Watch ye, **stand fast** in the faith, quit you like men, be strong.

Phil. 1:27 Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye **stand fast** in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;



Phil. 4:1 Therefore, my brethren dearly beloved and longed for, my joy and crown, so **stand fast** in the Lord, *my* dearly beloved.

What is the difference between Freedom and Liberty?

Liberty is 'the state of being free within society from oppressive restrictions imposed by authority on one's behaviour or political views.'

<http://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-freedom-and-vs-liberty/>

To have liberty is to be unencumbered.

To have freedom is to have the aggregate benefits and protections provided by society.

<https://english.stackexchange.com/questions/15367/liberty-versus-freedom>



Original Word: ἑλευθερία

Transliteration: eleutheria

Definition: liberty, freedom, especially: a state of freedom from slavery.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1658.htm>

2. The Reason – "...wherewith **Christ hath made us free...**"

"No man is entitled to the blessings of freedom unless he be vigilant in its preservation." -- General Douglas MacArthur



In the end, more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. They wanted a comfortable life, and they lost it all -- security, comfort, and freedom. When ... the freedom they wished for was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free." -- Sir Edward Gibbon (1737-1794)

(Retrieved from <http://freedomkeys.com/vigil.htm>)

- Be determined to be vigilant to know the source of our freedom.

Original Word: ἐλευθερώω

Transliteration: eleutheroó

Definition: I free, set free, liberate.

eleutheróō – properly, set free, release from bondage; (figuratively) to remove the restrictions of sin (darkness) because delivered by God *into true spiritual liberty* (growth).

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1659.htm>



Jn. 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free**. ...

36 If the Son therefore **shall make you free**, ye shall be free indeed.

Rom. 6:22 But now **being made free from sin**, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus **hath made me free** from the law of sin and death. ...

B. Be Averse to Losing the Privilege – “...and **be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage**. “



- Be determined to be vigilant to guard against losing liberty.

Original Word: ἐνέχω

Transliteration: enechó

Definition: (a) I have a grudge against, am angry (with), (b) pass. or mid: **I am entangled**, entangle myself.

<http://biblehub.com/greek/1758.htm>

Mark 6:19 Therefore Herodias **had a quarrel** against him, and would have killed him; but she could not:

Luke 11:53 And as he said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to **urge him vehemently**, and to provoke him to speak of many things:



Verses 2-4 explain that reverting back to the Jewish Law is an entanglement of bondage:

Gal. 5:2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

- Religious actions do not merit righteousness in the eyes of God.
- Religious actions become a "...yoke of bondage..."



- Religious actions should not be motivated to procure justification in the eyes of God.
- Religious actions are not effective, lowering from the lofty place of grace – “...ye are **fallen from grace.**”

C. Be Acting out of Love's Prominence

- Be determined to be vigilant to have the right motive for religious actions.

Gal. 5:5 For we through the Spirit wait for **the hope of righteousness by faith.**

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love.**



- Religious actions do not produce righteousness.
- Righteousness is received after placing faith in Christ.
- The righteousness of Christ produces spiritual actions as a result of love.
- Love for Christ is the motivation for a believer's actions.



D. Be Admonished of a “Little” Persuasion

Gal. 5:7 Ye did run well; who did **hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?**

8 This persuasion *cometh* not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.



- Be determined to be vigilant to evaluate yourself.
- Starting well is fine, but finishing well is better.
- Guard against a “little leaven” which has powerful consequences.

II. BE DILIGENT TO ESTEEM VALUE

Gal. 5:13 For, brethren, **ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.**

14 For **all the law is fulfilled in one word**, *even* in this; Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself.**

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.



- Be determined to be vigilant regarding the evaluation of true worth.

Luke 12:15 And he said unto them, **Take heed, and beware of covetousness**: for a man's **life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth**.

A. Be Mindful of Liberty's Priority

- Be diligent to focus upon others, not yourself.

Gal. 5:13 For, brethren, **ye have been called unto liberty**; only **use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another**.



Phil. 2:3 *Let nothing be done* through strife or vainglory; but **in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

B. Be Masterful of Love's Preeminence

- Be diligent to let the love of Christ influence your way of life.

Gal. 5:14 For **all the law is fulfilled in one word**, *even* in this; Thou shalt **love thy neighbour as thyself.**

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.



- The standard of living for a Christian is to show the love of Christ in every action.

Jn. 13:35 **By this shall all *men* know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.**

- Guard against devouring one another.

1 Cor. 13:8a “Charity **never** faileth...”



Conclusion

Rom. 8:3 For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son** in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh:

4 That **the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.**

21 Because the creature itself also **shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.**

Jn. 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free. ...**

36 If the Son therefore **shall make you free**, ye shall be free indeed.

Jn. 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, **I am** the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**