

CALL to PRAYER - Prayer of confession before the celebration...no condemnation – Rom. 8:1

Galatians 3:13; 5:1 - Free from the Law, O Happy Condition

Intro - Last week pastor Bob reminded us from Ps. 103 to “*bless the LORD...forget not all His benefits.*” We have gathered today in obedience to our Lord to observe an ordinance that Jesus commanded us to *do in remembrance of Him*. We come here to remember Jesus and to bless Jesus. One of the great benefits we should remember of Christ’s work is *FREEDOM*. As a nation we celebrated our political freedom last week but today I want us to celebrate the *legal freedom* we have in the gospel. Part of the good news is the redeemed sinner is free from the law. Before Christ we were slaves to sin ^{John 8:34} & in bondage to the Laws condemnation ^{Gal. 3:10}. But in Christ we are free from the law - free from the law’s requirement to attain righteousness and free from the law’s punishment for our unrighteousness. We are free because Jesus set us free ^{John 8:36}. Christ kept all the requirements of the law and endured all the punishments of law for us. Jesus took the test I failed and He *aced it* & gave me His grade! Then He took the consequences of my failing grade and bore it in Himself. Jesus absorbed my punishment. Jesus has set me free from the requirement & punishment of Law. I get to eat this holy meal today as a free Christian because Christ has set me free. Before we celebrate let us contemplate our freedom from the law

1. Galatians 5:1
 - a. Galatians was written to correct a church struggling with legalism
 - b. Error - Christ + me keeping the law = salvation
 - i. This formula is a false gospel - Gal. 1:6-9
 - c. We must always be on guard against those who add our works to Christ work
 - i. Gal. 4:4-5 Jesus was born under law to redeem us from law
 - d. The gospel is not - Christ + me keeping the law...
 - i. Gospel = Christ kept the law for me
2. Jesus fully kept the law
 - a. In REQUIREMENT
 - i. Jesus fully accomplished every jot and tittle of the law - perfectly fulfilled
 - ii. Matt. 5:17
 - iii. The Father only says of His Son “...with Him I am well pleased.” (Matt. 3:17)
 1. God is only pleased with perfection...only Jesus is perfect Rom. 3:23
 - b. In PUNISHMENT
 - i. Jesus perfectly kept all the requirements of the law, but He also perfectly endured all the punishment of the law.
 - ii. Gal. 3:13
 - iii. Jesus justly received all the eternal consequences for my lawbreaking.
 1. Is. 53:5 (Jesus took my licks) Alas and did my Savior bleed...”
3. Jesus fulfilled every aspect of the law and in doing so He sets us free from the law
 - a. We are free because Jesus did it all
 - b. We are free because Jesus died for us all. His death frees us from the law
 - i. Death releases the laws grip - Rom. 7:1
 - ii. The law condemns a living sinner but at death the law can do no more.
 1. The law’s grip ends at the grave

- c. The Law of Marriage (Rom. 7:1-4)
 - i. Marriage is binding as long as your spouse is living – Rom. 7:2
 - ii. Death breaks the laws bond so we can be bound to another – Rom. 7:4
- 4. We died in Christ, so we are free in Christ
 - a. Rom. 8:1-2
 - b. #332 *“Free from the Law, O Happy Condition”*
 - c. This meal reminds us of:
 - i. Our sin
 - 1. We examine ourselves and confess
 - ii. Our Substitute
 - 1. Jesus took our place
 - 2. He kept all the requirements and endured all the punishments
 - iii. Our Freedom
 - 1. We died in Christ and are free from the law
 - 2. Rom. 8:1

Open/Close Communion

Fencing the Table

Examine yourself

Discern the Body

Solemn Celebration