

FINDING FREEDOM

Free from the Law

1. The Usefulness and Limits of the Law

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the rules of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. ~ Psalm 19:7-10

2. Free from the Laws of Man

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God. ~ Romans 14:10-12

3. Free from the Law's Curse

For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: "Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.Christ has freed us from the curse of the law." ~ Galatians 3:10, 13

"If ever a monk could get to heaven through monastic discipline, I was that monk. And yet my conscience would not give me certainty, but I always doubted and said, 'You didn't do that right. You weren't contrite enough. You left that out of your confession.' The more I tried to remedy an uncertain, weak, and troubled conscience with human effort, the more I daily found it more uncertain, weaker, and more troubled....Is it not wonderful news to believe that salvation lies outside ourselves?" ~ Martin Luther

4. Free from the Law's Stewardship

Before the coming of this faith, we were held in custody under the law, locked up until the faith that was to come would be revealed. So the law was our guardian until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. ~ Galatians 3:23-24

5. Free from Sin's Slavery

But when the set time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those under the law, that we might receive adoption to sonship. Because you are His sons, God sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." So you are no longer a slave, but God's child; and since you are His child, God has made you also an heir. ~ Galatians 4:4-7

Indeed, to be set free by You, Jesus, is to be really free. We praise You for freedom from the demands of the law and the paralyzing guilt of our sin, for You took our place on the cross, exhausting the judgment we deserve. We praise You for freedom to obey from our hearts, no longer out of pride, pragmatics, or pretense. We praise You for the freedom to come boldly to the throne of grace--into the eternal Holy of Holies, for You've secured this "new and living way" for us. We praise You for the freedom of repentance, for You've borne our shame and we don't have to pretend or pose anymore. We praise You for the freedom to take gospel-risks, instead of rusting away the rest of our lives in self-protection and self-indulgence. Jesus, by the power of the gospel, we'll seek to stand firm in these and many more freedoms You've won for us. And in those moments when we're seduced back under the joy-robbing yoke of legalism or other demeaning slaveries, lead us quickly back to freedom through Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.