**There is freedom in the gospel!**

**Main text:** Gal 4/ Gal 3:27-29

**Video:** The bird cage- Skit guys [Skit Guys - The Birdcage](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiqKcAcecq4)

**Intro:**

It is so lovely to be back with you all again!!! I understand that you have been looking at Galatians, we shall be contuing on with that this morning, but before we do, I have a question. When I say freedom, what things come to mind? Maybe it's: **(Change slide)**

* Being able to do what you want when you want
* No rules (this is what I thought when I was a kid 😊)
* To say what you want without consequences
* Maybe you may even have the want to shout…. FREEDOM!!!! (in a Scottish accent)

However, you may see freedom, it is something that so many people have a view on, here are just some quotes that I found on google: **(change slides)**

* “Those who do not move, do not notice their chains.”
* I’ll let you know what freedom is to me. No fear.” No that one scares me a little
* The secret to happiness is freedom, and the secret to freedom is courage.”
* Then from Nelson himself self- “The purpose of freedom is to create it for others.”

I don’t know which one of these spoke to you more or even scared you more, but one thing is clear: freedom is something that everyone believes in, even if they don’t know how it looks or even who it can be found in.

This was something that Paul was very passionate about, even frustrated about when it came to his writtings to the churches in galatians. They had allowed some of the Jewish believers to come and lets be real chain them to the law. Telling them of a different gospel. Where they needed to be curcomsize, eat certain things and follow everything else that is in the Toria. That doesn’t sound like freedom to me.

Now I know that the Toria was given for a set time, before Jesus came and ofcourse Jesus came not to distory the law but to forfill it! Yet the Jewish believers held the Law more important than Jesus. Therefore, that’s what they held the Gentiles too. But in chapters 3 and 4 we see that Paul wants everyone to see that God from the beginning wanted a family that was multi-ethinical. EVERYONE WELCOME!!!!

In the middle of chapter 3 we see this amazing truth: Verse 13-14 **(Change slide)**Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree”— 14 so that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we might receive the promised Spirit through faith.

Here is a beautiful video that just shows us the amazing truth of the gospel.

**Video:** The bird cage- Skit guys [Skit Guys - The Birdcage](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xiqKcAcecq4)

Amen? That’s the gospel in a couple of sentences, the freedom we have. So in saying that, here’s our first point…………

1. **Freedom in the gospel (verses 1-6)**

Do we have any film lovers in the room? Ok, then you would agree that in a good classic film we can find ourselves having a battle between good versus evil and you have that moment in the movie where it seems like the villain has won, ([The Lion King 1994 Mufasa Dies](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mdypP_qOVI0) **Change slide- Lion King final scene**) What is our first response???? **(Change slide)**

* This was not the mood I was wanting right now!!!
* But why?!?!
* That’s not how I would have written it
* Knew that was going to happen

Now of course we know that this isn’t the end for Simba and that as he goes through some kind of idently worries (sound formula?) To fighting his uncle, for the pride rock that he has been born to protect, after this he then is able to take his places as king! If you haven’t seen the movie so sorry spoiler alert, but it has been out since 1994. 😊

Anyway the thing is that people love this kind of story, because it’s the knowing that good can overcome evil, even if it seem that all it lost. Now there is a difference when you see this kind of movie, then to knowing that you are in the story like this yourself!!! Don’t believe me?????? **(Change slide)**

* We have a villain who thinks he know what is best for mankind (devil)
* An unlikely hero that people in his time would look down on him because of where he came from (Jesus)
* This hero has some friends, that some doubled and some was as loyal as they could be
* The big battle scene, where there is thounder, earth quakes and darkness (cross)
* When all seems loss……….. The hero comes back but even better than before. (Jesus comes back to life)
* Then the trumph ending (us having freedom to come and have a relationship with God)

Every movie plot every told, but we get to be a part of it. We finish in Galatians 3 last week but I am going to go back to the end verses of that’s ok.

**Galatians 3:26-29** or in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise.

How amazing is this!!!!!!!! Anyone can come to Jesus, can be called children of God through what?!?!?! FAITH!!!!! This is where we come in at chapter 4.

In verses 1-3, we see something. We see that Paul is using language that the people he was talking to would understand. The concept of heirs and guardians. **(Change slide)** The fact that even if you were a hair in those days, you didn’t have access to your inheritance until you came of a certain age. But you were under the care/ sometimes control of your guardians. Hence why he speaks about being slaved to this. Again doesn’t sound a lot like freedom.

Then we come to **verses 4-6,** this is where the story turns around…… **(Change slide)**

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

God places his son under the slavey of the law, of sin, so that we could have access to him, so that we could be adopted into God’s family!!!!!! To have sonship in those days was a big deal. For someone in those days not to have sonship they would be looked down upon. They couldn’t have anywhere to go.

We have a place to go, no matter how we are feeling about where we are in life at the moment, because we are called son and daughter we have a HOME. Home with a captail H!! That being heaven! That is what we look towards.

This wasn’t just Paul the speaks about Heaven being our home but Jesus himself said: **(Change slide) John 14:2-3** In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Jesus died on the cross so that this could happen!!! You see where the freedom is yet?? Yet there is more!!! Not only do we have a home but we have the honor of being able to called God father! Abba father. This wasn’t juts for the church in Galatians but also we see this said to the church in Rome too…….. **(Change slide)**

**Romans 8:15-17** For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, 17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

This was Paul’s heart that we may live by and in the spirit and not rely on the things of the flesh, of things that we have put our trust in before! AKA things that we are slaves too. Here we see that it leads to what? FEAR. Not freedom, regardless of how easy it may seem.

But look here it is, we have received a spirit that crys what???? Abba! Father! (Getting a head of myself) We see it here to about being part of God’s family!! We can see how they both come together, being a part of God’s family and obedience.

Again, this was what Paul wanted people to see.

**(Change slide)** The concept of being heirs and sons and daughters to God is an important one. We don’t just get to see God as the father but more importently we get to see him as OUR father. This was something that even Jesus him self encourage, when he taught his disciples the Lord’s prayer. What does it start off with???? OUR father who art in Heaven. He is OUR father!!!!

We also have his spirit in us. That’s where the longing for Abba father comes from. But like a good father along with love, care and support there is also times where he has to challgne us, so that he can protect us and in this we have the opportunity to obey. This leads me to my next point……

1. **Freedom in obedience (verses 7-11)**

**(Change slide)** Here’s a question: What word or phrase that if said right now, would feel you with fear or dread?

For me it would be, “Give me one more set!!!” Especailly if it was something like squartes. Or even, “Instant coffee.” Or worst, “We are out of coffee.”

Now ofcourse I am playing around, a little bit. But there can be some really hard hitting words to hear. Especially if that word needs a response/ an action with it.

In the bible there are some hard words. Words like forgiveness, as we knew we have been forgiven because of what Jesus did, we are called to forgive others. Words like repentence, the turning 180 degrees from everything wrong that we have said, done and even thought. It is a humbling word but also can remind us of our sins. Yet again it brings freedom and even joy!! Why?

We don’t need to come through anyway to be able to have this conversation with God. why? Because of what Jesus did on the cross he is OUR father!!! We have the freedom to come to him. One more word for you guys obedience.

Now we have seen that Paul is passionate about the gospel and about living in faith but also in this there is a part that we need to play too. He doesn’t shy away from it. He knows that there is freedom in the gospel but also that there is freedom in obedience too. Lets see what he has to say on the matter: **(Change slide)** **Verses 7-9.**

7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. 8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God,

This is something that we need to remember. Before we knew God or even about him we were enslaved to other things, gods with a little g. Yet we are now heirs!! Slave to heir that us a big jump if I ever did see one 😊 God doesn’t just know our names but we are KNOWN by him. If we see verse 9 we can see the difference between knowing God and being known by God.

So prime example, I know about **(Change slide)** Tom Hiddleston but I am known by my mum. She knows everything there is to know about me. Does that make sense??? There is FREEDOM in this!

**(Change slide)** 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, —how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years!

We can see that Paul is getting frustrated here. He is like “COME ON!!!! Why go back to a place where you are chained instead of living in this freedom, this truth that I have shown you?”

And we can sit here and judge the people that Paul is writing to, but how often do we do the same. When things get hard, how often do we turn to things like: **(Change slide)**

* The gym (preaching to myself here)
* TV
* Drink
* Work colleges
* Approve of people
* Money
* Our dreams that we let God have but now have taken them back
* Wanting control in everything
* Food etc
* Things that we worshiped before in the past. People in this church used to worship the gods of seasons which is what Paul is referring to here too.

There are so many things that we can get chain back in again, things that we look to like the people in the wilderness did, that when it got hard they started to grumble and wish that they were back in literal slavery, back in Egypt. Instead of trusting the very God who saved them. We all do it because we think it is easy and it may be but it doesn’t give us this freedom! Paul keeps on….

11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

This man is hurting; he is lamenting over what he had hoped to see in them and for them. Remember that his heart was just as Jesus was that they would become one family and that they would live in the freedom of the gospel.

He then goes on to say how much they had done for him in the past. We then have chapter 5, but of course they wouldn’t of had chapters in those days. We can see this as it flows on so well and I don’t want to steal next week's topic, but look at **(Change slide)** **Galatians 5:1.** For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

There it is again!!!! Anyway, I shall leave it there for Galatians 5 😊

**Conclusion:**

**(Change slide)** So to conclude, when it comes to freedom a lot of people see it as chains being broken, of breaking away from something. But what I am hoping we have seen today is that REALLY freedom is actually coming close to God himself! Choosing to be a bond servant as it were something that Paul also speaks about. To have a God that wants what is best for us and for us to hear what he has to say and even learn to obey his words.

There is freedom in the gospel yes but also in obedience too. So what do we do with this information? Let's look at the quote from Nelson himself again- **“The purpose of freedom is to create it for others.”** Which means what?? We need to share the truth of the gospel with everyone that we meet. I mean, why wouldn’t we? **(Change slide)**

**Luke 4:18-19** “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind,to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.”

This was after Jesus was in the wilderness for 40 days and then rejected by the people in Nazareth, his hometown. Just as this was Jesus calling, it is also ours. I just want to share this video/ worship song for us to just listen to and think and even thank God for all that he has done and the amount of freedom we have because of him. That only his name is worthy of our praise!!!

**Video:** Worthy- Elevation worship [Worthy | Live | Elevation Worship - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ak5WTb-mgeA)