

## **A Call to Freedom**

### **Sunday, July 2, 2023**

**Galatians 5:13** - <sup>13</sup>You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love.

**Communion: A time of remembrance, reflection, and response.**

**Remembrance – We remember that Jesus died to set us free from the law of sin and death.**

**Romans 7:5-6** - <sup>5</sup>For when we were in the realm of the flesh, the sinful passions aroused by the law were at work in us, so that we bore fruit for death. <sup>6</sup>But now, by dying to what once bound us, we have been released from the law so that we serve in the new way of the Spirit, and not in the old way of the written code.

- The law demanded that we die for our sin. We died to the law that once bound us by identifying with Christ death on the cross. His death is our death. His resurrected life is our resurrected life. Through death we have been released from the law so that we serve God by way of the Spirit, rather than by the written code.

**Romans 8:1-4** - <sup>1</sup>Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, <sup>2</sup>because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>For what the law was powerless to do because it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in the flesh, <sup>4</sup>in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.

The following points were taken from an article by John Piper on Romans 8:1-2:

- Verse 1 is a *declaration* of no condemnation. Verse 2 is a description of practical *transformation*.
- "Law" means power or principle or impulse or authority. Sin works a certain way with power and authority leading to death, and that's called "the law of sin and death." And the Spirit of God works a certain way with power and authority leading to life, and that's called "the law of the Spirit of life."
- In Christ we get pardon from sin and power over sin.

**John 8:31-32** - <sup>31</sup>To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. <sup>32</sup>Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

**Reflection – We give serious thought or consideration as to where we are in relation to the freedom we have been given.**

**John 8:34-36** - <sup>34</sup> Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. <sup>35</sup> Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. <sup>36</sup> So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

**James 1:23-25** - <sup>23</sup> Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror <sup>24</sup> and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. <sup>25</sup> But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

**2 Corinthians 3:17-18 (CSB)** - <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. <sup>18</sup> We all, with unveiled faces, are looking as in a mirror at the glory of the Lord and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory; this is from the Lord who is the Spirit.

**Response – We proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.**

**2 Corinthians 3:3-6** - <sup>3</sup> You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. <sup>4</sup> Such confidence we have through Christ before God. <sup>5</sup> Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. <sup>6</sup> He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

**2 Corinthians 3:9-12** - <sup>9</sup> If the ministry that brought condemnation was glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! <sup>10</sup> For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. <sup>11</sup> And if what was transitory came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! <sup>12</sup> Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold.

**Galatians 5:5** - <sup>5</sup> For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope.

**Colossians 1:27** - <sup>27</sup> To them God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

**1 Corinthians 11:17-34** – Paul’s instructions to the Corinthians regarding the Lord’s Supper (Communion).