**Living in Freedom**

**Galatians 4:21-5:1**

**Recap:**

* **No Other Gospel (Galatians 1:1-10)**
* **God Made Not Man Made (Galatians 1:11-2:10)**
* **The Wrong Compromise (Galatians 2:11-15)**
* **Living by Faith (Galatians 2:17-21)**
* **Faith Over Flesh (Galatians 3:1-14)**
* **Why Grace Still Reigns (Galatians 3:15-25)**
* **Living as Heirs in Christ (Galatians 3:26-4:7)**
* **Personal Plea (Galatians 4:8-20)**
  + **The Problem of Returning to Slavery (vv. 8-11)**
  + **Paul’s Personal Appeal (vv. 12-16)**
  + **The Danger of False Teachers and Zeal (vv. 17-18)**
  + **Paul’s Fatherly Concern and Labor for Spiritual Maturity**

**Introduction:**

* **Galatians 4:21-5:1**
* **“Freedom” is a word that stirs hearts and ignites hope. Nations have been built upon it, wars have been fought for it, and lives have been laid down to preserve it. But beyond political liberty and civil rights lies a deeper, eternal freedom-one that cannot be legislated or revoked. It’s the freedom found in Christ.**
* **Galatians 5:1 declares, “So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.” This is not just freedom from sin’s penalty-it’s freedom from its power. It is liberty to live fully, love deeply and walk boldly in the Spirit.**
* **Today, we are not just talking about freedom as a concept-we’re stepping into it as a lifestyle. We will explore what it means to be spiritually alive, to walk in the Spirit and to reject chains of legalism and flesh that try to pull us back. Because living in freedom is not passive-it is a daily choice, spiritual discipline, and a divine invitation.**
* **So, let us open our hearts, renew our minds, and prepare to embrace the life Christ died to give us: a life of true, unshakable freedom.**

1. **The Appeal to the Law (4:21)**
   1. **Paul challenges those who desire to be under the law.**
   2. **Irony: They want the law but have not truly listened to it.**
   3. **Set the Stage for a deeper spiritual reflection.**
2. **The Historical Allegory (4:22-23)**
   1. **Abraham had two sons.**
      1. **Gen 16-18:**
      2. **Genesis 21**
      3. **Ishmael: Born of Hagar, the slave woman- “according to flesh.”**
      4. **Isaac: Born of Sarah, the free woman- “through the promise.”**
   2. **Represents two covenants:**
      1. **One of Bondage**
      2. **One of Grace**
3. **Spiritual Interpretation (4:24-27)**
   1. **Hagar=Mount Sinai=present Jerusalem=slavery.**
   2. **Sarah=Heavenly Jerusalem=freedom.**
   3. **Isaiah 54:1- “Sing, O childless woman, you who have never given birth! Break into loud and joyful song, O Jerusalem, you who have never been in labor. For the desolate woman now has more children than the woman who lives with her husband,” says the LORD.**
4. **The Application to Believers (Galatians 4:28-31)**
   1. **Believers are children of promise, like Isaac.**
   2. **Warning: Just as Ishmael persecuted Isaac, legalists may oppose grace (Genesis 21:9)**
   3. **Command “Get rid of the slave and her son”-reject legalism.**
5. **The Call to Freedom (Galatians 5:1)**
   1. **Key verse “So Christ has truly set us free.”**
   2. **Exhortation: “Now make sure that you stay free, and don’t get tied up again in slavery to the law.”**
   3. **Freedom in Christ is not just a gift-it is a calling.**

**Conclusion/Application:**

* **Brothers and sisters, Paul’s message is clear: we are not children of the slave woman, bound by law, fear, and performance. We are children of the free woman heirs of promise, grace, and divine adoption. Christ did not come to improve our chain; He came to break them.**
* **So let us not return to the yoke of slavery. Legalism may look holy, but it robs us of joy. Guilt may feel familiar, but it is not our inheritance. The cross of Christ has declared us free. Free from striving, free from shame, free to live as beloved sons and daughters.**
* **Galatians 5:1 says it best “So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure that you stay free, and do not get tied up again in slavery to the law.” That’s not just a verse it’s a call to courage. A call to live boldly in the grace that saved us.**
* **So today, choose freedom. Not just as theological idea, but as a daily posture. Walk in it. Rest in it. Rejoice in it. Because in Christ, you are already free.**