

# Finding in Freedom in Christ

Galatians 5:1-21 (Lesson #8)

Running the Race

## **Verse 7: Let's start with the illustration: "You are running well"**

Consider the ancient Olympics (776-724 BC) and the Isthmian Games at Corinth. Men ran naked and covered with oil. Married women could not participate or even watch. Each village would send a contestant who trained for at least 10 months.

If the contestant won, he received exclusions from taxation, or fines. He wore a wreath of wild olive leaves. Huge banquets were thrown in their honor, even Olympic games were named after the winner.

The primary event was the stadion race (one length of the stadium). At the end of the 600 ft. course a raised platform was erected. The judge sat there and bestowed upon the winner the "gifts."

See I Cor. 9:24-25, II Cor. 5:10, I Cor. 3:12-15

## **Verse 1: For FREEDOM Christ has set us free (see Luke 4:17-21)**

1. We are free from the Law's oppressive system
2. We are free from the penalty of sin: see Rom. 8:1-2
3. We are free from the power of sin: see Rom. 6:23

See John 8:36 and consider what sets us "free indeed." It is the TRUTH of God's word that sets us free.

## **Verse 13: You were called to FREEDOM**

Freedom for the believer is a kind of bondage. There is a paradox. True freedom means willingly becoming a slave to Christ. See Ex. 21:6

"A train is free only so long as it stays on its tracks. A train that jumps the tracks is free of the rails but no longer free in the most important sense of the word."

1. You are not 'free' to do anything without constraints.
2. Our freedom is directed by our obedience to Christ's commands.
3. We are only free when we ignore the lies and deceptions of Satan.
4. We are free to live within the structure of how God has made us. We are free when we live life as God intended it to be.

“The closer we conform to the true image of God, Jesus Christ, the freer we become. The farther we drift from it, the more our freedom shrinks.” (Roger Olsen)

“A Christian man is the most free lord of all and subject to none, a Christian man is the most dutiful servant of all and subject to everyone.” (Martin Luther)

### **Do not use your FREEDOM as an opportunity for the flesh**

“Everything is permissible, not everything is beneficial” - See I Cor. 10:23-24

### **Verse 19: Consider the “works of the flesh” (see also Rom. 1:28-31)**

Sexual immorality:

adultery: a married person having sex with someone other than their spouse

fornication: sex between two people who are not married to each other

uncleanness: evil thoughts or actions

lasciviousness: sexual interest that is opposite of purity, may lead to fornication

Idolatry: giving anything or anyone the reverence and worship that is due God

Sorcery: witchcraft -comes from the Greek word “pharmakeia”-dealing with evil spirits

Enmity: hatred-a lack of regard for another. Would include bitterness and ill will

Strife: conflict, arguing and fighting. Quarrelling or being difficult to deal with

Jealousy: resenting a rival. Striving to excel at the expense of another

Fits of Anger: this is a determined and lasting anger...a way of getting back at someone

Rivalries: the intention to hurt someone either physically or emotionally

Dissensions: the act of stirring up strife

Divisions: this is in reference to causing divisions in a religious community

Envy: feeling discontent or covetousness, showing ill-will

Drunkenness: intoxication from drugs or alcohol, a lack of control

Orgies: boisterous festivities that unleash inhibitions

“Things like these”: “That which is born of the flesh is flesh...” (John 3:6)

**So What?**

Jesus said in Matthew 7:20 “Wherefore by their fruits you shall know them.”

What “fruit” does your family, friends, co-workers and neighbors routinely see?

**Memory Verse:** Gal. 5:16-17

**Tip for Studying God’s Word:**

Consider the CONTEXT of any particular verse. Look at the NEAR context. To whom was the passage written? Why was it written? Are there clues to its interpretation in the surrounding verses? Look also at the BROADER context. Is that verse, or section part of a historical record? A psalm that was meant to be sung? A letter with advice and encouragement?

The context may be the clue to unravel the meaning of the verses.

-----

Sherryworel.com

sworel@stoneybrooke.com