



Sermon Growth Guide

October 2, 2022

Freedom - Freely Bound

Galatians 4:8-20

Key Verse: Galatians 4:9

“But now that you know God – or rather are known by God – how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable forces? Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again?”

Big Idea: Jesus freed us from idolatry so that we might be freely bound to Him.

Foundations

“Freely bound.” Is this an oxymoron among oxymorons? Who in their right mind would want to be bound *freely* to anything? After all, isn't real freedom about being set free from anything that would bind us anyway? This is not the case as we discover what it is to be bound to *Jesus*.

Idolatry could be considered as the practice of being bound to things that ultimately enslave us into captivity. In ancient times, idol worship was prevalent. The Galatians would have worshiped local gods themselves prior to the gospel arriving, offering sacrifices to gain better circumstances. However, Paul warns that these “weak and miserable forces” (v.9), while promising power if we bind ourselves to them, only produce misery in the end.

Nevertheless, being bound to Jesus sets us free! Jesus sets us *free to work*, not as an attempt to find our own justification, but as a free response to his amazing love. Jesus sets us *free to love*, not out of idolizing ourselves, but in view of God's love we properly love others. Jesus sets us *free to serve*, as we surrender our will and desires to his, centralizing His lordship as the source of power in service.

In the end, Jesus became bound by becoming human, freely binding Himself to the cross, that you and I might forever be freely bound to Him.

Understanding God's Word

What is this passage saying? What does it seem that Paul is most concerned about in this passage?

What might you say is the tone of this passage?

Applying God's Word

How does a good thing become an idol? What might you say is one thing you obsess over; something you habitually or inadvertently treasure more than God?

Witnessing God's Word

Take one of the three applications from Tim's sermon this week (free to work, free to love and free to serve) and consider one way that the Lord might be inviting you to apply it personally.