

## We Are Saved – To and From

### *The Freedoms We Enjoy*

When we send packages or letters, we include both “to” and “from” addresses. They are both important so that the mail is not lost. In time for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, today’s devotion is based on freedoms – freedom “from” and the freedom “to”.



As Christians we have heard many times that we are free “**from**” sin but may not pay attention to the benefit of what we are saved “**to.**” It is the difference of “law” and “gospel.”

Freedom “from” can be summarized by 3 key points:

- **Freedom from sin:** We have heard many times that Jesus has saved us to be free from sin. It is possible because our sins are forgiven if we repent of them. Paul’s letter to the church at Rome has many references to this: *and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness (Romans 6:18). (See also Romans 6:1-23, Romans 6:6, Romans 6:11).*
- **Freedom from the law:** The law includes the written rules and standards issued by a governing authority. Before Jesus came to earth the emphasis was on the “law.” People in Old Testament times (particularly the Pharisees) were instructed to follow all the rigid rules in order to earn God’s approval. As we all know, keeping the law is an impossible task for fallible humans. Jesus changed the emphasis from a life of rules to a life of relationships. *It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery (Galatians 5:1).*
- **Freedom from “legalism.”** Legalism is the general philosophy of focusing on the text of rules at the exclusion of its intent, making the law more important than justice, mercy, grace and common sense. Legalism says that to please God you have to conform to the rigid, manmade laws to obtain the blessings of salvation. *For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him (John 3:17).*

So, what are we saved “to? Here are 3 key points.

- **Freedom to enjoy the Christian life and follow Jesus.** Jesus brings us joy in the fellowship of believers in spite of our circumstances. *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness (Galatians 5:22).*
- **Freedom to live the Christian life** in victory. Christ lives inside us. *I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me (Galatians 2:20).* We can share in the joy of Jesus’ victory, unburdened by our forgiven sins.
- **Freedom to anticipate eternal life.** If we accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior we can look forward to the beauty of heaven. *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life (Romans 6:22).*

Both the “to” and “from” are important addresses in sending packages and letters. They are also important to understand the freedoms that Jesus sends us through our faith. We learn about our freedoms from the Bible. John Calvin wrote, "The Gospel is the instrument by which we obtain our freedom. Our freedom is a benefit conferred by Christ." It is because of Jesus that we have God’s Grace. And that, my friends, is free.

**The Bible Says:** *Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free (John 8:32)."*

Some of the points of this devotion are based on a sermon at Westover Church, Greensboro, NC, preached by Pastor Don Miller.