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Liberty – Pt 2 We have liberty in Christ.

This is our second study on the topic of liberty. We previously established– (1) Israel hallowed the fiftieth year as liberty for the bondmen, (2) David walked at liberty because he sought the law of God, (3) Jeremiah proclaimed liberty to Jerusalem, and (4) Isaiah preached good tidings of future liberty to the captives. In this study we establish – (1) The children of God have liberty in Christ, (2) Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty, (3) Our liberty is freedom from the yoke of the law, and (4) use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

1. The children of God have liberty in Christ.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal.5: 1). See also Gal.2: 4 & Rom.8: 21.

2. Our liberty is freedom from the yoke of bondage to the law.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Gal.5: 1).

Liberty from bondage to the law means freedom from sin and death (1 Cor.15: 56).

3. Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

“where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Cor.3: 17).

4. Use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh.

“use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh” (Gal.5: 13). See also 1 Pet.2: 16.

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

There was a serious believer who led Roman Catholics to Christ, preached on the street, and set up a Christian radio station, but then left Auckland and ceased fellowshiping with the brethren he had laboured with. Years later he turned back up with a zeal for righteousness that was amazing. But after discussion on his journey we learnt that after leaving Auckland he had fallen away to the works of the flesh. Some time later he was taught that true Christians repent and stop sinning.

Question to think about.

Our illustration demonstrates two extremes that can result from the liberty we have in Christ – (i) Those who use liberty to the flesh, and (ii) those who cannot walk in freedom from the bondage to the law and so add perfectionism to the gospel of the grace of God. How does a Christian stay clear of these extremes?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

A) walk in the Spirit, be led of the Spirit and live in the Spirit of God and ye shall not fulfil the lusts of the flesh (Gal.5: 16, 18, & 25).

B) “by love serve one another” (Gal.5: 13), which is how we fulfil the law of Christ – “bear ye one another’s burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ” (Gal.6: 2).

Our brother is to be commended for his zeal to not use liberty to an occasion to the flesh, but when that desire not to walk in the flesh causes him to require sinlessness to be saved, then he has gone from one extreme to the other. Christ has set us free from the law, let us walk in that liberty under the guidance of the Holy Spirit of God!