

Spiritual Realities
Galatians 3:21-4:7
June 19, 2022
Pastor Jason Huffman

Last week's big idea verse...The just shall live by faith.

God dealt with our sin by becoming a curse for us and redeeming us, so we could enjoy God's blessings by faith.

21 Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law.

The Law doesn't give life. It gives a standard.

If there could have been a law that we could keep that would meet God standards. He would have done that.

But that isn't possible so, we all fall into...the sin bucket.

The only way to receive the promise is to be redeemed/bought.

The only way to be redeemed is by faith.

22 But the Scripture has confined all under sin, that the promise by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe.

23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

So this is a really important theological idea...

We are all confined under sin and under guard by the Law.

This is an idea similar to being in prison.

1. **The Law is our spiritual Alcatraz.**

There is no great escape, there is no digging through the walls.

There is no climbing over the fence or swimming across the bay.

That just happened in the movies.

36 people tried to escape from Alcatraz

23 captured, 6 shot, two drowned, and five missing.

No one was ever confirmed to escape.

One guy bent the kitchen bars and swam to shore but was found laying in hypothermic shock on the shore by the police.

- In Alcatraz, each prisoner had a solitary cell.

- One visit a month, but no physical contact or conversation about current events or prison life.
- It wasn't for the worst criminals, but for the worst attitudes.

Going to Alcatraz was supposed to be an attitude adjustment.

The Law is our spiritual Alcatraz...

...If your attitude is you think you are pretty good, think again.

We are each confined independently.

We are constantly reminded of our guilt.

You may get used to it, but you are never free.

If you behave you could have a library, a monthly movie, and the first warden made sure the food was good and it was all you could eat.

Being under the Law isn't torture, but it isn't freedom.

You are in prison.

You may get to walk around the yard...

...but you don't have personal freedom.

You may get a visit now and again...

...but you don't have a real fellowship with your family or friends.

The interesting thing is the food was decent and the solitary cells were safe and so some actually requested Alcatraz.

You can exist under the law.

For some it feels safer.

For others, they like the structure, the security, and the routine.

But you are not free.

Freedom comes by faith.

The interesting thing is the island was named for brown pelicans when it was discovered in 1775.

The only ones that are ever actually free were the birds.

And to this day, the biggest population is the gulls and cormorants.

The only freedom in Alcatraz was for those that could fly.

Is 40:31

Those that wait upon the Lord will mount up with wings like eagles.

The only freedom we have from the Law is trusting in the Lord.

So...The Law keeps us safe and reminds us of our sin.

24 Therefore the law was our tutor *to bring us* to Christ, that we might be justified by faith.

Every person in jail that wants to get out legally is looking for a good lawyer!
A mediator, someone that can speak to the judge on their behalf.

2. Jesus is my spiritual lawyer.

The Law kept us safe, it helped us know God's standard, and it shows us our need for a good lawyer!

We are not meant to live under the Law, but to realize we are lost and long for a spiritual lawyer!

God the Father is our judge and under His Law, we stand guilty.
But, Jesus is our lawyer and His Son.
Jesus can stand in our place and say, Father, this one is trusting Me, and I already paid their price.

And God can drop the gavel and declare we are free.
Free as a bird, but not a jail bird!

25 But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

So after faith has come, after we are free by trusting in Christ...

We no longer need to live in confinement.
We no longer are stuck on the island of our sin.
We no longer are separated from family and fellowship.

Once we come to Christ BY FAITH, we no longer need the Law.
The law is unnecessary for salvation when we are in Christ.

Now, I know God's standard, it is written on my heart.

- I don't live my life based on my performance.
- I live by faith based on His love and His forgiveness.
- I am free because I have trusted Him, and now I am redeemed.

"When the child has grown, he doesn't do away with the discipline and lessons he gained from the tutor; but he also doesn't live under the tutor any longer. "

**What about kids or people that don't know God...?
...we do teach them the Law.**

They should know that we all do wrong things...
But not that they come to God based on doing the right things.

They trust in performance or they are not loved unless they are perfect.

We teach our kids or others what is right and wrong.
We don't hide their sin.
We don't turn a blind eye at their behavior.

We teach the truth, and we train them to trust Christ.
Acknowledge the wrong, give consequences, and lovingly look to restore them.

We are loved and accepted not based on our performance, but based on our relationship.

This teaches them God's standards and the gospel.

26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if you *are* Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

- We are all confined under sin.
- But we are all redeemed by the death and resurrection of Christ.
- We are all living by faith.

3. Faith is my spiritual freedom.

If we are in Christ no other distinction or differences matter.
Faith in Christ is all that matters.

In Christ, we are free from all other distinctions and history.
Nationality- Jew or Greek-Doesn't matter.
Social status- Slave or free-doesn't matter.
Gender- Male or female-doesn't matter.

All of us that trust Christ are free in Him.
We are all children of Abraham and heirs of the promise of God.

—-> Remember this whole argument is against the Judaizers that wanted the Christians to follow the Law.

Why would you live in Alcatraz if you were free?
Why force yourself into solitary confinement if Jesus paid your price?

Abraham was the big guy and they thought their genetic heritage gave them a higher status.

Paul says, the real seed of Abraham are not those who are related by blood but those who are UNDER the blood.

4 Now I say *that* the heir, as long as he is a child, does not differ at all from a slave, though he is master of all, **2** but is under guardians and stewards until the time appointed by the father.

A kid who is the son of a king is not really free...yet.
He is still told to go to school and go to bed and go do whatever.
He isn't free to make his own choices because he is a child.

"Until the time appointed by the father"

This is similar to the Roman thought when a boy would be a man was when his father thought the time was right.

It was not an age of life, but a stage of maturity that marked manhood.

3 Even so we, when we were children, were in bondage under the elements of the world.

We were enslaved under the ABC's of the world.

4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, **5** to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

When the fulness of time had come...

So in the right time, Jesus was born of a woman (virgin birth)
Under the law not above it, so He could redeem us and set us free.

But the freedom we have in Christ is not a freedom from something but to someone.

We are free but even more than that...we are adopted as sons.
We are taken into the home, into the family!
We have the same privileges as the rest of the family.

6 And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" **7** Therefore you are no longer a slave but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.

4. God is my spiritual Dad.

This is our identity in Christ...

We have His Spirit.

We are children of God-We are heirs of God

We can cry out, Abba, Father!

Abba is the cry of a small child to his father...just like a son would say Dad or Daddy!

What a perfect verse to end on on Father's Day!?

The intimacy God desires for us is the love of a father and a child.

He is a perfect father who loves and protects, who guides and directs.

There is discipline, but there is mercy and grace and joy as well.