You Shall Know the Truth: Conquering Condemnation
Galatians 5:1-11
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Galatians 5:1 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.
[2] Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. [3] Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. [4] You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. [5] For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. [6] For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love. [7] You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? [8] That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. [9] "A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough." [10] I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. [11] Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. (NIV)

Our Vision: Connect with Christ, Church, and Community

1. _____ the chains of self-justification

_____ condemnation: There is no room in love for fear. Well-formed love banishes fear. Since fear is crippling, a fearful life—fear of death, fear of judgment—is one not yet fully formed in love.
1 John 4:18 (MSG)

_____ self-justification: The spirit that has convinced you is not from the one who called you! Be careful what you are willing to accept! It may seem small but it is like yeast in a lump of dough, it continues to work until it infects the entire lump!
Galatians 5:8-9 (JOT)

2. _____ to the freedom of grace

_____ the slavery: Christ has set us free so that we can experience life-changing freedom! Stand firm in this freedom and do not be enslaved again to hostility rather than hope!!
Galatians 5:1 (JOT)

_____ choose: If you seek self-justification through legalism, you deny the redemption of Christ, and your life will be wrecked upon the rocks of condemnation, rather than guided to salvation by grace. When we choose to let the Spirit fill our sails, then we are filled with an eager expectant hope that Jesus is our righteousness.
Galatians 5:4-5 (JOT)

_____ for liberating truth: The strength of faith in Jesus Christ is not legalism, but faith being energized through the love of Christ! You were doing this so well! What shoved you out of the confidence of this truth? Galatians 5:6-7(JOT)

3. _____ the greatest freedom

_____ grace: Instead, immense in mercy and with an incredible love, he embraced us. He took our sin-dead lives and made us alive in Christ. He did all this on his own, with no help from us! Then he picked us up and set us down in the highest heaven in company with Jesus, our Messiah. Ephesians 2:5-6 (MSG)

Spiritual Action Step:

What is the burden that you carry today? Where do you need to be set free from the things that are weighing you down? What is at work in you to bring you into the slavery of condemnation, rather than freedom? Jesus came in order to set us free in ways that we could only imagine! Remember his gracious invitation: "Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28 (NLT)) Come to Christ and be set free from the fear of being in God's presence! Admit that you need God's help and love in your life. Come to him acknowledging that he is Lord and Savior! This week, read Galatians 5 and Ephesians 2 to experience the joy and hope of living in the freedom of Jesus Christ!

Translations: NIV: New International Version; MSG: The Message; JOT: Jon's Own Translation.