

FREEDOM – THE LAW & THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Notes by Franklin

- Luke 4:18 *He has sent me to **proclaim freedom** for the prisoners*
John 8:32 *you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**.*
John 8:36 *So if the Son sets you **free**, you will be **free indeed**.*
Galatians 5:1 *It is for freedom that Christ has set us **free**.*
Galatians 5:13 *For you were called to **freedom**, brethren*

We need to clearly understand the Freedom, the Liberty, we have as believers.

Before Faith in Jesus Christ we were: **“slaves of sin”**

- Romans 6:17 “. . . you were **slaves of sin**”
- Romans 7:14 *“I am of flesh, **sold into bondage to sin**.”*
- Ephesians 2:1-3 *“And you were **DEAD** in your trespasses and sins.”*

Because SIN WAS DESTROYING us, God in His Love & Mercy, gave the law.

- Galatians 3:19 *Why the Law then? It was added because of transgressions*
- Galatians 3:23 *Before faith came, we were (1) **kept in custody** under the law, being (2) **shut up** to the faith which was later to be revealed. NASU*

(1) phroureo (froo-reh'-o); figuratively, **to hem in, to protect; keep like in a garrison.**

NKJ – kept under guard NLT – guarded by the law

(2) sugkleio (soong-kli'-o); to shut together; to enclose.

NLT – **kept in protective custody**

Example: guardrails on a high, dangerous mountain road. They are there to keep you safe. To go beyond the guardrail is to encounter severe pain and suffering.

Also: Galatians 3:24 *The Law has become our **TUTOR TO LEAD US TO CHRIST**, so THAT WE MAY BE JUSTIFIED BY FAITH.* NASU

- ❖ The law was our **schoolmaster / child trainer** or **child leader** / a **guardian** who takes the children to school (lit. meaning of the word).

CHILDREN NEED a SCHOOLMASTER a TEACHER a GUARDIAN to watch over them, to teach them what is right and what is wrong. To tell them "not to play in the street." To "not touch the hot stove." Our Heavenly FATHER DOES NOT WANT US TO HURT OURSELVES.

SO THE LAW TEACHES US:

1. WHAT SIN IS:

Romans 7:7 *I would not have come to know sin except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, "you shall not covet."*

2. WHAT RIGHTEOUSNESS IS:

Romans 7:12 the Law is holy, righteous and good.

3. AND KEEPS ME **FREE** FROM SATAN'S SNARE.

2 Timothy 2:25-26 *those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.*

Ephesians 4:26-27 *Do not sin; . . . and do not give the devil an opportunity.*

Galatians 4:4-7 *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, **so that He might redeem those who were under the Law** (kept in protective custody), that we might receive the adoption as sons (graduation from a child to a son). Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" **Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.***

- Jesus lived the Law for **us** (as an example) – paid the penalty for breaking the law (death) for **us** - He **FULFILLED THE LAW FOR US** (Mt.5: 17) and therefore redeemed **us** "*who were under the law*" (held in it's protective custody).

(Matthew 5:17 *Do not think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I did not come to abolish but to fulfill.*)

- When we believe – Our sin is forgiven – we receive the Gift of His Righteousness (2Cor.5: 21) – and now the Holy Spirit can come into us – “no longer a slave but a son” – “an heir” that receives **ALL, FREE AND CLEAR!** HALLELUJAH!

THEREFORE WE ARE FREE !

I. We are free from the eternal penalty of sin – death.

- Romans 5:8 *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, **Christ died for us.***
- Romans 6:23 *For the wages of sin is **death**, but the free gift of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- 1 Thessalonians 5: 10 ***He died for us**, so that we will live together with Him*
- Romans 8:1-2 *There is now **NO CONDEMNATION** for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of - **life in Christ Jesus** - has **set you FREE from the law of - sin and of death.***

*Vs.3 For what the **Law** could not do, **weak as it was** through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He **CONDEMNED SIN** in the flesh.*

*2 Corinthians 5:21 He made Him who knew no sin **to be sin for us** , so that we might become the **righteousness of God** in Him.*

The Law was not our problem. SIN WAS OUR PROBLEM, and the weakness of our flesh (Romans 7:14-21). The law helped us see our sin and understand that we needed a Savior.

Those that Believe in Jesus Christ – trust Him for salvation – ARE FREE from DEATH as a result of the sin of Unbelief.

- 2 Corinthians 5:19; John 11-12; 3:15-18 and many more verses

II. We are free from having to keep the law **FOR ETERNAL LIFE**, even though this was never the purpose of the Law but man's misunderstanding.

- *Romans 6:23 . . . the **free gift** of God is **eternal life** in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- *Romans 3:20 because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified** in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.*
 - This is the purpose of the law: "the knowledge of sin."
- *Galatians 2:16 Knowing that a man **is not justified by the works of the Law but through faith in Christ Jesus**, even we have **believed** in Christ Jesus, so that we may be **justified by faith** in Christ and not by the works of the Law; since by **THE WORKS OF THE LAW NO FLESH WILL BE JUSTIFIED**.*
- *Galatians 5:1 A It was for **freedom** that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a **yoke of slavery**.*

For the Galatians and for us: the "yoke of slavery" was the heavy burden of **thinking** they had to keep and fulfill the law to be justified to obtain eternal life.

III. We are FREE from the Bondage of sin and should No longer be a slave to sin.

*Romans 6:17-20 But THANKS BE TO GOD that though **you were slaves of sin**, you became obedient from the heart to that form of TEACHING to which you were committed, (18) and **having been freed from sin**, you became slaves of righteousness. (19) . . . For just as you presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, **so NOW PRESENT your members as slaves to righteousness**, resulting in sanctification. (20) For when you WERE slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. NASU*

*Vs.22 But **now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God**, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. NASU*

In Christ Jesus – who has won the victory and given that victory to us – **We can walk free of sin and free from death.**

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Corinthians 15:57

IV. We are FREE from SELF

- Romans 6:5-6 *knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him*
- Ephesians 4:22 *in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self (vs.24) and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.*
- Colossians 3:1-10

V. We are FREE to FOLLOW OUR HEART

- Not our 'old heart' but our 'NEW HEART' (Ezekiel 36:26).
- 1 Chronicles 17:2 *Then Nathan said to David, "Do all that is in your heart, for God is with you."*
- Philippians 2:13 *It is God who is at work in you, both to will and to do of His good pleasure.*
- Free from being controlled by others
- Free from being 'people pleasers.'
- 2 Corinthians 10:12 *Oh, don't worry; I wouldn't dare say that I am as wonderful as these other men who tell you how important they are! But they are only comparing themselves with each other, and measuring themselves by themselves. What foolishness! NLT*

VI. We are FREE to OBEY JESUS CHRIST

Romans 6:12-14 *Therefore **do not** let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts, (13) and **do not** go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; BUT PRESENT YOURSELVES TO GOD as those alive from the dead, and your members as INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS to God. (14) For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law but under grace. (16) Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, **you are slaves of the one whom you OBEY, either of sin resulting in death, or of OBEDIENCE resulting in righteousness?***

John 14:15 **If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**

John 14:21 He who has My commandments and **keeps them** is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and will disclose Myself to him. NASU

John 14:23-24 If anyone loves Me, **he will keep My word**; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him. He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me. NASU

John 15:10-11 **If you keep My commandments**, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full. NASU

1 John 5:2 *By this we know that we love the children of God, WHEN WE LOVE GOD **AND OBSERVE** (literally, **do**) HIS COMMANDMENTS.*

Love is the Motivation – not works or trying to earn salvation. “God is Love” and God is “in us” in the person of the Holy Spirit giving us the motivation (love) and the ability to Obey Jesus.

1 John 2:3-5 *By this we know that we have come to know Him, IF WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever **KEEPS HIS WORD**, in him the **love of God** has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him. NASU*

So, we see that we **ARE NOT FREE FROM:**

- I. The “REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW.” It still stands as the guiding principles of relationships in the Kingdom of God.

Romans 8:1-8 *Therefore there is now **no condemnation** for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of **life in Christ Jesus** has SET YOU **FREE** from the **law of sin and of death**. For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh.*

WHY?

So that THE REQUIREMENT OF THE LAW MIGHT BE FULFILLED IN US, who do not walk according to the flesh but **according to the Spirit.** For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the **mind** set on the Spirit is life and peace, (vs.7) because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it **does not subject itself to the law of God, FOR IT IS NOT EVEN ABLE TO DO SO,** (vs.8) and those who are in the flesh **cannot please God.** (vs.9) However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the **Spirit of God dwells in you.**

As N.T. believers, with the Holy Spirit "IN US" (vs.9) we have the POWER, the ABILITY:

- to take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ. 2 Cor.10:5
- to give our self to the law of God (above vs. 7)
- to keep the law and walk free of sin, free from the kingdom of darkness and the "evil ones" attacks, and PLEASE GOD.

*"So that the **requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us,** who do not walk according to the flesh but **according to the Spirit.**"* Romans 8: 4

The Holy Spirit will lead you in the paths of righteousness, AND . . .
 *the evil one can not touch you.* (1 John 5:18)

II. WE ARE **NOT FREE** from the TEMPORAL consequences of sin.

- John 5:14 Jesus said to him, ". . . **do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse happens to you.**"
- Ephesians 4:27 **DO NOT give the devil an opportunity.**

When we reject or disobey the Laws of the Kingdom of God, we then walk in sin and in the kingdom of darkness. Giving satan a legal right to attack.

- 1 Peter 5:8 *Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.*
- Psalm 89:27-34 *I also shall make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. My lovingkindness will keep for him **forever**, and **My covenant shall be confirmed to him**. So I will establish his descendants **forever** and his throne as the days of heaven. if his sons forsake my law and do not walk in my judgments, if they violate my statutes and do not keep my commandments, then **I will punish their transgression with the rod and their iniquity with stripes. But I WILL NOT break off my lovingkindness from him, nor deal falsely in My faithfulness. My covenant I WILL NOT VIOLATE, NOR WILL I ALTER the utterance of My lips.** NASU*

III. We are **NOT FREE** to do our own thing - whatever we want to do.

1 Peter 2:16-17 ***Live as free men, BUT DO NOT USE YOUR FREEDOM AS A COVER-UP FOR EVIL; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.*** NIV

Galatians 5:13-14 *For you were called to FREEDOM, brethren; only **DO NOT turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, BUT THROUGH LOVE SERVE ONE ANOTHER.** For **THE WHOLE LAW IS FULFILLED** in one word, in the statement, "**YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.**"*

This is the Main Issue & Purpose of the Law for New Testament Believers

→ How to live our life in LOVE, for and with the people Jesus died for.

That is: **Right Relationships with people.**

CHRISTIANITY IS ALL ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS!
This is THE PURPOSE of the Law.

- 1 Peter 2:13 **Submit** yourselves to the one in authority
- Romans 12:10 Be **devoted** to one another, give **preference** to one another
- Eph. 4:32 Be **kind** to one another. . **forgiving** each other
- Eph. 5:21 be **subject** to one another

John 13:34-35 **A NEW COMMANDMENT I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.**

When our relationships with **one another** are broken – that is sin – the Holy Spirit is grieved (Eph.4 30), and we must confess and be reconciled, our relationship restored, with that person.

Matthew 19:18-19 Jesus said, **You shall not commit murder; you shall not commit adultery; you shall not steal; you shall not bear false witness; honor your father and mother; and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.**

➔ The above are **laws of the Kingdom of God**. When we do not follow these laws, chaos / injury / hurt / destruction and degradation set in and the person, the family, or a nation moves toward disintegration.

- This is exactly what is happening in the US today.

Just as, the laws of our city, state & nation are there for us to all be able to live together in peace, in harmony, in righteousness with one another.

For example: the laws of the intersection – if obeyed – no accidents or damage done to another. We all flow smoothly together.

Romans 13:8-10 *He who **loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law: you shall not commit adultery, you shall not murder, you shall not steal, you shall not covet, and if there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying, you shall love your neighbor as yourself. Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.***

Matthew 5:18-19 *For truly I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or stroke shall pass from the Law until all is accomplished. **Whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; BUT WHOEVER KEEPS AND TEACHES THEM, HE SHALL BE CALLED GREAT IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.***

Again, this verse makes it clear that we DO NOT LOSE OUR SALVATION by breaking the Law but we:

- displease the LORD
- lose reward in heaven
- bring shame and injury to ourselves and to others on earth.

IV. We **ARE NOT FREE** to live our lives so as to cause others to speak against His Name.

- Romans 2:22-24 *You are so proud of knowing the law, but **you dishonor God by breaking it**. No wonder the Scriptures say, the world blasphemes the name of God because of you.* NLT

Example: TV Evangelists, anyone.

1 Corinthians 8:9 *But take care that this **LIBERTY OF YOURS** does not somehow become a **stumbling block to the weak**.*

1 Corinthians 8:12-13 *And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food (or drink) causes my brother to **stumble**, I will never eat meat again, so that I will not cause my brother to stumble.*

- ❖ My freedom extends only as far as to where another's liberty begins
- ❖ My freedom ends before it causes another to stumble

The Law is still with us to **enclose us in an area of protection**, - the Kingdom of God - to keep us safe, FREE from the enemy, FREE from hurting ourselves and FREE from hurting others.

Romans 7:12 *So then, the Law is **holy**, and the commandment is **holy and righteous and good**. (vs.14) *the law is spiritual.**

1 Tim 1:8 *But we know that the Law is good, IF ONE USES IT LAWFULLY*

BLESSINGS COME WITH THE KEEPING OF THE LAW:

James 1:25 *But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the **law of liberty**, AND **ABIDES BY IT**, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual DOER, **this man will be BLESSED in what he does.***

Psalm 1:1-3 ***Blessed** is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But **his delight is in the law of the LORD**, And **in His law** he **meditates** day and night. He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither; and **whatever he does shall prosper.***

Psalm 19:7-11 *The **law of the LORD** is perfect, **restoring the soul**; The testimony of the LORD is sure, making **wise** the simple. The **precepts** of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the **commandment** of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes. The fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever; the judgments of the LORD are true; they are righteous altogether. They are more desirable than gold, yes, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover, by them your servant is warned; **in keeping them there is great reward.***

Joshua 1:8 *This **book of the law** shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for **then** you will make your way **prosperous**, and then you will have **success.** NASU*

THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST!

James 2:12 *So speak and act as those who **are to be judged** by the law of liberty.*

AS BELIEVERS, WE WILL BE JUDGED AS TO HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES IN RELATION TO OTHERS.

2 Corinthians 5:10 *For we must **all** appear before the JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST, so that each one may **be recompensed** for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. NASU*

*NLT We will each receive **whatever we deserve**
NIV that each one may receive **what is due him***

- Paul is writing to Believers, the church at Corinth, therefore it stands true for all believers.
- The Judgment Seat of Christ is ONLY for believers.
- The Great White Throne Judgment is for Non-believers.

Revelation 20: 11-15

IT IS NOT A JUDGMENT OR DETERMINATION FOR ETERNAL LIFE.

➤ That judgment has already taken place.

Romans 8:2-3 . . . *God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He ***condemned sin** in the flesh.*

*(to judge against, sentence, condemn, damn)

2 Corinthians 5:21 *He made HIM who knew no sin **to be sin for us**, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*

Romans 4:7-8 *Blessed are those whose lawless deeds have been **forgiven**, and whose sins have been **covered**. Blessed is the man whose sin the lord **will not take into account**.*

Colossians 2:13-15 *He made you alive together with Him, having **forgiven us ALL our transgressions**, having canceled out the *certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us, which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. NASU*

*dogma (dog'-mah) a law (civil, ceremonial or ecclesiastical)

IT IS **NOT** A JUDGMENT OR DETERMINATION FOR ETERNAL LIFE.

BUT IT **IS** A JUDGMENT FOR HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES AS CHRISTIANS.

Matthew 18:6 *but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to **stumble**, it would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.*

AFTER JESUS PAID SO GREAT A PRICE TO FORGIVE / SAVE / REDEEM UNTO HIMSELF – AND THEN FOR US TO DO SOMETHING TO CAUSE THAT ONE WHOM HE DEARLY LOVES TO STUMBLE . . . HE IS NOT PLEASED. :o/

1 Corinthians 8:13 *Therefore, if **food** causes my brother to **stumble**, I will never eat meat again, so that **I will not cause my brother to stumble**.*

Romans 14:10-23 *But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? **For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.** (11) For it is written, "As I live, says the lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." (12) So then **each one of us will give an account of himself to God.** (13) Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this — **not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.***

(14) I know and am convinced in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean.

*(15) For **if because of food your brother is hurt**, you are **NO LONGER WALKING ACCORDING TO LOVE**. DO NOT DESTROY WITH YOUR FOOD (or drink) HIM FOR WHOM CHRIST DIED. (16) Therefore do not let what is for you a good thing be spoken of as evil; (17) for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.*

*(18) For **he who in this way serves Christ is acceptable to God and approved by men.** (19) So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another. (20) Do not tear down the work of God for the sake of food. All things indeed are clean, **but they are evil** for the man who eats and gives offense. (21) **It is good not to eat meat or to drink wine**, or to do **anything** by which your brother **stumbles**. NASU*

1 Corinthians 10:31-33 *Whether, then, you EAT or DRINK or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. **Give no offense** either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit but the profit of the many, **so that they may be saved.***

THIS IS THE ISSUE: living our life in such a way as not to offend anyone or cause them to stumble so that "*they may be saved.*"

2 Corinthians 6:3-4 ***giving no cause for offense in anything**, so that the ministry will not be discredited, but in everything commending ourselves as servants of God, in much endurance, in afflictions, in hardships, in distresses*

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 *For though I am free from all men, **I have made myself a slave to all**, so that I may win more. (20) To the Jews I became as a Jew, so that I might win Jews; to those who are under the Law, as under the Law though not being myself under the Law, so that I might win those who are under the Law; (21) to those who are without law, as without law, though not being without the law of God but under the law of Christ, so that I might win those who are without law. (22) To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak; **I have become all things to all men, SO THAT I MAY BY ALL MEANS SAVE SOME.** (23) I do all things for the sake of the gospel, so that I may become a fellow partaker of it*

Colossians 4:5-6 ***Conduct yourselves with wisdom toward outsiders**, making the most of the opportunity. Let your speech always be with grace, as though seasoned with salt, so that you will know how you should respond to each person.*

Galatians 6:2 *Bear one another's burdens, and thereby **fulfill the law of Christ.***

***Stand fast** therefore **in the liberty** wherewith Christ hath made us free, (and not in your own definition of liberty) and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1 KJV*

Amen.