**“What Does It Mean to be Free?”**

Going deeper in Galatians 5:1-7

**INTRODUCTION**

In Galatians the Apostle Paul has stressed the significance of what has been done in and through the Lord Jesus’ life, death, resurrection, and ascension. It ushered in the final stages of incoming Kingdom of God. Jesus as the Son of God has shown that grace is available to all who will put their faith in what He has done. The law was to show you your need for grace. The Apostle Paul has likened a return to relying on the law rather than Jesus as a form of slavery. In this passage you are given another choice.

**READ** – *Read (passage) aloud. Read it several times. Listen for what the Spirit of God is saying, don’t just think about it.* 1 It was for true freedom that Christ set us free. Make your stand on this and don’t let anyone enslave you again. 2 Listen, I, Paul am telling you that if you become circumcised all Christ did for you will be of no value to you. 3 Let me say it again to everyone who becomes circumcised you are obligated to keep the whole law. 4 Those of you who are trying to be justified by the law, you have been cut off from Christ and have fallen from grace. 5 Instead through the Holy Spirit we wait and hope for the righteousness that comes by faith. 6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision or uncircumcision do anything. The only thing that works is faith expressing itself through love. 7 You were running such a good race. Who knocked you off course and kept you from obeying the truth?

**ENGAGE** – *Questions for going deeper. God is speaking… to you.*

1. What do you think it means to be free according to the book of Galatians?

2. In what ways has Jesus set you free? How has the freedom you have in Jesus Christ changed you and your life?

3. What is the slavery that Paul is referring to in verse 1?

4. Can anyone keep the whole law? What does that say about our need for what Jesus did on the cross?

5. What examples of faith expressing itself through love can you think of?

**PRAY** – *God has spoken. So, reply.*

\*Thank Jesus for setting you free to live life with Him.

\*Ask Him to show you what that life looks like in your day today.

\*Ask Him to fill you with the Holy Spirit so your faith might be expressed through love today.

**LIVE** – *This is where the rubber hits the road.*

The call of this passage is to let your faith express itself through love. Will you allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to live out your faith through deeds of love today? What specifically will that mean for you?