Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – June 2, 2019

**The Transforming**

**Power of the Cross**

*Galatians: How the Gospel Sets Us Free*

*Spiritual Freedom: What’s it all about?*

 Galatians reads quite differently from other New Testament books, and our goal will be to discover its big picture and flow of thought. Paul’s authority as an Apostle and God’s salvation by grace are both under attack by those who kept insisting that the Law of Moses was still in force, and that to be right with God and man meant keeping the Law, along with all of its feast days and traditions.

 Acts 15 recounts the Jerusalem Council which concluded that gentiles are free from the Law of Moses, that is, they need not observe it. But for many, the issue remained unresolved, so the “Judaizers,” as they were called, went everywhere to undermine Paul’s work in proclaiming salvation solely based upon the work of Jesus, the Messiah.

 These questions remain a point of controversy to this day, for there are still those who insist that the feasts and Sabbaths of the Torah must be observed. Many have their own brands of legalism, “good works” as a way to be right with God or continue in His grace. But Paul says that when Jesus died for sinners, they (we) died with Him to sin and the Law, and now, in His life, are truly free. So in simple terms, Galatians. . .

***Involves Two Central Issues:***

 ***How to be right with God (Justification).***

 ***How to live for God (Sanctification).***

***Asks Three Questions:***

***How did you receive God’s Spirit (law / grace)?***

 ***Don’t you recall that the Law held you captive?***

 ***Do you want to return to prison as a slave?***

***Issues Four Commands:***

***Live free from the Law!***

 ***Stand firm in God’s grace!***

 ***Walk in God’s Spirit!***

 ***Be God’s Family!***

Freedom Principle #1:

 The Good News of Jesus Christ is uniquely designed to set us free.

**There is only one gospel!**

Galatians 1:1-9

***The one true gospel is spread by God’s apostles. v. 1a***

***The one true gospel originates in God, Father and Son. v. 1b, 2***

***The one true gospel brings grace to God’s people. vv. 3-5***

 Jesus alone has laid down His life for our sins.

 In this act, He alone delivers us from this present age.

 The gospel is God’s plan, and that is what brings Him glory.

***The one true gospel is uniquely designed (to set us free). vv. 6-9***

 Because it is uniquely from God. v. 6a

 To desert the gospel is to abandon God and His calling.

 Because it is pure and unadulterated grace. v. 6b

 To distort the gospel is to abandon the gospel.

 Because it alone is the fountain of God’s blessing. vv. 7, 8 To abandon the gospel is to call down a curse upon yourself.

 Because it stands alone above all other messages. v. 9

 To abandon the gospel means we are bowing to religions of man, not God.

***To apply this Freedom Principle, we must ask ourselves. . .***

 Have I recognized that I need a savior and forgiveness?

 Have I believed in God’s only Savior, His Son, Jesus?

 Are my beliefs and religion about pleasing God or the “influencers” in my family,

friends, and/or culture?