

Freedom in Christ

Romans 2:12-16, 25-29; II Corinthians 5:17

I. Freedom begins with a new identity II Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”

A. In Christ, we are new creations

B. In Christ, the old is gone

II. Freedom begins with a new heart Romans 2:12-16

A. To have freedom, God has to deal with the unrepentant heart (12)

12 For as many as have sinned without law will also perish without law, and as many as have sinned in the law will be judged by the law

B. To have freedom, submit to the fruit of the Spirit (13-15)

1. Obedience is a natural outcome of a repentant heart (13,14)

13 (for not the hearers of the law *are* just in the sight of God, but the doers of the law will be justified; 14 for when Gentiles, who do not have the law, by nature do the things in the law, these, although not having the law, are a law to themselves,

2. Obedience is a demonstration of a repentant heart (15)

15 who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves *their* thoughts accusing or else excusing *them*)

C. To have freedom, the secret things must be revealed (16)

16 in the day when God will judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ, according to my gospel.

III. Freedom begins with the work of the Spirit Romans 2:25-29

A. Living by works (25)

25 For circumcision is indeed profitable if you keep the law; but if you are a breaker of the law, your circumcision has become uncircumcision.

B. Living by the Spirit (26-29)

1. Rhetorical questions to think about (26,27)

26 Therefore, if an uncircumcised man keeps the righteous requirements of the law, will not his uncircumcision be counted as circumcision? 27 And will not the physically uncircumcised, if he fulfills the law, judge you who, *even* with *your* written *code* and circumcision, *are* a transgressor of the law?

2. The spirit transforms the heart (28,29)

28 For he is not a Jew who *is one* outwardly, nor *is* circumcision that which *is* outward in the flesh; 29 but *he is* a Jew who *is one* inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the Spirit, not in the letter; whose praise *is* not from men but from God.

Conclusion

I. Freedom begins with a new identity.

II. Freedom begins with a new heart.

III. Freedom begins with the work of the Spirit.