

Come Out of Bondage

The NT writers sounded the alarm to the 1st church – 'don't go back into bondage'. The clearest one of these warnings was from Paul:

Galatians 5:1b (NKJV) – do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

What was the bondage that the apostles were concerned about? It was the bondage of the **Law**.

Galatians 4:21-26 (AMPC) – *Tell me, you who are bent on being under the Law, will you listen to what the Law [really] says? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by the bondmaid and one by the free woman. But whereas the child of the slave woman was born according to the flesh and had an ordinary birth, the son of the free woman was born in fulfillment of the promise. Now all this is an allegory; these [two women] represent two covenants. One covenant originated from Mount Sinai [where the Law was given] and bears [children destined] for slavery¹; this is Hagar. Now Hagar is (stands for) Mount Sinai in Arabia and she corresponds to and belongs in the same category with the present Jerusalem, for she is in bondage together with her children. But the Jerusalem above (the Messianic Kingdom of Christ)² is free, and she is our mother.*

The bondage of religion was the lot of the Jews, as well as the gentiles, only the god worshipped was different. Both had people in bondage:

Galatians 4:8-9 (AMPC) – *But at that previous time, when you had not come to be acquainted with and understand and know the true God, you [Gentiles] were in bondage to gods who by their very nature could not be gods at all [gods that really did not exist]. Now, however, that you have come to be acquainted with and understand and know [the true] God, or rather to be understood and known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly and worthless elementary things [of all religions before Christ came]³, whose slaves you once more want to become?*

The Kingdom, however, is about **liberty** and **freedom**, not bondage:

Galatians 5:1 (NKJV) – Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

The Law contains spiritual symbols and ceremonies, not the reality that's in the Kingdom. Observing them is immaturity as far as the Kingdom is concerned:

Galatians 4:9b-11 (NKJV) – *how is it that you turn again to the weak and beggarly elements, to which you desire again to be in bondage? You observe days and months and seasons and years. I am afraid for you, lest I have labored for you in vain.*

But what were the 1st believers also ignorant of and advised to stand against? It was those who came into their fellowships wanting to take them back to Judaism and the Law (Torah). There were also those wanting to take them back into paganism.⁴

Galatians 2:4 (NKJV) – *And this occurred because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage),*

1 – i.e. 'bondage'

2 – Marvin Vincent, *Word Studies*.

3 – Joseph Thayer, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*.

4 – See Jesus' indictments of the churches in Pergamos & Thyatira. (Revelation 2:14-15, 20)

2 Corinthians 11:20 (NKJV) – *For you put up with it if one brings you into bondage, if one devours you, if one takes from you, if one exalts himself, if one strikes you on the face.*

2 Corinthians 11:20 (AMPC) – *For you endure it if a man assumes control of your souls and makes slaves of you, or devours [your substance, spends your money] and preys upon you, or deceives and takes advantage of you, or is arrogant and puts on airs, or strikes you in the face.*

Actually, anything that enslaves you or controls you has removed your Kingdom freedom and placed you into bondage. Sinful living does this.

2 Peter 2:19a (NKJV) – *While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*

Even the fear of death which causes us to stick with religion in a hope of deliverance is a form of bondage. Christ's death sets us free from that bandage:

Hebrews 2:15 (AMPC) – *And also that He might deliver and completely set free all those who through the [haunting] fear of death were held in bondage throughout the whole course of their lives.*

Even if we don't adhere to Judaism or the Torah Law, but adhere to any other form of law – such as the 10 Commandments – we are actually in bondage, not freedom. Living by the 10 Commandments is the foundation of many of the denominations and it is just as much religion as the non-protestant organisations. You see, religion is bondage because it is legalism – it's 'legal', i.e. based on a system of law.

Interestingly, here's the origin of the word 'religion':⁵

'Religion': from 're-ligature' = 're-bind' = 'bring back into bondage'

The Kingdom brings freedom. Licentiousness pretends to give freedom, but it brings bondage instead.

John 8:33-35 (AMP) – *They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been enslaved to anyone. What do You mean by saying, ‘You will be set free’?” Jesus answered, “I assure you and most solemnly say to you, everyone who practices sin habitually is a slave of sin. Now the slave does not remain in a household forever; the son [of the master] does remain forever.*

Here's the killer:

2 Peter 2:19b (NKJV) – *by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.*

Whatever you can't control, controls you. Whether it's sex, pornography, drugs, or just plain food, chocolate, TV, etc., any of these can have you in bondage.

So, it's simple: →

GET OUT OF ALL BONDAGE

In closing, Ron McGatlin wrote about the freedom of the Kingdom:

“For the first time since the first century, an army of men and women in whom Christ dwells are rising up to bring forth the clear light of the LOVE and Kingdom of God. The end of the rule of

⁵ – Google definition (from a Google search)

darkness is visible in the Spirit now, and God's army is headed into spiritual battle against darkness in every facet of life on earth. **In the Kingdom of God within God's people there is freedom.** The resurrected life of Christ Jesus within His holy Bride overcomes the evil of the world with LOVE, righteousness, peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit. The darkness is replaced by the light of God, and the kingdoms of this world become the kingdom of our God.”⁶

NOTE: I have based this teaching on Bible passages for those who must have the Bible's word on anything before they believe it. I also did it for those who use the Bible to justify why they are Torah-following Christians and for those Christians who believe the NC is an extension of the OC such that the OC must still be adhered to.

Laurence

15-6-2016

(www.CanberraForerunners.org)

COPYRIGHT

All quotes are copyrighted to authors cited.

This document is free to copy, republish and distribute, but only 'as is'. It is free to quote from at length.

All Canberra Forerunners' documents are licensed under

Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs 3.0 Unported License

6 – Ron McGatlin “From Bondage to Kingdom Freedom” (canberraforerunners.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/03/from-bondage-to-kingdom-freedom.pdf)