

## **FREEDOM**

**July 4, 2021**

### **Reading Plan**

#### Day 1-

READ: [Matthew 5: 17-18](#); [Romans 8: 1-4](#), and [Colossians 1: 21-22](#) (NIV)

REFLECT: What can we learn about God's character by understanding that He sent Jesus to *fulfill* the law, not just abolish it? What is it that God ultimately condemns? How does Christ's fulfillment of the law give us access to freedom? What does it give us freedom *from*?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Is there anything in your life or current habits that creates separation between you and God? Or any 'blemish' in your character that holds you back from standing boldly and freely before Him? Spend some time in prayer confessing this area and receiving forgiveness as you recognize Jesus' role as the perfect offering for your sin.

#### TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ: The short article that inspired Sarah's sermon outline- by Jen Wilkin, ["How Salvation Brings Freedom"](#)

REFLECT: Have you ever felt like your ongoing struggle with sin disqualifies you from living in the freedom Jesus died to accomplish? Have a conversation with Jesus about this and ask Him for greater revelation of the truth and power of your salvation.

#### Day 2-

READ: [Galatians 5: 1-6](#)

REFLECT: Why were the Galatians so tempted to hold onto practices of the law? Once released from the requirements of the law, what would make them want to turn back and submit again to that burden? Have you ever been tempted to hold onto an idea or habit even after God released you from it?

READ: [Matthew 11: 28-30](#)

REFLECT: How does the yoke of Jesus differ from the yoke of law? How do you think submitting to the yoke of Jesus ultimately grants us freedom?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Ask God to show you any 'rules' that you have developed about your faith and how they might be holding you back. Confess any ways that you have attempted to find justification through anything or anyone other than Jesus. Meditate on how Jesus demonstrated faith and love through everyday interactions.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

WATCH: Video of Jennie Allen, [“Pressure and Performance”](#) from RightNow Media. (Need a *free* RNM account? Sign up for one [here](#)!)

#### Day 3-

READ: [Romans 8: 18-21](#) and [Philippians 2: 12-13](#)

REFLECT: How do our daily struggles open the door for us to be made free from bondage? If we are fully justified at the time of our declaration of faith in Jesus, what do you think Paul means when he instructs the Philippians to “work out their salvation...”? How can this process give us hope of future glory?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Write out a simple timeline of your life in Christ. Start with the day or season during which you declared your faith in Jesus and committed your life to him. Think about how your beliefs, attitudes, relationships and actions have been impacted by that decision over time and then mark out some key moments/ways in which you have continued to ‘work out your salvation’ as you grew in your faith. Markers might include: times of trial requiring perseverance, small daily decisions that led to victories over sinful habits, points of specific revelation that helped you mature as a Christian, answered prayers... Spend some time in prayer thanking God for His mercy and your growth...and seeking guidance and strength from the Holy Spirit for the ongoing journey.

#### Day 4-

READ: [Galatians 5: 13-15](#) and [1 Peter 2: 16](#)

REFLECT: While our freedom in Christ is an amazing gift, have you ever thought about it as an instrument of your faith – intended to act as a catalyst for good, but also able to be misused or misdirected? What would it look like to use your freedom as an opportunity for the ‘flesh’? What would cause someone to go down that path? Have you ever found yourself tempted in this way?

PRAY: Spend a few moments thinking about how you love others and how confident you are in God’s love for you. Ask God to reveal any ways that your heart motives might be off track. Pray for God’s abundant love to fill every corner and crevice of your heart to overflowing.

PRACTICE: Brainstorm a short list of practical ways that you can use your freedom to serve someone else. Pray for opportunities and then be intentional about taking action when God leads you to them.

TAKE IT FURTHER!

READ/ LISTEN: Message by John Piper, [“Freed to Love”](#)

#### Day 5-

READ: [John 8: 31-36](#)

REFLECT: Who is Jesus talking to in this passage? What is He challenging them to do? What does He say will happen to those who do not respond? What does He promise to those who do?

PRAY/ PRACTICE: Spend some time worshipping God and reflecting on the true freedom you have in Jesus. Consider listening to ["Who You Say I Am"](#) by Hillsong Worship to get you started.