

## The School of Biblical Law

### Introduction to Law and Grace

#### Lesson Thirty: "The Royal Law of Love – Part 2"

The royal law of love is also referred to as the law of liberty (James 2:8-12). Liberty results when a person does not incarcerate his own soul by bringing it into the bondages of sin (Rom. 6:16) and when a law-keeping citizen does not transgress the laws that would result in his incarceration. Ps. 119:45 declares, "I walk at liberty for I seek thy precepts." Law-keeping is biblically synonymous with the practices of loving God and loving our fellowman (Mt. 22:36-40).

1. James 1:22-25 also mentions the law of liberty. "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass. For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."

James stresses the doing of the word for the end result of blessing and liberty.

Liberty is the Greek noun *eleutheria* (Strong's #1657) meaning freedom or liberty.

2. A passage found in Galatians 4:19-5:6 address the concept of liberty verses the yoke of bondage and must be examined in light of the explanation of James' reference to the law of liberty.

Paul equates being under the law with an illustration of Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Ishmael, and Isaac. Note the particulars in the simile:

Abraham first son - Ishmael  
Born of a bondwoman – Hagar  
Born of the flesh (pre-circumcision)  
Covenant from Sinai  
Answers to Jerusalem that now is  
Persecuted the child of promise  
Cast out bondwoman and son (no heir)

Abraham's second son – Isaac  
Born of a freewoman (*eleutheros*)– Sarah  
Born by promise (post-circumcision)  
Covenant from Jerusalem that is above  
Answers to the Jerusalem that is above  
Was persecuted by the heir without promise  
Child of faith shall receive the inheritance

Galatians 5:1-6, "Stand fast therefore in the liberty (*eleutheria*) wherewith Christ hath made us free (*eleutheroo* – Strong's #1659) and be not entangled again in the yoke of bondage . . . Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace . . . For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth anything, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

Paul was addressing the Jewish system as it had come to be through the Pharisees and religious traditions, which embraced a works religion or a meritorious eternal reward based upon law and tradition keeping.

Jesus condemned the traditions of the Pharisees (Mt. 23), and Paul was persecuted by the Jewish zealots that he called dogs (Phil. 3:1-3).

Hagar in her proper estate was a serviceable handmaiden. The mistake occurred when she was taken into bed to produce a heir that aspired to the inheritance. Abraham is the father of faith (Gal. 3) and his heirs are the children of promise.

It is biblical unsound to present the law as the pathway to covenantal life. Grace offers the covenant and faith is the entrance into it. Freedom from the law's curse is available to those believe in the efficacious blood atonement. A life begun by faith is maintained by faith. The new birth changes our nature to bring it into compliance with the holiness and love of God, and the Spirit enables us to live in lawful and loving deeds in keeping with the royal law of love and the perfect law of liberty.