

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“Never Again”

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

Freedom is a constitutional right of our nation, and also a blood bought benefit of every believer in Jesus Christ. Once you have tasted freedom you never want to be bound again. Unfortunately your flesh is not in agreement. Its plan is to bring you back into captivity to the things that Christ has set you free from. Here’s the picture. The very thing that we said we were not going to do, not going to participate in, not going to eat, not going to drink, and the places that we said we were not going to visit, now all of a sudden we want to. Where did that come from? Our flesh feels the allure; we can even visualize it, taste it, lust for it, and desire it. We can feel a slow drift. We pre-plan the excuses that we will make should we give in to the flesh, and try desperately to find justification and rationalization for doing so. But we must stand fast. We cannot afford to go there. We cannot be entangled again. No, never again. “Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” John 8:36 (NKJV)

This was the admonition of the Apostle Paul in our text to the church at Galatia as well as to all believers for all time. The operative word is “again” which provides a duality of meaning for our understanding. It first means that we were once bound in chains, locked up, and imprisoned to something or someone in total opposition to the liberty afforded to us by Christ. Secondly, it is clear that at the time of the writing the Galatian church was free; as we also were when Christ destroyed the chains that had us bound. Why should we want to be “entangled” again? Here the idea of entangled is to “hold on to something, or to be held in or by anything.” One of the most tragic episodes in the life of any believer is to lift our hands to the Lord in worship, praise, and adoration, yet our spirit, mind, and soul is fully surrounded in chains.

We must stand fast. For the Galatians it was to stand fast apart from the Law of Moses, the commandments and the 613 precepts that were attached to it. For us, it is to stand fast against anything that halts, hinders, or completely holds back our ability to move ahead no longer captive to the things that formerly had dominion over us. We can’t go back, voluntarily, involuntarily, or by an act of compromise or agreement with those who do not have our best interests at heart. Stand fast in our decision making process and refuse to be associated with the past. Christ has made us free! We must yoke up with Christ and not the yoke of bondage. “Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:29-30 (NKJV)

If you have ever been bound, shackled, locked up, or locked down regarding the issues of this life, and have tasted the sweet nectar of freedom. Then surely you never want to be bound again. Stand fast. Stay encouraged. Stay free. Free to serve the Lord with all of your heart. Free to worship the Lord in spirit and in truth. Free to love and to be loved without restriction or fear. Free to be who you are and believe in who you are without the pain of rejection. Refuse to be bound. Never, ever again! “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” II Corinthians 3:17 (NKJV)