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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Study: Book of Galatians

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Gal.5:1a
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THE MAGNA CHARTA of SPIRITUAL FREEDOM

Gal.5:1a establishes the doctrinal theme of chapter five – “It was for freedom that Christ set us free.” (NASB)

The Greek structure of Gal.5:1a is important to chapter 5 of Galatians.

We will examine five aspects of the Greek structure of Gal.5:1a.

- ✓ The words “It was for” before freedom are not in the original Greek text of 5:1a.
- ✓ The first word of the Greek text is te eleutheria (the freedom) (dative singular feminine).
- ✓ Paul placed it out of the normal order to make a BIG doctrinal point. The normal place should be at the end – “Christ (nsm) set us (CAB) free for freedom (dsf).”
- ✓ Paul placed it first as dative of reference to connect it to the allegory of Gal.4:21-31.
 - Paul did this to teach the doctrine of Spiritual Freedom in Gal.5.
- ✓ Paul used it to divide chapter 5 into two studies of Spiritual Freedom:
 - Gal.5:1-12 (vs.1) Spiritual Freedom from slavery of legalism (Law).
 - Gal. 5:13-26 (vs.13) Spiritual Freedom from slavery of flesh (Old Sin Nature).

This lesson will study the title of our lesson and five categories of Spiritual Freedom in Christ.

1. Magna Charta in our lesson title comes from English history and applied to Paul’s Spiritual Freedom of Gal.5.

Magna Charta (Latin) [greater charter] was imposed upon the English King John in 1215 by feudal barons in an attempt to limit the king’s tyrannical powers by law in order to protect their rights and privileges as citizens. “A document constituting a fundamental guarantee of rights and privileges.” (Collegiate Dict.)

Franklin D. Roosevelt mentioned the influence of the Magna Charta upon the constitution of USA in his inaugural speech of 1941. “The democratic aspiration is no mere recent phase in human history ... it was written in the Magna Charta.” (National Archives and Record Administration).

“During the American Revolution, Magna Charta served to inspire and justify action in liberty’s defense. The colonists believed they were entitled to the same rights as Englishmen, rights guaranteed in the Magna Charta. They embellished these rights into the laws of their states and later into the Constitution and Bill of Rights.”

1200 years before the English Magna Charta, Paul used the concept to teach Spiritual Freedom of Gal.5.

2. In Gal.5, Paul taught that Spiritual Freedom is IN Christ and that apart from salvation IN Christ you have NO Spiritual freedom – “Christ set us free (eleutheroo/ a.a.ind.3ps) for freedom.”

We will study five categories of Spiritual Freedom given to all Church Age Believers (CABs) on basis of grace (Eph.1:6-7).

1st – Spiritual Freedom from slavery of Adam’s Original Sin (AOS) (Rom.3:20-24; 5:12, 17-19; 6:6-10, 17-18, 22-23; 8:2) (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

- (John 8:35-36) “The slave does not remain in the house forever; the Son remains forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.” [13 judicial charges of AOS](#)

2nd – Spiritual Freedom from slavery of the Evil One (satan) (Matt.13:37-43; Acts 13:8-10; John 8:31-44; Col.1:13-14; **Acts 26:18**; 1 John 3:10).

- Explanation of the parable of the Tares – “The one who sows the good seed is the **Son of Man**, and the field is **the world**; and as for the good seed, these are the **sons of the kingdom**; and the tares are the **sons of the evil one**.” (Matt.13:36-37)

3rd - Spiritual Freedom from slavery of demonic idolatry (1 Thess.1:9-10; Gal.4:3, 8-9; 1 Cor.10:6-10; 8:9).

- “However at that time, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those which by nature are no gods.” (Gal.4:8)
- “For they themselves report about us what kind o a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God.” (1 Thess.1:9)

4th – Spiritual Freedom from slavery of the Old Sin Nature (OSN) (Gal.5:13; Rom.6:11-18; 7:23; 8:1-11; Gal.5:16-17).

- “Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its lusts.” (Rom.6:12)
- “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Cor.3:17).

5th – Spiritual Freedom from slavery of Pharisaical legalism (Gal.4:9-10; 5:1-4; Acts 15:1, 5, 11; 2 Pet.2:1-3, 17-22).

- “But it was because of the false brethren secretly brought in, who had sneaked in to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, in order to bring us into bondage.” (Gal.2:4)

“A man is slave to whatever has mastered him.” (2 Pet.2:19b/ NIV)