

FREEDOM FROM SLAVERY

(Galatians 4:21-31)

The Bible views sin as slavery. Paul says we are slaves to sin, and Christ came to set us free. But strangely enough, there are those who prefer to remain in slavery even though freedom in Christ is available.

Paul says in v.1, "You who want to be under the law...". How can someone prefer to be under the law when there is freedom and liberty offered? There are a few reasons we can consider:

- (1) We need law to work to our advantage. The human nature is always trying to justify itself. And to do this, we need a law outside of us, which we can manipulate to aid us.
- (2) Human nature needs approval. We need to feel accepted and loved. The insecure and self-centered man often need to ask, "How well am I doing? Do people like me?" If we want a satisfactory answer to these questions, we need to fall back on a standard, a rule or a law. Therefore we want to be under the law.
- (3) We need law to aid us in the attempt to justify ourselves. We need to feel right. Again, we need a law to measure our success or failure. Therefore we want to be under the law.
- (4) We all feel the need to be part of a community and be accepted by it. The only way we can feel welcome and accepted by a community is when we have adhered to all the rules and laws of the community (or local church).
- (5) We want to be in control of our own lives, and even the communities we join. We can't do this without a law or a fixed standard. Therefore we prefer to be under law.

Please notice two things about the points above. **First**, they are all good things, not evil. It is often the good things in life that binds us. And it becomes more difficult to give them away because they are "good things". This is a dangerous form of slavery. **Second**, they are all judgments we make on ourselves basing on external behaviors and relationships. It has nothing to do with the internal freedom and peace that God silently works in us.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- (1) **Know your mother.** You are the children of the free woman, not the slave woman, born into freedom.
- (2) **Cast off legalism and anything that binds you.** Legalism is not setting high standards or good rules. God himself sets high standards and good rules. But legalism is worshipping good rules and high standards.
- (3) **Rejoice in your new found freedom,** Paul quotes this from the OT, "Rejoice O barren woman." Back in the ancient culture, a woman without a husband and children (especially a son) would be looked upon as cursed. Many cultures (**including us Nagas**) have inherited this form of bondage. A family without a son is looked upon with pity; a family without children or single people are considered as "abnormal" needing prayer and encouragement. But Jesus came to set us free, and to reverse the value system of fallen cultures and fallen minds. Therefore Rejoice, "O Barren Woman!"
- (4) **Claim your inheritance.** In Paul's narrative, Hagar and Ishmael are limited to a specific geographical location. But Sarah's inheritance is without limit.
- (5) **Remember Christ.** If Christ approves us, no one can condemn us. If Christ accepts us, no one can reject us. If Christ died for us, we don't need the law anymore to feel right or accepted.

-Kedo Peseyie



CHRIST THE POWER OF GOD AND THE WISDOM OF GOD

City Church

Today's Service

- Leader : Hekali Shikhu
- Speaker : Pastor Kedo Peseyie
- Pianist : Vizolenuo Solo
- Ushers : Phandemo & James Angami
- Flower : Bano Chishi

Praise & Worship
Welcome & Announcement

Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

- Mass Prayer : (i) Your personal concerns
(ii) Church ministry concerns
- Hymn **No.323** : Wonderful Words of Life
- Offertory
- Message
- Hymn **No.40** : How Great Thou Art
- Benediction

Everyone is invited to the tea fellowship after the worship service.

PRAYER

- Students studying in Nagaland and outside the state will be writing their exams starting this week. Pray for health, God's favor and protection during this time.
- Pray for the 7 children in Cradle Ridge hospice (below Orphanage home), and the lady supervisor who stays with them. (City Church provides Rs. 5000 worth of nourishment for the children every month.)
- Pray for the Church Building project; for wisdom, unity, strength and health upon all the Building Committee members and their families.
- Pray for those seeking admission in different institutions both in Nagaland and outside. Pray for God's favor, leading and protection upon each of them.

Imitating Christ's Humility

Philippians 2:1-11

Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,
being made in human likeness.
And being found in appearance as a man,
he humbled himself
by becoming obedient to death—
even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place
and gave him the name that is above every name,
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.

Sunday, March 5th, 2017

Tithes: ₹ 1,35,040 Offering: ₹ 8,510 Mission: ₹ 12,500 Building Fund: ₹ 8,000
Nagamese: ₹ 285 Total: ₹ 1,64,335

citychurchkoh@gmail.com, Facebook: "City Church Kohima".

Contact: 0370-2242687 / 7085120374

Enroute Outing to Cheda Post



Information/Announcements

- City Church thank the Auditors - *Mhonchumi Ngullie, Er. N Myingthungo Ngullie and Sentimoa Longchar* for doing the audit last Sunday. This was the first financial audit for City Church.
- Executive meeting today after the Church Service at EGF Hall.
- Children choir practise every Saturday at 4pm. (*Refreshments will be provided*)
- Wednesday Prayer & Bible Study, **5pm—6pm** will continue as usual.
- To avail transportation for Sunday service, contact Myingthungo Humtsoe @ 9402936043/ 8794172936.
- Thursday Women's fellowship at 4:30pm.

BAPTISM on 15th April 2017

Worshippers at City Church who are desiring to take baptism are requested to submit your names, addresses with contact numbers to the Associate Pastor M. Odyuo by 2nd April.

Please contact M. Odyuo for further information 9402489844

Nagamese Fellowship

Stand for the Lord when you are strong (Romans 13:11-14)

What are we doing now in the present?

- Are we sleeping? Wake-up, those who slumber.
- The time is ready for our salvation.

Stand for the Lord when you are strong

- Are you ready for the Lord?
 - Are you ready for Salvation? That is near for us
- Mrs. Akhe Wangsu Deb Barma