

Live Your Freedom

Protect your freedom. 5:1

- A. Jesus [purchased](#) our forgiveness and right standing with God (righteousness) with His death in our place.
- B. In Christ, we are free from [performance](#)-based acceptance with God.
- C. We can [lose](#) our freedom if we are not careful to guard it.
 - 1. The freedom we have (from performance-based acceptance with God) in the gospel can be lost, so we must guard our freedom.
 - 2. Stand firm is a military word that mixes the ideas of keeping alert, being strong, resisting attack, sticking together.

Guard against performance-based thinking.

- A. For Jews, returning to the Law as way of gaining righteousness (a right standing with God) is slavery.
- B. For former pagans, returning to idolatry and the basic principles of this world is slavery.
- C. People today are still enslaved to performance-based acceptance by their god.
 - 1. The world seeks to find happiness and worthiness, to feel happy and worthy.
 - 2. People worship what they think will save them, will fulfill them, will give them meaning, worth, significance, or security, be it...
- D. The ultimate source of your meaning and hope is your God/god.
 - 1. What you build your life upon and [around](#) is your God/god.
 - 2. What you [sacrifice to](#) in order to get the good as you define it and avoid the unpleasant as you define it... this is your idol, your deity, your god.
- E. Every world religion, except NT Christianity, teaches that the person must gain or [earn](#) a good standing with its god.

In Christ, your right standing with God is certain, now and forever. 5:4-6

- A. You can lose your freedom, but not your [salvation](#).
 - 1. Returning to the slavery of performance-based religions indicates that we misunderstand and misapply our freedom that we have in Christ.
 - 2. We can't earn salvation by our behavior and we can't lose salvation by our behavior.
 - 3. Turning away from Christ [permanently](#) would indicate that a person never really embraced God's grace to begin with. (1 John 2:19)
- B. This issue is how you get right with God.
 - 1. Do you get right with God by what you do (works) or by accepting (faith in) what Jesus has done (grace)?

- 2. Fall from grace means to drop back into performance-based relationship with God.

- C. Hope means the [certain](#) expectation of something yet future.
 - So verses 5-6 affirm our assurance and certainty of our present and future acceptance with God.
 - 1. *Hope* does not mean "hope so". In Greek *hope* means confident expectation and certainty of a future event. In Greek, *hope* means total assurance, but in English it means "no so sure but would like it to be".
 - 2. We have a right standing with God now, but we await righteousness that will some day be ours [practically](#).
 - 3. Our certain future glorification is promised to us by God the Father because of the work done on our behalf by God the Son.
 - 4. The challenge for Christ followers is to [match](#) our practice with our position.

What will my freedom in Christ look like in my life and relationships?

- A. You'll find forgiveness, fulfillment and worth in [Jesus](#) rather than in self-attained righteousness through moral living, good works, and religious observance.
- B. You'll worship and serve the Lord for what you can give to Him, [not](#) for what you can get from Him.
 - 1. Neither religion nor non-religion count toward our righteousness and standing with God.
 - 2. Neither religion nor non-religion can produce inner character change and a heart of real love for others. Both religious legalism and non-religious immorality are essentially [selfish](#) and insecure.
- C. You'll become like who or what you worship.
 - 1. You'll find that your focus is on the Lord Jesus.
 - 2. Touchiness, insecurity, pride, being critical of others, discouragement and weariness characterize people who are not sure that they have worth, or enough worth (righteousness).
 - 3. You won't use fear-based, threat-based motivation.
 - 4. Your authentic faith will grow in you a genuine and self-denying love for others.
 - 5. You'll bring your behavior into line with the reality of who you are in Christ and what you have in Christ.
 - 6. You'll become more gracious, forgiving and conciliatory over time. You'll grow better with age, not bitter.
 - 7. You'll grow to look and act more and more like Jesus. His goal is for me to reflect Christ in everything to everyone one.

Message

Jesus frees you to be the best you you can be.