

BIG GIFT CHRISTMAS

Advent: The Gift of Freedom

Galatians 4:3-7

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In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles of the world. ⁴But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God.

1. The first big gift of Christmas is _____.

*In the same way we also... were **enslaved....** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to **redeem** those who were under the law so that we might receive.... Galatians 4:3-5*

2. Freedom is a gift but it must be _____.

*In the same way we also... were **enslaved....** But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵to **redeem** those who were under the law so that we might **receive....** Galatians 4:3-5*

3. Freedom is found in exchanging one _____ for another.

*For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a **yoke** of slavery.*
Galatians 5:1

*Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ For **my yoke** is easy, and my burden is light.”* Matthew 11:28-30

“True freedom is not the absence of constraints but rather the choice of liberating constraints. We are always bound to something.” Tim Keller

Digging Deeper into the Big Gifts of Christmas

This week's passages:

Monday – Galatians 5

Tuesday – Matthew 11:25-30

Wednesday – Matthew 7:13-14; 24-29

Thursday – John 15:1-17

Friday – Galatians 4:1-7

This Week's Big Idea: Freedom is the first big gift of Christmas, but we must receive it by living in union with Jesus.

Weekend – Review the most meaningful passages of the week.

Each day this week you are invited to read the day's passage and then respond to the following questions. Take special note of what God's word says about our freedom, obedience, and life in Jesus. You might find it beneficial to use a journal or notebook to record insights.

1. **Read** the passage prayerfully, listening for the voice of God and asking him to speak to you.
2. **Record** or write down the word, phrase, or verse that God impresses upon you.
3. **Reflect** and write down what it is about this word, phrase or verse that is meaningful to you.
4. **Respond** by writing a prayer or recording what it is that you think the Lord wants you to do in response to his word (“*Be doers of the word and not hearers only*” James 1:22).