Sermon: Free indeed! **Scripture:** Galatians 5:1-15.
Series: *Galatians: Gospel Freedom.* **Date:** November 8, 2026

OBSERVATION — As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through who, what, where, when, how, and why questions together.

INTERPRETATION — Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about humanity?

a. Read Galatians 5:1. Freedom is the goal of our salvation. How would you define or describe our freedom in Christ? Go back to Genesis 2:15–17 together. Adam was free in the garden, yet still limited. How do God's boundaries allow us to experience true freedom? Can you think of any everyday examples of this in your life?

b. In verse 1b, Paul tells the Galatians to stand firm and resist falling back into bondage. What are some ways that you might be susceptible to falling back again into "a yoke of slavery"? What are some of the ways that you "stand firm" in the gospel of grace alone through faith alone?

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

a. Christ sets us free so that we can be "slaves of God." How does this passage demonstrate this truth?

b. Review verses 5–6. We said that our hope produces faith, and our faith produces love. Does your love for God or others ever run cold? What have you relied on in the past to produce love in your life? Why must we focus on our hope (assurance) and faith BEFORE we can see love grow in our lives?

3. What does this passage teach us about grace and salvation? How does it point us to Christ?

a. Compare verse 3 with verse 9 and the metaphor of leaven (yeast) in bread. How does adding a little bit of law-keeping to the gospel destroy the entire message of the gospel? (See also Acts 15:1.) Can you identify any ways that Christians try to add law to the gospel in this way?

b. Keep going with that thought—look at verse 4. How does law-keeping for righteousness sever us from Christ and cause us to fall from grace? Think about how we tend to make non-essentials into essentials. How does doing this cause us to lose sight of Jesus and his grace?

APPLICATION

a. Compare verse 6 and verse 13. Faith and freedom must produce love that serves. We defined *agape* love as "joyful self-giving that does what is best for the other person." In what ways can you see this kind of love being energized in your life from your faith?

b. Consider verse 7 again. Is there anyone whom you might be hindering from living in their freedom because you have put them under law? What changes do you need to make in this relationship in order to get them back under grace?

PRAYER

- Honor God for the boundaries he adds to our lives in order to give us real freedom.
- Confess ways you try to live beyond God's good boundaries (*agape* love).
- Thank Jesus for being all we need for true freedom.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to let us live in hope, faith, and love.