Freedom in Christ

In John Chapter 8 Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are my real disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'

Have you asked yourself, "Free from what?" Jesus later answers that question. Sin. **Obedience** will lead to knowing the truth which will set you free from sin.

This week's reading is Galatians 5: 1-15 which reads "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

2 Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be
circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. **3** Again I declare to every
man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole
law. **4** You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from
Christ; you have fallen away from grace. **5** For through the Spirit we eagerly
await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. **6** For in Christ
Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing
that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

7 You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying
the truth? **8** That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls
you. **9** “A little yeast works through the whole batch of dough.” **10** I am
confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing
you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the
penalty. **11** Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I
still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been
abolished. **12** As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and
emasculate themselves!

13 You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your
freedom to indulge the flesh[a]; rather, serve one another humbly in
love. **14** For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your
neighbor as yourself.”[b] **15** If you bite and devour each other, watch out or
you will be destroyed by each other."

What are believers being set free from in this selection? Being burdened by a yoke of slavery to the law.

Belief and obedience to Christ frees us from sin and the law. These are burdens that distract. How do you feel when you are relieved of a burden?

Considering verse 14, what would God have us focus on in our freedom?

Look at verse 13 as well as 1 Peter 2: 15-16. What must we be careful of, that our freedom not prompt?

The freedom that comes from belief in and obedience of Christ allows emotional margin to love God, love others, and live life to the full. Are you still burdened? How can you move to accept and embrace freedom in Christ?