

*sermon notes*

# FREEDOM

## *Part 2: Two Gospels*

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you by the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel-which is really no gospel at all. Evidently some people are throwing you into confusion and are trying to pervert the gospel of Christ”

Galatians 1:6-7 NIV

### KEY QUESTION:

*How am I going to \_\_\_\_\_?*

God put two trees in the middle of the Garden. These trees represent pathways to becoming godly. One path leads to life and one leads to death. It is important we understand the differences in these two pathways, so we don't become like the Galatians accepting another gospel which is no gospel at all.

✓ *One focuses on what \_\_\_\_\_.*

*One focuses on what \_\_\_\_\_.*

“You diligently study the Scriptures because you think that by them you possess eternal life. These are the Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life.”

John 5:39-40 NIV

✓ *One focuses on getting \_\_\_\_\_.*

*One focuses on receiving \_\_\_\_\_.*

“But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

Romans 5:8 NIV

“We love because He first loved us.”

1 John 4:19 NIV

✓ *One focuses on* \_\_\_\_\_.

*One focuses on* \_\_\_\_\_.

“This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life.”

1 John 5:3, 12 NIV

## LIVING IN THE TREE OF LIFE

1. \_\_\_\_\_ *with Jesus.*

“If you love me, you will obey what I command.”

John 14:15 NIV

2. *Don't allow* \_\_\_\_\_.

“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit who gives life has set you free from the law of sin and death.”

Romans 8:1-2 NIV

3. *Make the choice* \_\_\_\_\_.

“This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life.”

Deuteronomy 30:19 NIV

## *Consider and Discuss*

Throughout our lives on earth, we are called to become more like Jesus, but we must choose the approach we take to “becoming godly.” The first approach, which we call “Living in the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil” focuses on what we do. This is a religious path to godliness. The other approach, which we call “Living in the Tree of Life,” focuses on what Jesus has done. We are motivated by love and desire to simply know Him and be close to Him. The latter is the one that God wants us to choose. He wants to have a relationship with us. When we are in love with God and desire closeness with Him, obeying his commands is something we want to do. Becoming godly no longer seems like a burdensome task; it is our delight. So, to live in the Tree of Life, we must do three things: fall in love with Jesus, refuse to listen to the enemy's voice of condemnation, and make the daily choice to walk in faith, grace, and humility – trusting God and choosing life.

**“This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome.”**

1 John 5:3 NIV

- Now that you understand the two different trees, discuss which tree you have been living in? What is one thing you can do daily to get in or stay in the Tree of Life?
- Explain how, up to this point, you have approached getting closer to God. Discuss what the Holy Spirit has begun to stir in you regarding your approach?
- Sometimes in our pursuit of God we have a tendency to try to work our way into salvation. What one step can you take this week to focus more on Jesus and less on works?

## *Personal Challenge*

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal to you any areas where you may be approaching Him with a religious mindset. Invite Him into those areas and ask Him to empower you to live a surrendered life, trusting that He loves you. Pray for new thought patterns to emerge as old religious habits pass away and ask the Lord to bring life to your relationship with Him.

