

**Year A #153**  
**Tricked by Bondage**  
**040102-3**

*Hello! This is Dorothy -*

I am reading from the **Book of Galatians**. If you have a moment and you can pick up your Bible, do turn to this little Book. It is an amazing Book, because it is so applicable to the situation some of us have found ourselves in. Some of us might have, right now, an area of our life which we are not at all happy about. We know we love the Lord; we perhaps have trained children in how to grow in Christ; we have been very much behind the ministry of the Word of God in our church, but we know something is lacking. There is a bondage and we cannot explain it. We look at one another and see it is the in-thing this year that we all wear hats and next year it is the out-thing to wear hats, or we decide we have to do something else. We are always trying to look like the other person, but just to be a little bit better. "After all," we say, "you know, I am working for God," and we do not realize the damage that is effecting not only our lives, but the lives of other people around.

This is what happened to the Galatians. They had gloriously been saved; they had come to know Christ Jesus; they had liberty in the Lord and then came those who started to add. They started to add to the finished work. *The finished work* is what Jesus Christ

accomplished on the Cross when He took upon Himself your sin and my sin. You see, He loves us each one so much that it is absolutely mind-boggling to think that even to bear all my sin, just to dump all my sin upon Him, is something that is so staggering to my mind. I am not talking about my sin today or my sin yesterday or my sin tomorrow, but my whole life! Just to think that all that was dumped willingly upon the spotless Son of God, the One who knew no sin. Talk about shock! The One had never understood sin in His body, because He was sinless. Jesus Christ, perfect God, perfect Man, took this upon Himself. Why? Because of His extraordinary love. — love for you and me and the love for the people around us. “But,” you say, “there are some people He must love a little bit more than others. I know some pretty horrible people and I just cannot wait to think that one day, they are going to be fixed as only God will fix them when He judges them!” It might surprise you to know that the judgment will not be upon what they did, but what they didn’t do in saying, *Thank You, Lord, You died to bear my sin. You bore that sin for me to set me free from my sin. And I can only have liberty in You to set me free from sin.* Instead of which, there have been these efforts to try to meet the standard of God and we have somehow perverted what the Gospel is all about.

*The true Gospel* is that Jesus Christ loved me and Jesus Christ died for my sin. The true Gospel is that to be saved I, by faith, need to receive

Jesus Christ, because He can be my only Saviour, my only Sin-bearer. It is not my doing; it is not my trying to reach a standard. All this which we have put upon one another has brought a bondage. Therefore, the liberty and the life and the victory is not there and, before you know it, the overflow is not having an impact on the people who also have been loved by Jesus and the price of their sin has also been paid by Him. Without realizing it, we are no longer in the place that the liberty of Christ sets us free so we can tell others. It is awesome . He did it all. It is all finished. He has paid the price. So we line up people and we have pet little sins, which we feel they are stuck to, but we don't realize we can tell them, "You don't need to be stuck to that sin. You don't need to be bound by that lifestyle. You do not need to be in a place that you feel you have to do anything to try to pay for what you have done. In Christ Jesus, it has been paid."

This is the glorious Gospel. This is the Gospel that the world is waiting to receive and to hear. That is why when you, dear sister, as a Christian, are in any form of bondage and you think, "Well, we all have to do it this way and we do not like them doing it that way." As long as we are putting bondage on people, we are hindering the free flow of the Spirit and the liberty and the glory that can come and all praises go to Him. I love the fact that salvation did not come from the works of the law, but through the Saviour. Salvation is apart from any work, any merit. Christ's atoning death was sacrificial and no one man on earth

coerced Him to die for sin. He freely gave Himself.

Do you understand what it means to be saved? Have you ever praised Him and worshiped Him just to think of all that He was willing to take on your behalf — to have dumped on Him the thoughts, the deeds, the actions down through the ages! Have you ever stopped and just praised Him and worshiped Him? Will you do that today? Will you say, *Lord, I do not want this bondage. I want liberty in Christ Jesus. I want to be able to praise You and to just think of You and worship You. My life is in Your hands. I deliberately thank You for this.*

*In Jesus' glorious Name. Amen.*