

Session 3	Key to Freedom Mark Dunnett
Verses from passage	Galatians 2 v11-21
Key Passages	Please read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Galatians 5 verse 1 • Galatians 5 verse 13 • Matthew 3 verse 33 - 34
Main Points	<p>The talk is captioned “Key to Freedom” (not “The Key...” as we want to consider what secures our freedom; there is no “magic key” or simple answer).</p> <p>In the first half of today’s passage – Galatians 2 v11-14, Paul is writing to the churches in the province of Galatia. He’s visited these churches in his missionary journeys, and taken his message to the -mostly Gentile, non-Jewish – inhabitants of these Greek cities.</p> <p>As the Christian church spread, the original Christians around Jerusalem were Jewish and these believers spoke about Jesus in the synagogues.</p> <p>Paul is very clear that the churches in Galatia have come under the influence of Judaizers and legalism – those who believed that Christians must convert to Judaism and follow all the laws, including all the food laws and not eating with Gentiles. Paul even holds up the hypocrisy of Peter (our course, one of Jesus’ 12 disciples) and Paul quotes what he told Peter in Antioch.</p> <p>Some translations of the bible have v11 to verse 21 in quotes: this passage is Paul reporting what he said to Peter.</p> <p>Paul describes how we are justified by faith in Jesus Christ: not by works, or adherence to the law of Moses (“Mosaic Law”), what we eat, or don’t eat, or who we eat with. Faith in Jesus Christ is key to our freedom.</p> <p>In verses 17-21 we encounter some of Paul’s complex writing, with interconnected verses advancing the argument. In the study, we’ll use a technique - named “scaffold” - to unpick the argument and turn this passage into a joyful, memorable lesson. We’ll see the phrase “In Christ” repeated, and this means “those who belong to Christ”.</p>

Discussion questions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Warm-up: How did you cope with the new restrictions and rule changes that occurred during the COVID-19 lock-downs? Did you watch the government broadcasts, and keep track of the rules? Did you get 'jaded/weary/fed-up'? 2) Warm-up: what is the craziest rule/regulation/custom/practice you've encountered? Did you make it up, or was it imposed on you? Mark always has to touch his garage door after getting back from a walk or a run 'otherwise it doesn't count'. 3) In this passage, Galatians 2 v11-21, who is Paul writing to? 4) Why is Paul telling the readers about an argument that he had with Peter? [Hint: you might refer back to Chapter 1 and earlier in Chapter 2 for the context]. 5) In Galatians 2 verses 16-21, identify/read out all of the instances of the names of God (God, Jesus Christ, Christ etc). I think you'll find 10. [This is the scaffold on which Paul bases his argument, and you can add in the preceding or subsequent word... <i>in</i> Jesus Christ, Christ <i>died</i>...]. 6) Now that you've seen the 'scaffold', add the next preceding or subsequent word, for example v16 "<i>faith</i> in Jesus Christ". Identify and read out all 10 of these longer phrases. How many times did faith or justified appear? 7) So, discuss in your group what is key to freedom [hint: faith in Jesus Christ]. More importantly, where does this faith come from?
This week	Read the 'Faith Chapter' in the bible - Hebrews 11 (or listen to it online).