

Another Day

Biblical reflections for busy teachers



Freedom

"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." Galatians 5:1

I am great at tying myself up in knots! Rather like the swan I saw on a natural history programme recently. Having been caught up on a thread of fisherman's line, it thrashed around trying to free itself, progressively wrapping itself up in more and more wire until it was totally bound. Only then, exhausted, did it submit to the hands of its rescuer, who cut the threads and freed it.

How like me! In my efforts to work things out just right, to solve every problem, to please everyone, to be the best teacher I can, I wrap myself up in knots and become more and more bound, more exhausted. Soon I am repeating this pattern of behaviour in my Christian life, weaving around from meeting to meeting, from service to service, Youth Club to Sunday school. What will church think if I don't participate? I'll be letting everyone down; I will be letting God down!

Paul speaks these dramatic words in Galatians 5:

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free."

At the core of our Christian faith is the belief that we have been set free from the things that bind us and hold us, from all our sins, from the things that separate us from God. Our freedom has been won by Jesus and his sacrifice on the cross. Through his death we have life, we are free.

As Paul reminds us, it is for *freedom* that Christ has set us free. *Freedom!*

How good we are at binding ourselves up again and steadily restricting our freedom, until, like the swan, exhausted, we submit to the hand that cuts us free again. It is Jesus' hands that can cut you free today. Are you prepared to let go of some of your busyness to regain the freedom that Jesus won for you?

Lord Jesus, I recognise today that I have allowed myself to become bound up in doing things and have not left time to be me. Cut me free today. May I walk in your freedom in the knowledge that you love me and died for me. Amen.