

A Paraphrase of Andrew Giles' Sermon of 10.1.2021

Christ has set us free. But do not allow yourselves to be drawn back into sin. Instead, serve one another in love. And love your neighbour as yourself! (Galatians 5 v 1, 13-14)

In whatever situation you find yourself there will always be restrictions and responsibilities. We are all aware of the truth in that statement - especially at this time of Covid. We might possibly wish to be a very rich person living in a very grand house, like some of the houses on St Leonards Hill, perhaps! But even there there will be restrictions and responsibilities to consider!

So, what are we free from?

We are free from our sins – the Bible says, I've taken your sins and put them behind my back.

We are free from ourselves, from our wrongful desires and passions. We can be free from the past – the pain of resentment and old regrets, and we can be free from the expectations of others.

So, what are we free to do?

We are free to act differently – to love instead of hate, to be kind when others hurt us, and to do good when others do evil. Don't brood on the unkindness of others – give it to Jesus, and let him deal with it. We will be free to focus on the blessings we have in our lives rather than what is going wrong. In fact we will be free to have our purpose in Jesus, free to be all He wants us to be, serving others, praying for others, and enjoying what He wants us to enjoy.

Lord, help me to find your purpose for my life at this time, your plans and your thoughts, and to become more like you. For I was made in your image. Amen

