

More Leader's helps:
Paul's View of Gospel Freedom in a Nutshell

The old way or system of bondage. We are free from the obligation to obey the whole law (v.3) in order to be justified and right with God (v.4). If this is your motive for obeying the law, it is a "burdensome," "slavish" experience (v.2), and you find that it makes your "sin nature" stronger (v.13). (This is *subjective bondage* to the power of sin.) Not only that, but you will not reach your goal--you will be lost (v.4) and Jesus cannot save you (v.2). (This is *objective bondage* to the guilt or penalty of sin.)

The new way or system of freedom. We are free for the fulfilling of the law through love (v.14) because we are justified and right with God (v.6a). Now our motive is to eagerly want to be righteous (v.5), so that obedience is becoming a natural expression of our hearts (v.6b). (This is *subjective freedom* from the power of sin.) Not only that, you will reach your goal; your future glory is guaranteed (v.5). (This is *objective freedom* from the penalty of sin.)

Charles Spurgeon on the carrot

"Once upon a time in an old kingdom, there was a gardener who grew an enormous carrot in his garden. Now this man loved his sovereign, so he came and presented the carrot to the king, saying, 'This is the best carrot my garden will ever grow. Receive it as a token of my love.' Now the king discerned his heart of love and devotion and saw that he wanted nothing in return. This moved the king and he then gave the gardener far more land than he currently had for his garden, so the man went home rejoicing. Now a nobleman at court overheard this conversation. He thought to himself, 'If that is the response the lord makes to such a small gift, what will he give in response to a great one?' So the next day he brought the king a fine horse, saying, 'This is the best horse my stables will ever grow. Receive it as a token of my love.' But the King discerned the nobleman's heart, and in response he just received the horse and dismissed the giver. When the king saw the look of confusion on his face, he said, 'The gardener's gift was a gift, indeed, out of love, but you are just trying to make a profit. He gave *me* the carrot, but you gave *yourself* the horse.'" Now do you see what this teaches? If you know God offers you his salvation freely, and that there is nothing to do but to accept the perfect righteousness of his Son, then you can feed the hungry and clothe the naked just for the love of God and for the love of people. But if you think you are getting salvation in return for these deeds, then it is *yourselves* you are feeding, *yourselves* you are clothing.

Martin Luther on our motivation

"Whoever he be that is assuredly persuaded that Christ is his righteousness, does not only cheerfully and gladly work well in his vocation...but submits to all manner of burdens and dangers in his present life, because he knows that this is the will of God, and that this obedience pleases him." (See section 5d) And he also writes: *"No one should think we reject the importance of good works or of obeying the Law. When we receive the Christian righteousness, we consequently can live a good life, naturally, out of gratitude. If we try to earn our righteousness by doing many good deeds, we actually do nothing. We neither please God nor do we honor the purpose for which the law was given."* (Section 4d, Preface to Galatians commentary)

Luther tells us that without an experience of grace, all our good deeds are essentially self-interested, impersonal and conditional. We do the right thing in order to get into heaven, or in order to better our self-esteem (etc.). But persons who know they are totally accepted already, do the right thing out of grateful love. *"Neither [religion] or [irreligion] has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love."* (Gal.5:6) Only in the gospel do you obey God for God's sake and not for what God will give you. Therefore only in the gospel do you love people for their sake (not yours), do good for its own sake (not yours), and obey God for his sake (not yours). Only the gospel makes doing the right thing a joy and delight, not a burden or a means to an end.