

Freedom

Almighty and merciful God, it is only by your gift that your faithful people offer you true and laudable service: Grant that we may run without stumbling to obtain your heavenly promises; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Look

Responsibility. It can be a heavy word. Some can feel burdened by responsibility, while others feel a sense of freedom when they have responsibility for something.

1. What does it mean to you to be “responsible”? Do you have a positive or a negative reaction to that word?
2. Do you like to be the person who is responsible for something, or do you prefer when others take that role? Why?

Book Galatians 5: 1-6; 13-26

Paul, in this letter, reminds the Galatians that Christ has set them free, but he tells them to be responsible with their freedom.

1. What are some of the things that Paul warns against in this passage? How might the Galatians use their freedom in a way that would be counter to God’s intention for them?
2. How are the Galatians supposed to be using their freedom? How are they to be living?

Took

On Sunday Dave Wilde explained the differences in his faith life between burdens and responsibilities and how his understanding of this has set him free. For example, as a Christian he has a responsibility to share his faith, but it is not his responsibility (burden) to convert people. Or, as Christians, we have a responsibility to know and use our spiritual gifts but we do not have to say ‘yes’ to every project someone wants us to do at the church.

1. Does stewardship feel like a burden or a responsibility to you? Why?
2. As you prayerfully consider your pledge to St. Timothy’s this year, how can you find freedom in giving?