

unburdened

Finding Freedom in Christ Alone



8:30 AM Service
Sunday, August 1, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Galatians 5:1-15 \(NRSV\)](#)

Welcome and Call to Worship		Dave Steane
Songs of Praise	<i>How Marvelous Alpha and Omega</i>	Charles Hutchinson Erasmus Mutanbira
Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Clay Brown
Song of Response	<i>What Can Wash Away My Sin</i>	TRADITIONAL
Moment of Prayer		Dave Steane
Song of Preparation	<i>Death Was Arrested</i>	North Point Worship
Message	Unburdened Galatians 5:1-15	Alf Halvorson
Communion		
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.		
Song of Response	<i>Lord, I Need You/In Christ Alone</i>	Maher/Getty
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

[Click here to listen.](#)

[Give Online](#)
give.mdpc.org

Remember Our Mission Partners on the Front Lines of Ministry

Each week, we pray for three of **MDPC's** local and global mission partners. During these difficult days, our partners truly covet your prayers! Visit partners.mdpc.org to find this week's (three) prayer recipients.

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9:45 AM Service
Sunday, August 1, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Galatians 5:1-15 \(NRSV\)](#)

Invitation to Worship

Song of Praise *Awake My Soul* Hillsong Worship

Moment of Confession and Assurance Sarah Stone

Songs of Preparation *Look to the Son* Hillsong Worship
Death Was Arrested North Point Worship

Message **Unburdened** Alf Halvorson
[Galatians 5:1-15](#)

Communion
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.

Song of Response *Lord, I Need You/In Christ Alone* Maher/Getty

Opportunity to Give and Benediction Alf Halvorson



Sunday Worship Playlist

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11:15 AM Service
Sunday, August 1, 2021

Rev. Dr. Alf Halvorson preaching
[Galatians 5:1-15 \(NRSV\)](#)

Prelude	<i>Allegretto</i>	W.A. Mozart (1756-1791)
Welcome and Call to Worship		Dave Steane
Choral Introit	<i>With a Voice of Singing</i>	Martin Shaw (1875-1958)
*Hymn of Praise	<i>Called as Partners in Christ's Service</i>	#343; Vs. 1, 4 BEECHER
*Prayer of Confession and Assurance		Lyndsey Dottavio
*Affirmation of Faith from 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 & Colossians 1:15-20		
Anthem of Preparation	<i>Joined Together as One Body</i>	James Biery (b.1956)
Message	Unburdened Galatians 5:1-15	Alf Halvorson
Communion		
All who confess their faith in Christ are welcome to the table.		
Communion Anthems	<i>Gymnopédie No. 1</i> <i>More Love to Thee, O Christ</i>	Erik Satie (1866-1925) Gilbert Martin (b.1941)
Opportunity to Give and Benediction		Alf Halvorson
Postlude	<i>Trumpet Tune</i>	Rob Landes (b.1941)

Steffanie Dean, guest conductor

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Sunday, August 1, 2021

MINISTRY HIGHLIGHTS

To see more events at MDPC, visit events.mdpc.org.

WEEKLY FINANCIAL UPDATE as of July 25, 2021

2021 Annual Budget	\$ 11,300,000
Income to Date	\$ 5,656,989
Needed to Meet Budget	\$ 5,643,011

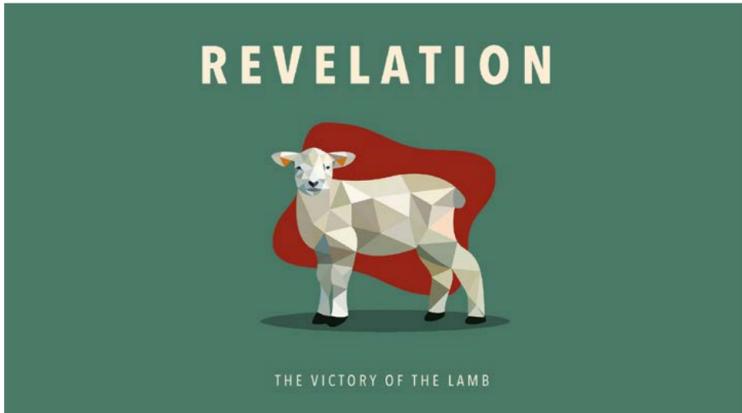


Are you caring for someone with memory issues? **Savvy Express** is a three-week program for caregivers to learn about dementia and resulting behavioral changes, and develop practical skills for managing a loved one with dementia. Learn more [here](#).



Wed, Aug 11 • 4:30-6p • Fellowship Hall

Texas is number one in the U.S. in food insecurity for children - but you can help! Come make sandwiches for Kids' Meals that will feed Houston preschoolers. Learn more and sign up at kidsmeals.mdpc.org.



Sun, Wed, or Thu • Sep 16, 2021-Apr 21, 2022

There are several group options to choose from, and you still may attend via Zoom. To learn more and choose a group, visit wordandworship.mdpc.org.



Tue, Sep 14-Nov 30 • 6:30-7:45a

Since 2003, Men's Life at MDPC has encouraged thousands of men to walk more fully with God and live in meaningful relationship with others. Join us this fall for Men's Life 2021: Connecting. Learn more at ml.mdpc.org.



CONNECTION is our Sunday program for Middle and High School students where we come together for fellowship, teaching, and worship. 11:15 AM in the Youth Loft; more info at connection.mdpc.org.



Through Tue, Aug 24

MDPC needs your help in identifying those who would make good Elders and Deacons. Hard copy forms are available around campus and online at nominations.mdpc.org.



Sat, Aug 7 • 10-11a • Chapel

Gather together with parents, teachers, and other caring individuals from the community to pray for our children as they begin a new school year.



You Belong Here! This fall, we will celebrate three very special Sundays: Aug 22 (Kickoff Sunday); Aug 29 (Ministry Fair); and Sep 5 (Labor Day Cookout). For details of each Sunday's events, stay tuned to homecoming.mdpc.org.



Drive starts Aug 8

Please consider sponsoring a local child. You'll send a youngster to school ready to learn! Your donation of any amount will help kids succeed in school and in life. Learn more at mamts.mdpc.org.



Tue, Aug 17 • 6-9p • \$20 for food & drink

Men, invite your buddies to join us for a fun night out, with Astros on the big screen, Tex-Mex, beer, and fellowship with other men. Tickets at mensnight.mdpc.org.



Children's Ministries Sunday School is on YouTube! We offer Sunday school lessons for preschool and elementary kids on the MDPC Kids YouTube channel, Sundays at 10:45-11:15a. [Click here](#) to learn more.



Often in Paul’s Letters, he spends the first half heavy on theology and doctrine (foundations), and then the second half on application—how we might *walk as followers* if what he said is true. Chapter five of Galatians is definitely about the practical implications of Paul’s theology of grace through faith in Christ. So far this summer, eight MDPC pastors and directors have beautifully sketched out the philosophy of Paul. Now, in the last three weeks of this series, we look at how the “rubber meets the road.”

1. What is your biggest takeaway thus far in the Galatians *Unburdened* study? What image from Paul or illustration from one of the preachers has stuck to you like Velcro?
2. I broke my sermon up into four sections: verse 1, verses 2-6, verses 7-12, and verses 13-15. Read Galatians 5:1-15, noting the subsections. In verse 1, what does Paul say only God (Christ) can do? What can we do? How do we sometimes mix this ordering up?
3. Read this paragraph and look up each Scripture verse, reading it for yourself or your group: *Because of Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, we are freed from God’s wrath (Rom. 5:9), the mastery of sin (Rom. 6:22), the dominion of Satan and his demons (Col. 1:13; I John 4:4), and living under the curse of the law (Gal. 3:13). We are free from having to approach God with terror and dread (Eph. 3:12; Heb. 4:16), the condemning accusation of Satan and ourselves (Rom. 8:1), and the tyranny of other’s expectations (I Cor. 10:29b; 31)* What strikes you the most about this paragraph? Which “freeing” by Christ had you never thought about before now? And what would it look like for you to “stand firm” and “not submit again to a yoke of slavery” in these areas? How might that be an aspect of faith and faithfulness?
4. I spent the last quarter of my sermon explaining Tim Keller’s argument that “freedom is not an absolute. That freedom is really finding liberating constraints, constraints that give us intimacy or purpose or allow us to thrive based on the way we have been designed. That a fish is not free if it wants to live on land. That modern society’s idea of freedom as having no rules or limits is really untenable, unworkable, and a fantasy.” Do you agree? Where have you bought into that narrative of freedom as complete autonomy? How has that worked out for you?
5. Read verses 13-15 again. In the earlier verses, Paul suggests that legalism is not the answer; then, in these last verses, that license or lawlessness or selfishness is not the answer. What, according to Paul, is the answer? To Paul, the goal is not “freedom to sin; but to have freedom not to sin.” How did Christ model this for us in his life and death? And through the Holy Spirit, how did Christ make a way that we could follow in His footsteps? Read Gal. 6:16-25 as a clue to part of the answer; and as a preview for next week.