

## Spiritual Freedom

### Introduction:

1. People throughout our nation have once again celebrated July 4, also known as “Independence Day,” a celebration in honor of our nation having gained its freedom from England. It was the 239<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.
2. Freedom is not free!
  - a. Consider the signers of the Declaration of Independence. Five were captured by the British as traitors, and tortured before they died. Twelve had their homes ransacked and burned. Two lost their sons in the Revolutionary War, another had two sons captured. Nine of the 56 fought and died from the wounds received or the hardships endured in the Revolutionary War.
    - (1) The signers bravely pledged: “For the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of the Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other, our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor.”
  - b. For the freedoms we enjoy, and too often take for granted over 1,000,000 brave soldiers have shed their blood!
3. I am thankful to yet have the privilege of living in a free society, to be able to enjoy “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness” as is stated in the Declaration of Independence.
4. However, important as political freedom is, there is another freedom which is vastly more important; specifically, I am referring to spiritual freedom, the freedom Jesus lived and died in order to make possible.
5. Our lesson title: Spiritual Freedom.
6. Text: John 8:32,36; Rom. 6:17-18; Gal. 5:1

### Discussion:

#### I. Three Important Facts about this Freedom.

- A. Jesus Christ is the Person of freedom.
  1. John 8:36.
- B. His blood is the Price of Freedom
  1. Sin is what enslaves, Rom. 6:16.
    - a. There is no bondage worse than the bondage of sin. John 8:34
  2. Jesus’ blood is what remits sins, Matt. 26:28.
  3. Rom. 5:6-8.
- C. The Gospel is the Message of Freedom.
  1. Romans 7:24; 8:2.
  2. Gal. 5:1.
  3. John 8:32.

#### II. True, Spiritual Freedom Involves:

- A. Freedom from the Guilt of Sin!
  1. It is not that we never sinned, Rom. 3:23; I John 1:8, but once we are forgiven (which is made possible by the blood of Jesus, Matt. 26:28), we are therefore justified by His blood, Rom. 5:8-9, and being justified we are treated as if we never sinned!
    - a. When one becomes a Christian, all his “alien” sins are remitted! The slate, before God, at this point is clean! Cf. Psalm 103:12.
- B. Freedom from the Death of Sin!
  1. *“The wages of sin is death,”* Rom. 6:23.
  2. Those in sin are *“dead in trespasses and sins,”* Eph. 2:1.
    - a. Note: *“Dead,”* the word, means separation. Cf. James 2:26.
    - b. Sin is what separates a person from God, Isaiah 59:1-2.
    - c. Adam lived physically for 930 years, Gen. 5:3; yet he died spiritually the day he ate the forbidden fruit, Gen. 2:17; Rom. 5:12.
  3. Those freed from the guilt of sin are made alive, Eph. 2:1. Cf. Acts 2:38; Rom. 6:4.
    - a. Note also Colossians 2:11-13.
- C. Freedom from the Slavery of Sin.
  1. People in sin (as opposed to being *“in Christ”*) are slaves! John 8:34; Rom. 6:16.
  2. Romans 7:15-24.

- a. *"What I hate, that do I,"* v. 15.
  - b. *"I do that which I would not,"* v. 16.
  - c. *"Sin dwelleth in me,"* v. 17.
  - d. *"To will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not,"* v. 18.
  - e. *"The good that I would I do not,"* v. 19.
  - f. *"O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from this body of death?,"* v. 24.
3. Freedom is found in Christ, Rom. 8:1-2.
- D. Freedom from the Corruption of sin.
- 1. Because of sin physical death is the lot of all mankind. I Cor. 15:22; Heb. 9:27.
  - 2. Because of sin, Adam and Eve were denied access to the tree of life, Gen. 3:22-24.
  - 3. Note the language of Paul in Rom. 8:22-23; I Cor. 15:50-54.
- E. Freedom from the Fear of Death.
- 1. Heb. 2:14-15.
  - 2. Paul looked upon death as a gain, Phil. 1:21.
  - 3. Paul also looked upon death as a departure, 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

### III. The Paradoxes of Spiritual Freedom

- A. Freedom is not Free!
- 1. It cost God His Son, John 3:16.
  - 2. It cost Jesus His life, John 15:13; Rom. 5:6,8.
  - 3. It means that we must surrender our will to God's will.
    - a. As reflected in the disciples' prayer, Matt. 6:9-10.
    - b. As reflected in the prayer of Jesus, Matt. 26:39.
      - (1) Frank Sinatra used to say "I did it my way." No doubt he did, but "my way" is not the Lord's way!
- B. Freedom is not a license to sin!
- 1. Romans 6:17-18.
    - a. When we become "*free from sin*" we become "*servants of righteousness.*"
    - b. Note Paul's argument as set forth in Rom. 5:20;6:1-4,6,11.
  - 2. I Peter 2:16.
- C. Freedom can only be experienced within certain parameters.
- 1. A train is free only as long as it remains on the tracks.
  - 2. As citizens, we are free as long as we obey the laws of the land.
    - a. Freedom of speech does not give one license to shout "fire" in a crowded building.
  - 3. As Christians, we must stay within the confines of divine authority! Gal. 5:1; Col. 3:17; Rev. 22:18-19.
  - 4. Israel was delivered from the bondage of Egyptian slavery, Exodus 12-14.
    - a. But their political freedom depended upon their heeding the Law God gave through Moses.
- D. We become free by becoming servants.
- 1. John 8:32,36; Rom. 6:17-18.
  - 2. Gal. 5:13-14; I Cor. 9:19.

### Conclusion:

- 1. Every "alien sinner" is a slave! A slave to sin, a slave to Satan.
- 2. But Jesus can give you freedom!
  - a. Freedom from the guilt of sin.
  - b. Freedom from the death of sin.
  - c. Freedom from the slavery of sin.
  - d. Freedom from the corruption of sin.
  - e. Freedom from the fear of death.
- 3. But to be free from sin one has to learn, believe, and obey the gospel of Jesus Christ!

--Bobby Witherington, July 5, 2015