

Freedom In Jesus

John 8:31-36

31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

33 They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, 'You will be made free?'"

34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. 35 And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. 36 Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. NKJV

This Memorial Day weekend is a perfect time for this message. No doubt millions of Americans will assemble this weekend to remember those who gave their lives so that we might enjoy the freedoms that we do.

We are powerless to give proper honor due to those who gave their lives here at home and those who died on some forgotten island in the south Pacific, or the sands of North Africa, or the beaches of Normandy and thousands of other places from Iraq and Afghanistan.

The freedom they gave us allow us to pursue the life we choose for ourselves. To live where we want, to work where we want, to have the children we want, to do most anything we set our minds to do.

But the freedom that Jesus refers to here is a spiritual freedom that no army, king or congress can give. It is a freedom to be able to abandon our sinful lives to serve the living God.

You see, we cannot free ourselves from this terrible tyrant. Sin rules the world, except where the grace of God through Jesus Christ makes a difference.

No other religion can in this life promise relief from the dominion of sin.

- I. Freedom is one of the most precious benefits of being an American.
 - A. But that freedom is not free.
 1. Thousands have died to give us freedom.
 2. Thousands more have lost sons, husbands, daughters, and mothers for the cause of freedom.
 3. We would be remiss today if we did not take time to remember those brave men and women.
 - B. But they did not die for what many think freedom is today.
 1. Freedom to pursue every type of perversion and wickedness.
 2. Freedom to be free from God's claims on our lives.
 3. Freedom to forget the church and God's Word.

II. Freedom is not being free to do what we will.

A. John 8:34

1. 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. NKJV

B. Gal 5:13-14

1. 13 For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. 14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." NKJV

III. Real freedom is being free from the power of sin to serve God.

A. People are inherently sinful.

1. Ps 58:3

- a. The wicked are estranged from the womb; They go astray as soon as they are born, speaking lies. NKJV

2. Eph 2:1-3

- a. 2 And you He made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins, 2 in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience, 3 among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others. NKJV

B. Rom 6:5-11

1. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, 6 knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. 7 For he who has died has been freed from sin. 8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. 10 For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord. NKJV

IV. Only the Son can make us truly free.

A. Free from the penalty of sin

1. Rom 6:23 the wages of sin is death.

B. Free from the power of sin.

1. Ro 6:1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it?

C. Free from the presence of sin.

1. Heaven will be a place without even the temptation of sin.
2. Without the thought of sin.
3. Where God will wipe away every tear from our eyes.
4. If for no other reason life in heaven will be wonderful because the former things will be remembered no more.
5. Rev 21:1 Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." 5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." 6 And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son. 8 But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

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