

Proclaim Liberty Throughout the Land Leviticus 25:10

10 And you shall hallow the fiftieth year, and proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants; it shall be a jubilee for you, when each of you shall return to his property and each of you shall return to his family.

As I am sure that you all know this inscription is found on the old bell installed in the Pennsylvania State house long before 1776. It was during the days of abolition of slavery that it became known as the Liberty Bell.

For the early settlers to America liberty was considered a valuable item. They treasured it and would eventually fight and die for it for themselves and their posterity.

The idea of liberty comes from the Bible. In our text liberty was to be had on the year of jubilee, that is the fiftieth year. At which time all those who had gotten into financial problems and were truly saved to those who had paid their debt were set free. The debts were all canceled and any land that had been sold returned to its family of origin.

When Jesus returned to Nazareth after His baptism He read from the book of Isaiah 61:1
“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, NKJV

Jesus talked much about liberty and freedom during His ministry. And so did the apostles Paul and Peter.

Let us see what liberty is really about.

I. Liberty in the Old Testament.

A. Why did God care about those who had sold themselves into slavery?

B. What were the methods of becoming free.

1. Free one's self.
2. Freed by a kinsman redeemer.
3. Freed on Jubilee.

II. Jesus proclaimed a true liberty.

A. John 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

1. He was referring to being set free from sin.
 - a. John 8:34 (NKJV) 34 Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.
2. Sin is a cruel master that not only controls but destroys those enslaved by

it.

B. He promised true freedom.

1. True freedom is not freedom to break God's commands for then you are enslaved by sin.
 - a. 2Pe 2:19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage.
 - b. Galatians 5:13-26 (NKJV) 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." 15 But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another! 16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.
2. Jesus gives true freedom to obey God and do His will.
 - a. Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. 24 And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.