

## **Real Freedom**

### **Galatians 5:13-17**

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.

Tomorrow we will celebrate the anniversary of the signing of the declaration of independence.

Liberty was the battle cry of the revolutionary war.

The basis of that liberty was won not by our forefathers but by Jesus Christ 2,000 years ago.

He is the one who said that if the Son of Man shall set you free you shall be free indeed.

The freedom that He offered us was freedom from Satan who had taken us captive.

2Ti 2:26 and that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.

The freedom that He offered was from sin that held each one of us in its grasp.

Ro 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

As the passage says it is a freedom to serve God and please Him.

It is a freedom from the world not to engage the world and become a part of it.

Joh 17:14 "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

If the world does not hate you then you are a part of the world and are not free from it. For Jesus said that the world loves its own.

Joh 15:19 "If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

Liberty was meant to set us free to serve God not set us free from God to serve the world.

The price of our liberty.

Many a young man and woman has given their lives to give us the liberty we have today.

But Jesus Christ died on the cross so that we might have true liberty.

Only the blood of Jesus could set us right in the sight of God.

So this 4<sup>th</sup> of July let us remember the freedoms we enjoy and the cost paid by our forefathers to give us these freedoms.

But also let us remember that if we are truly free it is because we have come face to face with a risen Savior who has set us free.

