

I. INTRODUCTION.

A. Scripture text: **Jn. 8:31-36.**

Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you abide in My word, *then* you are truly disciples of Mine; [32] and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” [33] They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s offspring, and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You shall become free?’” [34] Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. [35] “And the slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. [36] “If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.

B. God only knows of the men and women unjustly sent to prison that would be set free if only the truth were known.

C. “The truth will make you free” means there is a release from those things that hold us in bondage.

Truth frees men’s souls from 4 things:

1. The law of sin and death.
2. From fear.
3. From ignorance.
4. From anarchy.

II. FREEDOM FROM SIN AND DEATH.

A. Jesus said that everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. This means that a person who continually sins is under the control and dominion of sin (Jn. 8:34).

Jesus answered them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

B. When sin reigns in our life, we do what it wants not what we want. We need freedom from this kind of control. The apostle Paul spoke of this control in the Roman letter (Rom. 6:12-14).

Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, [13] and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin *as* instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness to God. [14] For sin shall not be master over you, for you are not under law, but under grace.

C. A person becomes an overcomer of sin when they become a Xian. The blood of X releases them from the rule or grip of sin (Rev. 1:5).

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood,

D. We have been created anew in X Jesus to do good works. The truth has made us free from sin and death (Eph. 2:10).

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

III. FREEDOM FROM FEAR.

A. Some fears are good. Fear of falling, fire, chemicals, heights, electricity, traffic, etc., are all good fears to have in their proper perspective.

B. But fear can also paralyze. When we are really scared we can’t run, scream, or doing anything. Our excessive fear has immobilized us.

C. Example: many years ago men were afraid of solar eclipses, but the truth of what was going on freed them from their fear.

D. Faith helps us to overcome our fear. Faith comes from hearing the truth (Rom. 10:17; Jn. 14:1,27; Phil. 4:7).

(Rom 10:17) So faith *comes* from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

(Jn 14:1,27) “Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.... [27] “Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.

(Phil 4:7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

- E. We are told in the Scriptures to fear God, and keep His commandments. This is not a paralyzing fear but a wholesome, reverent fear (1Jn. 4:18; Eccl. 12:13).
(Ecc 12:13) The conclusion, when all has been heard, *is*: fear God and keep His commandments, because this *applies to every person*.
(1Jn 4:18) There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

IV. FREEDOM FROM IGNORANCE.

-  A. The only thing truth has to fear is ignorance. Truth works--it always works. And our ignorance of what works will hurt us.
- B. There are many things, of which, I do NOT want to be ignorant:
1. How to pray (Lk. 11:1-4).
 And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He had finished, one of His disciples said to Him, "Lord, teach us to pray just as John also taught his disciples." [2] And He said to them, "When you pray, say: 'Father, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. [3] 'Give us each day our daily bread. [4] 'And forgive us our sins, For we ourselves also forgive everyone who is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation.'"
 2. How to treat other people (Mt. 5:38-44).
 "You have heard that it was said, 'AN EYE FOR AN EYE, AND A TOOTH FOR A TOOTH.' [39] "But I say to you, do not resist him who is evil; but whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn to him the other also. [40] "And if anyone wants to sue you, and take your shirt, let him have your coat also. [41] "And whoever shall force you to go one mile, go with him two. [42] "Give to him who asks of you, and do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you. [43] "You have heard that it was said, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR, and hate your enemy.' [44] "But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you
 3. The way to eternal life (Jn. 6:68).
 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.
- C. Truth is absolute and eternal. Its principles when learned and applied will work wherever, whenever. When those who profess to be wise are without God, they become fools because they know not the truth (Rom. 1: 23).

V. FREEDOM FROM ANARCHY.

-  A. When Jesus said that the truth would make us free, the freedom spoken of was not anarchy. We do not release ourselves from the rule of one thing not to be then un-ruled by anything.
- B. Many in the world today do not believe in or practice any set of values as truth. They feel that truth is relative and must be decided upon the circumstances of the moment. This is anarchy! When men do what seems right in their own eyes there is no freedom to be enjoyed (Jud. 17:6).
In those days there was no king in Israel; every man did what was right in his own eyes.
- C. When this kind of society exists we see that "in the rat race of life, the rats are winning!"
- D. Truth becomes not only a means of freedom from tyranny, sin, death, fear and ignorance but a safe house of principles to live by that will enhance life and help us become better people (Rom. 6:22,23).
But now having been freed from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. [23] For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

VI. CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

-  A. The truth sets us free:
1. From the tyranny of sin and death.
 2. From paralyzing fear.
 3. From ignorance.
 4. From godless anarchy.
- B. Obedience to the truth (God's Son, and God's Word) will set one free to live as he/she should.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.