

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: [Luke 15:11-19](#).
- B. This weekend our country celebrates its declaration of freedom. But freedom means responsibility. Without responsibility, freedom means chaos and trouble.
- C. Jesus has set us free that we might enjoy great liberties from sin. But this freedom is not to be turned into a license to sin; because with spiritual freedom comes spiritual responsibilities.

## I. THE PRODIGAL BOY WANTED TO BE FREE.

- A. See Luke 15:11-12.
- B. He wanted freedom from parental control to be his own boss. His father freed him, but was he really free?
- C. Absolute freedom is an illusion (see 15:13-14). The more he got what he wanted the less he wanted what he got. We didn't escape from bondage; he just exchanged one bondage for another. He was free from his father--but he wasn't free.
- D. He became a slave of his own selfish and sinful desires. He was a slave to sin (Jn. 8:34). He wasn't free at all; he ATTACHED HIMSELF to another and WAS SENT out to feed swine.
- E. The prodigal boy who wanted so badly to be free... is now a slave.

## II. THEN THE PRODIGAL BOY WANTED TO BE A SLAVE AT HOME.

- A. See Luke 15:17-19.
- B. He came to himself and thought, "This is no freedom. The slaves in my father's house have more freedom than I do!"
- C. The father saw him coming, and welcomed him back as a SON, not as a slave (see 15:20-24).
- D. This is the story of the gospel. Men, in their foolish quest for absolute freedom, become slaves of sin.
- E. There is no real freedom, except in the will of God. The greatest freedom one will ever know, is to be a slave in the Father's house!

## III. WITH FREEDOM COMES RESPONSIBILITY.

- A. Enjoying the freedom that comes from a relationship with God through the Son, means agreeing to the following responsibilities. There are far too many people who want to go to heaven, but they don't want to live like a Xian!
- B. FIRST, a Xian has the responsibility of living a GOOD LIFE.
  - 1. Grace (X) teaches us deny ungodliness and worldly desires (Ti. 2:11-13).
  - 2. There should be a clear separation in lifestyles between Xians and non-Xians (2Cor. 6:14-17).
  - 3. What kind of light is shining in your life? (Mt. 5:13-16).
  - 4. Paul warned Timothy to pay close attention to his life and doctrine (1Tim. 4:16).
- C. SECOND, a Xian has the responsibility of living LIKE CHRIST.
  - 1. Jesus was evangelistic... are you? (Lk. 19:10).
  - 2. Jesus was a teacher of the word... are you? (Mk. 10:17).
  - 3. Jesus was benevolent... are you? (Mt. 11:4-5).
  - 4. Jesus sacrificed as a servant... do you? (Jn. 13:13-15).
- D. THIRD, a Xian has the responsibility of ATTENDING WORSHIP SERVICES.
  - 1. The early Xians were devoted to one another (Ac. 2:42).
  - 2. Some were addicted (devoted) to ministry (1Cor. 16:15).
  - 3. We spend so little time in corporate worship each week (4 hrs.), and yet some still can't seem to make it except for 1 hour on Sunday morning.
  - 4. We are not to forsake the assemble of the saints (Heb. 10:24-25).

- E. FOURTH, a Xian has the responsibility to GIVE OF THEIR MEANS.
  - 1. Give of your talents to the church (Rom. 12:6-8).
  - 2. Give of your financial blessings to the church (1Cor. 16:1,2; 2Cor. 9:7).
  - 3. Give of your time to the church (Jn. 9:4; Gal. 6:10).
- F. FIFTH, a Xian has the responsibility to SUPPORT THE LEADERS and PROGRAMS of the church.
  - 1. Korah and his followers were destroyed because of their disobedience and murmuring against God's leader, Moses (Jude 11).
  - 2. Gossip, slander, backbiting and complaining are sins to never be part of the life of a Xian (Phil. 2:14).
  - 3. Obey your leaders and submit to them (Heb. 13:17).

#### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Freedom... is a dangerous thing. Learn from the prodigal.
- B. Responsibility is a serious thing.
- C. Don't be guilty of wanting to enjoy all the blessings of freedom and then shirking all the responsibilities that come with it.
- D. The church will grow when EVERY MEMBER does their part (Eph. 4:16).
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.