

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **John 8:31-36; Gal. 5:13.**
- B. Today our country celebrates the declaring of our independence as a country in 1776.
- C. Americans enjoy their freedom, and have fought to protect it over the years. The U.S. has fought for the freedom of other nations too.
- D. The Bible also speaks of freedom. Not in politics, but in relation to the bondage of sin.
- E. Galatians 5:13 says that we are not to use our freedom in X as an opportunity to satisfy fleshly desires (commit sin). Therefore, we are not to abuse our freedom.
- F. Our freedom was gained at a high cost, and is not to be treated as something cheap.

I. WE NEED FREEDOM FROM THE BONDAGE OF SIN.

- A. While we were sinners X died for us (Rom. 5:8).
But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- B. All of us are guilty of sin (Rom. 3:10, 23).
as it is written, "THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE;" 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,
- C. Unless freed by some means we shall be in bondage all our life (Heb. 2:15).
...and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
- D. But thanks be to God that it was for this freedom that X set us free (Gal. 5:1).
It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
- E. While in sin held us in its grasp, we did not obey the truth (Rom. 2:8).
but to those who are selfishly ambitious and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, wrath and indignation.
- F. Paul speaks of being bondage, either to sin or righteousness (see Rom. 6:14-23).
- G. But it is through X and through the truth that we can be set free from the bondage of sin and enjoy that best of all freedoms (see Jn. 8:31-36).

II. THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE US FREE.

- A. To be set free by truth is to abide in X's word (Jn. 8:31-32).
Jesus therefore was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."
- B. Becoming a Xian involves the listening to, believing in, and obeying the truth (Eph. 1:13).
- C. Everyone becomes a Xian in the same way. A pattern of truth is obeyed to set one free from sin (Rom. 6:17; 6:3-4).
(Rom 6:17) But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed,
(Rom 6:3-4) Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.
- D. Only truth saves, we must then come to a knowledge of it (1Tim. 2:4; 2Th. 1:8).
(1Tim 2:4) who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.
(2Th 1:8) dealing out retribution to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.

III. THE SON SHALL MAKE US FREE.

- A. The Jews based their "salvation" on that fact they were a descendent of Abraham. The Pharisees on their works, the Sadducees on what they did or did not believe.
- B. But true freedom comes only by Jesus. When He frees us, we are free indeed (Jn. 8:36).
"If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed."

- C. Other things may promise freedom, but only bring greater bondage. Some have tried angel worship, self-abasement, and taking stands on visions. These do not bring spirituality (Col. 2:18-19, 23).
Let no one keep defrauding you of your prize by delighting in self-abasement and the worship of the angels, taking his stand on visions he has seen, inflated without cause by his fleshly mind, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the entire body, being supplied and held together by the joints and ligaments, grows with a growth which is from God. **23** These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body, but are of no value against fleshly indulgence.
- D. We need not go back to the slavery of the Law (Gal. 5:1).
It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.
- E. Jesus' death gave us freedom from the slavery of sin (Heb. 2:14-15; Col. 2:14-15).
(**Heb 2:14-15**) Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.
(**Col. 2:14-15**) having canceled out the certificate of debt consisting of decrees against us and which was hostile to us; and He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. When He had disarmed the rulers and authorities, He made a public display of them, having triumphed over them through Him.
- F. There is no condemnation in X or in His law (Rom. 8:1-2). Now, that's freedom!
There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. I have said all of that to say this--Our freedom came at a great price, let us not treat it lightly by going back into sin.
- B. Let us not abuse our freedom by casting away those things we know to be right (Gal. 5:13).
For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.
- C. The grace of God is not cheap, and neither should our worship to Him.
- D. If you abuse something you lose it. If God's grace and truth in His Son is abused then we lose our salvation--our freedom from sin is gone (Gal. 4:9).
But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how is it that you turn back again to the weak and worthless elemental things, to which you desire to be enslaved all over again?
- E. We take time to remember what it cost our country to gain freedom.
We are to remember every Sunday what it cost God to gain our spiritual freedom.
- F. Would you be free from your burden of sin?
- G. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.