

Enslavement & Freedom

At the Highest Levels!



Saturday, 7/4 at 4:00 | Sunday, 7/5 at 9:00

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost / Fourth Sunday after Trinity – 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: We used to be a nation whose laws agreed with the Bible, *but now we are standing against the Almighty God*☹! How?

- By electing godless and corrupt politicians *who have **no fear of God and no concern for the people they serve.***
- By making the ▶Bible, ▶creation, ▶Jesus, and ▶prayer **illegal in our public schools.**
- By legalizing ▶abortion, ▶homosexuality, and ▶suicide.
- By no longer supporting the many good police, *through whom God commends the good and punishes the evil.*

Since *our freedoms are being taken away and our future is uncertain*, let us *repent* and *draw close to God!* Because: **“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD”** (Ps. 33:12 ESV).

The freedom of our nation is important, but *even more important* is the freedom of our eternal souls. Regardless of color or culture or language, **all who reject Jesus are enslaved at the highest level**, while **all who trust in Jesus are free at the highest level!** We now focus on 6 of the 10 Bible verses which include the word **“freedom.”**

1. **Sin Enslaves, Christ Frees:** This passage identifies CREATION losing its freedom: ^{ESV} **Romans 8:20-21** “...the creation was subjected to [brought under] futility [frustration] [by God]... in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the **freedom** of the glory of the children of God.” // When the people fell, God pulled down *creation itself* and *all future people*. We are all fallen people living in a fallen world; however, let us always look forward to Jesus’ return *when all believers and creation itself will be fully restored!*
2. **The Holy Spirit and Freedom:** ^{ESV} **2 Corinthians 3:15-17** “...to this day whenever Moses [that is, when one of the first five books of the Bible] is read a veil lies over their hearts [that is, the hearts of all who reject the Lord]. But when one turns to the Lord [by the work of the Spirit through the Word], the veil is removed. Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **freedom.**” // Those who reject Jesus are enslaved by sin, *so sin is their master*; for those who have been set free by the Spirit, they are *free from condemnation, alive to Jesus, and have the Spirit living within them!*

3. **The Forces of Evil are Trying to Re-Enslave Us:**

^{ESV} **Galatians 2:1-2, 4-5** “I [Paul] went up [to Jerusalem]... and set before them... the gospel... Yet... false brothers... slipped in to spy out our **freedom** that we have in Christ Jesus [freedom from sin’s condemnation and control], so that they might bring us into slavery...” // Dear friend: For all of us who are in Christ, †we live in a sin-filled world, †the forces of evil are among us, and †the old nature is inside of us! And what are they all trying to do? They are at work – *in a way that we barely notice* – to ☹tear us away from Jesus, ☹re-enslave us to sin, and ☹drag us to hell! Have they succeeded? “Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you-- unless indeed you fail the test?” (2 Cor. 13:5 NAS).

4. **Christ Plus = Enslavement; Christ Alone = Freedom:**

^{ESV} **Galatians 5:1-3** For **freedom** Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Look: I, Paul, say to you that if you accept circumcision [as a requirement of your salvation], Christ will be of no advantage to you. I testify again to every man who accepts circumcision that he is obligated to keep the whole law. // As the believers in Galatia were being tempted to receive circumcision as a part of their salvation, so many today are being tempted to add something to Christ like – †being good, †going to church, †giving money, †etc. All such things are certainly important, BUT THEY DO NOT ADD TO OUR SALVATION, **WE ONLY NEED JESUS CHRIST!** In fact, if we try to add to Christ, then we won’t have Christ!

5. **We are Free in Christ, but Not Free to Sin:** ^{ESV} **Galatians 5:13** “...you were called to **freedom**, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh...” // When we were apart from Christ, we were free to sin... *with the result of eternal punishment.* However, now, being **in Christ**, **free from God’s condemnation**, and **heaven-bound**, *we are free at the highest level!* Now, each day, by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, *let us drown the old and follow the new!*
6. **Beware of False Prophets and False Teachers:** **False prophets** say, “The LORD said...” *when He has NOT!* **False teachers** purposely change the meaning of the Bible for their own personal gain. Regarding such people, the Bible says in ^{ESV} **2 Peter 2:19**: “**They promise them freedom** [for example, believe what I say, follow me, and your life will be amazing], **but they themselves are slaves of corruption** [living in sin now and headed for eternal destruction]. **For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.**” // So with all we believe about God, let us believe **ONLY** what agrees with the Bible!

Conclusion: This year, **as we celebrate our nation’s 244th birthday**, let us **praise** our Great God, **be thankful** for the freedoms we enjoy, **keep praying** for our nation, and **support** whatever agrees with the Bible! Then, *as we enjoy our national freedoms*, let us **be diligent** to **NOT** be enslaved to sin and **make our freedom in Christ** our highest treasure!

Let Us Pray: Dear F, S, and HS, please be the God of our nation and keep us ever free at the highest level thru Jesus!

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