

FREEDOM IN CHRIST
Jno.8:30-36; Gal.5:1
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I. INTRODUCTION

1. We live in a free country and enjoy this freedom because of the sacrifice of others has made it possible.
2. We, the vast majority of Americans, if not all Americans, cherish this freedom so much that we are willing to fight to maintain it, and even die for it in wartime if necessary.
3. But the greatest freedom of all is the freedom enjoyed in Christ, which, unfortunately, the majority of people the world over, including Americans, do not cherish, and are not willing to fight for, much less to die for it, even though Jesus died to make it possible for one and all!
4. Our thoughts in this lesson shall focus on this freedom in Christ, what it is and what it is not.

II. DISCUSSION

A. NEGATIVELY, WHAT FREEDOM IN CHRIST IS NOT.

1. Generally speaking, it is not freedom to do your own thing, or do as you wish with no duties, no responsibilities and no consequences for one's choices and resultant actions.
 - a. Perhaps this is why many do not choose to follow the Lord.
 - b. Or perhaps why so many who claim to be followers of the Lord have conveniently deceived themselves into thinking what one does or does not do is not all that important as long as one claims his or her heart is right.
 - c. But: Rom.12:1,2; Jas.4:4; 1Jno.2:15-17; Heb.5:8,9.
2. Freedom in Christ is not freedom from obedience to spiritual law, the law to Christ, 1Cor.9:21.
 - a. Gal.5:14; 6:2; Rom.13:8; Jas.2:8-12; Ac.10:34,35 (Psa.119:172; 1Jno.3:7).
 - b. Rom.2:11,13-16; 6:16-18; 7:1-3; 1Cor.7:39; Jas.1:25; 1Jno.3:4.
3. Freedom in Christ is not freedom from civil law nor is it justification for civil disobedience, Rom.13:1-5; 1Pet.2:13,14; Cf. Ac.4:18-20; 5:27-29.
4. Freedom in Christ is not freedom to live sinful lives, Gal.5:13.
 - a. 1Pet.1:14-16; 2:11-16; 4:14-19.
 - b. 1Jno.2:1; 1:6; 1Cor.15:34.

- c. 1Cor.6:9,10; Gal.5:19-21.
- 5. Freedom in Christ is not freedom to ignore the spiritual welfare of others, Gal.6:1.
 - a. 1Cor.8:8-13; 2Tim.2:1,2.
 - b. 1Cor.7:13-16; Jas.5:13-16,19,20.
- 6. Freedom in Christ is not freedom from the obligation to give of self and of that which God hath prospered you, Rom.12:1; Heb.13:5.
 - 1. Eph.4:28; 1Cor.16:1,2; 2Cor.8:5,7; 9:6,7.
 - 2. Ac.20:33-35.

B. POSITIVELY, FREEDOM IN CHRIST IS FREEDOM FROM THE BURDEN, THE BONDAGE, AND THE SERVITUDE OF SIN, AND FREEDOM FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH.

- 1. Jno.8:30-36; Gal.5:1; Rom.6:1-7,16-18,20-23.
- 2. Rom.8:1-4.
- 3. Heb.2:9-18. Cf. 1Th.4:13-18.
- 4. Heb.9:26b-28.

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. Jesus invites one and all to come to him to receive this freedom, this life, this rest from the burden and bondage of sin, as well as the fear of death, Mt.11:28-30; Jno.5:39,40; Rev.22:17.
- 2. The invitation is in the saving message, the gospel of Christ, which is the power of God unto salvation of the believer, Mk.16:15,16; Rom.1:16,17; Gal.2:16.
- 3. But it is to the obedient believer, for the gospel of Christ must be obeyed by the believer in order to be saved by it, 2Th.1:6-10; cf. Heb.5:8,9; Mt.7:21-23; Lk.6:46.