

Freedom.. From Sin!

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Introduction:

This week we'll be celebrating Independence Day - July 4th, 1776. Independence of our nation from a tyrant king, George III. It took 5 years of fighting to gain our freedom.

Specific Purpose of this Message:

Today we'll use the upcoming July 4th celebration as a springboard to look at the subject of our Freedom from Sin.

Need:

Just as our new nation also has laws we willingly subject ourselves to, God and Jesus also have laws they want us to obey. They give us the freedom to choose. But freedom does not mean, as many Americans now seem to think, we can do whatever we want without consequence. We get to choose whether to be servants of sin (Satan's way) or servants of God & Christ.

(Please make note of any parallels you see for sharing in the post sermon discussion.)

From <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/freedom>:

freedom has a broad range of application from total absence of restraint to merely a sense of not being unduly hampered or frustrated.

(liberty suggests release from former restraint or compulsion.)

- the power or right to act, speak, or think as one wants without hindrance or restraint.
- the power of self-determination attributed to the will; the quality of being independent of fate or necessity.
- absence of subjection to foreign domination or despotic government.
- the state of not being imprisoned or enslaved.

God gives us the freedom to choose how we will live. But there are consequences for our decision.

Deuteronomy 30:15 NLT - "Now listen! Today **I am giving you a choice** between life and death, between prosperity and disaster.

Deuteronomy 30:16 NLT - For I command you this day to love the LORD your God and to keep his commands, decrees, and regulations by walking in his ways. If you do this, you will live and multiply, and the LORD your God will bless you and the land you are about to enter and occupy.

Deuteronomy 30:17 NLT - "But if your heart turns away and you refuse to listen, and if you are drawn away to serve and worship other gods,

Deuteronomy 30:18 NLT - then I warn you now that you will certainly be destroyed. You will not live a long, good life in the land you are crossing the Jordan to occupy.

Deuteronomy 30:19 NLT - "**Today I have given you the choice** between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make. Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live!

Deuteronomy 30:20 NLT - You can make this choice by loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life. And if you love and obey the LORD, you will live long in the land the LORD swore to give your ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Prior to this God had told them the benefits of choosing to obey Him - and returning to Him if they had made the mistake of forsaking Him and following another god or other gods:

Deuteronomy 30:1 NLT - "In the future, when you experience all these blessings and curses I have listed for you, and when you are living among the nations to which the LORD your God has exiled you, take to heart all these instructions.

Deuteronomy 30:2 NLT - If at that time you and your children return to the LORD your God, and if you obey with all your heart and all your soul all the commands I have given you today,

Deuteronomy 30:3 NLT - then the LORD your God will restore your fortunes. He will have mercy on you and gather you back from all the nations where he has scattered you.

Deuteronomy 30:4 NLT - Even though you are banished to the ends of the earth, the LORD your God will gather you from there and bring you back again.

Deuteronomy 30:5 NLT - The LORD your God will return you to the land that belonged to your ancestors, and you will possess that land again. Then he will make you even more prosperous and numerous than your ancestors!

The blessing of God's Holy Spirit promised:

Deuteronomy 30:6 NLT - **"The LORD your God will change your heart and the hearts of all your descendants, so that you will love him with all your heart and soul and so you may live!**

Deuteronomy 30:7 NLT - The LORD your God will inflict all these curses on your enemies and on those who hate and persecute you.

Deuteronomy 30:8 NLT - Then you will again obey the LORD and keep all his commands that I am giving you today.

Deuteronomy 30:9 NLT - "The LORD your God will then make you successful in everything you do. He will give you many children and numerous livestock, and he will cause your fields to produce abundant harvests, for the LORD will again delight in being good to you as he was to your ancestors.

Deuteronomy 30:10 NLT - The LORD your God will delight in you if you obey his voice and keep the commands and decrees written in this Book of Instruction, and if you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and soul.

Deuteronomy 30:11 NLT - "This command I am giving you today is not too difficult for you to understand, and it is not beyond your reach.

Deuteronomy 30:12 NLT - It is not kept in heaven, so distant that you must ask, 'Who will go up to heaven and bring it down so we can hear it and obey?'

Deuteronomy 30:13 NLT - It is not kept beyond the sea, so far away that you must ask, 'Who will cross the sea to bring it to us so we can hear it and obey?'

Deuteronomy 30:14 NLT - No, the message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart so that you can obey it.

In ancient Israel some sold themselves into slavery to pay their debts. But in the process they came to love their new masters so much they didn't want to leave when their six years were up:

Deuteronomy 15:12 NLT - "If a fellow Hebrew sells himself or herself to be your servant and serves you for six years, in the seventh year you must set that servant free.

Deuteronomy 15:13 NLT - "When you release a male servant, do not send him away empty-handed.

Deuteronomy 15:14 NLT - Give him a generous farewell gift from your flock, your threshing floor, and your winepress. Share with him some of the bounty with which the LORD your God has blessed you.

Deuteronomy 15:15 NLT - Remember that you were once slaves in the land of Egypt and the LORD your God redeemed you! That is why I am giving you this command.

Deuteronomy 15:16 NLT - "But suppose your servant says, '**I will not leave you, because he loves you and your family, and he has done well with you.**'

Deuteronomy 15:17 NLT - In that case, take an awl and push it through his earlobe into the door. After that, he will be your servant for life. And do the same for your female servants.

Exodus 21:5 NLT - But the slave may declare, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children. I don't want to go free.'

Exodus 21:6 NLT - If he does this, his master must present him before God. Then his master must take him to the door or doorpost and publicly pierce his ear with an awl. After that, the slave will serve his master for life.

Deuteronomy 15:18 NLT - "You must not consider it a hardship when you release your servants. Remember that for six years they have given you services worth double the wages of hired workers, and the LORD your God will bless you in all you do.

Romans 6:3 KJV - Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

Romans 6:4 KJV - Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Romans 6:5 KJV - For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [his] resurrection:

Romans 6:6 KJV - Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with [him], that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Romans 6:7 KJV - For he that is dead is **freed from sin.**

Romans 6:8 KJV - Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:

Romans 6:3 NLT - Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death?

Romans 6:4 NLT - For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:5 NLT - Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised to life as he was.

Romans 6:6 NLT - We know that our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin.

Romans 6:7 NLT - For when we died with Christ **we were set free from the power of sin.**

Romans 6:8 NLT - And since we died with Christ, we know we will also live with him.

We must make the decision to be the servants of Jesus and God for life!

Romans 6:18 KJV - Being then made **free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

Romans 6:19 KJV - I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members

Romans 6:18 NLT - Now you are free from your slavery to sin, and you have become slaves to righteous living.

Romans 6:19 NLT - Because of the weakness of your human nature, I am using the illustration of slavery to help you understand

servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.

Romans 6:20 KJV - For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

Romans 6:21 KJV - What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things [is] death.

Romans 6:22 KJV - But now being made **free from sin**, and **become servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

Romans 6:23 KJV - For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

all this. Previously, you let yourselves be slaves to impurity and lawlessness, which led ever deeper into sin. Now you must give yourselves to be slaves to righteous living so that you will become holy.

Romans 6:20 NLT - When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the obligation to do right.

Romans 6:21 NLT - And what was the result? You are now ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom.

Romans 6:22 NLT - But now you are **free from the power of sin** and **have become slaves of God**. **Now you do those things that lead to holiness and result in eternal life**.

Romans 6:23 NLT - For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 2:11 NLT - For the grace of God has been revealed, bringing salvation to all people.

Titus 2:12 NLT - And we are instructed to turn from godless living and sinful pleasures. We should live in this evil world with wisdom, righteousness, and devotion to God,

Titus 2:13 NLT - while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.

Titus 2:14 NLT - **He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin**, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.

Titus 2:15 NLT - You must teach these things and encourage the believers to do them. You have the authority to correct them when necessary, so don't let anyone disregard what you say.

From Beyond Today Presentation "Are you Saved" by Steve Myers

<https://www.ucg.org/beyond-today/beyond-today-television-program/are-you-saved>

"Now salvation is one of those religious sounding words, but it's got a pretty simple meaning. Means to be rescued. It means to be saved from the eternal consequence of sin. Now that's something you need, it's something everyone needs, because the Bible tells us that "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Romans 3:23 KJV - For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Jesus paid that price!

1 Corinthians 1:30 NLT - God has united you with Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made him to be wisdom itself. Christ made us right with God; he made us pure and holy, and he freed us from sin.

AMPLIFIED But it is from Him that you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God [revealing His plan of salvation], and righteousness [making us acceptable to God], and sanctification [making us holy and setting us apart for God], and redemption [providing our ransom from the penalty for sin],

Example of Jesus Christ:

Luke 4:16 NKJV - So He came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read.

Luke 4:17 NKJV - And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:

*Luke 4:18 NKJV - "The Spirit of the LORD [is] upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to [the] poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, **To proclaim liberty to [the] captives And recovery of sight to [the] blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;***

Luke 4:19 NKJV - To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD." [From Is61:1&2]

Luke 4:20 NKJV - Then He closed the book, and gave [it] back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him.

Luke 4:21 NKJV - And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

John 8:31 NKJV - Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.

John 8:32 NKJV - "And you shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free."**

John 8:33 NKJV - They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How [can] You say, 'You will be made free'?"

John 8:34 NKJV - Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.

John 8:35 NKJV - "And a slave does not abide in the house forever, [but] a son abides forever.

John 8:36 NKJV - "Therefore if **the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**

Conclusion:

As we celebrate Independence Day, let us also remember that the real significant independence we have was given to us by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ to pay for our sins. He has made it possible for us to have freedom from sin and the bondage and misery it brings.

Jesus indeed gives us the freedom to choose whether to obey God's law or not. But we need to choose the blessings that come with obedience to Him and that the whole world will enjoy when He sets up His Father's kingdom on this earth!

Galatians 5:13 NKJV - For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not [use] liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Galatians 5:14 NKJV - For all the law is fulfilled in one word, [even] in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Additional Resources

Slavery in the Bible Article - <https://www.myjewishlearning.com/article/biblical-slavery/>