

Freedom that Lasts: Trusting the Right Savior *Checkpoints 1 and 2*

Key Scripture: 2 Peter 1:1-11

Introduction:

- "All of the virtues that Jesus wants to develop in you in order for you to have freedom that lasts are built upon a foundation of 'saving faith...'"
- "Everyone has faith in something..."
- "Anytime you trust something to do something for you, you are exercising faith..."
- "If you have turned to practices like gambling, drinking, drugs, pornography, or other destructive behaviors...then you had 'faith' that this practice would make your life better or would make you feel better..."
- "You soon discovered that these activities bring slavery and bondage. They are cruel masters. They destroy your relationships, your health, finances, work opportunities, and sense of self-respect..."
- Perhaps you have not turned to any of these destructive behaviors...but you are still hurting. The pain doesn't stop. Life is not working the way you hoped it would. The future does not seem very promising...The good news is that Jesus has saving help for you..."

Jesus Christ is the only Source of Freedom that Lasts:

- "Our greatest problems are not around us; they are in us..."
- "We would like to think that our...is someone else's fault..."
- "We think that if we had more money...better job...a good marriage...a better background...people respected us...people would leave us alone...we wouldn't be acting like this..."

Jesus is the only Savior: Here is what is available to us in Christ:

- **Peace and comfort from fear: John 14:27** "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid..."
- **Security: John 10:27-29** "My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand..."
- **Abundant life: John 10:10** "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly..."

- **Unshakeable relationship: John 14:1-3** "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also..."
- **Fullness of Joy: John 15:11** "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full..."

Memorize Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved..."

Checkpoint 2: Becoming a child of God:

- **Do you know for certain that you are God's child?**
- **The importance of knowing for sure you are a Christian:**
 - **Our legal case must be settled:**
 - **Our conscience must be cleansed:**
 - **Psalm 103:10-12** "He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him..."
 - **1 John 1:9** "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness..."
- **Genuine Faith is Christ and the needed resolve to overcome sin:**
 - A disciple is a follower of Christ.
 - Someone becomes a disciple, when under the conviction of the Holy Spirit he turns to Christ in childlike faith trusting in His redemptive work alone, and as a new creature with new passions and convictions purposes to wholeheartedly follow Christ.
 - **The needed internal work of the Spirit:**
 - **A confrontation:** People must be confronted with God's law, their inability to meet God's perfect standard of righteousness, and Christ's redemptive work.
 - **Repentance:**
 - Our sin

- Christ's person and work
- The exclusivity of the gospel
- **Faith:** Simple trust in the death, resurrection, and righteousness of Christ.
- **Convictional resolve:**
 - **Repentance:** Our worldview has been radically changed.
 - **Regeneration:** We are now spiritually alive with new passions and abilities.
 - **Indwelling:** The Spirit is now our Comforter.
 - **Persistence:** The Spirit works through the word to continually strengthen and mature our faith when it is tested.

Memorize 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness..."