

The Gospel of John - #33 - 05/23/2021 - "The Joy of Freedom in Christ!" 8: 31 - 38

"And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free!" [8: 32]

Introduction: PIC IL Last August Ronnie Long from North Carolina was released from prison after 44 years for a crime he did not commit! It's hard to imagine the changes he experienced back out in society after that length of time in a prison cell and what that freedom must have felt like! We don't have to imagine freedom from sin- Jesus speaks of it and offers it powerfully in our text this morning. Look with me, in John 8: 31-38 at...

Three commitments that will insure that you can walk in freedom... read the text, then...

Commit to deepen my fellowship with Jesus by... fellowship is defined as: real and practical sharing in eternal life with the Father and the Son through the work of the Holy Spirit!

believing the truth- **IL-** 43% of millennials do not believe God even exists and they define success as personal happiness and economic social justice!

abiding in truth- 'abide' means to settle down with, to feel at home, comfortable- with Jesus as our welcomed Guest, His Word opened and inviting us to partake! John 15: 9- "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in My love!"

learning to apply truth- 1 John 1: 2-4 "The life was made manifest, and we have seen it and testify to it, and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us- that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us, and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son, Jesus Christ. And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete!"

Commit to steer clear of the practice of sin through... that word 'practice' should tell us right away why we need to steer clear of sin- let's examine HOW...

humility- **IL-** the Biblical doctrine of sin uses three Greek words to describe the deviation from God's absolute standard of behavior- Sin- missing the mark; Transgression- Stepping over the line; Iniquity- Cherishing in my heart or holding on to/loving dearly.

wisdom- James 1: 5- "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him!" 1 John 3: 9- "No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God's seed abides in him and he cannot keep on sinning because he has been born of God!"

honesty- the Jews who reacted to what Jesus was saying were not honest about being enslaved. They had often been enslaved throughout the centuries to the Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians- and in that very day they were political slaves of the Roman Empire. Verse 33- "We are offspring of Abraham and have never been enslaved..." Being connected genetically to Abraham meant a great deal to these Jews. Rabbis in Jesus's day had a saying, "'In the age to come Abraham will sit at the gate of Gehenna [hell], and he will not permit a circumcised Israelite to go down there'"

Commit to let Jesus lead my life because He is...

the Way- John 14: 6- "I am the way, the truth and the life- no one comes to the Father but by Me!" There truly is only one way to come to God and become a son or daughter in His family and know with certainty that you will live in His presence forever in Heaven.

the Truth- **IL-** Victor Wierwille began the Way International cult in the early 1940's and it was quite popular in the 60's and 70's. They were considered by most Christians as a cult because they taught that God is not Triune, that Jesus is not God but a son of God and that only the book of Acts and Paul's letters to individual churches make up the inspired Bible we should be reading!

the Life- life the way God meant it to be! 2 Timothy 1: 9- "Who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of works but because of His own purpose and grace which He gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began!"

Conclusion: IL- Bill and Gloria Gaither wrote a wonderful song titled, "I'm Free" and the words to the first verse and chorus are descriptive of what we have addressed this morning:

So long I had searched for life's meaning
Enslaved by the world and my greed
Then the door of my prison was opened by love
For the ransom was paid – I was free.

I'm free from the fears of tomorrow
I'm free from the guilt of my past
For I've traded my shackles for a glorious song
I'm Free! Praise the Lord! Free at last.

Galatians 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!"

Invitation and prayer...

Closing Song: 'Amazing Grace/My Chains Are Gone'