

November 12, 2017

TIME OF REFLECTION

“... we care for no knowledge in the world but this: that man hath sinned and God hath suffered; that God hath made himself the sin of men, and that men are made the righteousness of God.”

~Thomas Hooker (1586-1647), co-founder of the Colony of Connecticut

“A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none. A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject of all, subject to all.”

~Martin Luther (1483-1546) in “The Freedom of the Christian”

“The wild rejoicing on the part of the emancipated coloured people lasted but for a brief period, for I noticed that by the time they returned to their cabins there was a change in their feelings. The great responsibility of being free, of having charge of themselves and their children, seemed to take possession of them.”

~Booker T. Washington (1856-1915) in his autobiography *Up from Slavery*

“To be truly free, it takes more determination, courage, introspection, and restraint than to be in shackles.”

~Pietro Belluschi (1899-1994), Italian-born architect and MIT professor

“Nothing...cuts us down to size like the cross. All of us have inflated views of ourselves, especially in self-righteousness, until we have visited a place called Calvary. It is there, at the foot of the cross, that we shrink to our true size.”

~John Stott (1921-2011), English Christian leader

“...unless this freedom [of the Christian gospel] be comprehended, neither Christ nor gospel truth, nor inner peace of soul, can be rightly known.”

~John Calvin (1509-1564), French-born, Swiss reformer

“Somewhere, somehow, somebody must have kicked you around some

Tell me why you want to lay there, revel in your abandon

Honey, it don't make no difference to me baby

Everybody has to fight to be free,

You see, you don't have to live like a refugee...”

~Tom Petty (1950-2017), American singer-songwriter

Worship through the Word

SERMON – “Christian Liberty: The Freedom of the Cash Value of the Gospel” – *Pastor Don Willeman*

SERMON PASSAGE – *Galatians 5:1-16 (NIV)*

¹ It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

² Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³ Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴ You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵ For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

⁷ You were running a good race. Who cut in on you to keep you from obeying the truth? ⁸ That kind of persuasion does not come from the one who calls you. ⁹ “A little yeast works through the whole batch of

dough.” ¹⁰ I am confident in the Lord that you will take no other view. The one who is throwing you into confusion, whoever that may be, will have to pay the penalty. ¹¹ Brothers and sisters, if I am still preaching circumcision, why am I still being persecuted? In that case the offense of the cross has been abolished. ¹² As for those agitators, I wish they would go the whole way and emasculate themselves!

¹³ You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. ¹⁴ For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁵ If you bite and devour each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other.

¹⁶ So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.