

Where the Spirit of the Lord
is, there is Liberty

II Cor 3: 17-18

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- As you well know, our nation celebrated its 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, yesterday.
- Our passage today speaks directly of liberty
 - The liberty herein described applies to every Christian
 - It is a liberty not of license, rather is far more than that
 - It is the liberty of a heart set free to live for the glory of God
 - That is the liberty we will discuss today

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- For us to understand this liberty, we must look at the argument Paul is laying out...
 - First....
 - He lays out the foundation of the law
 - Vs 7.....”but if the ministry of death”
 - Second.....
 - He records the result of the law of God
 - Vs 9....”for if the ministry of condemnation”
- Both descriptions show us the futility of “trying to attain a righteousness before God”

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- First.....the ministry of death.....
 - “came with glory?”
 - Ex 34: 29-35.....
 - Moses face would shine with a glory that came.....externally.....
 - Vs 29....”because of his speaking with Him.”
- What glory could come from “a ministry of death?”
 - The Law of God demonstrated the character of God in His dealings with mankind.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- How does the Law of God do that?
 - Through the entire sacrificial system....
 - Every one of the offerings or sacrifices was to reveal
 - The holiness of God
 - The justice of God
 - The redemptive plan of God
 - Every aspect was designed to show the awfulness of sin
 - Because sin always brings forth condemnation

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- The ministry of condemnation also came with glory??? (Vs 9)
 - Gen 2: 16-17...And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.
 - Ezek 18: 20.... The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- Rom 3: 23...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God
 - Every single aspect of the law of God shows how far man has fallen from the glory God designed for him.
 - However,.....
 - II Cor 3: 6..... Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.
- Paul says there is a greater glory....(Vs 9-10)
 - The ministry of righteousness surpasses in glory

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- It is no secret for most of us that our nation has fallen into moral decay on many fronts....
 - The result due to this increasing moral decay is more laws are being written nearly every day.....
 - But we reference Vs 6 again.....
 - FOR THE LETTER KILLS BUT THE SPIRIT GIVES LIFE!!
- What does this mean?
 - All law is external and cannot impart a new nature
 - Only the Spirit of God can do that...
 - Only the Spirit of God can remove the desire to sin...

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- What then is the difference between law and the Spirit which gives liberty?
 - First...law is external.....it can only tell of wrong-doing and punishment
 - The Spirit on the other hand is internal.....
 - Ezek 36: 26...A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh.
 - Jesus also reiterated this inner change in John 7: 38-39

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- In 7: 38-39.... He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
- This leads us to our main text today..."where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty"
 - Our founding fathers knew this full well....
 - John Adams said the following....

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- “Our constitution was made for a moral and religious people, it is wholly inadequate to the government of any other.”
- Why or how could he say that?
 - II Cor 3: 18..... But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
 - Are being transformed?????

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- Romans 8: 29-30....called “the golden chain”
 - Those who He foreknew.....(not chose)
 - “He predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son”
- Here is the great question for our lives.....
 - I am a living image of Christ?
 - When people view my life do they see the image of a redeemed person or one who pretends?
 - If someone walked in your house or mine, would they say a Christ imager lives here?

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- You see.....
 - That transformation cannot come through law...
 - We as a nation tout patriotism this week.....
 - But patriotism without moral integrity is nothing more than a chasing after the wind..
 - Our challenge today as Christians, is to let our light so shine.....
 - That all men will know that we are being transformed into the glory of the Lord....

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Liberty

- Vs 16....”whenever a person turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away”
 - That person knows that rules and regulations cannot save them
 - But that same person lives in the knowledge of the glory of God’s salvation through Jesus Christ
 - He or she knows, they have been bought with a price.....the precious blood of Jesus
 - I Cor 2: 10.....”God revealed them through the Spirit”
 - Then there is “liberty”