

Let Freedom Ring...

Reborn into Freedom

On July 4, 1776 a nation was born – under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Brave men and women declared their independence, penned their names to a document that declared our rights don't come from a king, a president, or a government. They declared that our rights are granted directly by our Creator.

And, as beautiful and precious as our American liberty is, it points us to an even greater reality. Long before 1776, a higher price was paid on a hill called Calvary for a different kind of freedom—a freedom that chains cannot hold, that governments cannot grant, and that time cannot decay..

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. Galatians 5:1

Join us as we kick off this new series “Let Freedom Ring”. We will see what it truly means to live as a free people—both as citizens of this great nation and as the freed children of God.

The Dead of Night

1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again [“from above”] he cannot see the kingdom of God.” 4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?” John 3:1-4

5 Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” John 3:5-8

The Dead Wrong

9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? John 3:9-10

11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses

lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

The Freedom

16 "For God so loved the world ["for this is how God loved the world"], that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. 18 Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. John 3:16-18

19 And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people loved the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. 20 For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. 21 But whoever does what is true comes to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been carried out in God." John 3:19-21

True liberty begins when we sign our own "Declaration of Dependence" at the cross.

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – Nicodemus came to Jesus in "the dead of night." Are you trying to carry a secret worry, fear, or struggle in the dark? What's one thing you need to hand over to Him?

Tuesday – When we face trials our gut reaction is to try to "fix" things in our own human strength. Where do you need to stop struggling in the flesh and ask the God to take over?

Wednesday – If you find yourself staring at your problems today, take a deep breath, look up to Jesus, and remember He is in control. Where has fear and worry hidden peace from you?

Thursday – There is no condemnation in Christ. You are free. How does that truth change your perspective today?

Friday – As you head into the weekend, what is one area of your life where you need to tear up your "independence" and declare your complete dependence on God?