

Let Freedom Ring...

Adopted 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.

Throughout this month of July, we celebrated 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 1776. We have listened to the liberty bell echo across our history. We've praised God for freedom, religious liberty, and the blessing of living in a land where we can gather openly without fear.

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

Today, as we wrap up Let Freedom Ring, we have to pull back the curtain on a profound truth: A person can live in the freest nation on earth and still be a slave in spiritual chains.

Freedom from Condemnation

1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:1-2

The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia famously cracked on its very first ring in America. While it bears the inscription of Leviticus 25:10 ("Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the land"), the bell itself was flawed and eventually rendered silent. When Jesus spoke from the cross, His proclamation did not crack under pressure. His "paid in full" was flawless, freeing us forever from the condemnation of sin.

Freedom from Slavery

15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!" Romans 8:15

We are not merely set free from spiritual prison. By grace, we are taken directly from the courtroom into the Father's house. Our new freedom turns us into beloved sons and daughters who share in the royal inheritance of Jesus. God places the seal of heaven on us, whispering, "You belong to the King."

Freedom from Despair

18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18

Paul wrote this while facing shipwrecks, beatings, and imprisonment. He uses the bookkeeping term *logizomai* ("consider") which means to mathematically weigh present trials on one side of a scale and eternal glory on the other.

Valley Forge – Winter 1777-1778

Freedom from Separation

38 For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, 39 nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 8:38-39

In a world filled with anxiety, shifting cultural worldviews, political division, and mass uncertainty, you can sleep peacefully knowing your eternity is secure. Your salvation doesn't depend on how tightly you hold onto Jesus today. Rather, it rests on how tightly Jesus holds onto you forever.

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 – Are there past sins or failures you are still beating yourself up over? How does the truth of "NO CONDEMNATION in Christ" change the way you view your mistakes today?

Tuesday – Where are you focusing your mind—on earthly worries or on the things of the Spirit? What is one shift you can make today to set your mind on life and peace in the Spirit?

Wednesday – Do you approach God out of fear of messing up or with the security of being His beloved child? Take a moment today to pray, "Abba, Father," and thank Him for adopting you.

Thursday – What current trial or hardship feels overwhelming right now? How does comparing it to the eternal glory awaiting you give you strength to press forward today?

Friday – Read Paul's list in verses 38–39 out loud. What fear or anxiety is trying to convince you that God has forgotten you? Praise Him today that NOTHING can separate you from His love!