September 11th – Liberty in the Spirit

*"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is liberty."* (2 Cor. 3:17)

Maybe you're heard that praise song that says, "My chains are gone, I've been set free; my God, my Savior has ransomed me."  The good news is that, in Christ, sinners are set free!  No longer are we bound by chains of death and wickedness.  Of course, we'll never be perfect on this side of heaven – we still battle with sin in our daily lives.  But the eternal effects of sin have been removed from our lives when we receive the unconditional love and forgiveness that comes through faith in Jesus.  Praise God, we've been set free!

As awesome a reality as that is, some have interpreted their liberty to be a license to sin.  I've heard some professing believers say things like, "I'm at liberty to live how I want since Jesus has saved me."  Nothing could be further from the truth.  While the grace of God has freed us from the ceremonial obligations of the law (animal sacrifices, ceremonial washing, etc), we have not been released from God's moral demands, nor would we want to be.  God's moral code is summarized in the 10 commandments, and they are still binding on Christians today.

For that reason, we should not use our liberty in Christ as a license to sin.  Be honest – when faced with a decision about something, have you ever said, "Well, I know God doesn't want me to do this, but it's OK because He'll forgive me later."  If we ever take this sort of attitude, we need to check our hearts to see if Jesus is really the Lord of our lives.  Those who have genuinely been born again will seek to live according to the precepts of God's Word.  Think of it like this – through Christ we are FREE to please God and fulfill our God-given purpose.  That's the only life worth living!