

The Price of Freedom

"Stand Firm in the Freedom Christ Has Given You"

Primary Text: Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

"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."

Supporting Texts: John 8:31-36; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Psalm 33:12; Romans 13:1-7

Introduction

Today we celebrate the blessings of living in a free nation. We are grateful for those who signed documents, stood on battlefields, served in uniform, and gave their lives so future generations could enjoy liberty.

Every time we see an American flag flying, every military cemetery, every folded flag presented to a grieving family reminds us that freedom is never free.

Yet as great as political freedom is, the Bible speaks of an even greater freedom—a freedom no government can give and no enemy can take away.

America offers political liberty.

Jesus offers eternal liberty.

Our nation's founders fought to free people from tyranny. Christ came to free humanity from sin.

Today we honor both while remembering that one points us to the other.

I. Freedom Always Has a Price

John 15:13 (NIV)

"Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends."

Every freedom we enjoy has been purchased by sacrifice.

Children celebrate Independence Day with fireworks.

Veterans remember battlefields.

Families remember empty chairs.

Freedom has always demanded courage.

Throughout American history countless men and women willingly placed themselves in danger so others could live in peace.

The same principle appears throughout Scripture.

Our spiritual freedom also came at an incredible cost.

Not with muskets.

Not with swords.

Not with constitutions.

But with a cross.

1 Peter 1:18-19 (NIV)

"...you were redeemed...with the precious blood of Christ..."

The cross reminds us that salvation is free to us because it was infinitely costly to Jesus.

Application

Never take lightly what someone else paid dearly to provide.

Honor military sacrifice.

But never forget Calvary.

II. The Greatest Enemy Is Not Outside—It Is Within

America has fought many enemies throughout history.

Yet Scripture reminds us our greatest enemy has never been another nation.

It is sin.

Romans 3:23

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

Political oppression can imprison the body.

Sin imprisons the soul.

A nation may have free elections.

A person may still be enslaved by:

- Pride
- Lust
- Bitterness
- Addiction
- Greed
- Unforgiveness

Jesus came to defeat the enemy that no army could conquer.

John 8:36

"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."

That freedom is complete.

It breaks guilt.

It breaks shame.

It breaks addiction.

It breaks chains.

III. Freedom Requires Responsibility

One of America's greatest strengths has always been responsible citizens.

Freedom without responsibility becomes chaos.

The Bible teaches the same principle spiritually.

Galatians 5:13

"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."

Christian liberty is never permission to sin.

It is power to obey.

Freedom is not doing whatever I want.

Freedom is finally being able to do what is right.

A mature Christian understands that liberty always walks hand in hand with holiness.

IV. Blessed Is the Nation That Honors God

Psalm 33:12

"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD..."

Notice the verse does not say:

Blessed is the richest nation.

The strongest nation.

The most educated nation.

The most advanced nation.

The blessing comes from acknowledging God.

Throughout history nations have risen and fallen.

Empires once thought invincible now exist only in history books.

Only God's Kingdom is eternal.

America is greatly blessed.

But America desperately needs revival.

Our greatest hope is not another election.

It is another awakening.

Revival has never started in the White House.

It begins in God's house.

"If my people..." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

When God's people repent...

When God's people pray...

When God's people seek Him...

God promises to heal.

V. Our Highest Citizenship Is in Heaven

Patriotism is appropriate.

Idolatry of country is not.

The Christian loves his nation while remembering his eternal home.

Philippians 3:20

"But our citizenship is in heaven."

We thank God for America.

We pray for America.

We serve America.

But we worship only Christ.

Earthly kingdoms rise and fall.

The Kingdom of God will never end.

One day every flag will fade.

Every government will end.

Every constitution will pass away.

But King Jesus will reign forever.

That is the Kingdom to which every believer ultimately belongs.

Conclusion

Today we honor those who paid for our national freedom.

But let us never forget the One who paid for eternal freedom.

The soldier gave his life so others could live free.

Jesus gave His life so sinners could live forever.

The soldier may save a nation.

Jesus saves the world.

Political freedom is precious.

Spiritual freedom is priceless.

May we be grateful citizens of our nation.

More importantly, may we be faithful citizens of Heaven.

Invitation

Perhaps today you enjoy every freedom America offers, yet you remain bound by sin.

Jesus is still setting captives free.

His invitation has not changed.

Come with your guilt.

Come with your failures.

Come with your chains.

The cross still breaks every chain.

Today you can experience the freedom that no government can grant and no circumstance can remove.

As we thank God for the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, let us also bow before the Savior who purchased the greatest freedom of all.

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then..."

Stand firm in Christ.

Stand firm in truth.

Stand firm in holiness.

Stand firm until the day our King returns.

Amen.