

## **HANDOUT MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE 2022 "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!"**

When we think of the Liberties that we enjoy, remember these Blessings came to Us at the Expense of the Blood and Sacrifice of Brave Men and Women who have Given their Lives for these Freedoms We Enjoy.

- The well-worn saying is still true... "Freedom is Never Free."
- Billy Graham was quoted to say... **Courage is Contagious. When a Brave Man Takes a Stand, the Spines of Others are often Stiffened.**"

**How do You look at the Freedom's You Enjoy in America Today? Do you take them for granted? All too often Freedom is Not Appreciated Until... We Lose it!!** Throughout the Old Testament we see how God Gave Victory to the Israelites from Bondage as they Surrendered their Hearts and Repented of Sin...In the New Testament We Learn that "True" Freedom is Found Only in Jesus Christ.

- Galatians 5:1 says- *Stand Fast therefore in the Liberty wherewith Christ hath made Us Free, and be Not Entangled Again with the Yoke of Bondage.*
- Everyone Desires FREEDOM...It is in the Heart of All People to be FREE. *Even a Baby Begins Life by Fighting for Freedom as it is Birthed.*

**During Life Every Person RUNS in Some Direction to Find Freedom...Yet All too often...Their Running Causes Them to End Up in Bondage!** Their Attitude: I Want The Freedom To Do It My Way...Only to Realize it Led to A Destructive Habit that Held them in Bondage or Worse!

**"As YOU RUN For FREEDOM...WHICH WAY Are YOU RUNNING?"**

- Today, We live in a Culture that Believes that Freedom is About Having NO Restrictions... NO Boundaries...NO Commitments! America is Aggressively Seeking to Remove any Biblical Standard that Goes Against this Changing Self-Seeking Culture.
- Man's Run for Freedom has Turned their Minds, Hearts and Devotion FROM GOD To Themselves! *Approving Anything their Minds and Hearts can Imagine*

**Are You Running for Financial Freedom?** Do You Believe that the Freedom that brings Happiness and Security is found in a Savings Account? Putting Everything else on Hold to Achieve that Financial Goal?

- I have seen Men Seek Financial Freedom so Intensely that they Lost family, integrity and Wound up in Bondage to things they could Never have Imagined.

**Are You're Running for Freedom From Responsibility?** Is your Focus solely on what You want with Zero Accountability to God, Family and Community? I have watched some so focused on Running for Leisure, Fun or Retirement that it has taken Precedence Over Caring For and Enjoying their Family.

- Or Choosing to Follow what God would have them do for another or for His Kingdom.

**Are You Running for TRUE Freedom In Christ...Choosing to Put Christ First. Choosing to Obey God's Word and His Plan for Your Life?**

- A Popular Belief Among Many Christians Today is It's OK to Agree that God Exists, Even to Worship Him Every Sunday...But Not Having to Obey what He Asks His Children to Do!

**KEY: TRUE FREEDOM is Found Only Through Obedience to Jesus Christ!**

- 2 Cor 3:17 NIV Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom...The KJV says...Liberty

**STORY of KITE BREAKING FREE FROM ITS CORD TO DISASTER:** As I was thinking about this story of the kids with the kites...I thought how much it is like so many...That SEEK TO BE FREE AT ANY COST!

- The teenager that says if only I could get out from under the Authority of My Parents...Only to End up in Trouble, Hurt and life Destroyed.
- The Husband/Wife that says, it's OK to get a Divorce because My Spouse Doesn't Please, Support, or Understand Me!
- Or...This New Person Makes me Happy...God Must want Me to be Happy...Right?

The person that believes it is alright to do anything that pleases them with No thought of God or Others... Saying, It's My Life, I'll do anything that I want, ends up like that Kite caught in the Wires--Broken!

John 8:32-36 *"Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* 33 *They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?"* 34 *Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So, if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed".*

### **There is No Greater Freedom That We can Have...Than the Freedom which Comes from Accepting Christ Into Our Lives and Obeying God's Laws which Keep Us Safe.**

- The Freedom which comes from becoming acquainted with the best Friend a Person can have, the Lord Jesus Christ! If you let Jesus into your life, and Let Him hold the cords, (*Surrendering to His Hold On YOU*)...You Will Have Real Freedom And Unbelievable JOY!
- John 8:36: *"...If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."*

Consider This...What happened to that Kite that Wanted its Freedom...Will Happen to Every Kite Which Breaks Loose from the Cord that Holds it Steady...You See...The Kite which Fought for Freedom Believing it Would Make it Happy...Lost its Freedom, for it Was Hopelessly Entangled in the Wires and Broken.

- ***Hopelessly Entangled and Broken is the Sad End for So Many [like the Prodigal Son] who Misunderstood what True Freedom Is.***

The Ultimate Freedom comes Only from Christ Giving His Life...Shedding His Blood that We might Win the War Over Sin and GAIN TRUE FREEDOM!

CHRIST MADE IT CLEAR THAT FREEDOM IS NOT FREE!

- The Bible tells us, "Without the shedding of Blood there is No Remission for Sins".
- Christ's Death on the Cross and the Eternal Battle that He Fought and Won by His Own Blood...Purchased Our Salvation...FREEING US FROM SIN ETERNALLY!

It would be "Incomprehensible" for an American to say about any of our soldiers who died for our Freedom: *"I Cannot Appreciate what He did for Me...I Reject the Liberty for which He Died so that I Might Possess It."*

But People Do That to Christ. 2 Cor 5:21 says, *"God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God."*

- He who knew No sin, bore our sin, gave His life, His blood that we might be FREE!
- Yet Many, by Word and Deed say to Him, *"I Don't Believe in You, I Reject what You Did for Me."*

**In Your Run for Freedom...You Will Either Run Toward God Or Toward what You Want to Do!**

- John 14:15: Christ said "If You Love Me...You Will Obey My Commandments.

I encourage you to Follow Galatians 5:1 - Stand Fast therefore in the Liberty wherewith Christ Hath Made Us Free, and be Not Entangled Again with the Yoke of Bondage.

**Freedom is Not FREE...It Cost God His Son...AND...It Will Cost You to Die to Self and Choose to Live For God and His Kingdom!**

Billy Graham's Quote Makes Clear How God wants to use LifePoint Church: Courage is Contagious...When a Brave Man Takes a Stand, the Spines of Others are Often Stiffened."

As we Choose to Stand For Christ...To Lead Others to Real Freedom in Christ...God will Use Us to Change Lives, Our Community, Our World for Eternity!

**POINT: TRUE FREEDOM is Found Only Through Obedience to Christ!**