

THERE IS FREEDOM

This week we celebrate our 250th birthday of our country's freedom and we must remember the freedom that defines America

In 1776, the Declaration of Independence established that our rights came from our Creator, not from government

That principle shaped the 1st Amendment's protection of religious liberty, establishing it as America's first freedom

Religious liberty protects our ability to live out our faith and to speak our convictions without fear

Without it, all other rights become fragile.

Without it, all other rights will begin to disappear.

Today our religious freedom is being challenged every day and if we fail to defend this freedom, like we are today, then the foundation erodes and all other rights weaken

Our religious freedom is what has always defined America and made it great and set us apart

Why? Because real and true freedom can only be found in the person of Christ!

When we as believers forget the freedom we have in Christ or we start taking them for granted, we begin to lose sight of how good we have had it and how His blessings have been all over our lives

The freedoms we fail to defend and uphold will soon be taken away.

Let's never forget our freedom is Christ!

John 8:31-36 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

³³ They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How *can* You say, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. ³⁵ And a slave does not abide in the house forever, *but* a son abides forever. ³⁶ Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

Let's break these verses down:

V. 31-32 Freedom comes with a condition –

True discipleship Jesus says requires remaining or abiding in the truth, Jesus' teachings

Why? The truth exposes false beliefs, lies that appeared to be true and it recalibrates our lives

The truth is what ultimately liberates me from ignorance, deception, and the power of sin that once held me captive

v. 32

V.33,34 Sin only enslaves you –

Jesus' religious friends claim they were physically free and didn't need to be rescued

He shifted his teachings toward their spiritual lives. He said everyone who habitually commits sin is trapped in an inescapable spiritual slavery

That kind of bondage is what robs you of your place in God's family

I'm so thankful there is freedom in Christ!

V. 35,36 The power in the Son –

Here it says a slave can be tossed out of the house any time, what does sin do? It alienates people from God and outside of God's family

But the Son, Jesus, has a permanent place in the household and also has the authority to bring outsiders into the family

Come on! That's good news for everyone!

V. 36

Free Indeed – that means complete assurance, the Greek word for indeed ‘ontos’ guarantees that the freedom Christ provides is absolute and 100% genuine

Absolute liberation, transforming a person from a slave of sin into permanent loved child God!

No more condemnation – meaning, as believers we are entirely released from the guilt, shame, and penalty of sin and also the power of death

Christ freedom empowers you to live a transformed life!

Rom 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.

You are free! Not eventually be free, but the moment you accept Christ and what He did for you, you are free!

You can't strive to earn spiritual freedom by your own works, we must simply accept the finished work of Christ

v. 36

Don't let your past shame and condemnation define your identity

As a child of God you are totally redeemed in Christ!

Christ purchased our victory and freedom so now let's live like it!

There is freedom!