

Freedom 2017

Steve Berger July 2, 2017

Happy Independence Day!

We celebrate our freedom from England!

- we thank those who defend, have fought, and even died for our freedom
- TWO people have died for your freedom — the American soldier — and Jesus Christ

**Today — we discuss the freedom Jesus Christ offers —
a reminder for some — an invitation for others!**

Person

freedom is God's idea — True and Living God, Almighty God — in Jesus Christ

- Israel in Egyptian slavery — through Moses, God says, "Let My people go!" He's never stopped saying that!

Application — the issue isn't is God willing for me to be free — it's are you willing to receive His freedom!

- ultimate freedom-giver was foretold in...

- **Isaiah 61:1-2**

The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.

- the One who was foretold arrives — and His name was Jesus

- **Luke 4:16-21**

So Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. And as His custom was, He went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written: "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE HAS ANOINTED ME TO PREACH THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR; HE HAS SENT ME TO HEAL THE BROKENHEARTED, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET AT LIBERTY THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD." Then He closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on Him. And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."

Application — freedom from spiritual poverty, brokenheartedness, captivity, blindness, oppression, hopelessness — Jesus came to give freedom!

- Jesus says, I have come — chain breaking, captivity-releasing, to give vision
- whether you believe it or not, it is true, and you can have it
- give him access, permission to work in your life

Promise

freedom comes with a guarantee, a declaration!

- **John 8:31-36**

Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." 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?'" Jesus answered them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

- Paul understood this promise of freedom from sin, he experienced it...

- **Romans 6:17-18,22**

But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness... But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life.

Application — God's promise of freedom... believe Jesus (who He is, what He came to do), abide in Jesus, know truth, truth makes free, free indeed!, set free, holy and whole life now — everlasting life later!

- freedom from sin's power — tempt, bind, and destroy
- freedom from sin's penalty — guilt, shame, fear, death

**Jesus came to free mankind from sin's slavery
and all its various chains — that's a promise!**

- Jesus came to do something REAL — not religious

- **Galatians 5:1**

Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

- if you have gotten entangled, don't go back to bondage — get freedom back today

Power

seen biblical examples, now historical examples that portrays biblical truth...

- "The Brazilian Chamber of Deputies has voted for the immediate and unconditional abolition of slavery." May 10th, 1888 — *Reuters wire telegram*¹

- **immediate** — now, no waiting, freedom from slavery now...
...**immediate Jesus** — lepers, blind, fevers, afflicted, paralyzed, deaf, dead ...

- **Colossians 1:13**

He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love

¹ *The Money Market Review*, (May 12, 1888), 939

- **unconditional** — no cost or burden on slave... no responsibility
 - **1 Peter 1:18-19**
knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct... but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.
 - the price has been paid — freedom is there for the asking
 - Jesus Christ did for us what we could not do for ourselves
- **abolition of slavery** — slavery ceases to exist... power and penalty of sin has been abolished...
 - **Romans 6:14**
For sin shall not have dominion over you.
 - habitual practice of sin — instead of rare exception

Process

- **price of freedom has been paid**
 - **Colossians 1:14**
...in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.
- **promise has been made** — believe Jesus, abide, know truth, truth frees, indeed, immediately, unconditionally, and powerfully set free!
- **grace of God invades** — moves, draws, woos, convicts, convinces — **you respond!**
- **admit you're enslaved** — can't get free if you think you have “never been in bondage.”
- **accept freedom without hesitation, reservation, or negotiation**
Prodigal — “**come** to senses, **arise, go** to Father...” **Lot** — “flee, hurry, escape” — **now**
 - quit being reserved and cautious
 - **2 Corinthians 6:2**
Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.
 - **Hebrews 3:15**
Today, if you hear His voice, don't harden your heart in rebellion.

**The immediate, unconditional, abolition of slavery awaits you —
freedom awaits you!**

Discussion Questions

1. Discuss how revolutionary Jesus' statement about himself was in Luke 4:21.
 2. How revolutionary is that statement for our lives today?
 3. What is the responsibility of the Doer of the Word for the truth to make him free?
 4. In Romans 6:17-18,22, what does it mean to become a slave of righteousness — a slave of God?
 5. In your life, what power of darkness has the blood of Christ delivered you from? What sin might have dominion over you, if the price had not been paid.
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