

Free or not too Free?

This is the million dollar question tonight... are you free or not too free?

QUOTE: Give the Devil an inch and he will become your ruler!!

We have come a LONG way since the days of slavery.....or have we?

- Many men and woman laid down their lives to bring the African Americans out of slavery.
- BUT are we truly out of slavery...
- I am not talking about a black / white issue...
- I am talking about real slavery in the 21st century that **we want to pretend ... doesn't exist.**

Definition of Slavery- the state or condition of being held in **involuntary servitude** as the property of somebody else...

- **Many are slaves to the banks - their cars - their homes**
- **Many are slaves to their hair, their clothes...**

Peter – He writes 1st and 2nd Peter **to warn Christians about false teachers** & to exhort them ***to grow in their faith!***

- While Peter wrote his 1st letter **to teach about handling persecution** – ***trials from without...***
- He wrote this letter **to teach about handling heresy** – ***trials from within.***
- ***False teachers are often subtly deceitful....***

2 Peter 2:19-22 – ***Danger to growing Christians (false teachers & their destruction)***

19b - for **a man is a slave to whatever has mastered him.**

20 If they have escaped the corruption of the world by knowing our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and are **again entangled in it** and overcome, they are worse off at the end than they were at the beginning.

21 ***It would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than to have known it and then to turn their backs*** on the sacred command that was passed on to them.

22 Of them the proverbs are true: "**A dog returns to its vomit,**" and, "**A sow that is washed goes back to her wallowing in the mud.**"

Vs 19 - A person is a slave to whatever controls them...

- Many believe Freedom is doing whatever they want
- But no one is ever ***completely Free in that sense...***

If we refuse to follow God...

- We will follow our own sinful desires
- We will become ***enslaved*** to what our bodies want...

If we submit our lives to Christ...

- He will free us **from slavery to sin**
- Christ **frees us** to serve Him
- **Freedom** that results in our ultimate good!

Vs 20-22 – Peter is speaking of a person who has learned about Christ and about **how to be saved**, and has been **positively influenced by Christians...**

- Then **rejects the Truth...**
- Returns to **their SIN...**

This person is worse off than before, because they **rejected** the only way out of sin, the only way to salvation...

- The one who turns away from Christ
- Casts aside their only means of escape!!!

Note: **Luke 11:24-26**

²⁴ “When an impure spirit comes out of a person, it goes through arid places seeking rest and does not find it. Then it says, **‘I will return to the house I left.’**

²⁵ When it arrives, it finds the house **swept clean and put in order.**

²⁶ Then it goes and takes seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there. And **the final condition of that person is worse than the first.”**

Jesus was illustrating an unfortunate human tendency – our desire to reform often does not last long.

- It is not enough to be emptied of evil - - -
- We then **MUST** be filled with the power of the holy spirit
- To accomplish God’s new purpose in our lives.

Our forefathers paid the price so that we could have our freedom today.

Our heavenly father paid the price so that we could have freedom eternally.

Galatians 5:1 - *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.

- What is holding you back?
- What is holding you down?
- ***Isn't it time to come out of your bondage?***

Galatians 5:13 - You, my brothers, were called to **be free**. But **do not** use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature ; rather, serve one another in love.

God never intended on us being bound

- Whether it be human slavery... OR slavery to our money...OR slavery to our possessions
- OR slavery to our things.... **He intend on us being FREE**...

Freedom from sin's grasp – Slaves to righteousness

Romans 6:16-23 - Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, **you are slaves to the one whom you obey**--whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?
17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted.

18 **You have been set free from sin** and have become slaves to righteousness.

19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness.

20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness.

21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death!

22 But **now that you have been set free from sin** and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.

23 **For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

All people choose a master and pattern themselves after him.

- **Without Jesus**, we would have no choice
- We would have to **apprentice ourselves to sin**
- ***The results would be*** guilt, suffering, and separation from God.

Thanks to Jesus, however, we can now choose God as our Master.

- **Following Him**, we can now enjoy new life and learn how to work for him.

Are you still serving your first master, sin?

Or have you apprenticed yourself to God?

Luke 13:10-17 - Jesus Heals a Crippled Woman on the Sabbath

¹⁰ On a Sabbath Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues,

¹¹ and a woman was there who had been crippled by a spirit for eighteen years. She was bent over and could not straighten up at all.

¹² When Jesus saw her, he called her forward and said to her, ***“Woman, you are set free from your infirmity.”***

¹³ Then he put his hands on her, and immediately she straightened up and praised God.

¹⁴ Indignant because Jesus had healed on the Sabbath, the synagogue leader said to the people, “There are six days for work. So come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath.”

¹⁵ The Lord answered him, ***“You hypocrites! Doesn’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your ox or donkey from the stall and lead it out to give it water?”***

¹⁶ ***Then should not this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has kept bound for eighteen long years, be set free on the Sabbath day from what bound her?”***

¹⁷ When he said this, all his opponents were humiliated, but the people were delighted with all the wonderful things he was doing.

Practicing one’s profession on the Sabbath was prohibited...

- The synagogue leader **could not see beyond the law**
- To **Jesus’ compassion** in healing the crippled woman.
- Jesus shamed him and the other leaders by pointing out their hypocrisy.
- **They refused to rejoice**
- When a human being ***was freed from Satan’s bondage!!!***

John 8:32-36

³² 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.**

FREEDOM ALWAYS COST YOU SOMETHING:

For many, it cost them their life.

What will you do with the freedom and liberty that God has entrusted in you?

FREE AT LAST-FREE AT LAST...THANK GOD ALL MIGHTY...I AM FREE AT LAST...

How many of you can honestly say today ...that you are free?

Is Jesus your ruler????