

Lesson # 10 -- Deliverance: Its Privileges and Responsibilities.

Introduction

- A. Freedom is a most precious possession. Too often we define freedom only in terms of political relationships. While such a privilege is important the more valuable type of liberty has to do with the spiritual - it is the freedom of the "inner man".
- B. When God created us He designed us to be free in every conceivable way - as a spiritual person. Now, as fallen people, we have lost that freedom.
- C. The seriousness of our bondage is seen in that it took the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ to set us free.
- D. The Christian has been set free. This liberty, while complete in the area of salvation, is given to us as a potentiality in the area of the Christian life. It is vitally important that every believer recognize the gift of freedom, praise God for it, and then learn how to be experientially free in all the areas of life.
- E. The theme of this lesson, Galatians 5:13.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Observation: This verse states our privilege: "called unto liberty". It also describes one facet of our responsibility: "by love serve one another".

I. We Must Understand the Need for Deliverance.

- A. The belief of error will bring one into bondage.

While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption, for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought into bondage. II Peter 2:19

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

Observation: These verses describe false teachers and their subtle work of spreading error. The result of their ministry is bondage. The human race, through the Fall of Man, is extremely vulnerable to false teaching. It is much "easier" for us to believe error than the truth! Each of us must face the possibility that we have accepted something less than the truth in our belief regarding God, ourselves, how we are to live and what we are to do with our life.

B. All forms of sin will bring one into bondage, John 8:34.

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is a servant of sin.

Observation: One of our misconceptions is that we can commit sin and be free from the effects of it. Sin will enslave a person. It is an inexorable rule that sin will stamp a person with its character. We become like the sin we commit. Only Jesus Christ, through His grace, can set a person free from sin.

C. Satan, through sin and error, can bring one into bondage, Hebrews 2:14,15.

Forasmuch then as the children (the race) are partakers of flesh and blood, He (the Lord Jesus) also Himself likewise took part of the same, that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

Observation: These verses remind us that the one behind the fear and bondage which so characterizes the human race - is Satan himself. In the Garden of Eden he was able to lead the human race into the belief of error and into an involvement with sin. While Satan's "hold" on us was broken by the Lord Jesus Christ in His Crucifixion and Resurrection, the influence of that "hold" is still very much with us. The first reason for this is that all of redemption has yet to be applied to us. The second reason is that we too often fail to believe and practice the truth.

Summary: The teaching of these verses is highly important. We must face ourselves with the truth that when we believe error and fail to live according to the truth - we are perpetuating the Fall and we are cooperating with the Devil. No wonder the result of this is bondage and the opening of the door to every evil influence. We much choose to be free from all forms of error and to live up to the truth that we know.

## II. We Must Understand the Provision for Deliverance.

A. The provision for liberty is found in the Person of Jesus Christ, John 8:36.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

Observation: This theme in the Bible, Christ setting us free, is really the heart of the Gospel. Man is lost and enslaved in sin and error. Jesus Christ, through His death and resurrection has made freedom a possibility for all who will believe on Him as Lord and Savior. Only in the Lord Jesus Christ do we have freedom. When we choose to live apart from Him or out of harmony with Him - the result is disastrous.

- B. The provision for liberty is found in the truth taught by Jesus Christ, John 8:32.

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Observation: As the belief of error enslaves, so the belief of the truth will set one free. In the spiritual areas of life it is most difficult for us to confess that we are wrong. We all have a tendency to believe that we are right and that we are our own authority. This attitude must be given up. We must recognize that we do not have the truth apart from Jesus Christ and His Word. We must choose to accept Him and His Word as our final authority. When this is done, in obedience and trust, then He can start to set us free.

- C. The provision for liberty is found in the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, Romans 6:4,6.

Therefore we are buried with Him by baptism into death, that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life . . . Knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be destroyed (paralyzed), that henceforth we should not serve sin.

Observation: In His Crucifixion Jesus Christ died as our Substitute. He took our judgment upon Himself and paid our price in that He suffered our hell and death. Since sin was thus judged on the Cross it is possible for those who believe upon Him to be free. There are many lessons here: sin had to be judged; man cannot pay for his sin; Jesus Christ died as our Representative; He has made it possible to be free from the enslavement and death of sin. Through the Resurrection all of this freedom can become a reality in our daily life in that sin in all of its forms has been dealt with and a provision has been made so we may live in "newness of life". We must accept this truth and live accordingly.

- D. The provision for liberty is found in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:2.

For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Observation: This verse reminds us that when we believed upon Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord it was the work of the Holy Spirit that led us to that decision and Who applied to us then all the benefits of the gospel. For the believer, the bondage of sin and the penalty of death has been broken. This truth must be believed and daily practiced.

- E. The provision for maintaining the experience of liberty is also found in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, II Corinthians 3:17,18.

Now the Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with open face, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Observation: The Holy Spirit dwells within us to lead us into the truth of the Word of God and thereby into the liberty found in the practice of the will of God. We do not have to guess about the truth. We have been given the Holy Scripture. The Holy Spirit has come to teach us and to enable us to put the truth into practice in our daily life. We must learn how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit and live in freedom.

### III. We Must Understand the Methodology of Deliverance.

- A. We must learn how to practice the truth, John 8:32.

And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

Observation: Satan, through the use of error (John 8:44; II Peter 2:19) and sin (John 8:34) has led the human race into bondage. He continues in his attempt to do this in the life of every believer. Only as we practice the truth can we resist his endeavors and live in freedom. We must face ourselves with the questions: Do I know the truth? Am I in a church that teaches the truth? Am I surrendered to and practicing the truth in all areas of my life?

- B. We must learn to make decisions of faith, love and hope, Romans 6:16-18.

Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered unto you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Observation: This is how we are to practice the truth. We must choose to obey God. This is not easy to do. It is difficult for any of us to admit we are wrong. It is even more difficult to make Biblical decisions that are out of harmony with our favorite way of living. If we are doing wrong - we must stop. If we are not doing the right - we must start. All of this involves confession, repentance, restitution, the reevaluating of priorities, the establishing of correct patterns of obedience and behavior in the determination of faith to practice the truth in love.

Summary: there is absolutely no substitute for the practice of the truth through the obedience of making decisions of faith, love and hope. Without this there is no possibility of freedom.

IV. We Must Understand the Warnings Regarding Deliverance.

A. Christian liberty is not freedom to sin, Romans 6:1,16.

What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Observation: Some professing Christians have accepted the non-Biblical view that now they are free from the penalty of sin, they can continue to commit sin. This is an error. Such a belief and action can only prove that such a person has not been born again (Romans 6:2; I John 3:9; Jeremiah 7:10).

B. Christian liberty is not freedom to accept false doctrine, Gal. 5:1.

Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

Observation: What had brought the Galatians into bondage was an incorrect view of Jewish regulations (legalism) and the grace of God. Paul wrote this book to correct that and here exhorts them to reject the error that spirituality comes by keeping rules (Note: he is not talking about obeying God). The believer has a solemn responsibility to seek the truth and to live it.

C. Christian liberty is not freedom to be selfish, Galatians 5:13.

For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Observation: God has set us free - not so that we can simply enjoy our liberty - but to make it possible to serve Him and His people in love. We may not live a self-centered life. We have a solemn responsibility to God. Our life must be given to honor Him in loving service.

Conclusion:

- A. The first obligation that is before us has to do with learning the truth and putting the truth into practice in our daily life.
- B. The second obligation is to reach out to others with the truth and lead them into the liberty that we have in Jesus Christ.
- C. These two obligations must be faced squarely and put into practice.