

The Christian And His liberty (2)

Introduction

- A. The message of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ has come into the world to set His people free from the bondage of error, sin and death (Heb. 2:14,15).
- B. The seriousness of our bondage is seen in that it took the Crucifixion and Resurrection of Jesus Christ to set us free.
- C. 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 his freedom, praise God for it, and then learn how to be experientially free in all areas of life.

If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed. Jn. 8:36

I. The Meaning of Liberty.

- A. The Christian has been set free from sin and death, 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 freedom is a reality in the life of everyone who has received Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. We have been completely forgiven, cleansed and the penalty of death has been broken

- B. The Christian has been set free from doubt and unbelief, Romans 8:15,16.

For ye have not received the spiritt of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of Adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit Himself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.

Observation: The Holy Spirit has been sent to lead every believer into a life of faith and certainty* It is evident, from this passage, as to what happens when we do not accept His ministry and grieve the Holy Spirit -- we may have more bondage and fear than freedom and assurance.

- C. The Christian has been set free from Satan and the fear of death, Heb. 2:14,15.

Forasmuch then as the children (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 life time subject to bondage.

Observation: It is a comfort to know that this is a blessed reality even though some godly believers may not have the emotional experience of it being true for them. We must believe God. All these areas must be experientially developed.

II. The Blueprint for Liberty.

- A. The believer may be experientially free by a practice of 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 (II Peter 2:19; John 8:14) 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. The believer may be experientially free by making decisions of faith, 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 you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Observation: This is how we are to practice the truth - choose, by faith and love, to obey God* This is not easy. A part of what it means to be a sinner is that we are our own authority. This must be totally rejected, if we are to be successful Christians, for we must surrender to Jesus Christ and choose daily to do His will.

III. The Warnings Regarding liberty.

- 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: Many believers have accepted the non-Biblical view that now they are free from the penalty of sin they can continue to sin. This is not true. Such belief and action only prove that such a person has never been born again (Romans 6:2).

- 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 and the grace of God. Paul wrote this book to correct that and here exhorts them to reject the error that spirituality comes by rule-keeping (Gal. 5:6).

- C. Christian liberty is not freedom to be selfish, Gal. 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. This we must daily choose to do.