

The Christian And His liberty

Introduction

- A. Freedom is a most precious possession. Too often we define freedom in regard to politics. While such freedom is important the more valuable type of liberty is personal, the freedom of the inner man.
- B. When God created the human race He created us to be free in every sense of the word. True freedom, however, is not anarchy nor selfishness.
- C. The Bible reminds us that since we are sinful people we no longer have the freedom given to us in our creation. We are in bondage. The message of the Gospel is that Jesus Christ came into the world to set us free.

Because the creation itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. Romans 8:21

I. The Need for Liberty.

- A. The belief of error will bring one into bondage, II Peter 2:19.

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 in bondage.

Observation: This verse describes false teachers. Their promise of liberty is false. The result of their ministry is bondage. As a human race we believed the error taught by Satan in the Garden of Eden. All belief of error brings bondage in some measure.

- 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 the servant of sin.

Observation: One of our misconceptions is that we can commit sin and be free from 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 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: It is apparent that the human race is characterized by death and the fear of death. The one behind this, the Bible teaches, is Satan himself.

II. The Provision for liberty.

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 made freedom a possibility, and when one believes on Him as Savior and Lord, this freedom becomes a reality of daily life. Only the Lord Jesus can set us free.

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 this is most difficult to do - in that we all believe we are right and that we are our own final authority. This must be given up. We must recognize that we do not have the truth and choose to accept the Scripture as our final authority. When this is done, in obedience and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, then it is possible to be free.

C. The provision for liberty is found in the Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Rom. 6:6.

Knowing this, that our old man is 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; the Christian can live free from the principle of sin.

D. The provision for liberty is found in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, Rom. 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. We were set free. For the Christian the bondage of sin and the penalty of death had been broken.

E. The provision for maintaining the experience of liberty is also found in the ministry of the Holy Spirit, II Cor. 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 key to liberty is to be led by the Spirit.

