

# The Truth Will Set You Free

By: Nathan Nass

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth and the truth will set you free." They answered him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be free?" Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."  
John 8:31-36

It's Independence Day - the day we celebrate how free we are in the U.S.! But I'm going to say something strange for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July: People in America aren't really free. Just look around: Bitter partisanship and anger - is that freedom? The constant struggle to have more money and stuff - is that freedom? The fear of death that leads people to spend whatever possible just to stay alive a little longer - is that freedom? Pride over sin parading through the streets - is that freedom? Here's something we need to understand: You can live in the U.S. and still not be free. You can be free and still not be free. At least that's what Jesus says. The Jews of his day were proud of their freedom, just as you and I are as Americans. They said, "*We are Abraham's descendants and have never been slaves of anyone.*" Sounds very American, doesn't it? Listen to Jesus' response: "*Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*" Those Jews were wrong about freedom. "*Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*" Would you agree? When greed grabs your heart and controls your life, you're not free. When bitterness fills your mind and guides your tongue, you're not free. When alcohol or lust control your body, you're not free. "*Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.*" Here's the irony: We think that the more we can do what we want, the freer we are. We say: "It's a free country, so I can do whatever I want!" Do you know where that thought started? In the Garden of Eden. With a snake. "If you do what you want, if you eat this fruit, then you will be free, then you will have the knowledge of good and evil. The more you get to do what you want, the freer you are!" What's the truth? Having the freedom to do what I want makes me even more a slave to sin. In the U.S., we are free to drink as much as we want. Free to commit adultery as much as we want. Free to hoard as much money as we want. Free to hate and despise and boast as much as we want. But remember, you can be free and still not be free. The more you get what you want, the more a slave you are. Do you want to be really free? Listen to Jesus: "*To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'*" Getting my way isn't freedom - not in Jesus' eyes. Freedom doesn't come from a country or a political party. It comes from the truth. "*The truth will set you free.*" The devil's lie is that freedom is doing what you want. The truth is that real freedom is trusting in what Jesus did for you. "*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*" Now think again of our country. What do we need? The truth. We need more of God's Word. That's what changes hearts. That's what changes minds. Whenever you feel weighed down by sin, God's truth will set you free. Whenever you feel trapped by worry, God's truth will set you free. Whenever you feel surrounded by sadness, God's truth will set you free. **Want to really celebrate your freedom? Read your Bible!** "*If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*"

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH BELEN

*Pastor David Guerrero . Pastor Ernest Sanchez*

July 4, 2021



*For you were called  
to freedom, brethren:  
only do not turn your freedom  
into an opportunity for the flesh,  
but through love  
serve one another.*

Galatians 5:13

### **Welcome to Church!**

If you are a first time visitor, please fill out a "*Connect Card*" and visit our Connection Desk. We would love an opportunity to get to know you better and encourage you in your spiritual walk, as well as answer any questions! Contact Information for our Pastoral and Office Staff is provided on our website at [www.fbcbelen.net](http://www.fbcbelen.net), or you may call us at 864-8621.

## Activities for the Week

### Sunday - July 4<sup>th</sup>

Spanish Bible Study - 9:00 a.m.  
Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.  
Worship Service - 10:30 a.m.  
Young Adults @ the Sanchez  
home - 7:00 p.m.

### Monday - July 5<sup>th</sup>

Grandview Campers Leave  
Church Office Closed

### Tuesday - July 6<sup>th</sup>

Ladies Bible Study - 9:15 a.m.

### Wednesday - July 7<sup>th</sup>

Deaf Fellowship - 5:30 p.m.

### Thursday - July 8<sup>th</sup>

### Friday - July 9<sup>th</sup>

Deaf Fellowship Potluck - 5:00 p.m.

### Saturday - July 10<sup>th</sup>

Grandview Campers Return

*"This great nation  
was founded  
not by religionists,  
but by Christians;  
not on religions,  
but on the gospel  
of Jesus Christ."*

- Patrick Henry,  
Founding Father of  
the United States -

*The Church Office  
will be closed  
Monday, July 5<sup>th</sup>  
in honor of  
Independence Day.*

## Deacons of the Week:

Deck Goodman  
Red Flett

## Safety Team - July 11<sup>th</sup>:

Terrence Bock  
Jeremy Bock  
Cindy Tinnin

## Disaster Relief & Training Celebration

### July 8<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>

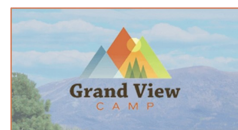
Hoffmantom Church - Albuquerque  
**Prepare to Serve!**

Come join us as we celebrate what God  
has done through faithful DR servants in  
the Crazy COVID year! Participate in  
training to prepare you to serve in the  
coming disaster season.

**To register, go to [bcnm.com](http://bcnm.com) or call  
Cricket Pairett at 924-2315  
for more information.**

Pastor David & Stephanie, Pastor Ernest & Rebecca and our  
students attending Grandview Camp are heading out tomorrow,  
Monday July 5<sup>th</sup>. Please remember to keep them all in prayer  
as they travel and through out the week.

Please be in prayer for all of our students and adults  
attending camp this year. **Thank you** to everyone who gave to  
help send our students to camp this year.



July 5<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup>



July 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>



July 26<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup>



is on a 6 week hiatus...  
please mark your  
calendars for the  
following events!

- **Zoo Day**  
Thursday July 15<sup>th</sup> - Details TBA.  
If interested, please sign up at  
the Connection Desk.
- **Family Night Block Party**  
Saturday, July 24<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 p.m.  
More information coming soon.
- **Kingdom Kids Kickoff!**  
Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> - 6:00 p.m.  
in the Kids Zone.

## Deaf Fellowship Potluck

Everyone is welcome to join us.

Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>  
5:00 p.m.

Anna Becker Park, weather permitting  
In case of inclement weather,  
we will meet in the Kids Zone.

## ROOTED YOUTH

will Not meet this week...  
Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup>

**Young Adults:** Join Pastor Ernest & Rebecca - Sunday - 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday Night Activities:** Come Join Us! Adult Bible Study - Youth -  
Deaf Fellowship

**Baby Church:** The P - 5 classroom is open to all parents/grandparents  
with babies.

**Ladies Bible Study:** Tuesday, July 6<sup>th</sup> - 9:15 a.m. - Faith Building

**Deaf Fellowship Potluck:** Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 p.m. - Anna Becker Park,  
weather permitting - in case of bad weather, we will meet in the Kids Zone.

Sermon Notes and Children's Bulletins are available at the Connection Center Desk.

## Church Office Hours

Monday: 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. . Tuesday - Thursday: 8:30 am - 4:30 pm . Friday: Closed