Our nation’s history is like our personal past…we all have one. Most of us have made mistakes and we may not be proud of every single thing we’ve ever done but we cannot deny that it happened. We cannot erase the choices we’ve made, but since we made those choices we have to live with the consequences. We can hide in embarrassment over some poor choices and be a slave to them trying to make up for them the rest of our lives OR we can admit a bad choice or wrong doing and accept the cost. But most of all we learn from our mistakes and make better choices as we go.

Some people have a rich history full of great family and wonderful experiences and good decisions. Others are born into families riddled with problems like poverty, abuse or addiction and have to decide if they want to be the same or make better choices so they do not repeat the mistakes of their forefathers. Fortunately, we are free to choose. And why are we free to choose? Because we live in a wonderful nation where so many men and women have fought and paid a price for our physical freedom. And Jesus Christ paid the price for our spiritual freedom so that we can be free from sin and death.

As we get ready to celebrate Independence Day and the freedom that July 4th signifies to so many, it makes me think about a verse in 2 Peter 2:19 (NIV) that says “They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity—for “people are slaves to whatever has mastered them.” So, my question to you would be, what if anything has mastered you and are you truly free?