

## Introduction:

A few days ago we celebrated the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We associate that with the beginning of this country and the freedom we enjoy. We value freedom, fight and die for it. We speak of the liberties we enjoy because of our freedom. We also know that freedom is spoken of by Jesus, John 8.32. We want to take a closer look that what Jesus was referring to.

### I) Who Is Free and Who is In Bondage?

#### A) Free does not mean having no responsibilities.

1. Exempt from controls or restraints. That would be the same as anarchy.
2. Even a free people must pay taxes and obey the laws of the land.

#### B) Some People Are Put Off by Freedom Because It Implies One Is In Bondage, *John 8.33*

1. The Jews were denying the obvious as they were being ruled by Rome.
2. The sinner is in bondage to sin. The drinker, profane person, drug user, etc. are all being ruled by the sin.

#### C) The call is to be free.

1. Exercise your right, *1 Peter 2.15-16*.

2. God did not make you to be a slave to sin. In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve were free until they sinned.

## II) **Free From What?**

### **A) Isolation- being alone.**

1. Many in this world suffer from loneliness and isolation.
  - a. Man needs to spend time with his fellow man.
  - b. You may spend time trying to be part of the in crowd and being accepted by others.
2. Man in sin is isolated from God but in Christ we have fellowship with Him, *1 Peter 3.12*.
3. Many of the prophets only had God and others following Him.
4. We have Jesus, *Acts 9.1-6*.
5. The spiritual family of Christians, *Galatians 6.1-2; Ecc. 4.9-10*.
  - a. We can work together, *1 Corinthians 12.24-25*.
  - b. Make each other better, *Hebrews 10.24*.

### **B) Materialism and chasing the almighty dollar.**

1. A lot of people allow the quest for money and

more things to be the center of their lives. They become isolated and lonely.

2. We are told to not love money, *1 Timothy 3.3; 6.10*.
  - a. Sad to see people sell out their families for material things, some will sell out God.
  - b. They are never satisfied always wanting more and more, *Ecc. 2.1-11*.
  - c. Our worth is not the same as our wealth.
3. Everything physical either decays and grows old or is left to someone else when we die, *2 Peter 3.10*.
4. The only thing we possess that will last beyond our death is our soul, *Mark 9.44-46*.

### **C) Sin and corruption**

1. Man in sin is a slave to sin, *2 Peter 2.19*.
2. Jesus offers an escape from sin and a way of keeping sin away from us.
3. We have the forgiveness of sin when we repent and confess, *1 John 1.9*.
4. Perfection is our goals but it is a hard thing to live us to.

### **D) Law of Man**

1. Man has developed his own traditions and gods, *Ephesians 4.17-19*.
2. Man-made religion is steeped in regulations and rituals, *Romans 1.22-25*.
3. We are not bound by useless questions, 2 Timothy 2.23.

#### **E) The Old Testament**

1. Peter described the Old Testament and its regulations as being a yoke upon the Jews, *Acts 15.10*.
2. Think of the dietary laws, laws concerning sacrifices, Sabbath Day observance, etc.
3. That law was done away with when Jesus nailed it to the cross, *Colossians 2.14*.

#### **F) From death**

1. All with die physically at which time we will wait for the Day of Judgement. On that Day we will either go to heaven or hell.
2. Christ offers us freedom from spiritual death, *Romans 6.23b*.
3. Someone said, "Death must good losers of all of us."

#### **Conclusion:**

A number of years ago Saddam Hussein was ruling Iraq. Three of his son in-laws left and went to Paris to live. He offered them

safety if they would come back home. They got on the plane, landed safely, and were escorted away. The next day it was reported they had been killed. They voluntarily left a place of safety in order to meet their death. Every day people are choosing to remain in sin, separated from God, awaiting eternal torment. Jesus offers everyone spiritual life, forgiveness of their sins, fellowship with God and others. Which do you choose?