



AUG 2022

Reach Out

MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH | AN EXTN OF KMC



Freedom
in Christ

INSIDE

Pastoral Letter	03
Praise & Prayer	06
Announcements	07
Hymn History	08
Christian Understanding	11
Bible about Freedom	15
Bible Word Search	18
Pulpit Calendar	20



MISSION STATEMENT

"To be obedient, cheerful, compassionate, humble stewards of God's Word and resources, in utter dependence upon God through prayer, so that we as a congregation and those we reach out to, will experience transformation through the saving grace of God and grow as Christ-centered people, guided by the Holy Spirit."

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICE:

9:00 AM

PASTOR:

Rev. Alfred Sudarshan Raju

Mobile: +91 98445 64695

Email: alfredsraju86@gmail.com

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Beside St. Patrick's Academy, Kodathi Gate, Bengaluru - 560 035.

Web: www.srmcblr.org | Email: office@srmcblr.org

Phone: +91 98445 64695

PASTORAL LETTER



REV. ALFRED SUDARSHAN RAJU

Dear SRMC Family,
Greetings to you all in the matchless name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It gives me immense joy to write to you once again through this newsletter. God has been gracious towards each one of us and has enabled us to see another new month in this year 2022. I believe that we had a wonderful month meditating on the topic ***“Abiding in Christ.”*** As I was pondering upon the topic for the month of August, God enabled me to think on the lines of freedom. As we are also celebrating Independence Day as a nation, it would appropriate for us to focus on the topic ***“Freedom of Christ.”*** The freedom defined in Cambridge dictionary is, *“the condition or right of being able or allowed to do, say, think without being controlled or limited.”* The world talks about the physical freedom whereas the scripture talks about the spiritual freedom. Paul in his epistles focuses on this liberty and therefore, he encourages his readers to live in the freedom that Christ has given and not to be entangled again with any sort of yoke of bondage.

Liberty and freedom are words not unfrequently used in the Bible in a political, social, and religious sense. How greatly did Israel rejoice in his freedom from the yoke of Egypt. Among the rewards offered to the man who should silence the boastings of Goliath was this, “that his father’s house should be made free in Israel.” Both the Psalmist and Paul recognized it as an essential feature in spiritual life, for the one declares that he walked at liberty when he sought the divine precepts (Ps 119:45); and the other, that “where the spirit of God is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17).

What, then is, true liberty?

Whether we choose to call it liberty or the Anglo- Saxon word “freedom,” it is evident that it refers to some kind of restraint. Freedom means, removal of something which cramps energies we wish to exert, or impedes acts we purpose to perform. Questions

like is there a complete freedom or absolute freedom? and if there is, is it worth having it? the freedom that Christ offers is for all humankind and it is complete freedom.

Paul uses two comparisons to show his readers what the Law is really like: a schoolmaster or guardian (Gal 3:24; 4:2), and a bondwoman (Gal 4:22ff). now he compares it to a yoke of slavery. Peter also used this same image at the famous conference in Jerusalem (Acts 15:10). The image of yoke usually represents slavery, service, and control by someone else over our lives. it may also represent willing service and submission to someone else. When God delivered Israel from Egyptian servitude, it was breaking of a yoke (Lev.26:13). Paul uses the imagery that was familiar to Galatians and encourage them to live in the liberty of Christ. In other words, when the believers trusted Christ, they lost the yoke of servitude to sin and put on the yoke of Christ (Matt 11:28-30). The yoke of religion is hard, and the burdens heavy; Christ's yoke is easy and his burden is light. The word easy in the Greek means "kind gracious." The yoke of Christ *frees* us to fulfill his will, while the yoke of the Law *enslaves* us. The unsaved person wears a yoke of sin (Lam 1:14); the religious legalist wears the yoke of bondage (Gal 5:1); but the Christian who depends on God's grace wears the liberating yoke of Christ.

It is Christ who made us free from the bondage of the Law. He freed us from the curse of the Law by dying for us on the Cross (Gal 3:13). As believers we are not longer under Law; we are under grace (Rom 6:14). This does not mean that we are outlaws and rebels. It simply means that we no longer need the *external* force of law to keep us in God's will, because we have the *internal* leading of the Holy Spirit of God (Rom 8:1-4). Christ died to set us free, not to makes us slaves. To go back to Law is to become entangled in a maze of dos and don'ts and to abandon spiritual adulthood for a "second childhood."

Sadly, there are some of us who feel very insecure with liberty. We would rather be under the tyranny of some leader than to make our own decisions freely. Some of us are frightened by the liberty that we have, we seek after groups that are legalistic and dictatorial, where we want others to make decisions for us. It is like an adult climbing back into the crib. The way of Christian liberty is the way of fulfillment in Christ. No wonder Paul issues that ultimatum: "*Do not be entangled in the yoke of bondage.*"

Take your stand for liberty. Paul's concern for the believers was that they should live their lives as free man and woman, as one of the commentators rightly differentiates between law and grace. The law says, "If you earn your freedom, you will be free." But Grace says: "You have been made free at the tremendous cost of death of Christ." In gratitude to him, we should stand fast therefore in liberty with which Christ has made us free. Law commands but does not enable. Grace provides what law demands, then enables man to live a life consistent with his position by the power of the holy spirit and rewards him for doing it. As C.H. Mackintosh, Irish Bible Expositor and Author says, *"The law demands strength from one who has none, and curses him if he cannot display it. The gospel gives strength to one who has none, and blesses him in the exhibition of it."*

Dear God's people, Freedom is the deepest desire of every human heart and it is powerful word too. As we meditate on this topic walking in the liberty of Christ. It is my prayer that God would speak to each one of us and enable us to enjoy the freedom that he has given to us and also enable us through Holy spirit to standfast in the liberty with which Christ has made us free. May God bless us all.

Yours in Christ,
Rev. Alfred Sudarshan Raju
(Pastor, SRMC)

Please continue to support SRMC's vision of a wholesome and God-loving Faith Community in this part of the city. You can send in your tithes/offerings to the Church by scanning this QR code. May God bless you abundantly.



SUBSCRIBE
TO OUR CHANNEL

www.youtube.com/SRMCBangalore

PRAISE & PRAYER

Praise God

- ♦ Praise God for His grace, as we meditated on the theme **“Abiding in Christ”** during the month of June.
- ♦ Praise God for the ministry of **Rev. J. Uday Kumar**, for bringing the word of God unto us and also helping us participate in Holy Communion during the month of June.

Remember and Pray

- ♦ Continue to pray for our Bishop N. L. Karkare, Madam Kamal Karkare, Executive Secretary Rev. David Nathaniel, Conference Treasurer, Rev. Mathew George M., District Superintendent Rev. Sebastian Ravikumar. Pray continuously for the Bangalore Regional Conference and that God’s will be accomplished through the conference.
- ♦ Pray for our dear Pastor, Rev. Alfred Sudarshan Raju and his family. Also, kindly keep our extended Pastoral team & their families at KMC; Rev. Mathew George, Rev. Daniel Ezra Naveen, Rev. John Shikamani and our Pastorate Committee members and their families in prayers.
- ♦ Pray for the SRMC Sunday School, children & teens ministry. Pray for wisdom and health for all teachers and volunteers, for the media team and for the technical challenges that are involved.
- ♦ Pray for all the families who have lost their dear ones to this disease, that God may give them strength to cope and hope to move ahead.
- ♦ Pray that God may raise people in the Church and outside, who can own the Project – **‘Arise, let us build’** and support in building up the place of worship at Sarjapur Road. Please pray for the right decisions to be taken going ahead.
- ♦ Pray for the Management Team of SRMC and their families as they help in various activities of the church.
- ♦ Pray for the Bible Study group, Worship team, Men's & Women's fellowships and all undertaken activities, Sunday School, Choir and all the volunteers who are striving hard to serve and raise resources for our Church.

- ♦ Pray for the sick, elders, widows and the poor, who need help in our church. Pray also for all the families that you remember at our Church.
- ♦ Pray that God may reveal His Plan for us in this locality and that the SRMC family may become a channel of blessing in this vicinity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **PASTORAL CARE** is available through the Church, you can avail the services by speaking to the Pastor personally.
- **REACH OUT** is the in-house magazine of SRMC and you are welcome to contribute your stories, missionary stories, testimonies, activity pages for children and other articles. You also have the opportunity to suggest the theme for the next Month and related resources.
- **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meetings are held every last Sunday of the month, as well as daily **Chain Prayers** are held daily thrice via Zoom. **Women's Bible Study** is scheduled for **Fridays at 7 pm**. Please contact the women's fellowship members for more details and Zoom meeting IDs.
- **SRMC Annual Retreat** will be planned shortly. Information will be sent out in due time. Request all members to kindly attend for wonderful time of spiritual and social fellowship.
- **Church Bible Study** is scheduled for every Thursday, at 7 pm, via Zoom. Pastor will be leading us in the Bible Study.
- **SRMC Sunday School** is held in the Church premises, every Sunday during the Sunday Worship Service. Please encourage your children to attend the services prayerfully for a blessed time of growing in the Word.
- Project – '**Arise, let us build**' contributions can be made through our website (www.srmcblr.org) as well.
- **Humble request:** Please be consistent in your attendance to the Church—either for the **live service in Church**, or via the **Live Stream** of the service on our website, every Sunday. This will help you to grow spiritually and it will also help the Church to grow both Spiritually and Missionally.

HYMN HISTORY

"Abide with Me" is a Christian hymn by Scottish Anglican **Henry Francis Lyte**. A prayer for God to stay with the speaker throughout life and in death, it was written by Lyte in 1847 as he was dying from tuberculosis. It is most often sung to the tune "Eventide" by the English organist William Henry Monk.



Henry Francis Lyte was the second son of Thomas and Anna Maria Lyte, whose family came originally from Lytes Cary Manor. He was born at Ednam, near Kelso, Scotland. Lyte's father was described as a "ne-er do-well... more interested in fishing and shooting than in facing up to his family responsibilities". He deserted the family shortly after making arrangements for his two oldest sons to attend Portora Royal School in Enniskillen, County Fermanagh, in Ulster; and Anna moved to London, where both she and her youngest son died.

The headmaster at Portora, Dr Robert Burrowes, recognized Henry Lyte's ability, paid the boy's fees, and "welcomed him into his own family during the holidays." Lyte was effectively an adopted son. After studying at Trinity College, Dublin, and with very limited training for the ministry, Lyte took Anglican holy orders in 1815, and for some time he held a curacy in Taghmon near Wexford. Lyte's "sense of vocation was vague at this early stage. Perhaps he felt an indefinable desire to do something good in life."

However, in about 1816, Lyte experienced an evangelical conversion. In attendance on a dying priest, the latter convinced Lyte that both had earlier been mistaken in not having taken the Epistles of St. Paul "in their plain and literal sense." Lyte began to study the Bible "and preach in another manner," following the example of four or five local clergymen whom he had previously laughed at and considered "enthusiastic rhapsodists."

Henry overworked himself taking care of the sick and soon had to visit France to regain health. Henry and his wife Anna spent their days carrying for the sick and needy every single day and visiting warmer France in the winter. Henry became ill with tuberculosis and was not expected to live much longer. At the age

of 45, Henry prepared a farewell speech for the morning of September 4, 2847 which included the lyrics of Abide With Me. Henry Lyte passed away 10 weeks after preaching his farewell sermon. The hymn was sung for the first time at his funeral, and it has been sung in Christian homes, churches, and at countless funerals ever since.

The spirit of the walk of Christ with the disciples to Emmaus at eventide is reproduced in the hymn, "Abide with Me." This has been sung at the close of many a day, and, indeed, of many a Christian life, as believers have uttered it as a prayer for the presence of Christ. It was composed one Sabbath evening in 1847 out of a deep sadness that had settled down upon its author. He had conducted his last communion service that day at the close of a pastorate of twenty-four years at Brixham, England. A fatal illness had already seized him and he was about to leave England to prolong his life, if possible, in the South.

Toward evening he walked down his garden path to the seaside and there thought out the imagery and many of the lines of his famous hymn. Into this he has woven the sense of change and of helplessness that one must feel in the presence of death, and also the trustful dependence upon Jesus Christ, the "Help of the helpless," which every true Christian must feel in that solemn hour.

Returning to his home, he wrote out the hymn, perfecting its lines and giving to the Christian world one of its tenderest prayer-hymns. He left at once for the south of France, and soon after his arrival in Nice his strength failed him, and whispering the words, "Peace! Joy!" while he was pointing his hand heavenward, he died.

The hymn became a favourite of George V and George VI and was sung at the former's funeral. The hymn also inspired Field Marshal Herbert Kitchener and General Charles "Chinese" Gordon, and it was said to have been on the lips of Edith Cavell as she faced a German firing squad in 1915.

"Abide with Me" has been sung prior to kick-off at the FA Cup final since 1927 when the association secretary substituted the hymn for the playing of "Alexander's Ragtime Band." In Rugby league, the hymn has been sung before the Challenge Cup final since 1929, the first year the match was staged at Wembley Stadium. The hymn was also played by the

combined bands of the Indian Armed Forces during the annual Beating Retreat ceremony held on 29 January at Vijay Chowk, New Delhi, which officially marks the end of Republic Day celebrations but was dropped by the Narendra Modi government before the celebrations of Republic day events in year 2022, citing its foreign origin not in sync with India's ancient republican ideas. The hymn is also the Portora Royal School victory song and is sung at its remembrance service.

Leon Litvack has written in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography that although Lyte's "poetic energies were directed at scripturally and evangelically minded audiences, his lyric gift was universally appreciated. The example of 'Abide with me' is instructive: intensely personal and contemplative, yet nationally popular—even being sung (always, after its publication in 1861, to W. H. Monk's tune, 'Eventide') on secular occasions such as at football matches.

The 20th-century hymnologist Erik Routley referred to the "much-loved H. R. Lyte" who "though scriptural and evangelical in his emphases, always writes good literature and is rarely deserted by an exquisite lyric gift. Perhaps the centrally 'romantic' hymn of all hymns is the intensely personal yet, as it has proved, wholly universal hymn, 'Abide with me.

Compiled by Joel Dubba

Eventide **Eventide, W. H. Monk.**

Hymn 14.

OR THIS CHANT.

"Abide with us; for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent."

ABIDE with me; fast falls the even-tide;
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide;
When other helpers fail, and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou Who changest not, abide with me.

I need Thy presence every passing hour;
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness;
Where is death's sting, where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

Hold Thou Thy Cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me. Amen.

A-men.

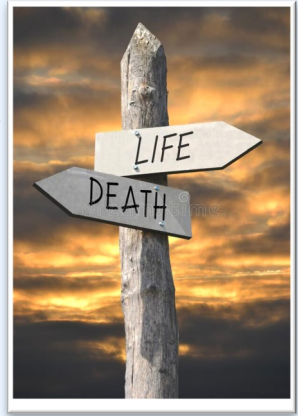
A - men.

CHRISTIAN UNDERSTANDING OF DEATH AND LIFE

(Series - 12)

We have been studying about the Christian understanding of Life since last series. In this series Let us go little further and understand how the Power of Word enhances and build the Life of People with blessings.

Then God said, “Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years; and let them be for lights in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth”; and it was so. Then God made two great lights: the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also. God set them in the firmament of the heavens to give light on the earth, and to rule over the day and over the night, and to divide the light from the darkness. Genesis 1:14-18



God specified the purpose and the function of the sun, moon and stars. They are created as signs and for seasons. He specifies the location of the sun and moon; He tells the sun to provide light in the day and the moon and stars to provide light in the night. By speaking the word, He sets them in their place and makes them function according to His will. Night and day, all the four-season come and go without fail, because God has said so.

Then God said, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” So, God created great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. – Genesis 1:20-22

He created the animals, birds and fish and spoke their function and purpose. Verse 22 is interesting. This is the first time that the word ‘bless’ is mentioned in the Bible. Another word for ‘blessing’ is ‘benediction’. What does ‘blessing’ or ‘benediction’ mean? ‘Bene’ is ‘good’; diction is ‘to speak’. When God created the animals, He blessed them by speaking good words over them. Every time God spoke, the

words of His mouth were constructive and good; they created and framed. He spoke purposefully. Right from the beginning of creation, He spoke good words and created good and purposeful things. Out of emptiness, void and darkness, God framed a beautiful, purposeful world by the good words of His mouth.

And God blessed them, saying, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let birds multiply on the earth. – Genesis 1:22

His good words to the creatures of the world are words of increase and purpose. By His word, He gives them the capacity to increase. He speaks to them to multiply and fill their habitats. People think that when they give birth to a child, they have to start accumulating wealth so that they can give it to their child when he or she grows up. But what is more important is to speak good words into the life of the child – words of increase and blessing. When we start a business, we shall speak good words of increase and blessing into it.

Then God goes on to create man. Then God said, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So, God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth. – Genesis 1:26

What is the image and likeness of God? It creates by the word; it dominates over everything that goes wrong. God created everything by His word. God took dominion over darkness, void and emptiness by His word and framed a full, beautiful and purposeful world. God made man like Him to have dominion and to create beauty and purposefulness out of emptiness, darkness and chaos.

In verse 28, we read God ‘blessed’ them and ‘spoke’ good words to them to them – be fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and dominate. Faith is the ability to speak words and produce good things. God demonstrated faith in the very beginning at the creation.

TWO KEY ELEMENTS OF BLESSING

In every part of the world and in every community, blessing is known. Some things are common in all cultures; blessing in one such thing. God taught it to the first man and it has spread to all cultures.

Let’s focus on the text of the blessing. We see that blessing can be split into 2 parts:

The blessing of increase – to multiply, grow and expand.

The blessing of success – to subdue and dominate over every wrong thing, to succeed against all odds.

This pattern can be observed over and over again in the Old Testament.

BLESSING AT CREATION

At creation, God blessed man with the words – ‘fruitful, multiply, replenish, subdue and dominate.’

The blessing of increase – to multiply, be fruitful and replenish the earth.

The blessing of success – to subdue and have dominion over the earth.

THE BLESSING OF ABRAHAM

Let us look at the blessing of Abraham. We must remember that this is the very first time that God spoke to Abraham.

The blessing of increase: I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. – Genesis 12:2-3. When he was just a single person, God blessed him saying that he would become a great nation.

The blessing of success: I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed. – Genesis 12:2-3

In just 2 verses, God mentions ‘blessing’ five times. God taught him the value of blessing; He blessed him and told him what that blessing would accomplish. He spoke the same blessing that He gave to Adam to Abraham. Though the words are different, the essence of both the blessings is the same. It looks like Abraham has understood the meaning of blessing. Moreover, he seemed to have spread the concept. All his relatives knew it.

Rebekah’s family blesses her

The context is Abraham wanted to find a bride for his son, Isaac. He sends his servant to find a bride among his relatives. He goes and finds the bride. The bride’s family was ready to send their girl along with the servant to Abraham. During her send-off, they blessed her. Though the words are different, the same elements are present.

The blessing of increase: May you become the mother of thousands of ten thousands – Genesis 24:60.

The blessing of success: And may your descendants possess, the gates of those who hate them – Genesis 24:60

Live bountifully! And your children bountifully – Genesis 24:60. [The Message Version].

Isaac's blessing on Jacob

Going further down the story, we see how Isaac blessed his sons. Jacob believes in blessing. He saw how his grandfather and his father succeed in life. He realizes that they succeeded because they had blessing. So, he decided to get the blessing by hook or crook. Of course, blessing cannot be got by robbing it. He later repents. But the point here is that he realizes the importance of blessing for his life.

Look at Isaac's blessing on Jacob.

The blessing of increase: Therefore, may God give you of the dew of heaven, Of the fatness of the earth, And plenty of grain and wine. – Genesis 27:28

The blessing of success: Let peoples serve you, And nations bow down to you. Be master over your brethren, And let your mother's sons bow down to you. Cursed be everyone who curses you, And blessed be those who bless you. – Genesis 27:28

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In setting of Silver - Pro 25:11

If God willing, let us get into deeper on Christian Life. Until then Peace be with you.

Series written by Mr. Sam Daniel
(to be continued)

JUST FOR FUN!

A Child's Point of View!

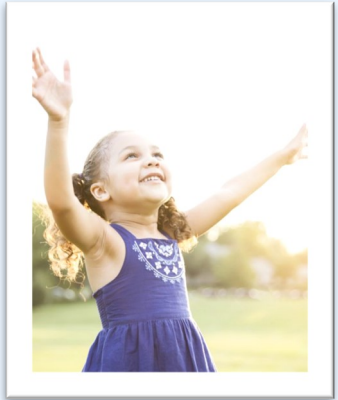
The story of Adam and Eve was being carefully explained in the children's Sunday School class. Following the story, the children were asked to draw some picture that would illustrate the story. Little Bobby drew a picture of a car with three people in it. In the front seat was a man and in the back seat, a man and a woman. The teacher was at a loss to understand how this illustrated the lesson of Adam and Eve. Little Bobby was prompt with his explanation.

"Why, this is God driving Adam and Eve out of the garden!"

BIBLE ABOUT FREEDOM

As the United States of America celebrates Independence Day on July 4, it's worth noting the nation was founded upon the idea that God created human beings to be free. The Declaration of Independence states that people "are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

But what is "liberty," exactly? Is freedom based upon the country where you live, or can it have a deeper meaning? Here are some key ideas from the Bible about freedom—including how to find true freedom in your life.



People have been searching for it for thousands of years.

The quest for freedom is a theme found throughout the Bible, from Genesis to Revelation. Just three chapters into the story of God's creation, humanity gave up its freedom by choosing to rebel against God. From that time forward, the perfect freedom God created in the Garden of Eden was gone, and the long-term effects were both physical and spiritual.

The Old Testament of the Bible records how God's people lost their physical freedom time and again as various empires overtook them (most notably the Egyptians, as recorded in the book of Exodus). The loss of physical freedom was often tied to spiritual disobedience like worshiping false gods. But time and again, the one true God forgave His people and rescued them. When God freed the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, He was foreshadowing the arrival of Jesus Christ, who came to free humanity from sin—the spiritual slavery that leads to death.

Today, many people are living in spiritual slavery without realizing it. They chase false gods of money, success, personal comfort and romantic love—only to realize they still have an emptiness that can't be filled by any of those things.

God's answer to our loss of freedom has always been Jesus Christ.

When Jesus began his short period of ministry on the earth, He announced He was the One that God's people had been waiting for since the fall of humanity. He did this by reading a particular passage from

the book of Isaiah—a passage his listeners knew was referring to the Messiah, or the Savior of the world.

The words had been written hundreds of years earlier and spoke of a new freedom that was coming in the future. When Jesus stood up to read, He was saying the future had arrived. Liberty would come through Him.

“And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written,

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to proclaim good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovering of sight to the blind,
to set at liberty those who are oppressed,
to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”*

And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing” (Luke 4:17-21, emphasis added).

***Jesus came to free us from death, sin
and anything that enslaves us.***

The core message of the Christian faith—the Gospel—is that Jesus Christ rescues us from the slavery of sin and offers true freedom in this life and beyond. This is what Jesus said:

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

The Good News—the best news ever—is that faith in Jesus frees us from the death we deserve for sinning against God. It frees us from the punishment that would be inflicted upon us at the end of our lives for the evil things we’ve thought and done. While Christ followers still battle with sin, they are no longer slaves to it. Through the power of Christ, His people can be set free from the bondage of greed, vanity, pride, pornography, addiction, abusive behavior, gluttony, selfishness—and any other sin under the sun. Here’s what Jesus said about the freedom He offers:

“If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31-32).

“Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son remains forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed” (John 8:34-36).

God gives us freedom to choose our own path.

God created human beings, not robots. We don't have to accept the freedom He offers us through Jesus Christ. He gives each person the free will to accept or reject His salvation. But the Bible warns that hell is a real place where real people end up when they knowingly reject the truth.

Likewise, those who choose Christ are not forced to obey Him at every turn. But God makes it clear: the best life is one that's devoted to honoring Him. As the Apostle Paul explained to some of the first Christians:

"All things are lawful for me," but not all things are helpful. 'All things are lawful for me,' but I will not be dominated by anything" (1 Corinthians 6:12).

"For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another" (Galatians 5:13).

Final thoughts on freedom

From cover to cover, God's Word points to freedom in Christ. And God doesn't leave us wondering how to grab hold of the freedom He offers. It starts with acknowledging our brokenness—and admitting we are slaves to sin. And it ends with choosing Jesus and following Him daily. Only He can break the bonds of slavery and lead us to true freedom, now and forever.

Choose Jesus today, and find out what true freedom feels like.

- Billy Graham (www.billygraham.org)



Name: _____

The Holy Bible Word Search



APOSTATE

BELIEVERS

JUDGEMENT

HOLY SPIRIT

CHRIST

CHURCH

JESUS

WINE

WATER

FISHERMAN

PERSECUTE

BETHLEHEM

JERUSALEM

NAZARETH

TEMPTATION

© Monsterwordsearch.com



KINDLY PARTICIPATE IN THE ACTIVITIES OF SRMC:

Sunday Worship Service

9 am, every Sunday

SRMC Sunday School

10 am, every Sunday

SRMC Bible Study

7 pm, every Thursday

SRMC Women's Bible Study

Every Friday

SRMC Women's Fellowship Meeting

6:30 pm, every Last Sunday

SRMC Management Team meeting

7:30 pm, every Last Sunday

SRMC Men's Fellowship

6:30 pm, every 2nd Sunday

SRMC Worship Team Practice

4 pm, every Saturday



We believe in the power of small groups, clustered based on locations, where we can learn, build and grow each other in the Lord.

Please contact Pastor, to find out who your NFG representative is, and join the SRMC family, for Godly meditations and discussions, birthday/anniversary wishes and a wholesome, fruitful fellowship.



SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Pulpit Calendar

"Where the spirit of God is, there is liberty" 2 Cor. 3:17

AUG 2022

1st Sunday | 07/08/2022 | 9 AM

COMMUNION SUNDAY

Speaker: Rev. Wilson Arasavalli

2nd Sunday | 14/08/2022 | 9 AM

STANDING FAST IN LIBERTY OF CHRIST | GAL 5:1-6

Speaker: Rev. Alfred S. Raju

3rd Sunday | 21/08/2022 | 9 AM

WALKING IN FREEDOM | COL 2:16-23

Speaker: Rev. Alfred S. Raju

4th Sunday | 28/08/2022 | 9 AM

TRUTH THAT SETS US FREE | JOHN 8:31-38

Speaker: Rev. Alfred S. Raju

Freedom
IN CHRIST

SRMC

All worship services are **LIVE** on www.srmcblr.org

SARJAPUR ROAD METHODIST CHURCH

Besides St. Patrick's Academy, Sarjapur Road, Bengaluru