

The Great Emancipator!

John 8:31-36; Romans 6:1-10
East Berlin Community Church
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July 5, 2020

Introduction

- July 4th, the Declaration of Independence, and the War for Independence
 - *“When in the course of human events, it become necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature’s God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impels them to the separation...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equally, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.”—Preamble to the Declaration of Independence*
- The “Emancipation Proclamation” and the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, abolishing slavery.
 - *“Neither party expected for the way, the magnitude, or the duration to which it has already attained...Each looked for an easier triumph... Both read from the same Bible, pray to the same God, and each invokes His aid against the other.”—Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address*
 - *“How strange it was that any man should dare to ask a just God’s assistance in wringing their bread from the sweat of other men’s faces.”—Abraham Lincoln, Second Inaugural Address*
- People are enslaved today—physically and spiritually
- Jesus Christ as Son of God, Spokesman for the Father
 - John 8:24-- *“Therefore I say to you that you will die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am, you will die in your sins.”*

The Great Emancipator

A. The Pathway to Freedom—John 8:31-32

- John 8:31-36--*“Then Jesus said to the Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.’ They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free?’” Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave to sin. And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.’”*
1. **Believe in Jesus Christ**
 - a. Not all faith is “saving” faith.
 - *“This section of discourse is addressed to those who believe, and yet do not believe, Clearly they were inclined to think that what Jesus said was true. But they were not prepared to yield to Him the far-reaching allegiance that true trust in him implies.” [Leon Morris, p. 454]*
 - James 2:19-- *“You believe that there is one God, you do well. Even the demons believe—and tremble.”*
 - b. Three elements of “saving” faith
 - 1) Knowledge—Romans 10:17; 1 Corinthians 15:3-4
 - Romans 10:17-- *“Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”*
 - 1 Corinthians 15:3-4-- *“Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures.”*
 - 2) Assent—affirming the content is true
 - 3) Trust—committing our lives to Jesus Christ
 2. **Continue in His Word—John 8:31**
 - John 8:31-- *“If you abide in My word you are My disciples indeed.”*
 - a. “Disciple” as learner
 - Matthew 11:28-30-- *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly of heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and My burden is light.”*

b. Continuing in His Word means...

1) Being a life-long learner

- 1 Peter 2:2-3-- *"as newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby, if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is gracious."*

2) Being a doer of God's Word.

- James 1:22-- *"But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*
- John 14:15-- *"If you love me," Jesus says, "you will keep my commandments"*
- 1 John 2:4-6-- *"The one who says, 'I have come to know Him,' and does not keep His commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him; the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked."*
- 1 John 3:24-- *"The one who keeps His commandments abides in Him, and He in him"*

3. **Know the Truth—John 8:32**

a. From Modern to Post-Modern thought about truth

b. Bible teaches timeless truth—truth is in Jesus

- Ephesians 4:17-19-- *"you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their hearts; who being past feeling have given themselves over to lewdness to work all uncleanness with greediness."*
- Ephesians 4:20-21-- *"But you have no so learned Christ, if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus."*
- Ephesians 4:22-24-- *"put off, concerning the former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness."*

4. **Truth makes us FREE—John 8:32**

- John 5:24-- *"Most assuredly I say to you, He who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life."*
- Luke 4:18-19-- *"The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, because He has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent me to heal the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery to the sight of the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD."*

B. The Pretenders—John 8:33-34

1. **The Jews thought they were free. No need for a savior.**

- John 8:33-- *"They answered Him, 'We are Abraham's descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, 'You will be made free?'"*

2. **True Condition: "Everyone is a slave to sin" John 8:34**

- John 8:34-- *"Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is slaves to sin."*

a. All are sinners by nature and by choice.

- 2 Peter 2:19-- *"While they promised them liberty, they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by whom a person is overcome, by him he is also brought into bondage."*

b. The tension and pull of sin.

- Romans 7:21-24-- *"I find then a law that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. But I see another law in my member, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"*

3. **How Jesus liberates from sin – Romans 6:1-10**

- Romans 6:1-11-- *"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? OR do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."*

For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ we believe that we also shall live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death

no longer has dominion over Him. For the death He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God. Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- a. Baptism pictures what happens at salvation
 - 1) We died with Christ to sin's power
 - 2) We were buried with Christ—complete break with the past.
 - 3) We were raised with Christ—new life

- b. No longer slaves to sin, but now slaves of God—Romans 6
 - Romans 6:17-18-- *"But God be thanked that though you were slaves to sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness."*
 - Romans 6:20-21-- *"For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regards to righteousness. What fruit then did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death."*
 - Romans 6:22--*"But now, having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness and the end, eternal life."*

B. The Promise of Freedom—John 8:35-36

- John 8:35-36--*"A slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever. Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."*
1. **Sons abide forever in God's Household!—John 8:35**
 - Matthew 8:11-12-- *"And I say to you that many will come from east and west, and sit down with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*
 - John 1:12-- *"He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name."*
 - Galatians 3:26-- *"For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus"*
 - Galatians 4:4-7-- *"But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying out 'Abba, Father!' Therefore, you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ!"*

 2. **True Freedom found only in Jesus Christ—John 8:36**
 - Galatians 5:1-- *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage."*