

"FREEDOM"
JOHN 8:31-36

INTRO: This weekend the citizens of the USA are celebrating the 247th birthday of America and the **FREEDOMS** which we have in our nation. **IT IS FREEDOM THAT BUILT THE USA, BUT IN RECENT TIMES, OUR NATIONAL, PERSONAL AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS HAVE BEEN UNDER ATTACK.** Today as we CELEBRATE AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE, let's focus on the word "FREEDOM."

A WARNING TO CONSIDER: IF WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE FOUNDATION OF OUR FREEDOM, OR REMEMBER THE COST OF OUR FREEDOM, OR PROCLAIM THE TENENTS OF OUR FREEDOM AND OR DO NOT PASS THE PRINCIPLES OF FREEDOM ON TO THE YOUNGER GENERATIONS, WE WILL LOSE OUR FREEDOM IN AMERICA!

WHAT IS FREEDOM?

1) The Dictionary Definition: **"FREEDOM IS THE POWER OR RIGHT TO ACT, SPEAK AND THINK AS ONE WANTS WITHOUT HINDRANCE OR RESTRAINT."**

2) The Biblical Definition:

-As an Adjective: **"THE ABSENCE OF RESTRAINT AND OBLIGATION INNCLUDING THE FREEDOM FROM BONDAGE OF SLAVERY."** - Romans 7:3

-As a Verb: **"TO BE DELIVERED FROM SIN"** – John 8:32

-As a Noun: **"TO BE SET FREE ONCE AND FOR ALL"** – Galatians 5:1

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON FREEDOM

1) FREEDOM is a condition that millions in the world desire to have, **and yet it is a condition that MANY ONLY DREAM OF.**

2) FREEDOM is what motivated thousands of people to their homelands on other continents, cross the Atlantic Ocean to the NEW WORLD, **not knowing what they would face, but were willing to RISK ALL THEY HAD to taste the FREEDOM THEY DESIRED.**

3) FREEDOM is what many have fought and died for because they recognized it **not as a nicety, but that of GREAT VALUE.**

4) FREEDOM is what our nation's founders recognized as a **DIVINE INALIENABLE RIGHT** that presented itself in **LIFE, LIBERTY, AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS.**

5) FREEDOM is what has been handed down to our generation by our ancestors, **BUT IT IS OUR DUTY to MAINTAIN AND PRESERVE IT for the generations to come.**

6) FREEDOM is that which is based upon the **ABSOLUTE TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD** according to John 8:32

I. THE COST OF FREEDOM

FREEDOM IS NOT FREE – IT CAME AT GREAT COST – IN SOME CASES – DEATH!

A. Many gave their lives for Political Freedom

B. Christ gave His life for Spiritual Freedom

II. THE COURSE OF FREEDOM

A THREE-FOLD PATHWAY

A. Providential Freedom – Begins with God.

B. Personal Freedom – Extended to mankind through Jesus Christ

C. Political Freedom – Through the Application of Biblical Principles

III. THE CONCERN FOR FREEDOM

THERE IS AN ATTACK ON OUR POLITICAL FREEDOM TODAY

A. Of Speech – It must be "politically correct" even if it is wrong.

B. Of Religion – Removal of God from the public square.

C. Of Expression – Many say that expressing patriotism is wrong.

IV. THE CONTINUENCE OF FREEDOM

IT IS UP TO US WHO ARE HERE TODAY

- A. We MUST Possess our Freedom – By Valuing it Greatly
- B. We MUST Pray for our Freedom – By asking God to Preserve it
- C. We MUST Proclaim our Freedom – By Obeying Scripture
“PROCLAIM LIBERTY THROUGHOUT ALL THE LAND AND THE INHABITANTS
THEREOF.” – Leviticus 25:10
- D. We MUST Protect our Freedom – By Standing for it when Necessary

LESSON AND APPLICATION

- 1) We MUST share the Gospel so that people can have the FREEDOM FROM SIN through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 2) We MUST NOT TAKE our FREEDOMS FOR GRANTED, but stand for and protect them, or we will lose them.

QUESTION: WHAT ARE YOU DOING, OR WHAT WILL YOU DO TO PROTECT THE FREEDOMS WE HAVE IN AMERICA TODAY?