

Find Freedom in God

Your Sin brings Condemnation

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

God's Love Offers Hope

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

You May Choose Life or Death

"Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness?" (Romans 6:16).

Jesus Died for Sin

"God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him" (1 John 4:9).

You Must Die to Sin

"How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? 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 of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him" (Romans 6:2, 6-8).

Choose Life through Obedience to God

"And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life" (Romans 6:18, 22).

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**We are born subjects and to obey God is perfect liberty.
He that does this shall be free, safe, and happy.**

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JUST FOR YOU



Does True Independence Exist?

It seems that everyone desires to be free, to be their own master. But is that possible?

On July 4, Americans celebrate Independence Day to remember when the thirteen colonies "broke free from English rule and oppression." These colonies formed their own new country. No longer did they need to pay British taxes, obey British laws, or honor England's king. They were free from taxation, rules, war, and submission to a king. Correct?

Well, not quite. They just exchanged to whom they paid taxes, whom they obeyed, and to whom they submitted. Now there was a new government, and citizens likely ended up paying at least as much or more in taxes. The new country also needed to protect itself and could not rely upon England coming to their aid. They now had to do it by themselves.

There is no freedom in independence from God.

Today, many people are stunned at the amount they must pay in taxes, the level of government involvement in their lives, the number of regulations that dictate their business, and the mandates that restrict their freedoms. So, are we independent?

Let me tell you about another Independence Day. This one affects all of us, Americans or not. It was the biggest Independence Day in the world.

God created the world and lovingly made all that mankind needed. He established a relationship with the first humans and gave them work to do. He established rules and parameters for them. They had great freedom, but God also gave them some restrictions. You could call this a test of their allegiance.

God told Adam and Eve, "Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Genesis 2:16, 17). Yet they chafed at this one restriction.

The devil entered the discussion and told Adam and Eve, "You will not

die." He said that God was holding out on them, was lying to them, and they could make their own decisions. They could be their own gods.

Adam and Eve chose to rebel against God's authority. We could call this mankind's Independence Day. They broke off God's restraints. But did they become free? No!

In Adam and Eve's rebellion, mankind just exchanged masters. We now serve our selfish will and the devil. We are not free. When we became independent from God, we simply became slaves of a new authority.

If you doubt me, look at the lusts and passions that rule your own life. Do addictions control you? Do you hurt those you love? Can you control yourself? Do you live up to the standard of right that you have within you?

God was right! When we rebelled, our relationship with Him was broken. We lost eternal life. Sin, disease, and death entered our humanity. We are broken.

So, do you think that you are free? How is that working for you? Unfortunately, there is no freedom in independence from God. We find that we do serve someone. The question is, which master do you serve? If you choose to serve yourself, you automatically align yourself with the devil—the master of rebellion. If you follow him, you will meet the same end as he.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness? For when ye were the servants of sin, ye

were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:16, 20, 21, 23).

Jesus tells us that we cannot serve two masters. Either we will love the one and hate the other, or we will hold to the one and despise the other. We must make a choice. In refusing to choose, we will default against God.

I encourage you, my friend, to read the Bible and study the life of Jesus, God's Son. He is the only way to reconciliation with God. He was perfect and never acted in rebellion, yet He chose to die for us. In dying, He took the curse of sin upon Himself. In rising from the dead, He broke that curse. You must accept Him as God's remedy for sin. You must follow the path that He walked.

Come back under God's authority.

You must choose to come back under God's authority. Live in rebellion no longer. Make Him your King and obey His directives. Choose to live in dependence on God. Will you surrender your will to Him?

Jesus said,

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30).