

JESUS OFFERS FREEDOM **(John 8:31-36)**

I. We have freedom from sin.

- A. Our reading contains a tremendous discussion between Jesus and a group of Jews that were challenging Him.
- B. Notice what Jesus said happens when people abide in His word.
 - 1. We are truly His disciples.
 - a. This means we are true followers of Jesus and not imitators.
 - b. We keep His teachings and no others when it comes to matters of the soul.
 - c. The word “continue” is the same word translated “abide” used so many times by John in his first letter.
 - d. It means to dwell, take up residence.
 - e. The true disciple of Jesus stays encamped in God’s word.
 - 2. This allows us to know the truth of the gospel.
 - a. Jesus is the focal point of the message because He embodies truth (John 14:6).
 - b. This truth is source of all knowledge of what God wants us to do.
 - c. When we abide in that word we will know what God wants out of us in order to be faithful to Him.
 - 3. Then we are made free.
 - a. We are freed from that which enslaves.
 - b. We know that sin enslaves the soul (Romans 6:17).
 - c. It is very true that we are still servants when Christians (Romans 6:22).
 - d. However, the servitude is different because we have consented to it, accepting the purchase price of our souls (1 Corinthians 7:23).
- C. Notice the response of the Jews: “We be Abraham’s seed and were never in bondage to any man.”
 - 1. What an extremely false statement!
 - 2. They had been enslaved by the Babylonians and currently were in servitude to Rome.
- D. They were servants spiritually as well, which was the real point of the words of Jesus - “Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”
 - 1. Whoever lives in a sinful state and leads a life dedicated to sin is sin’s servant.
 - 2. You do the bidding of Satan when living in sin.
- E. Notice Romans 3:23-24.
 - 1. At one time in the life of every man, each is a servant of sin.
 - 2. If we are Christians, we are justified, made right with God, by His marvelous grace.
 - 3. There is an important fact we must remember:
 - a. Grace cannot work without a price being paid.

- b. God's justice simply won't allow sin to be ignored without some type penalty being paid.
 - 4. Thus, grace is offered through the redemption given by the blood of Christ.
 - a. Redemption is defined as: "the procuring of a release through the payment of a price."
 - b. Later in Romans 3, Jesus is called the propitiation.
 - c. Another version renders that "sacrifice of atonement."
 - d. Jesus did what He did in order to satisfy the demands of the justice of God.
 - e. Without that death, there would be no freedom from sin.
 - F. In order to be free we must die to sin (Romans 6:7).
 - G. Paul said that could be done (Romans 6:17-18).
 - 1. They obeyed a form or standard of teaching - the gospel.
 - 2. It is not ritualistic obedience, but obedience from a heart that wants to serve God and not sin.
 - 3. It is then that we become slaves to righteousness.

II. **We have freedom from death.**

- A. In Acts 2:24, one version says, "freeing Him from the agony of death."
- B. This does not mean Christians don't experience physical death.
 - 1. Only two humans never experienced death out of all that have lived - Enoch and Elijah.
 - 2. Whenever Jesus returns, those living will not experience physical death either (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
- C. In Acts 2:24, Peter was preaching the sermon on Pentecost and referring to the resurrection of Jesus.
 - 1. The grave could not hold Jesus.
 - 2. The same will be true at His return.
 - 3. One version of 1 Corinthians 15:52 states, "the dead will be raised imperishable."
 - 4. All in the graves will come forth (John 5:28-29).
 - 5. In this way, we will be freed from death.
- D. There is another sense in which the faithful Christian will have freedom from death.
 - 1. The phrase "second death" is used in Revelation to describe the place of eternal punishment.
 - a. 2:11.
 - b. 20:6.
 - c. 20:13-15.
 - 2. Faithful Christians have no need to be concerned about the second death.
 - a. As long as we remain faithful we know that we will live forever.
 - b. Revelation 2:10.

From an outline by John Gaines.