

To you who are chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in fullest measure.

The word of God for this morning is taken from the Gospel of John 8:31-36.

**“Then Jesus said to those 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 make 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 of 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.”**

So far out text. In the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, dear fellow redeemed.

Freedom is something our country is very familiar with. Many say that no other country in the history of the world has had greater freedom than the United States. We are taught in school how we liberated ourselves from the British. We have the freedom of the press and the right to vote. Women’s suffrage is a symbol of freedom when we recall the struggles women went through to gain that freedom. African Americans might say that a great symbol of their freedom is the Emancipation Proclamation. Which when signed secured the beginnings of their freedoms.

When our liberties are endangered, we have been given the right to protest and let our voices be heard. And if necessary, we will take up arms to protect these liberties. We believe in our freedom and desire it for others so much that we will even go to war for their sake. Patrick Henry said before going into battle, “I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!”

I don’t believe any of us would say that we don’t want these liberties. Or to a degree they are worth defending. But in our text for today we are shown by God that there is another freedom which surpasses any freedom He has given us in our government. Therefore our theme for today is:

The truth shall make you free!

- I. The truth about your sin
- II. The truth about your Savior

Our text for today is part of a conversation that took place between Jesus and a group of Jews. This group of people included some Scribes and Pharisees. The Lord was telling these people that He was the Messiah and that He would be killed by them. But it appears here that they only believed in Him in a superficial way which was common amongst the Jews. Many of the Jews actually believed that the Messiah was going to be an earthly king who would free them from the bonds of Rome.

An example of this is found in John 6:14,15 **“Then those men, when they had seen the sign that Jesus did, said, “This is truly the Prophet who is to come into the world. Therefore when Jesus perceived that they were about to come and take Him by force to make Him king, He departed again to the mountain by Himself alone.”**

The truth shall make you free! And one truth, is the truth about our sin. Verse 33 of our text. **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?’”** The Jews certainly didn’t believe that they were never in bondage as a people. They knew they were in bondage to the Egyptians. And they were often enslaved while conquering the holy land. So when Jesus said that they would be made free their pride welled up. They jumped at the chance to proclaim their spiritual freedom.

They were also prideful of the fact that they were simply Jews. All throughout their history God held them up over the other nations. But what the Jews thought of themselves spiritually and as a nation wasn’t pleasing to God. They didn’t trust in Him for the forgiveness of their sins and because of that Jesus proclaimed to them. Matthew 3:9 **“and do not think to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I say to you that God is able to raise up children to Abraham from these stones.”**

We can fall under spiritual pride as well since they old Adam is dwelling in us. We might say, “I’m a third generation member of this church.” Or “I come to church every Sunday! Not like those other people who miss now and again!” Or do you become prideful when you put your offering into the basket? Maybe you think to yourself, “I know no one puts in more than me!”

But we are sinners just like everyone else throughout the world. Another truth of our sin is shown to us in verse 34, **“Jesus answered them, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.”** None of us can stand up before God and claim that he is without sin. We are sinful by nature. Psalm 51:5 reads, **“Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin my mother conceived me.”**

Even as Christians we will struggle against becoming slaves to sin. The world, our flesh and Satan continually tempts us and tries to draw us away from the Lord. 1 Peter 5:8 says of the devil, **“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.”**

And what is Satan looking to take from us? Verse 31 of our text, **“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”** Satan is trying anyway he can to strip the word from us. Because without it we are not disciples of God, we are slaves of sin.

As a whole, the churches around the world are giving up on the word of truth. They want to give up on discussing doctrine and come together with one another.

When this happens Satan wins. We are told in our text, **“If you abide in My word, you are my disciples.”** Have you been struggling with this temptation? Have you thought about giving up on the truth? Have you asked yourself recently, “Was the world really created in six days?” “Should we really break fellowship with those who are false teachers?” “Is the body and blood of the Lord really present in the Lord’s Supper?”

I pray that we haven’t. Because the consequence have been made clear to us in our text. If we abandon His word we are not His disciples. In fact, we cannot be saved. Revelation 22:19 **“And if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city.”**

Since we have seen the truth of our sins, let us now see the truths of our Savior to those who abide in His word. **“Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.”**

Bus with the word and planted it in our hearts so that we can trust and be confident in all that it promises. We didn't do anything which caused the Lord to come to us. It was never anything we did to believe. It was purely out of His mercy and love for us.

And for you who abide in His word, what wonderful promises the Lord has given you.

Verse 32 of our text says, **“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”** As you can see, God's word doesn't only contain the truth of our sins. It also contains the truth which makes you free. It contains the truth about your Savior.

He revealed the Law to us so that it would crush us and in turn be in fear of our lives. So that we might cry out as the jailer did, **“...what must I do to be saved?”** But the word of truth is like no other word found in the world. Every other religion that is found in the world demands that **YOU** would do something to appease the angry god of that religion. But not the true word of truth, it stands apart from everything. Paul told the jailer, **“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”**

Jesus took upon Himself all of your sins. He demands nothing of you. 1 John 1:9 says, **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”**

If you have thought that it would be better to give up on doctrine to worship with others, the truth shall make you free. Christ died for that sin! If you have been tempted to believe in evolution, the truth shall make you free. Christ also died for that sin! If you have sinned against your spouse, the truth shall make you free! Christ also died for that sin!

In fact, because of Christ, there isn't a single sin which you will ever commit by thought, word or deed that will be held against you because of Christ. Mark 3:28 says **“Assuredly, I say to you, all sins will be forgiven the sons of men, and whatever blasphemies they may utter.”**

The truth shall make you free! Why would we want to go back to the bondage of sin? Who in their right mind would say once they are free, “Please take me back to the dungeon! I wish to be cold and hungry! I wish to be beaten and suffer as much pain as you can give me!” Galatians 5:1 states, **“Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.”**

And by the glorious works of Jesus, the Lord has taken us from slavery into sonship. Verse 35 of our text reads, **“And a slave does not abide in the house forever, but a son abides forever.”**

In our text the slave is one who is a slave of sin. The son is the man who is free from sin in Christ. You are now sons as Galatians 4:4,5 states, **“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.”**

The word 'receive' in our text can be better understood as 'to receive in full.' This adoption wasn't done in part. When Jesus died on the cross for you our adoption wasn't only partially completed. The adoption was sure and true. When God looks at you through His Son, He doesn't see anything else in you than His biological child. The work of Christ is that perfect and complete.

The last verse in our text for today reads, "**Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.**" Praise God that He has shown you grace. He has taken the veil from your eyes and has revealed to you the glory of being a son of God. I know this is your confidence in the certainty of your salvation.

But remember my dear friends; the Lord also wants this comfort to spread to every portion of your lives. The Lord wants you to put your entire yoke upon Him. Do you have bills that seem to overwhelm you? What about the stresses associated with another hectic school year? Or maybe you are suffering from illness. The trials of life cannot be numbered. Trust upon Him to take care of any sorrow, hopelessness or insecurities in your lives because the truth shall make you free, free indeed.

Earthly freedom is precious to us. None of us would question of that. We seek it out when we vote. And if required we will pick up a gun to defend it. We can thank God for all our freedoms because He has given them to us. But I pray that I have shown you a greater freedom. One that will exist forever! I pray that I have shown you a freedom that has no cost or hidden conditions. A freedom which has been given to us freely through Jesus Christ. I pray that this freedom is more precious to you than any other that you are blessed with. To the degree that you rejoice in God's great mercy and want to spread this freedom to the world. For the sake of Jesus Christ who has made us all free indeed! Amen.