

## Freedom

Greetings precious people, this week we will examine a subject that we all are fortunate to have yet few understand the cost at which it came to us. We just recently celebrated our national holiday that recognizes that day when we became independent from the tyrannical dictatorship of England. It came at a very high price as many lives were lost and hardships endured. Maintaining this freedom and independence continues to come at a high price.

I want to begin by giving a heartfelt thank you to all current and past service men and women and their families who to serve our country and other lands so we can have the freedom we enjoy. THANK YOU!

This freedom that we enjoy is being gradually taken away from us. This freedom was divinely inspired and given to our founding fathers and is revealed within the Declaration of Independence and our Constitution. It is both a freedom from certain things, like the government dictating what its citizens can and cannot think, do and worship as well as a freedom to do certain things such as the pursuit of life, liberty and happiness.

All of the articles within our Constitution have a strong Biblical base as their foundation and were understood by the founders that it was not a freedom to do “anything” such as sexual perversion; taking advantage of the less fortunate; murder of the innocent (abortion); to name just a few of the practices that are commonly accepted today.

As we as a nation are departing from both the Constitution and the foundation of it (the Word of God and the God of the Word) many are pursuing their own idea of what freedom is. We are witnessing unparallel acts of violence; heartlessness; perversion; outright evil all in the name of “freedom”. It must be understood that the pursuit of satisfying base unbridled passions is not a sign of freedom rather of bondage and bondage of the worst kind.

The Word of God makes this very clear in a number of places in both written and illustrated truth. Proverbs 14:12, “There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” Everyone is of the opinion that what they think, do and believe is the right way though time after time they are proven otherwise. Eve thought it was right for her to eat of the tree; David to have sex with Bathsheba; Samson to play around with Delilah; the people of Sodom to rebel against the clear will of God; etc.

These were all under a strong deception and suffered the consequence. In Eph 5:6 we read, “Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.” What are the vain words to which people are deceived? That all the previously mentioned acts are ok to practice in God’s eyes. They are: Eph 5:3-5 “But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becomes saints; neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.”

God knows and warns us that the afore mentioned practices are not marks of freedom but bondage which leads to death. In Romans 6:16-23, “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? But God be thanked that though you were slaves of 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.... For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. 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. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

True freedom is not sinning at will rather not sinning and living for the glory of God.

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