



# FREEDOM IN CHRIST JESUS



## **John 8 (KJV) Our main verses are 32 & 32**

*1 Jesus went unto the mount of Olives.*

*2 And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them.*

*3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst,*

*4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.*

*5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?*

*6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.*

*7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.*

*8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground.*

*9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst.*

*10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?*

*11 She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.*

12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

13 The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

14 Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

15 Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

16 And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

17 It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

18 I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me.

19 Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.

20 These words spake Jesus in the treasury, as he taught in the temple: and no man laid hands on him; for his hour was not yet come.

21 Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

22 Then said the Jews, Will he kill himself? because he saith, Whither I go, ye cannot come.

23 And he said unto them, Ye are from beneath; I am from above: ye are of this world; I am not of this world.

24 I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

25 Then said they unto him, Who art thou? And Jesus saith unto them, Even the same that I said unto you from the beginning.

26 I have many things to say and to judge of you: but he that sent me is true; and I speak to the world those things which I have heard of him.

27 They understood not that he spake to them of the Father.

28 Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am he, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.

29 And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

30 As he spake these words, many believed on him.

**31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;**

**32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.**

33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

43 Why do ye not understand my speech? **even because ye cannot hear my word.**

44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth

*in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

*45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.*

*46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?*

*47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.*

*48 Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?*

*49 Jesus answered, I have not a devil; but I honour my Father, and ye do dishonour me.*

*50 And I seek not mine own glory: there is one that seeketh and judgeth.*

*51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.*

*52 Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death.*

*53 Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?*

*54 Jesus answered, If I honour myself, my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God:*

*55 Yet ye have not known him; but I know him: and if I should say, I know him not, I shall be a liar like unto you: but I know him, and keep his saying.*

*56 Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad.*

*57 Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham?*

*58 Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.*

*59 Then took they up stones to cast at him: but Jesus hid himself, and went out of the temple, going through the midst of them, and so passed by.*

Our minds this weekend are, naturally, because it's the Fourth of July weekend, focused on our freedom as a nation. Our freedom is a precious

thing, bought with the sweat, blood, toil and tears of countless Americans who fought to obtain it, as well as those who have fought to keep us free since that day in 1776. I am grateful for those who sacrificed, some with their lives, for our freedom and for those who continue to do so.

My mind, however, is also focused on a greater freedom we've been given, purchased with the blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. His was the greatest sacrifice of all. Not only He, but others that came before us, who died so that the truth could be passed on to us, these are on my mind today. I am grateful to our brothers and sisters in Christ who gave their lives so that we may know Jesus and what He has done for us.

When Jesus came, even the religious people were full of sin. As we just read, some who heard Jesus' promise to "continue in my word, you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free" self-righteously objected. They said that they had never been in bondage to anyone. Not only was their objection inaccurate (historically they had, indeed, served as slaves in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia and many Jews were slaves in Rome even as they spoke), they were still missing his point. Jesus explained He was talking about their being in bondage to sin (John 8:33-36).

These religious leaders were full of pride and pretentiousness; they were hypocrites and greedy; full of hatred and selfishness. They held to outward religious show; self glory and human tradition, often setting aside God's commandment in favor of their traditions. They were self-righteous and hard-hearted. Jesus came to free them from all that, and us as well. Sin and religion are cruel slave masters which will always leads to spiritual death in the end (**Romans 6:23**).

## **We Have Liberty in Christ**

There is an even greater freedom than our national freedom, and that is our freedom in Christ.

While the Jews dealt with these things, the Gentiles were no better off. They were in bondage to false gods (Galatians 4:8). Jesus came to set us all free. He was the only One who could. We could not free ourselves it had to be Jesus, God's Son. In Him we are set free as we are made new (**2 Corinthians 5:17**). Remember Jesus' own words about it; this freedom is related to and dependent upon "abiding in (His) word" (**John 8:31**).

In **HIS WORD**, not in what religion tells us His word is. That's why study in the original is so important. Things were changed, most were interpreted correctly, some words mistranslated were unimportant but some were very important. It's important to know the truth. The truth you know and live will set you free.

### **Romans 8:1 Common English Bible (CEB)**

So now there isn't any condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. (This is one of those scriptures that was changed in the King James Version to due error) The CEB and some other versions, have translated it correctly.

Original	<i>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus."</i>
First Error	<i>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh."</i>
Second Error	<i>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit."</i>
Third Error	<i>There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, who walk according to the flesh, but according to the spirit."</i>

### **2 Corinthians 3:17**

Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. (NIV)

### **Ephesians 3:12**

In him [Christ] and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. (NIV)

### **Galatians 5:1**

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing.

3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law.

4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love.

7 Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth?

8 This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you.

9 A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.

10 I have confidence in you through the Lord, that ye will be none otherwise minded: but he that troubleth you shall bear his judgment, whosoever he be.

11 And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? then is the offence of the cross ceased.

12 I would they were even cut off which trouble you.

13 For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

14 For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

15 But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another.

Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery. (NIV)

The specific danger Paul addresses in the above passage (Galatians 5:1-15) is a return to or dependence upon Judaism for salvation. Paul has many good things to say about the Law of Moses. It is good; it is righteous; it led us to Christ as a schoolmaster, it spoke of the Christ to come; it is profitable for study and learning from its examples, and so forth. But it could not

justify, and returning to it for justification **would only result in enslavement.**

False teachers were demanding the continuing observance of the Law; and even that the Gentiles, to whom the Law was never given, subject themselves to its ordinances. Paul writes, "Therefore, let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day..." (Colossians 2:16).

Additionally, there were false teachers of other sorts trying to adulterate the gospel with human philosophy and traditions (Colossians 2:8-10). Paul's answer: "But even though we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we have preached to you, let him be accursed." (Galatians 6:8).

## **Be Not Subject Again**

"... and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." (Galatians 5:1b).

What am I trusting in today?

The Fourth of July is a wonderful time to consider our freedom—as Americans and as Christians. Our national freedom is precious, but our freedom in Christ is of infinite worth.

We must stand guard over our freedom in Christ, else we may well find our liberty eroded and ourselves enslaved again. Peter warns that the final state of enslavement can be even worse than the first so encourages the faithful not to allow themselves to be led astray by false promises and teachings (2 Peter 2:18-22).

Even as Jesus referred to the Pharisees of His day as being enslaved, there are those today who think like the Pharisees thought. They are prideful and hypocritical. They look for a physical kingdom of silver and gold instead of a spiritual kingdom of truth and righteousness. They are steeped in human religious tradition and creeds, while setting aside the doctrine of Christ. Do not let the modern version of the Pharisee rob you of your freedom!

## **The Answer To Avoiding Losing Our Freedom**

"For sin shall not be the master over you, for you are not under Law, but under grace." (**Romans 6:14**).

## **Acts 11:1-17**

*1 And the apostles and brethren that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God.*

*2 And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him,*

*3 Saying, Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them.*

*4 But Peter rehearsed the matter from the beginning, and expounded it by order unto them, saying,*

*5 I was in the city of Joppa praying: and in a trance I saw a vision, A certain vessel descend, as it had been a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came even to me:*

*6 Upon the which when I had fastened mine eyes, I considered, and saw fourfooted beasts of the earth, and wild beasts, and creeping things, and fowls of the air.*

*7 And I heard a voice saying unto me, Arise, Peter; slay and eat.*

*8 But I said, Not so, Lord: for nothing common or unclean hath at any time entered into my mouth.*

*9 But the voice answered me again from heaven, What God hath cleansed, that call not thou common.*

*10 And this was done three times: and all were drawn up again into heaven.*

*11 And, behold, immediately there were three men already come unto the house where I was, sent from Caesarea unto me.*

*12 And the Spirit bade me go with them, nothing doubting. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered into the man's house:*

*13 And he shewed us how he had seen an angel in his house, which stood and said unto him, Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon, whose surname is Peter;*

*14 Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved.*

*15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.*

16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

### **Romans 14:14**

*I know, and am persuaded by the Lord Jesus, that there is nothing unclean of itself: but to him that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean.*

### **1 Corinthians 6:12 (NIV)**

*"Everything is permissible for me"—but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"—but I will not be mastered by anything."*

### **Romans 4:13**

*Where there is no law, there is no transgression*

### **Romans 14:23**

*Whatever is not of faith is sin*

### **James 4:17**

*To him that knows to do good and does not do it is sin*

**We must stand guard over our freedom in Christ**, or we may find our liberty eroded and ourselves once again in bondage. Peter warns that the final state of bondage can be even worse than the first so encourages the faithful not to allow themselves to be led astray by false promises (**2 Peter 2:18-22**).

Even as Jesus referred to the Pharisees of His day as being enslaved, there are those today who think like the Pharisees thought. They are prideful and hypocritical. They look for a physical kingdom of silver and gold instead of a spiritual kingdom of truth and righteousness. They are steeped in human religious tradition and creeds, while setting aside the doctrine of Christ. **Do not let the modern version of the Pharisee rob you of your freedom!**

**Do not let empty human philosophy take your freedom away.** The names of the philosophies may have changed (now we have humanism, modernism and so forth) but the effects are still the same. They cannot save. Only the gospel can do that (**1 Corinthians 1:18-22**). The world is

constantly bombarding us with words to entice us away from our salvation. Our answer: "It was for freedom that Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery." (**Galatians 5:1**).

Jesus distilled the commandments into two. He wasn't kidding when he said his yoke was easy, his burden is light.

**Matthew 11:30**

For my **yoke is easy**, and my **burden is light**.

**Mark 12:28-31** (*King James Version*)

*28 And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all?*

*29 And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:*

*30 And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment.*

*31 And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these.*

As you celebrate the Fourth of July, think of creative ways to make the "Declaration" of freedom in Christ to family and friends. How can we use this good news to share the gospel with our family and friends?