

SLAVERY WITHIN A FREE LAND

John 8:32-36; 14:6

Introduction: Everybody wants to come to the United States, to America, the "land of the free." In this land one is free to live as he/she wants, be what he/she wants, marry who he/she wants, worship as he/she wants, etc. In the Biblical days the Jews were enslaved to the Babylonians, Syrians, Egyptians, Romans and were never willingly subject to any nation. However, no matter where one lives, there will always be enslavement and people will always need to be delivered from that enslavement.

I. WAYS OF ENSLAVEMENT

1. People enslave people, governments enslave people, habits enslave people.
2. Jesus taught that everyone was enslaved by SIN.
 - Everyone who sins is a slave of sin.
 - A wise man once said, "How can a man be called free when his pleasures rule over him?"
 - We say, "I'll do what I like, I can do what I want to with my life!"
 - However, we do NOT do what we like, we do what SIN likes.
 - Try breaking habits - pleasures are so strong that we cannot do without them and we are powerless to break away.
 - We can actually get to a place where we hate and love our sins at the same time.
 - So, do we really do what we like? We have lost the power to do what we like and are but slaves to habits, self-indulgences, pleasures and sin.
3. Jesus spoke of the Law where God requires perfect and perpetual obedience yet man constantly violates God's laws.
4. Jesus spoke of the power of Satan as it often mocks and denies God. We have but to point to the actions of mankind. Satan's power is actually like that of a "roaring lion" in the eyes of God.
5. Jesus spoke of death. There are many attitudes about death, but all roads of human life eventually lead to death, sooner or later, death comes for us all.
6. No person who sins, and we all do, is ever free. Any person who sins is in fact the slave of sin.

II. WAYS OF DELIVERANCE

1. Rebellion, civil war, determination, wars, strikes, etc. Man makes ways of delivering himself from slavery.
2. When it comes to the slavery of sin, man tries to be free from sin by his own strengths.
 - However man cannot pay for a single sin - Only the blood of Jesus Christ does that.
 - We cannot renew or sanctify our own hearts, we cannot even keep good thoughts very long.
 - We cannot successfully resist Satan - Only God can provide the means and way of escape.

3. Jesus Christ spoke of freeing the soul - the inner man.
4. Jesus was willing and able to deliver us from the slavery of sin.
 - Delivering us from Sin was Jesus' purpose for coming in the first place.
 - Look at His ministry and the price Jesus paid to free us from the slavery of sin.
 - God was totally satisfied with Jesus' sacrifice/work and Jesus now has the Name above all names at which every knee shall bow.
5. The Jews didn't think they needed delivering from anything, they were spiritually blind.
 - Their pride closed their minds to the truth.
 - There is similar blindness among many who live in a "free" land.
6. **John 14:6**
 - There is no other way for complete freedom from the slavery of sin, not works, not by inheritance, not by some reward - only through Jesus Christ.
 - Any so called "freedom" outside Jesus Christ is worthless.
 - If not a child of God, then one is not free.

III. THE LIBERTY OBTAINED THROUGH JESUS

1. The Christian/believer is free from ALL enslavement/bondage.
 - The curse of the law (death) has been lifted and eternal life promised.
 - Sin has been removed from control of one's life and Jesus put in sin's place as Master.
 - Satan's power has been broken and the Holy Spirit is now in control.
 - Death is no longer victorious and has no sting any longer.
2. The Christian/believer is in a perfect state of freedom.
 - The Christian/believer has become a Child of God, adopted into God's Family.
 - The Christian/believer has continual blessings.
 - The Christian/believer will enjoy God's blessings throughout all eternity.

CONCLUSION:

1. Every person is enslaved by Satan and sin.
2. Nobody is completely able to free him/herself.
3. God loves everybody and wants us all to be free from Satan and sin.
4. Jesus Christ came to live and die to bring truth and freedom to mankind.
5. God is satisfied with Jesus Christ's life, death and resurrection.
6. Complete, total freedom can be anybody's and is offered to everybody through Jesus Christ.
7. Are you free? Or are you still a slave to Satan and sin? Have you accepted Jesus Christ?

