

Join us for

Faith Family
Camp

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

What is Freedom? 1

The Price of
Freedom? 2

Grace Makes You
Free 3

Free at Last 4

FORTRESS OF
JOY CHURCH

What is Freedom?

It seems like everyone has a different idea of what freedom is to them. Freedom to a teenager is getting out of school and their parents' house. Freedom to a convicted felon is getting out of prison, to a drunk it is getting sober. I have watched disease ridden people slowly suffer and die and when they die people nearby say: **Well, no more suffering!** I have visited cemeteries and on many headstones you see the letters RIP, **Rest In Peace.** If they are indeed resting in peace then they are truly free, but RIP doesn't apply to everyone.

Judges 2:16 The Lord raised up judges, which delivered Israel out of the hand of those who led them into captivity.

In the Old Testament God raised up fifteen judges that fought and led Israel out of bondage. But they never got totally free because in a little while the Lord had to raise up another judge and another judge to get them free again and again. When a man is totally free, the thing that put him in bondage can no longer take him. Israel needed a judge that could get to the root of their problem and get them free once and forever.

Luke 4:18 I am anointed

to preach the Gospel to those who lack and to preach deliverance to the captives.

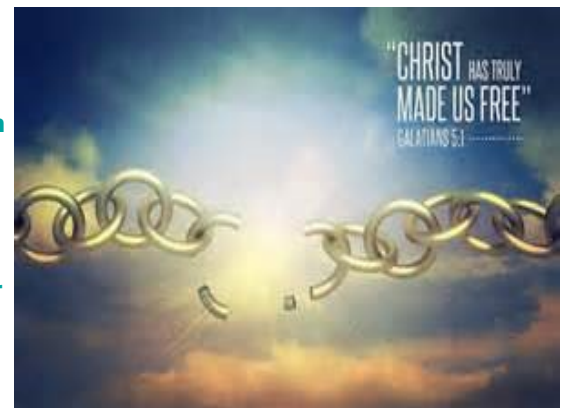
The Apostle Paul referred to Jesus as the righteous Judge, I believe Jesus would be the last Judge of Israel. The Old Testament judges set the captives free and now Jesus would come to set us free once and forever. In the old covenant the priest offered the blood of bulls and goats every year, this was a type of the Blood of God's Lamb. Now the last sacrifice was about to be offered and the last Judge would lead the captives free. The freedom Jesus would purchase for us was spiritual freedom, so true freedom is in the heart. The priests arrested Jesus and His disciples and put them in prison, but they were never in bondage. You can arrest a man and put him in jail but you cannot take away his conviction.

Mark 6:5 Jesus could do no mighty works there, He laid His hands upon a few sick folks and healed them. And He went about their villages teaching.

Jesus was anointed for miracles but the people were so bound up in their flesh that He could not do what the Father sent Him to do. Their deliverance was contingent on hearing the Word or will of the Father. They would not hear Jesus, they treated Him like just another "Rabbi", another preacher that enforced the law. The people were in captivity to their pastors, they were taught all the things they shouldn't do, Jesus went about teaching the anointed, uncompromised Word of God. When the people heard Him, they said they had never heard anything like this before, despite having the words of the prophets.

Mathew 7:29 For He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

Jesus came to set the captives free forever, the scribes were all about keeping people in bondage.



The Price of Freedom

They had never met a righteous man before, they couldn't know the righteous are one with the Father.

Freedom is not free. Millions upon millions of men have died fighting for their freedom and the freedom of others. Nazi Germany attacked Europe in an effort to take that part of the world into captivity. At about the time of their defeat Japan bombed the United States in an effort to be the lord of the West.

John 10:10 The thief comes not but for to steal, kill and destroy: I am come that they might have life, and they might have it more abundantly.

There is no doubt in my mind the devil is the warlord, he loves to pit men against men and nation against nation. The fundamental purpose of war is to

United States. The rock-et man has the demon of paranoia, he has convinced his entire nation that we are plotting to get him. The bulk of his money is spent on weapons while people die of malnutrition. The people live in abject fear because he kills them for no good reason, they have no life, they have an existence.

John 8:31-32 Jesus spoke to those Jews that believed Him. You shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

The Jews did not know what Jesus was talking about, they did not know what freedom was. They thought that because they were descendants of Abraham they were not subject to anyone. As descendants of Abraham they thought they were doing Abraham's will to kill Jesus. They were indeed Abraham's children but they did not know Abraham. They believed Jesus was a threat to their "religion" because He claimed to be one with the Father. They had never met a righteous man before, they couldn't know the righteous are one with the Father. They truly believed they were justified to kill Jesus, they believed it was God's will.

John 8:44 You are of your father the devil and the lusts of your father you will do, he was a

murderer from the beginning.



So, when Jesus was talking about getting the Jews free, He was thinking of the demonic powers. They had no clue who was forging their thoughts, plans or ideas. People who are controlled by the devil do not know who is pushing their buttons. It is so natural to them, it's as if they and the devil are one and the same. Unfortunately, many of these folks will never meet the devil until its too late, they will abide in his home forever. No man can be truly free until his bond with the devil is broken. If they would have listened to the teachings of Jesus, the devil would have been exposed. There are a lot of things we don't know about ourselves and we never will until we know God's Word. God's Word is like the parents of a child, it tells that baby who they are and why they were born. Jesus had to die in order to get us free, He was the only one who would do what He did. Freedom is not free, it requires the blood of those who are free.



force another nation to submit to you. North Korea exists for one purpose, to make war with South Korea and the

Grace Makes You Free

There was a time when we could make reference to grace and although we didn't fully understand it, we didn't misappropriate it. Without grace none of us could become truly free.

Romans 6:14 Sin shall not have dominion over you: for you are not under the law, but under grace.

Israel did not know right from wrong when they were in bondage to Egypt. So, when God gave the law to Moses it gave the people a "sin consciousness". No matter how hard they tried, they could not get free of their sin. The law revealed just how naughty they were but it made no provision for deliverance. So, the law gave knowledge of sin but it could not stop the act of sinning.

Romans 5:20 The law was introduced in order to increase wrong doing; but where sin increased, God's grace increased much more.

God wanted His people to know that they were sinning and then come to understand He was going to do something about it once and forever. Grace did not manifest until Jesus rose from the dead, before anyone could become free the devil had to be dealt with. No one could keep the law because they all had the nature of satan, man's tie to the devil had to be broken. The devil had the power of death, he could continually keep men separated from God. When Jesus rose from the dead he stripped the devil of his power to divide

man from their original Father.

Ephesians 2:8 For by grace are you saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.

When grace is properly applied you are saved from your evil nature and the influence of the dev-

If grace is compromised it makes you free in your mind, but freedom is of the spirit not the flesh. We do ourselves no service when we use grace to justify our sin. True freedom is the ability to do whatever the Lord requires of us. If you're a debtor to your flesh, you need His grace to set you free. If you cannot commit your life to the lordship of Jesus, you are not

**FOR BY GRACE
YOU ARE SAVED
THROUGH FAITH**

← **EPHESIANS 2:8-9** →

**AND THIS IS NOT FROM YOURSELVES
IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD
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SO THAT NO ONE CAN BOAST**

il. No man can become free until his very nature is changed. God's grace is His supernatural power that instantly changes us from a child of wrath into a child of God. The key to having grace living and working in your life is faith, we are saved by grace through faith. There is no application apart from faith, grace without faith is compromise.

Romans 14:23 Anything that is not based on faith is sin.

free. If you cannot love your enemies and forgive those who wronged you, you are not free.

Grace is amazing, it transforms us into a person we can never become on our own. When a man is imprisoned he follows the law of the penitentiary for fear of punishment. When a man is under grace he obeys the Lord because it's His nature and he loves it.

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**Restoring the
supernatural power
of God back
to the local church**

Free at Last

Freedom must never be taken lightly, a lot of folks died setting others free. The only way we could get free is by the shed blood of Jesus. Jesus was willing to die in order to set us free and He counted it a joy.

Jude 1:4 Some ungodly people have wormed their way into your churches, saying that God's grace allows us to live immoral lives.

God's grace set us free and then some people have turned it around and altered His gift. They teach we can live like the devil and remain blessed and saved. Remember that anything not done in faith is sin. So can one say: "I



Galatians 5:13
Brethren you have been called into liberty; only use not your freedom for an occasion to the flesh.

God did not shed His grace to make us free so we could continue in the habits of our old nature. He intends for us to become new creatures in Him, not justified sinners. Jesus went to hell and back to make us free, if we went to hell we would never come back. So live for the freedom He died to

am going to kill this person because I don't believe it's a sin"! God will not be mocked, no one will get away with genetically altering God's Word.

give us and protect it at all costs, you have the grace to do so.