

FREEDOM

July 2, 2006

Jesus dies to free us

- ***When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners.***
Romans chapter 5 verse 6 (860)
- ***Jesus gave his life for our sins, just as God our Father planned, in order to rescue us from this evil world in which we live.*** *Galatians chapter 1 verse 4 (890)*
- ***So Christ has truly set us free. Now make sure you stay free....***
Galatians chapter 5 verse 1 (893)

How do I stay free???

1. Realize true freedom IS Jesus!

- ***Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life."*** *John chapter 14 verse 6 (823)*
- ***Jesus said, "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."***
John chapter 8 verse 32 (817)
- ***Jesus said, "If the Son sets you free, you are truly free!"*** *John chapter 8 verse 36 (817)*
 - ↳ How much of a student of the Bible am I?
 - ↳ Am I living out the reality that I will experience more & more freedom the more that I get to know Jesus?

2. Spend regular time getting to know Jesus

- ***I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commands.***
Psalms 119 verse 45 (469)
 - ↳ How consistent am I in reading / studying the Bible.
 - ↳ Do I live out the reality that my ability to live in true freedom is directly tied into me getting to know AND apply Jesus' teachings & the Bible better in my life?

3. Choose your friends carefully

- ***...there is safety in having many advisors.*** *Proverbs chapter 11 verse 14 (488)*
- ***As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.*** *Proverbs chapter 27 verse 17 (501)*
- ***...bad company corrupts good character.*** *1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 33 (880)*
- ***Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other...*** *James chapter 5 verse 16 (932)*

4. Acknowledge that you have a real enemy

- ***Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Stand strong against him, and be strong in your faith.*** *1 Peter chapter 5 verses 6 & 7 (937)*
 - ↳ I need to daily put on my armor to be able to fight the devil - see Ephesians chapter 6 verses 10 - 18 (898)
 - ↳ Get a copy of & listen to Evan's talk on "Spiritual Warfare" given on Wednesday, April 26th, 2006

(over)

5. Identify your areas & times of weakness

- ***The Lord grants wisdom! From his mouth come knowledge and understanding.***

Proverbs chapter 2 verse 6 (482)

- ↳ Spend time with a Christian Counselor or trusted Godly friend to learn about your tendencies and areas of weakness
- ↳ Learn to identify your “trigger points” in advance, then ask for help in avoiding them

6. H. A. L. T.

- The acronym “HALT” is good to remind me not to get to Hungry, Angry, Lonely, or Tired. We tend to be more vulnerable to temptation during these times, so be aware of what is going on inside of you so you can be proactive
- Having regular times of accountability & godly friends you can call are a great help with this

7. Take authority over your mind

- ***Don't copy the behaviors and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think.*** *Romans chapter 12 verse 2 (866)*

- ↳ Be intentional about filling your mind with God-honoring stuff. I should question EVERYTHING that comes into my mind...music, TV, computer, reading...everything!

8. Immerse yourself in the book of Proverbs

- ***Solomon, the writer of much of the book of Proverbs, tells us that the reason he wrote this book was “to teach people wisdom and discipline.”*** *Proverbs chapter 1 verse 2 (481)*

- ↳ There are 31 chapters in Proverbs...get into the habit of reading a chapter a day, or spend the summer reading thru the book once ever week
- ↳ Underline the verses that really challenge you. Then memorize some of them
- ↳ I guarantee that when you do this, you will live differently!

Now Live in Freedom!!

- ***You have been called to live in freedom.... But don't use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead use your freedom to serve one another in love.***

Galatians chapter 5 verse 13 (893)

- ***For the Lord is the Spirit, and wherever the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.***

2 Corinthians chapter 3 verse 17 (883)

- ***Jesus gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing good deeds.*** *Titus chapter 3 verse 14 (918)*

Next Week: We begin our new study, Seven Things that Steal Your Joy by looking at the topic “Living by Sight”

Please pray for, then write to & encourage Sgt. Andrew A. Robinson, NNMC
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