

Blind to Freedom

Today is a day that we see Jesus entering Jerusalem while everyone wished to celebrate Him as their King. (They wanted freedom, yet they were blind to the **true freedom** that Jesus brought)

Bob Dylan wrote and sang “Gotta Serve Somebody”.

Everyone declares how “free” they are without religion in their life.

“Free in America” but do you have the true freedom that only Christ can give?

Acts 17:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols.

Acts 17:19-30 (ESV)

¹⁹ And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?

²⁰ For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.”

²¹ Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who lived there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.

²² So Paul, standing in the midst of the Areopagus, said: “Men of Athens, I perceive that in every way you are very religious.

²³ For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

²⁴ The God who made the world and everything in it, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,

²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.

²⁶ And he made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined allotted periods and the boundaries of their dwelling place,

²⁷ that they should seek God, and perhaps feel their way toward him and find him. Yet he is actually not far from each one of us,

²⁸ for “‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, “‘For we are indeed his offspring.’

²⁹ Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man.

³⁰ The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent,

- Interesting passage of Paul addressing the “idols’ of Athens.
 - They tried to cover “all the bases” for a false freedom.
 - In all of their attempts, **they ignored the only path to freedom** in Jesus.
 - What real freedom did their humanism and idols really give them?
 - Day of truth is coming.
1. False freedom- (Freedom based on a lie, is not freedom)

2 Peter 2:17-19 (ESV)

¹⁷ These are waterless springs and mists driven by a storm. For them the gloom of utter darkness has been reserved.

¹⁸ For, speaking loud boasts of folly, they entice by sensual passions of the flesh those who are barely escaping from those who live in error.

¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

- a.) So, what is a spring without water? (As empty as a person is without Jesus) Yet they serve “somebody”. (Anxiety- while attempting to cover the anxiety with substitutes)

John 4:14 (ESV)

¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.”

- Jesus is an “ever flowing” well of eternal life. (True freedom) Contrast that with being empty!
- Heretical thought and their “leaders” fall short **as they try and provide the freedom with lies.**
- b.) Mists driven by a storm- (their solution is a useless spray spread frivolously to the winds of a storm!) all of the useless “learning and believing” without the **source of the well of truth!**)
- c.) Gloom of utter darkness- supposed light of truth, but only a **darkness of demise!**

*** How does this appeal to anyone? (False truth/safety in numbers by false thought leaders) And yes they creep into our churches if we are not on guard!

- d.) Boasts of folly- inflated, dynamic drive! (Man madly runs to anything but the Lord Jesus) They refuse to surrender to Him, His Word, by the conviction of His Spirit!

2 Corinthians 5:16-17 (ESV)

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.

¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

- The flesh fights against the guiding, convicting of the Holy Spirit and the truth of the Word. (We need to surrender to the one source of freedom.) It means He is the source though...) *They fear what frees us would only hold one down.* (They need others to follow so they feel justified in their resistance.)
- e.) Prey upon the weak- overcoming people and therefore enslaving them. (Remember, Jesus empowers, doesn’t enslave.) Are you saved but not growing? (They are coming for you.)
- 2. Can’t be a Christian when your master is a liar! – (Sin kills, and its master is an expert on false.)
- Money, lusts, pride, power. (Peter earlier contrasted Noah, Lot, and Baalam) Think about it!

Hebrews 3:12-13 (ESV)

¹² Take care, brothers, lest there be in any of you an evil, unbelieving heart, leading you to fall away from the living God.

¹³ But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called “today,” that none of you may be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

- a.) Freedom is responsibility- (Fulfilling God's will, and your created purpose) Or enslaved self...
- b.) Paul showed the Athenians their folly- and the truth that they sought.
 - Holiness is not self- control- (Flesh doesn't have that power) It is refusal to disobey King Jesus and His Word. (And as odd as it may seem, it ushers the freedom that a loving God desires)

2 Peter 2:19-20 (ESV)

¹⁹ They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.

²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first.

- 3. False Experience cannot make anyone free- (Heretical thought is never Christian.)

2 Peter 2:21-22 (ESV)

²¹ For it would have been better for them never to have known the way of righteousness than after knowing it to turn back from the holy commandment delivered to them.

²² What the true proverb says has happened to them: "The dog returns to its own vomit, and the sow, after washing herself, returns to wallow in the mire."

- Remember, everyone is shown truth. (Romans 1) ('without excuse)
- Something to say they are "o.k." , religious but not Christian.

John 10:27-28 (ESV)

²⁷ My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.

²⁸ I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.

James 2:19 (ESV)

¹⁹ You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!

- a.) A pig can't get washed without running back to the mud/cute little dog is going to eat filth, regurgitate it and consume it again!

Conclusion

- Heretical thought leaders and followers- appear clean yet run to the mud.
- New nature and old nature are two separate and opposed paradigms.
- Remember in 2 Peter 1:4 "divine nature"? (No change on the inside, no hope for the outside)
- So, if you are changed, why be enslaved when you have been made free? (Lack of realization, info) Influenced by blinded leadership.

2 Peter 1:10 (ESV)

¹⁰ Therefore, brothers, be all the more diligent to confirm your calling and election, for if you practice these qualities you will never fall.

Have you been set free? (Don't fall prey to the lost!) (reverting to old self)

Avoid empty counterfeit thought, be free, the way that Christ intended!