

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Our True Freedom is Found Only in Jesus

Week of January 7, 2018 A.D.

Do we have freedom through our faith in Christ? We will explore the answer to that question in this lesson.

Read Luke 4:14 – 19

1. It has been 2000 years since the physical death of Jesus. So, how do you explain the fact that there are still among us people who are: (a) poor? (b) prisoners? (c) blind? and (d) oppressed? Please be as specific as possible in your answers.
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Planet earth is a prison. All humans are prisoners. Satan is the jailer."

Read Romans 6:15 – 18

3. Refer to verses 17 – 18. Must every person be either a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness? Is there no middle ground? Can a person be a slave to both sin and righteousness in varying degrees? Please explain your answers.
4. Refer to verse 16. How does being a slave to sin lead to death? How does being a slave to obedience lead to righteousness? If sin leads to death, and if obedience leads to righteousness, are "righteousness" and "life" the same thing? Please explain your answers.

Read Romans 6:19-23

5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Apparently, no matter how you slice it, as mere human beings, we are slaves. We are either slaves to sin or we are slaves to righteousness. So, because we have no freedom, life is a cruel joke and who cares how we live."

Read Romans 6:23 and John 11:25 – 26

6. Is "eternal life" a good incentive for "believing in Jesus"? Please explain your answer.

Read Matthew 13:36 – 43

7. Please analyze, critique, and discuss the statements which appear at number 5 in this study by making specific reference to this passage found at Matthew 13:36 – 43.

Read Galatians 5:13 – 15

8. Do Christians have absolute, unrestricted freedom in Christ? If so, is the Christian free to sin as he or she chooses? If not, does he or she really have any freedom at all? Please explain your answers.

Read 1 Peter 2:16 – 17

9. Read verse 16 again. How can a person “live as a free man” and, at the same time, “live as a servant of God”? Are not the terms “free man” and “servant” contradictions and mutually exclusive terms? Please explain your answers.

Read John 14:23 – 24

10. How does love fit into the role of a Christian as a “slave” or “servant” to and for Jesus?

Read John 15:9 – 17

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Even though a Christian has absolute freedom to sin (because all of the sins of a Christian have been forgiven forever), the Christian will not sin because of his love for Christ.”
12. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Because Jesus accepted the punishment for my sins on the cross, Jesus literally owns me. And, in love for Him, I will allow Him to guide and direct my life as I strive to live in obedience to Him.”

Consider: As a forgiven and redeemed follower of Christ, I am absolutely free from the death penalty which is the punishment for my sin. To whom do I owe my allegiance? How now shall I live? “You think about that.” Amen.