

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Week of August 21, 2022 A.D.

Freedom to Live for Christ

The definition of “freedom” includes the following: “the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action; liberation from the power of another; the state of being exempt from something onerous”. Freedom is at the very heart of the gospel. Without freedom, it is impossible for a person to enjoy a love relationship with Christ. Let’s talk about that in this lesson.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Galatians 5:13-14

1. Are you a follower of Jesus Christ? Do you hold to the teachings of Christ? Do you enjoy absolute freedom in your life? If not, what specifically has restricted your freedom? If you do enjoy absolute freedom, please explain why and explain how that freedom feels.

Read 1 John 4:16 - 18

2. Does God live in you? Do you live in the love of God? What does it mean to be fearful or to live in fear of someone or something? Does God want, enable, and expect every follower of Christ to live without fear? If not, why not? If so, why and how?

Read John 20:19 - 20

3. Were the disciples fearful or courageous after the crucifixion of Jesus? If they were fearful, was their fear justified?

Read Acts 4:5 - 13

4. Why were the disciples courageous after the resurrection of Jesus? Does God enable all followers of Christ to be courageous? If not, why not? If so, how and for what purpose(s)?

Read Hebrews 13:5 - 6

5. What does the “love of money” have to do with (a) our intimacy with God? and (b) being able to say, “what can man do to me”? Do you believe that God will never leave you or forsake you?

6. In your opinion, are the people of America more afraid of (a) living without money? or (b) living without God?
7. In your opinion, what do the American people value more: (a) their freedom to worship Christ and proclaim the gospel? or (b) their health, their safety, and their financial security?

Read Job 1:6 - 22

8. Can Satan do anything on planet earth without God permitting or allowing it to happen? Has God permitted and/or allowed the coronavirus to affect the inhabitants of planet earth? If so, in your opinion, why?
9. Read Job 1:22. In your opinion, please state whether each of the following groups of people in America are currently seeking guidance from God for their daily behavior and their daily choices: (a) news media, (b) corporate leaders, (c) federal, state, and local government, (d) people investing in the stock market, (e) our general population, and (f) the churches.
10. What do your answers to question 9 tell you about the faith and trust that America has in Jesus Christ?

Read Matthew 10:24-39

11. Did the disciples of Jesus suffer persecution? Do Christians around the world suffer persecution? Do you believe that Christians in America will ever suffer persecution? Do you believe that Christians in America are willing to suffer persecution for Christ?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

12. Please explain in practical ways how the followers of Christ who live in America may demonstrate the reality of these verses in their daily lives.

Consider: Every Christian is an ambassador for Christ. We are God's chosen instruments for the proclaiming of God's love and redemption on planet earth. The purpose of the church is to "go and make disciples of all nations." The only hope for America (and the world) is Christ. "You think about that." Amen.