

**July 11 – 17, 2009**

**FREE IN JESUS**

In this lesson you will learn about our freedom as a nation and also freedom as a believer.

- I. Concept of liberty for our nation was based on the Bible.
  - A. Preamble – When in the course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth the **separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature’s God** entitled them a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.
  - B. Declaration of rights – “As we hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”
  
- II. Freedom as a believer – where it came from.
  - A. Genesis 1:26-28 – God created man to have dominion on the earth.
  
- III. How man lost that freedom.
  - A. Genesis 3:1-6 – Man’s freedom ended when Adam and Eve listened to the devil and gave in to temptation. The temptations were the lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. When they ate from the tree that God told them not to, they surrendered the freedoms and rights that God had given them. It was then that sin and death entered the world but that was not God’s original plan for mankind.
  - B. Romans 5:12 – “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned.”
  
- IV. Jesus came to regain our freedom.
  - A. Romans 5:17 – “For if by the one man’s offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.”
  - B. John 8:31-32 – “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’”
  - C. You have to choose to free of bondage. Bondage is when you are ruled by anyone or anything other than Jesus.
  - D. The only way to be truly free is to be under the lordship of Jesus Christ. Liberation comes when you surrender your heart to Christ.

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- Share what being in a free country means to you.
- Do you need prayer for some area of bondage in your life?
- Share how you became free in Christ.

**BE A DOER OF THE WORD**

This week as you pray about this lesson ask the Lord to reveal any areas of bondage in your life and make a fresh commitment to the lordship of Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE MEMORY VERSE:** John 8:31-32 – “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”