

# Finding Freedom

## [ Summer Wisdom ]

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## Introduction

- July 4<sup>th</sup> is the day we commemorate freedom. Specifically, the adoption of the declaration of independence on July 4<sup>th</sup>, 1776. But this was not the day of freedom. This was the day that our framers and founders attempted to **ORDER** freedom.
  - Our framers had to **win** freedom
  - Our framers had to **order** freedom
    - This is why the declaration of independence and the constitution is so important
    - To ignore our founding documents is to ignore the ordering of freedom in our country!
    - We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are **endowed by their Creator** with certain **unalienable Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.--That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, --That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.
    - The greatest danger to American Freedom is a government that ignores the Constitution – Thomas Jefferson.
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  - Our framers attempted to **sustain** freedom. But is the sustaining of freedom possible?
  - Freedom is not a uniquely American concept. Rather, freedom is a biblical concept.
    - 2 Cor 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty.
    - **Gal 2:4** And *this occurred* because of false brethren secretly brought in (who came in by stealth to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage), **5** to whom we did not yield submission even for an hour, that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.
  - The follower of Jesus, more than any other must be a champion of freedom. You cannot enslave, torture, threaten, or chain anyone to follow Jesus. Rather, it is Jesus Christ who ultimately gives freedom
    - This morning we will look intently at freedom in God's Word.
    - Finding freedom. Have you found it?
    - If so, are you living as one who has been set free?
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## We Proclaim Freedom (Jer. 34:8)

- **Thousands of years ago... God reminded his king, his people, his prophets that the people of God are intrinsically people who proclaim freedom**
  - Why? People who have found freedom want to share and declare freedom
    - Christ followers are the most free people in the world!
  - King Zedekiah was commanded to set the enslaved free
    - Israelites would sell themselves into slavery if they could not pay their debts
      - But every six years they would be set free
      - Lifetime servitude of a Hebrew was prohibited by the law.
    - God did not create you to be a slave... God created you to desire freedom.
- **When we fail to proclaim liberty we live in disobedience**
  - In one of the most stinging rebukes of the people found in the book, the Lord announced the fate of the rebellious people. They had not given freedom to the slaves, so, by use of irony, God was now going to give them freedom.
  - We as Christians often fail to proclaim liberty when we...
    - Offer church/religion instead of relationship
    - When we worship our country more than our Savior
    - When we fight for our desires and ideals more than the virtues and principles that are laid out in His holy word.
  - Our country and countrymen are longing for freedom! May we not offer them a cheap imitation
- **When we fail to speak up and speak out for freedom we will lose our freedom.**
  - "There are two freedoms: the false where a man is free to do what he likes; and the true where a man is free to do as he ought." Charles Kingsley
  - America will never be destroyed from the outside if we falter and lose our freedoms it will be because we destroyed ourselves – Abraham Lincoln

## We Inform on True Freedom (Romans 8:21)

- Children should be educated and instructed in the principles of freedom.  
John Adams, Defense of the Constitutions, 1787

1. **Why do we need freedom unless we are included to be enslaved? Creation, the world we now live in, is not free.**
  - a. You have never seen a pure/free creation. The world is subjected to futility and frustration. This is a phrase that often means frustration and worship of false gods (Acts 14:15)
  - b. This is the starting point of the Christian worldview. We are not free we are slaves to our own sins!

- i. 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 of Nature's God entitle them
  - c. We need to declare independence from our sin. That is only done through the power of Jesus Christ. Without Christ you have no freedom.
- 2. **Only God can take someone subject to futility and offer them hope and freedom. (8:21)**
  - a. This is why the founding fathers appealed to the Laws of Natures God and rights endowed by the Creator!
  - b. When you talk about freedom are you rooting your freedom in Jesus Christ?
    - i. If you are hoping in Washington you will not find true freedom. If you are hoping in a new president, wealth, success, you will never find true Freedom.
- 3. **We should celebrate true freedom. (8:21)**
  - a. Independence day should lead us to a greater celebration. The day you surrendered your life to Jesus Christ, were adopted as a child of the king and found glorious liberty.
  - b.
    - i. We should blow the roof off of this place anytime someone gives their life to Jesus Christ.
  - c. Creation will one day celebrate and participate in our freedom.
    - i. For now, the celebration must wait.
    - ii.

## We must point others to the Source of Freedom (Isaiah 61:1)

- **John 8:31** Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. <sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- **There is only one source of freedom and hope and His name is Jesus**
  - God only anointed one person His only son.
  - **12** Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
- **To point people to the source of Freedom you must know the source of Freedom**
- The Gospel/ source of Freedom is always Good News
  - Until you recognize you are poor in spirit... you will never accept salvation... you will never embrace true freedom
- **When you embrace the source of freedom**
  - You find deliverance from sin
  - You find deliverance from death.
  - You will never truly have freedom in any country or in any life if you are not grounded on Jesus Christ and the principles of God’s Word
    - We are swiftly losing our freedom because we are losing our convictions

# Conclusion

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- **Golden Triangle of freedom**

- Virtue requires faith of some sort (never said the Christian faith)
- Faith which requires freedom
- Freedom which requires virtue

- **16** But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “*LORD*, who has believed our report?” **17** So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

- **Why does it Matter?**

- We have been justified (made right before the Lord) and accepted
- We receive forgiveness (redeemed)
- We escape God’s wrath (reconciled)
- We are adopted in to a new family
- We gain a new identity (New Creation)
- **Believe, Confess, Faith, Baptism**

- **You can put your faith in Jesus right were you sit**

- Opportunity to respond publically
  - Come forward
  - Connection card.. we will follow up and encourage you

# Notes

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**Jer. 34:8** *This is* the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD, after King Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people who *were* at Jerusalem to proclaim liberty to them: <sup>9</sup> that every man should set free his male and female slave—a Hebrew man or woman—that no one should keep a Jewish brother in bondage.

If an Israelite could not pay his debts, he sometimes sold himself, his family, or his children to serve the creditor for a period of years. However, the Mosaic law provided for the freeing of Israelite slaves after six years of servitude (see Exod 21:2–11; Lev 25:39–46; Deut 15:1, 12–18; cf. Neh 5:8). Lifetime servitude of a Hebrew was prohibited by the law.

8. By the law a *Hebrew*, after having been a bond-servant for six years, on the seventh was to be let go free (Ex 21:22; De 15:12).

**Zedekiah made a covenant**—with solemn ceremonial in the temple (Je 34:15, 18, 19).

**34:15–16** God was pleased when the slave owners decided to release the slaves “recently” (lit. “today”). Their act of liberation was right in his sight. He reminded them of the seriousness of their commitment by making a covenant in the temple. Now he was angry because they had turned away from their commitment. By repudiating such a solemn agreement, the effect was to profane his name. “Profane” (*ḥalal*) is a word that means *to pierce*. It can also mean *to pollute* (see Num 18:32, KJV; “defile”). It is the same word that is found in Isa 53:5, “pierced for our transgressions.” They had freed the slaves unconditionally, allowing them “to go where they wished” (lit. “according to their *nepes̄*”; cf. Deut 21:14; the traditional translation of *nepes̄* is “soul,” but it means *desire* in this case). They retook them by force in total disregard for their covenant with God.

**34:17–20** In one of the most stinging rebukes of the people found in the book, the Lord announced the fate of the rebellious people. They had not given freedom to the slaves, so, by use of irony, God was now going to give them freedom. It was not a freedom they would desire but freedom to fall by the sword, plague, and famine (a frequently repeated triad in Jeremiah, e.g., 21:7). The

severity of his punishment would be interpreted by other nations as the deity's wrath on his own people and would make Judah abhorrent to them (see 15:1–4).

**17. not ... proclaiming liberty**—Though the Jews had ostensibly emancipated their bond-servants, they *virtually* did not do so by revoking the liberty which they had granted. God looks not to outward appearances, but to the sincere intention.

**I proclaim a liberty**—retribution answering to the offense (Mt 7:2; Ga 6:7; Jam 2:13). The Jews who would not give liberty to their brethren shall themselves receive “a liberty” calamitous to them. God will manumit them from His happy and safe service (Ps 121:3), which is real “liberty” (Ps 119:45; Jn 8:36; 2 Co 3:17), only to pass under the terrible bondage of other taskmasters, the “sword,” &c.

**Rom. 8:18** For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. **19** For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. **20** For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; **21** because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

**Rom 8:18** ¶ For I consider that the **sufferings** of this **present time** are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

- Hope and patience are connected to suffering
- Paul experienced many trials (See 2 Cor. 6:4-5 and 11:23-28)
- If we allow our difficulties now to absorb our attention, they will effectively blot out the glory that awaits us (Mounce)
- Glory is not compensation for suffering... it grows out from it! (FF Bruce)
  - No suffering—no glory—no freedom
- Suffering is the way to glory (Stott)
- Suffering shows us the difference between this age and the one to come
- Paul here gives us a cosmic perspective

- Suffering has a way of making us magnify our focus

Rom 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the **revealing of the sons of God**.

- **Earnest expectation** (ἀÓpokaradoki÷a). Only here and Philippians 1:20. From ἀÓπο/ *away kara the head*, dokei√n *to watch*. A watching with the head erect or outstretched. Hence a *waiting in suspense*. ΔΑπο/ *from*, implies abstraction, the attention turned from other objects. The classical student will recall the watchman in the opening of Aeschylus’ “Agamemnon,” awaiting the beacon which is to announce the capture of Troy.
- Revealing of the sons== adoption as sons

Rom 8:20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of **Him** who subjected *it* in hope;

- Creation was not created faulty. Sin contaminated creation.
- You have never seen a pure creation
- Futility== can also mean frustration and worship of false gods (Acts 14:15)
- Only God can subject someone to futility and bring hope
- Creation is frustrated

Rom 8:21 because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious **liberty of the children** of God.

- The Greco-Roman world dreaded “corruption” (NASB) or “decay” (NIV); only the eternal, unchanging things in the heavens would last—the human body and everything else on earth would decompose. The language of “being set free from slavery” (NASB, TEV), “God’s children” and probably “glory” alludes to the Old Testament exodus narrative (see comment on 8:12–17).
- Creation will celebrate and participate in our freedom

**Isaiah 61:1** “The Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon Me,  
Because the LORD has anointed Me  
To preach good tidings to the poor;  
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,  
To proclaim liberty to the captives,  
And the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound;

Messiah announces His twofold commission to bring gospel mercy at His first coming, and judgments on unbelievers and comfort to Zion at His second coming (Is 61:1–9); the language can be applied to Isaiah, comforting by his prophecies the exiles in Babylon, only in a subordinate sense.

**1. is upon me; because ... hath anointed me**—quoted by Jesus as His credentials in preaching (Lu 4:18–21). The Spirit *is* upon Me in preaching, because Jehovah *hath* anointed Me from the womb (Lu 1:35), and at baptism, with the Spirit “without measure,” and permanently “abiding” on Me (Is 11:2; Jn 1:32; 3:34; Ps 45:7; with which compare 1 Ki 1:39, 40 1 Ki 19:16; Ex 29:7). “Anointed” as *Messiah*, Prophet, Priest, and King.

**good tidings**—as the word “gospel” means.

**the meek**—rather, “the poor,” as Lu 4:18 has it; that is, those afflicted with calamity, poor in circumstances and in spirit (Mt 11:5).

**proclaim liberty**—(Jn 8:31–36). Language drawn from the deliverance of the Babylonian captives, to describe the deliverance from sin and death (Heb 2:15); also from the “liberty proclaimed” to all bond-servants in the year of jubilee (Is 61:2; Le 25:10; Je 34:8, 9).

**opening of the prison**—The *Hebrew* rather is, “the *most complete* opening,” namely, of the eyes to them that are bound, that is, deliverance from *prison*, for captives are as it were *blind* in the darkness of prison (Is 14:17; 35:5; 42:7) [EWALD]. So Lu 4:18 and the *Septuagint* interpret it; Lu 4:18, under inspiration, adds to this, for the fuller explanation of the *single* clause in the *Hebrew*, “to set at liberty them that are bruised”; thus expressing the *double* “opening” implied; namely, that of the eyes (Jn 9:39), and that of the prison (Ro 6:18 Heb 2:15). His miracles were *acted parables*.





# Illustrations

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- The greatest enemy to freedom is freedom
- The Framers of America:
  - Won freedom
  - Ordered freedom
  - Attempted to sustain freedom
- Freedom requires self-restraint in order to sustain freedom. Thus freedom will never last forever.
- **Golden Triangle of freedom**
  - Virtue requires faith of some sort (never said the Christian faith)
  - Faith which requires freedom
  - Freedom which requires virtue

4. "There are two **freedom**s: the false where a man is free to do what he likes; and the true where a man is free to do as he ought." Charles Kingsley

America will never be destroyed from the outside if we falter and lose our freedoms it will be because we destroyed ourselves – Abraham Lincoln

The greatest danger to American Freedom is a government that ignores the Constitution – Thomas Jefferson.

# Application

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- We worship with our work.... We do not worship our work.
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