

The PATH, July 5-11, 2021

Theme: July 4 is the day that we celebrate our Independence as Americans. It is the day in which freedom was proclaimed in 1776, and we should definitely celebrate our freedom and be thankful to God for that freedom. The Bible also declares that in Christ we are free. This week we will look at that freedom and what it means for us today. Hopefully that will lead us to celebrate our freedom in Christ everyday as we follow Him and walk with Him.

Monday - John 8

Sometimes when we hear the term “freedom in Christ” we think that it means we are free to do whatever we want to do, however the exact opposite is true. Because we are free in Christ we are free to not sin. We are free from having to give in to sin. The Bible declares that Jesus has set us free from the law of sin and death, and part of what that means is that we are free from having to give in to sin over and over again. It no longer has power over us. Jesus tells us in John 8 that “we shall know the truth and the truth shall make us free” Then He goes on to explain to those listening to Him that if a person commits a sin that person is a slave of sin, but if we abide in the Son, the Son shall make us free indeed. In other words He sets us free from sin and from having to sin. Because of the blood of Jesus, sin no longer has to control us. Our sinful nature is changed and we are free from having to sin. Don’t take that freedom lightly, dwell on what it means to you. Sin wrecks and sin destroys, now we can be free from having to sin. We no longer are slaves, through the blood of Jesus we are set free.

Tuesday - Romans 16

Paul closes the book of Romans by telling the Christians at Rome to “be wise to what is good and innocent to what is evil (16:19). In other words he is telling them to be wise to the things of God and to stay away from the sins of the world. Then he says “the God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.” What does he mean by that? He means that Satan is already defeated and that he no longer has power over us. We don’t have to give in to sin, we don’t have to give in to anxiety or worry, we don’t have to give in to hatred and unforgiveness. Satan is defeated which means we are free from his schemes and having to give into him. We are free to “be wise to what is good and innocent to what is evil.” We are free from having to give in to the devil or from allowing him to hold sway over us. We are free because Jesus has already defeated him through the cross and the resurrection. Paul’s point in that one day soon, that defeat will become an ever present reality. We will be victorious and we are presently victorious. We are free from having to give into Satan.

Wednesday - 2 Peter 1

We are free from having to sin and we are free from having to listen to the devil, which means we are free to change and to be transformed. Peter says in 2 Peter 1:4, “(we have been given) exceedingly great and precious promises, and through them we can become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.” We are free from the corruption of the world, and we are free from our old sin nature, which means we are free to partake of the divine nature of God. We are free to be what we are supposed to be. We are free from our old nature, so now we can put on Christ and be transformed into being like Him. We have been set free and now through that same power that raised Jesus from the dead we can become different. We can be transformed for the glory of God!

Thursday - Galatians 5

We are also set free for good works. Paul tells the church at Galatia, “stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made you free and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.” You have been given liberty in Jesus but Paul says don’t forfeit that freedom by getting entangled by the ways of the world. Don’t throw away your liberty because of several reasons, one of which is that God has set you free because as the Bible says “He has good works prepared in advance for us to do.” We are free from the sins of the world and the ways of the world so that we can do good works. We are free from selfishness so that we might truly love other people. We are free from pride so that we might forgive people. We are free from having to have our way so we can live a life that is glorifying to the Father. We are free to do good works and we are free to love God and love others.

Friday - Romans 7

Paul tells the church at Rome in Romans 7, specifically the first 6 verses that we are set free from the law. What exactly does he mean by that? Does he mean that we are free to live in sin and that we don’t have to obey the law? That is NOT his point at all, his point is simply this: Because of the blood of Jesus we are free from having to keep the law in order to be saved. Jesus perfectly kept the law, He perfectly followed God and He never sinned, because of that when we are in Christ, through repentance and faith, His righteousness is credited to our account. We no longer have to keep the whole law, that is an unbearable burden. We are free, and only free through the blood of Jesus!