

Free for Resurrection Life

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Romans 8:1-11

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Synopsis:

We celebrated Independence Day yesterday and our freedom as a nation. Freedom is a great gift.

Freedom, though, is not liberation to do our will. No, God has liberated us from sin and death through Jesus Christ to do his will. Because we are set free from sin and death, we may now **engage** sin in our lives and **enjoy** God's will.

I.

Liberty Enjoined

Rom 8:2 The law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free

Patrick Henry:

-March 23, 1775 in Richmond, VA

-Declaration, enjoined the colonies

“Forbid it, Almighty God. I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death.”

Today we're going to talk about liberty and death

*1776 we were set free from the tyrannical rule of King George

-We declared a victory

-How are we now living?

READ Rom 8:1-2 (therefore now)

-huge break from 5:12-7:25

-READ 7:24-25

*We have been set free from sin and death through what God did in the death and resurrection of Jesus.

-God declared a victory

-How are we now living?

II.

Liberty Engaged

Rom 8:5 Those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit

Liberty or License:

-1776 freedom *for* religion and right living = liberty = Spirit

-Now freedom *from* restraint = license = Flesh

Contrast Spirit and Flesh: READ 3-8 (note 5)

-Spirit = God's Spirit, a power to do God's will for life

e.g. liberty

- Flesh = a power to do our will for death
e.g. license
- *Where will you *set your mind*?

Augustine quote from *Confessions*

“My sin was all the more incurable because I did not think myself a sinner.”
LICENSE = setting mind on flesh

How do we now engage liberty and license?

- Flesh vs Spirit (two powers)
- already won victory (different than Independence Day)
- now you get to engage the battle
- like George Wash at Yorktown after Declaration of Independence

- *Christian life right now, prior to new age, is a FIGHT!
- If you feel the FIGHT (liberty), that’s the SPIRIT
- If you give in (license), that’s the FLESH
- ENGAGE the FIGHT, God has won it in Jesus Christ

III.

Liberty Enjoyed

Rom 8:11 The Spirit who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies

After 1776 and Yorktown, how do we live?

- America set about building a life
- yes War of 1812, yes Civil War
- but we set about building a life
- *Liberty or license?

After the death and resurrection of Jesus, how do we live?

-READ 9-11

*Two words: ENGAGE and ENJOY

God has set you free from sin and death through the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ. This has been done. Now prior to the coming of the new age, when all will rise bodily, you get to ENGAGE and ENJOY your new life.

Abraham Lincoln: 2nd Inaugural Address

- After 4 years of fighting
- Last sentence: After the battle, how do we live?

“With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation’s wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his

widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations.”

READ 8:1-2 ENGAGE and ENJOY!