

A DEVOTIONAL SERIES ON THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

FREED TO BE FREE

John 8:36 “So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

We, the citizens of the United States, hold dearly the freedoms guaranteed by the constitution and its amendments. One could say that we are a people who are free to be free. Spiritually speaking, the Old Adam in us, wants us to believe that we are free to do whatever we choose to do. No one has a right to force their beliefs, morals, values, and religion on us.

The truth is, there is not a person on earth who is spiritually free. Jesus taught, “whosoever commits sin is the servant (slave) of sin.” You can think you are not a sinner, but this is simply one of Satan’s basic lies. He wants you to believe you are free to do whatever you want. The culture of this country has embraced this lie with such sayings as, “as long as you and the person with whom you do something consent to the activity it is permissible to do it.” The rest of society may not want to do the activity, but it has no right to prevent you from doing what you choose to do. The Bible says, however, “we all have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory.” (Romans 3:23)

The truth is, whoever asserts his own will, prides himself in his own independence, follows his own inclinations and is primarily concerned with what pleases himself, whoever, in a word, is self-centered is actually a slave to himself. He is not free but constrained to do that which is pleasant and desirable to himself. He is a slave to that which gives him pleasure.

This is why God gave His Ten Commandments. Through them God leads every human being to see they are not free, but are bound to desires that are not good, that destroy relationships, upset the harmony of society and even threaten physical life and well-being. This is what sin (the breaking of one or more of the Ten Commandments) does.

God sent His Son Jesus into the world to release humanity from its slavery to sin. Jesus came to minister to sinners under control of their own selfish desires and

the world's self-destructing way of life. There is only one who breaks sin's control. John 8:36 says, ". . . if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." He is the one who conquered sin and frees you to be truly free of sin's control.

Prayer: Set me free, Jesus, free from sin's control that I no longer be a slave to it. Instead, through You make me a child of God. In Your holy name. Amen.

Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal,
Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End;
Godhead, humanity, union supernal,
O Great Redeemer, You come as our friend!
Heaven and earth, now proclaim this great wonder:
Jesus has come and brings pleasure eternal!

Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.
See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,
Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!

Jesus has come as the mighty Redeemer.
See now the threatening strong one disarmed!
Jesus breaks down all the walls of death's fortress,
Brings forth the prisoners triumphant, unharmed.
Satan, you wicked one, own now your master!
Jesus has come! He, the mighty Redeemer!

Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, O declare His great power,
Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!
Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!
(LSB 533)

