

Real Freedom

“If therefore the Son sets you free, you shall be free indeed.” (John 8:36)

- I. No one in the world has real freedom; man is under many kinds of bondages:**
- A. The first kind of bondage that man falls under is sin; “everyone who commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34; Rom. 6:17):
 - 1. Sin reigns over man and causes man to do corrupt things; man is enslaved by sin and cannot be free, because “by whom anyone has been defeated, by this one he has been enslaved” (2 Pet. 2:19).
 - 2. Man is under the authority, control, and bondage of sin, and cannot be free, because he is “sold under sin” (Rom. 7:14).
 - B. The second kind of bondage that man falls under is the law; our sins place us under God’s law (Gal. 3:10-11a):
 - 1. God’s law is righteous, and it places righteous requirements upon those who are unrighteous and sinful.
 - 2. If we do not fulfill the righteous requirements of God’s law, we cannot escape the condemnation of the law.
 - C. The third kind of bondage that man falls under is Satan; the whole world is under his control and “lies in the evil one” (1 John 5:19):
 - 1. People in the world today are bound by the devil and trapped in his snare, even though they think they are released and free (2 Tim. 2:26).
 - 2. Not only does Satan use many things, such as sin, money, and pleasure, to seduce people and take them captive, but he also uses suffering and sickness to bind people so they cannot be free.
 - D. In addition, there is also the bondage of death, “inasmuch as it is reserved for men to die once, and after this comes judgement” (Heb. 9:27):
 - 1. Everyone is a sinner before God; they are waiting for death under God’s judgment, condemnation, and wrath (Rom. 3:19, John. 3:18, 36).
 - 2. Man’s entire life is under the shadow of death, in the fear of it, and under its control without any freedom.
- II. Once a person is saved by the Lord, he is released by Him from all kinds of bondages to obtain freedom and enjoy Christ as life for eternity:**
- A. Christ solves the problem of sin—we were drowning in sin and could not rescue ourselves; the Lord came to save us from our sins, making us free and happy (Matt. 1:21):
 - 1. The Lord Jesus is the Son of God, and the life of God is in Him; when a person receives Him as his Savior, the life of God enters into him to be the power for his human life, freeing him from the power of sin and giving him freedom (John 8:36).
 - 2. When we are saved, we receive the Spirit of life; in the Spirit of life there is a law, which is a spontaneous spiritual power that frees us from the law of sin and of death, that is, from the spontaneous power of sin and of death.

- B. Christ fulfills the law—the Lord Jesus came and paid the price for us on the cross, fulfilling the righteous requirements of the law and redeeming us out from under the law to release us from the law and its curse and give us freedom (Gal. 4:4-5):
 - 1. Christ died as our Substitute and paid the price required by the law, thus redeeming us out from under the law and releasing us from the condemnation of the law (Gal. 5:1).
 - 2. In the past we were under the law and bound by the law; now through faith in Christ, we are free from the law (Rom. 7:6).
- C. Christ destroyed Satan for us—we were Satan’s captives under his oppression, but the Lord destroyed Satan through His cross and released us from under his hand (Luke 4:18; Acts 10:38):
 - 1. When we believe and receive the Lord’s salvation, the Lord through His powerful Spirit and His resurrection life delivers us out of the kingdom of darkness, that is, out from under Satan’s authority, and transfers us into His own kingdom of light (Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18).
 - 2. In the past we were ill-treated and corrupted under Satan’s hand, but the Lord has not only delivered us out from under his hand but also guarded us from him.
- D. Christ removed death for us—in the past we were dead in sin and offenses, but Christ has removed death for us (Eph. 2:2-5):
 - 1. In the past we fell into death because of sin, and we were dying and were even dead; now since our sins have been forgiven, we have passed out of death into life (John 3:18; 5:24).
 - 2. Through His death on the cross, the Lord destroyed him who has the might of death, that is, the devil, and released us, who were held in slavery because of the fear of death, from the control of death and gave us freedom (Heb. 2:14-15).

III. Once we receive the full salvation of the Lord Jesus, we will be freed from sin, from the law, from Satan’s authority, and from the might of death; moreover, we will receive the authority to become the children of God to enjoy all the riches in God’s house (John 3:16; 2 Cor. 6:2; Col. 1:12):

- A. By receiving the salvation of Christ, all the negative elements in us are dealt with, thus qualifying us to come forward to God and to receive Him as our enjoyment.
- B. If we believe in our heart, confess with our mouth, and call on the name of the Lord, we shall be saved (Rom. 10:10-13).
- C. Now, dear friend, please pray genuinely as follows: “O Lord Jesus, I receive everything You have done on the cross, and I receive You as my Savior. I was a sinner, living under the condemnation of the law, under Satan’s bondage, and under the shadow of death. But Hallelujah, praise You for Your redemption. Today I have received the real release and the real freedom, and I have received You as my life. Amen.”
- D. One day when the Lord comes back to the earth again, we the children of God will be revealed and freed from the slavery which has corrupted the whole creation, and take the lead to enter into the freedom of the coming glory (Rom. 8:18-21).