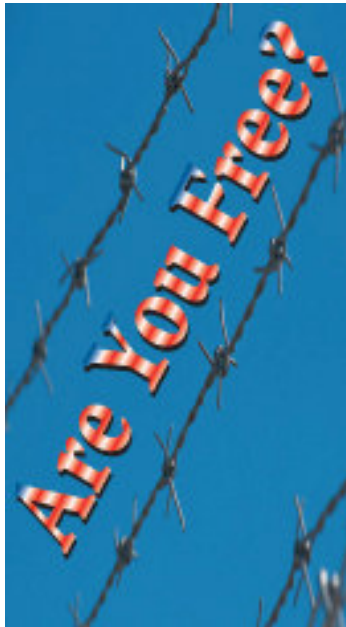


Are You Free?



Do you enjoy freedom? You answer: "What an absurd question! Of course I enjoy freedom. I live in a free country and am in bondage to no one!"

And yet, dear friend, to give an answer such as that would not solve the problem of true freedom in this life, for Jesus said: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin." *John 8:34*.

THERE IS NO FREEDOM FOR MAN IN HIMSELF

1. The Scriptures declare all are sinners.

Romans 3:23 - "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."

Psalms 51:5 - "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."

2. The Scriptures declare that all are in bondage to sin.

Romans 6:16 - "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?"

Romans 7:18 - "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

3. The Scriptures declare that none can deliver himself from the bondage of sin.

Jeremiah 13:23 - "Can the Ethiopian change his skin, or the leopard his spots? then may ye also do good, that are accustomed to do evil."

Jeremiah 2:22 - "For though thou wash thee with nitre, and take thee much soap, yet thine iniquity is marked before Me, saith the Lord God."

4. The Scriptures declare that all will be judged by God for their sin.

Isaiah 13:11 - "And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible."

Revelation 21:8 - "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

THERE IS FREEDOM FOR THE SINNER IN CHRIST

1. Christ died on the cross for all mankind.

Isaiah 53:6 - "All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all."

1 Peter 2:24 - "Who His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed."

2. Christ will deliver from sin all who will receive Him as their personal Saviour.

John 1:12 - "But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name."

John 3:16 - "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

3. This deliverance by Christ brings true freedom.

John 8:36 - "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Romans 6:17-18 - "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."

WILL YOU ACCEPT THIS FREEDOM NOW?

That is the vital question, upon which will be determined your freedom here, and your eternal glory over there. Will you not bow your heart to God and say: "Lord, I the sinner, receive Thy Son as my Saviour, believing that He died in my stead to deliver me from sin's curse and sin's power." May God give you spiritual freedom now!

Theodore N. Hummel