

Saturday Celebration (8-12-06)

Freedom Series (Pt. 7)

***"If We Wish to be Free, We Must Fight"***

## INTRO

- Facing the REALM of APPLICATION—

... ***Why is Freedom So Difficult?***

***"These are the times that try men's souls. .... Tyranny, like hell, is not easily conquered; yet we have this consolation with us, that the harder the conflict, the more glorious the triumph. What we obtain too cheap, we esteem too lightly. Heaven knows how to put a proper price upon its goods; and it would be strange indeed, if so celestial an article as Freedom should not be highly rated."*** Thomas Paine

## FREEDOM REQUIRES FIGHTING

***"If we wish to be free, if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending, if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained ... we must fight!"*** Patrick Henry

***"I would say to the House, as I said to those who have joined this government, I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat. We have before us an ordeal of the most grievous kind. We have before us many, many long months of struggle and of suffering. You ask, what is our policy? I will say: It is to wage war, by sea, land and air, with all our might and with all the strength that God can give us; to wage war against a monstrous tyranny, never surpassed in the dark, lamentable catalogue of human crime. That is our policy. You ask, what is our aim? I can answer in one word: Victory -- victory at all costs, victory in spite of all terror, victory, however long and hard the road may be; for without victory there is no survival."*** Sir Winston Churchill

***Freedom in the Realm of the Christian Life has a similar ring to it—*** putting your manner of believing, relating, and living on the line, going to war (in your mind and practice), and being willing to die in an attempt to lay hold of this cherished & promised freedom.

**Rev 12:11** "And they have conquered him [Satan] by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death."

**Matt 11:12** "From the time of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence and the violent take it by force"

## THE WARFARE LANGUAGE OF SCRIPTURE

**2 Cor 10:3-6**

**James 4:1-2**

**1 Peter 2:11** "Beloved, I urge you as aliens and strangers to abstain from fleshly lusts which wage war against the soul."

**Rom 7:23** "but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members."

## PREPARING FOR WAR

**Col 3** ... It's Preceding Context — Avoiding Captivity and the Indulgence of the Flesh

### COLOSSIANS 3 AS AN OVERALL OUTLINE FOR FREEDOM FROM INDULGENCE

1. **Get Your Theology Right** (Col 2:9-15, 20; 3:1, 3-4) — You Must Be Well Equipped in the Knowledge of God (not just your problems and your own world) and What He Has Done Must Have "Spending Power" in Your Understandings

*"there can be no doxology without theology. It is not possible to worship an unknown god. All true worship is a response to the self-revelation of God in Christ and Scripture, and arises from our reflection on who he is and what he has done. Hence the indispensable place of Scripture in both public worship and private devotion. It is the Word of God which calls forth the worship of God."*  
John Stott, "The Message of Romans", p. 311, 312

2. **Get Your Thoughts Right** (Col 3:2)

*"As we first turned away from God in our thoughts, so it is in our thoughts that the first movements toward the renovation of the heart occur. Thoughts are the place where we can and must begin to change. ... By 'thoughts' we mean all of the ways in which we are conscious of things. That includes our memories, perceptions, and beliefs"* Dallas Willard, "The Renovation of the Heart", p. 95-96

3. **Get Your Practice Right** (Col 3:5ff) ... If you believe all the right things but do all the wrong things, then you won't taste freedom

John 13:17 If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them.

### 5 DECLARATIONS OF WAR (to Win This War, you will have to Fight Successfully On These 5 Fronts)

#### 1. Declare War on False Ideas — Know the Truth

Jn 8:31-32 "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."

Hos 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge."

– If you struggle in a particular area, then take the time to do a study on that topic (concordance, chapter from a book, good counseling materials, sermon outline or CD, etc.); have a list of scriptures that you are memorizing and meditating on (you have been practicing the discipline of convincing yourself of false ideas, now take the time and effort to convince yourself of truth.)

\_\_\_\_ What Grade Would You Give Yourself this Week in Studying to Help you Overcome Your Specific Area of Bondage?

## 2. Declare War on Unbelief — Believe the Truth

James 1:22-25

*Freedom in Your Life Begins with Winning the Battle of the Mind*

TALK TO YOURSELF ... "Talk Yourself Into Believing"

Ps 42

Ps 103

2Co 10:3-5 ... *Aggressively Displace Hostile Thoughts* — (House to House Military Search)

*"One may say something like "the thoughts of people are like enemies that we capture. We take every one of them prisoner and make them obey Christ." (from the UBS Handbook Series. Copyright (c) 1961-1997, by United Bible Societies)*

\_\_\_ What Grade Would You Give Yourself this Week in Resisting and Combating Unbiblical Thinking with Biblical Thoughts?

## 3. Declare War on Weak, Inefficient Prayer — Pray – Know something of "Praying Through" (pray until you pray) ... Invite the searching and probing of the Holy Spirit, so that sin cannot slowly grow and suddenly surprise you with its strength.

*"No meditation is really valid unless it leaves us with something to which we can return during the day's business and find it helpful there." Bridgid Herman (quoted in The Hour that Changes the World, p. 103)*

\_\_\_ What Grade Would You Give Yourself this Week in "Praying Until You've Prayed" (praying until you sense the Lord connecting with you?)

## 4. Declare War on Feeding the Flesh — Buffet Your Body – Cultivate the Opportunity to Require Your Flesh to be Denied, Delayed, and Diminished ... Fasting, Study, Reading, Serving, Sacrificing, Giving,

1Co 9:24-27

\_\_\_ What Grade Would You Give Yourself this Week in Practicing Self-Discipline (telling your flesh NO!)?

## 5. Declare War on Unbiblical Independence — Be Biblically Joined to the Body of Christ

- Create a Context for Fellowship – if you aren't intentional about this it won't happen
- Create a Context for Serving – Bondage is very "Self-Obsessed" ... serving is a helpful means of getting the attention off of you

\_\_\_ What Grade Would You Give Yourself this Week in Participating in Biblical Fellowship and Serving Others?

# Declaration of Freedom