

What Price Liberty?

Galatians 5:1-7

This message is from my father, Dr. Allen W. Campbell as he wrote it in the mid 1960's.

The breaking waves dashed high
On a Stern and rockbound coast,
And the woods against a stormy sky
Their giant branches tossed;
And the heavy night hung dark
The hills and waters o'er,
When a band of exiles moored their bark
On the wild New England shore.

Not as the conqueror comes,
They, the truehearted came;
Not with the roll of the stirring drums;
And the trumpet that sings of fame;
Amidst the storm they sang,
And the stars heard, and the sea;
And the sounding aisles of the dim woods rang
To the anthem of the free.

What sought they thus afar?
Bright jewels of the mine?
The wealth of seas, the spoils of war? –
They sought a faith's pure shrine!
Ay, call it holy ground,
The soil where first they trod;

They have left unstained what there they found –
Freedom to worship God.

The freedom spoken of here is the freedom from the law, sin, death, hell, Satan, etc. Jesus set us free. Upon acceptance of Him we are set free. Because of this freedom has come the freedoms that we have enjoyed in this country for these past 170 years or so (Dad wrote this message in the mid 1960's – now it's almost 240 years).

The Bible, long enjoyed as an instrument of God in this nation, long revered as a book above all books, but now has been made unconstitutional in our schools by our liberal Supreme Court.

On June 25, 1962, The Supreme Court declared the school prayer of the State of New York unconstitutional – this was the Engel vs. Vitale case.

On Jun 17, 1963 Bible reading and prayer exercises provided by law in Abington, PA and Baltimore, MD were deemed unconstitutional. This was the Abington School Board vs. Schempp, and the Murray vs. Curlett cases, respectively.

In practice these decisions are being treated as the law of the United States. State laws were ignored, and Supreme Court rulings were enforced.

Americans have little confidence in suggestions for public school courses about the Bible as literature or history or religion. Such courses tend to go beyond the necessary fundamental recognition of God and would permit distinct sectarian control by the individual or group in charge of the course. Common religion has been considered dangerous. The practice instead has been simply to allow the Bible to speak for itself.

I. THE POSITION OF FREEDOM – “STAND”

Their flags were held in high esteem for Christ; many died for their stand for Christ; many died for Old Glory that we may serve our God as we should but now both are ignored and loyalty is degraded.

A. Is to hold one's ground or maintain one's position in freedom

1. Be not careless

Philippians 1:27

²⁷ Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel;

2. This liberty makes it possible for you and me to obey the Lord Jesus Christ. As an unsaved man we were captive to a nature which was "enmity" toward God, and which was "not subject to the law of God" and which "neither indeed can be."

Romans 8:7

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

3. We are now indwelt by a new nature which is the very nature of Christ Himself

2 Peter 1:4

⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

4. We are freed from the law of the old nature and we are now able to obey the new nature, and this is liberty.

Romans 6:11-14

11 Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

***B. Is to be steadfast in defense of freedom
– 1 Peter 5:8***

1 Peter 5:8

8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

“The 1st Amendment to the Constitution forbids the Congress to make any laws which interfere with the free exercise of religion. We are witnessing a clever and evil procedure by which this is detoured through the Supreme Court and government created bureaus. Such things as:

No prayer and Bible reading in the schools;

An attempt to get “In God We Trust” off our coins;

Attack on the oath of witnesses in our
courtrooms;

Get all paid chaplains out of the services;

Remove the Bible from the inaugurations of
the President;

(This was written by Dad in the 1960's –
things have drastically changed since then)

***C. Is to resist encroachment of freedom –
Job 11:14-15; 1 Peter 5:9***

Job 11:14-15

¹⁴ If iniquity be in thine hand, put it far away,
and let not wickedness dwell in thy tabernacles.

¹⁵ For then shalt thou lift up thy face without
spot; yea, thou shalt be stedfast, and shalt not
fear:

1 Peter 5:9

⁹ Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that
the same afflictions are accomplished in your
brethren that are in the world.

171 years of consistent federal and state practice from
the adoption of the Constitution to the Supreme
Court's ruling, June 25, 1962, answers authoritatively
the question of whether the framers of the
Constitution intended the provision of the separation
of church and state to preclude public prayer.

From the beginning of our constitutional history, for
171 years – all the Congresses, all the Supreme

Courts, all the Federal circuit and appellate courts; all the State legislatures; all the State Supreme, circuit, and appellate courts; all the municipal courts – for 171 years – were all unanimous in recognizing that the framers of the Constitution never had any thought of outlawing the public recognition of God as inherent, demanded by the Declaration of Independence.

II. THE PROGRAM OF FREEDOM – “FAST”

A. Is to hold our freedom firmly – Heb. 4:14

Hebrews 4:14

¹⁴ Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession.

1. Freedom of religion: By contrast, in Spain no Protestant church can even put up a sign announcing its services.
2. Freedom of thought: in communist and neutral countries freedom of enterprise is at a minimum and everything is regimented.
3. Freedom of press: Only in this country can one expound his ideas as long as they are not slanderous or treason.
4. Freedom of prosperity: Our standard of liberty is far above the rest of the world.

B. Is to be unyielding in purpose of freedom – 1 Thess. 5:21; Heb. 10:23

1 Thessalonians 5:21

²¹ Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Hebrews 10:23

²³ Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)

C. Is to abide in this freedom – Heb. 3:6

Hebrews 3:6

⁶ But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

The liberals seek to destroy us and are trying to do it by weakening us from within. Taking the Bible out of our lives will destroy the moral fiber of a nation. The crime rate among the juveniles is increasing 7 times as fast as the population.

III. THE POWER OF FREEDOM – “CHRIST HATH MADE US FREE”

A. Is seen on the Cross

In Christ we are made free from the law, sin, death, the power of the devil, hell, etc.

Colossians 1:20

²⁰ And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.

Hebrews 12:1-2

¹ Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

² Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Isaiah 61:1-3

¹ The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;

² To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn;

³ To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he might be glorified.

B. Is seen at the Tomb

Victory through the resurrection

Mark 16:6

⁶ And he saith unto them, Be not affrighted: Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here: behold the place where they laid him.

1 Corinthians 15:55-57

⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:2

² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

C. Is seen at the Ascension

Acts 1:8-11

⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

⁹ And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight.

¹⁰ And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

¹¹ Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

John 14:1-6

¹ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

⁴ And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.

⁵ Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?

⁶ Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**

2 Corinthians 3:6, 17

⁶ Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

¹⁷ Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.

IV. THE PROBLEM OF FREEDOM

“Be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage”

A. Is not to become involved in the former conditions

1 Corinthians 8:9

⁹ But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock to them that are weak.

Our fathers set the landmarks. The Puritans set down our first principle: Civic acknowledgment of God in America. In the Mayflower Compact, 1621 it says, “In the name of God, Amen, and having undertaken for the glory of God and advancement of the Christian faith . . .”

The Baptists in Rhode Island under Roger Williams, 1636, set down the second principle: Absolute personal freedom of religion, still allowing for the acknowledgment of God in public life.

These two were incorporated in the Constitution

adopted 1787 and the Bill of Rights, 1791.

B. Is not to become confused by present conditions

1 Peter 2:15-16

¹⁵ For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men:

¹⁶ As free, and not using your liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.

The issue is whether God is to be recognized as the Creator and Ruler of the universe. Is God to be thrown out of our nation all together and it became a humanistic, neutral government?

C. Is to be free of the former servitude of degradation and unhappiness

Galatians 5:13

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.

Conclusion: Only in Christ can freedom from sin be had. Only in Christ can our country continue its former greatness - as Jesus said, "For without me ye can do nothing" (John 15:5).