

Week of July 4, 2010
Steve Farris

Monday

Rom. 5:9 Much more than, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him.

Freedom's common denominator is 'blood'. Have you noted it? The freedom you enjoy today was bought by the blood of men and women who gave themselves on fields of battle, foreign and domestic. Yet their sacrifice is but a reflection of the blood shed by Jesus for you on the cross. Political freedom is sweet, but lasts at best only a lifetime. Jesus died to bring eternal freedom. Thank God today for those who have reflected the sacrifice of Christ in their sacrifice for your freedoms. Now thank Jesus for His eternal sacrifice which has bought you the peace of heaven and the freedom of grace.

Tuesday

John 8:36 "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

Not only are those who live in the bondage of political slavery enslaved. Those who live in the bondage of sin are enslaved to its power. Jewish Christians sang songs of praise and celebrated their freedoms even while in chains in Roman prisons. Christian slaves from Ephesus to Atlanta have found freedom in Christ even while serving human masters. Contrariwise, many 'free' men and women live every day under the power of sin and the pain of guilt. They are free to go where they like but enslaved to emotions, guilt, regret, and consequences. Find your freedom in the grace of Christ. Rejoice in your freedom from sin.

Wednesday

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin."

We think too little about sanctification. Justification is God's act of declaring you forgiven in Jesus: forgiven for the sins of your past. Sanctification is God's plan for making you free from sin right now in this present moment. The more you grow in Jesus, the more you submit to His lordship and the Spirit's direction, the more power you will find to resist sin's hold in your life. Do not settle merely for forgiveness of sin. God has more for you. He wants to free you from both the penalty and the power of sin. Jesus came to make you free indeed.

Thursday

Gal. 5:13 For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.

Freedom is not fully realized if you see it only as a freedom *from* tyranny. Freedom speaks not merely of the absence of slavery but also the right and privilege to act freely for good. Christians often fail to exercise their freedom to be righteous, to cleanse their speech, to work freely for Christ's sake. Let your tongue be free to speak encouragement. Let your hands be free to do good. Be free from evil intent. Be free to carry grace. Do not rob freedom of its fullness. Freedom is a journey away from the slavery of sin and to the practiced righteousness of God. Journey not only in the freedom 'from' but also in the freedom 'to'.

Friday

1Pet. 2:16 Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as bondslaves of God.

Only those who have bound themselves tightly to Jesus experience the fullness of freedom. Jesus gives you freedom from fear, both fear of the future and fear of death. Jesus grants you freedom from judgment, for in Jesus God has reckoned you as righteous and pure. Jesus grants you freedom of purpose, for in Him life finds its meaning and plan. Jesus brings the freedom from bitterness and regret, from anger and unrealistic expectations. Paul gladly took the title 'bondslave' of Christ. Jesus accomplished in his life what nothing else could accomplish. Jesus set him free—free indeed. Jesus is the one who brings freedom to those who are bound to Him.