

## Free Indeed

**All creation is subject to bondage of decay due to the fall of man** - Rom 8:18-25 - 18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. 19 The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. 20 For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be liberated from its **bondage to decay** and brought into the **glorious freedom of the children of God**. 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? 25 But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

**Whatever rules your life IS your master** - 2 Peter 2:19 They promise them freedom, while they themselves are slaves of depravity — for a **man is a slave to whatever has mastered him**.

**The worst bondage to man is the slavery to self** - Rom 7:14-24 - 14 We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. 15 I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. 16 And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. 17 As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. 18 **I know that nothing good lives in me, that is, in my sinful nature**. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. 19 For what I do is not the good I want to do; no, the evil I do not want to do — this I keep on doing. 20 Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. 21 So I find this law at work: When I want to do good, evil is right there with me. 22 For in my inner being I delight in God's law; 23 but I see another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members. 24 **WHAT A WRETCHED MAN I AM! Who will rescue me from this body of death?**

**Knowing and Keeping Christ Word is the only thing that Truly sets us free**

John 8:31-32 - 31 To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, "**IF you HOLD\*** to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 **THEN you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.**"

John 8:34-36 - 34 Jesus replied, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. 35 Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. 36 So **IF the Son sets you free, you will be FREE INDEED.**

**Hold** - meno (men'-o); a primary verb; to stay (in a given place, state, relation or expectancy): (abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, tarry (for), thine own).

**Indeed** - ontos (on'-toce); really: (certainly, clean, indeed, of a truth, verily.)

**Being in Christ is a lifestyle not just a statement** - Rom 8:1-4 - Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. 3 For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, 4 in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, WHO DO NOT LIVE ACCORDING TO THE SINFUL NATURE but ACCORDING TO THE SPIRIT.

**Our Path (or walk) becomes a Slave to God, but my flesh still wants to serve me** - Rom 7: 25 Thanks be to God — through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in the sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.

**Without Christ we are all slaves to sin** - Rom 6:15-23 - 15 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone to obey him as slaves, you are slaves to the one whom you obey — whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness? 17 But **thanks be to God** that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. 18 **You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.** 19 I put this in human terms because you are weak in your natural selves. Just as you used to offer the parts of your body in slavery to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer them in slavery to righteousness leading to holiness. 20 When you were slaves to sin, you were free from the control of righteousness. 21 What benefit did you reap at that time from the things you are now ashamed of? Those things result in death! 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**When we are set free by Christ we are no longer in bondage to sin, it simply becomes a choice –**

1 Cor 6:12 "Everything is permissible for me"-but not everything is beneficial. "Everything is permissible for me"-but **I WILL NOT** be mastered by anything.

Gal 5:1 - It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. **Stand firm**, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

Rom 6:5-7 - 5 If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection. 6 For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should **no longer be slaves to sin**— 7 because anyone who has died has been **freed from sin.**

**The freedom from Christ is for us to stay in** - Col 1:21-23 - 21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior. 22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation— 23 **IF** you continue in your faith, established and firm, not moved from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

**The process of How Christ releases us from bondage and how we stay free –**

**Jesus became just like us, to pay the penalty for us in order to free us** - Heb 2:14-18 - 14 Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death — that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. 16 For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in **EVERY WAY,** in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

**Now we must receive what Christ has done for us in order to be free** - Gal 4:1-11 - What I am saying is that as long as the heir is a child, he is no different from a slave, although he owns the whole estate. 2 He is subject to guardians and trustees until the time set by his father. 3 So also, when we were children, we were in **slavery under the basic principles of the world.** 4 But when the time had fully come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under law, 5 to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons. 6 Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, "Abba, Father." 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son; and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir. 8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were slaves to those who by nature are not gods. 9 But **now that you know God — or rather are known by God — how is it that you are turning back to those weak and miserable principles?** Do you wish to be enslaved by them all over again? 10 You are observing special days and months and seasons and years! 11 **I fear for you, that somehow I have wasted my efforts on you.**

**We started enslaved by us serving us** - Titus 3:3-7 - 3 **At one time we too were** foolish, disobedient, deceived and enslaved by all kinds of passions and pleasures. We lived in malice and envy, being hated and hating one another. 4 But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, 5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

**God's Word guides us to freedom in our choices in life** – Rom 6:11-14 - 11 In the same way, **count yourselves** dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus. 12 Therefore **DO NOT LET** sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 **DO NOT OFFER** the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather **OFFER YOURSELVES to God,** as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness. 14 For sin shall not be your master, because you are not under law, but under grace.

**God's Word even guides us concerning freedom based on "freedoms" we have** - 1 Cor 7:32-35 - 32 I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs — how he can please the Lord. 33 But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world — how he can please his wife— 34 and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world — how she can please her husband. 35 I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord.

**We have to stay free from the LOVE of MONEY** - Heb 13:5-6 - 5 Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." 6 So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" ESV

**In our Freedom we must represent God to a world in bondage** - 1 Peter 2:16-17 - 16 Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God. 17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

**Do Not mistake worldly slavery with real slavery** - 1 Cor 7:20-24 - 20 Each one should remain in the situation which he was in when God called him. 21 **Were you a slave when you were called? *Don't let it trouble you*** — although if you can gain your freedom, do so. 22 For **HE WHO WAS A SLAVE WHEN HE WAS CALLED BY THE LORD IS THE LORD'S FREEDMAN**; similarly, he who was a free man when he was called is Christ's slave. 23 You were bought at a price; **DO NOT become slaves of men.** 24 Brothers, each man, **AS RESPONSIBLE TO GOD**, should remain in the situation God called him to.

**In our Spiritual freedom we are to make ourselves slaves for the sake of the Gospel** - 1 Cor 9:19 Though I am free and belong to no man, I make myself a slave to everyone, to win as many as possible.

**When the gift of freedom is given from Christ we need to LIVE Spiritually so not to still live for sin –**

Gal 5:13-18 - 13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love. 14 The entire law is summed up in a single command: "Love your neighbor as yourself." 15 If you keep on biting and devouring each other, watch out or you will be destroyed by each other. 16 So I say, **live by the Spirit**, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. 17 For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. 18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

Rom 8:14-17 - 14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. 17 Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.