FREEDOM IN CHRIST

Int.

1. Aim: To show that only in Christ do we have true freedom
2. John 8:32 "Free" = to liberate, i.e. (figuratively) to exempt (from moral, ceremonial or mortal liability):--deliver, make free.
3. The word "freedom" has long been precious to mankind
   a. A study of the history of man reveals that the struggle against oppression and for freedom has been an abiding one.
   b. Patrick Henry "Give me liberty or give me death".
   c. We are thankful for the freedom that we enjoy in this country, but true, genuine freedom is found only in Jesus Christ.
4. What does it mean to have freedom?

Discussion

I. SOME THINK IT MEANS NO RESTRAINTS

A. Illustration of Train - Let me Off this Track. I want freedom

1. The train is tired of following the tracks all the time
2. He wants freedom from the tracks so he can get out in the open field and do what he wants.
3. There is one major problem:
   a. The train was no designed to operate in the open field.
   b. It was made to run on the rails.

c. The ground will not support the extreme weight of the train as the rails will

d. In the open field the train has no guidance and no steering capabilities.

4. It is silly for the train to want off the tracks.

a. He is helpless and stuck when he gets off

b. He actually has more freedom to follow the path of the tracks wherever they lead.

B. People are just like the train

1. God our designer, has given us guidelines to follow that we may have freedom.

2. But the devil tempts us to leave those guidelines for the open field.

3. We want freedom - no rules - no restrictions - do our own thing

4. But there is a major problem:

a. We were not designed to live in that environment

b. God designed us to function while living within His guidelines.

c. It is there that we can have tree freedom, following his word

5. Just doing what you please, and following that impulse, is not true freedom. It will cause anarchy. Real freedom must have some rules.

II. REAL FREEDOM IS IN CHRIST

A. John 8:32

B. Only the rules of truth can make one free in the true sense of that term; and genuine freedom is always based on truth. ALC Nov. 27, 1960 p. 255

C. The freedom we seek is through Christ

1. In Christ we have freedom from sin through His Blood
2. Because of the grace of God we have the opportunity of forgiveness

D. Rom. 8:1,2 "There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. 2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

1. The Law of Moses is no longer in force
2. We are free from that law - it could not atone for sin
3. The law of Christ Frees us from that old law of sin & Death because Christ is the atonement for all our sins.

Conclusion

1. "Obedience to Law is Liberty" - inscription over a courthouse in Cleveland
   a. There is no liberty in any other way
   b. Just doing what you please is not true freedom.
   c. A lawless person is never free. He will soon become a slave to his habits
2. Tree freedom is found only in Christ
   a. In Christ our sins are forgiven
   b. In Christ we have a set of tracks to live as God designed
3. Live by God's guidelines found in the Bible so that you may be free!!

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