

~FREEDOM (580)

- .. The God Of Freedom**
- .. The Freedom That Comes Through Christ**
- .. Proper Use Of Christian Freedom**
- .. The Christian's Fight And Mankind's Hope**
- .. Figurative Use**

▪ **Since Yehowah God is the Almighty, the Sovereign Ruler of the universe, and the Creator of all things, he alone has absolute, unlimited freedom.**

- **When Abram got to be ninety-nine years old, then Yehowah appeared to Abram and said to him; I am God Almighty. Walk before me and prove yourself faultless. ([Genesis 17:1](#))**
- **Who should not fear you, O King of the nations, for to you it is fitting, because among all the wise ones of the nations and among all their kingships there is in no way anyone like you. ([Jeremiah 10:7](#))**
- **But Yehowah is in truth God. He is the living God and the King to time indefinite. Because of his indignation the earth will rock, and no nations will hold up under his denunciation. ([Jeremiah 10:10](#))**
- **And at the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted up to the heavens my eyes, and my own understanding began to return to me, and I blessed the Most High himself, and the One living to time indefinite I praised and glorified, because his rulership is a rulership to time indefinite and his kingdom is for generation after generation. ([Daniel 4:34](#))**
- **And all the inhabitants of the earth are being considered as merely nothing, and he is doing according to his own will among the army of the heavens and the inhabitants of the earth. And there exists no one that can check his hand or that can say to him, What have you been doing? ([Daniel 4:35](#))**
- **You are worthy, Yehowah, even our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power, because you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created. ([Revelation 4:11](#))**

- **All others must move and act within the limitations of ability given them and subject themselves to his universal laws.**
- **Woe to the one that has contended with his Former, as an earthenware fragment with the other earthenware fragments of the ground! Should the clay say to its former; What do you make? And your achievement say; He has no hands? ([Isaiah 45:9](#))**
- **O man, who, then, really are you to be answering back to God? Shall the thing molded say to him that molded it; Why did you make me this way? ([Romans 9:20](#))**
- **What? Does not the potter have authority over the clay to make from the same lump one vessel for an honorable use, another for a dishonorable use? ([Romans 9:21](#))**
- **For example, consider gravity, and the laws governing chemical reactions, influence of the sun, and growth, the moral laws, the rights and actions of others that influence ones **freedom**. The **freedom** of all of God's creatures is therefore a relative **freedom**.**
- **There is a distinction between limited **freedom** and bondage. **Freedom** within God-given limitations brings happiness, bondage to creatures, to imperfection, to weaknesses, or to wrong ideologies brings oppression and unhappiness.**
- ****Freedom** is also to be differentiated from self-determination, that is, ignoring God's laws and determining for oneself what is right and what is wrong.**
- **Such leads to encroachments on the rights of others and causes trouble, as can be seen from the effects of the independent, self-willed spirit introduced to Adam and Eve by the Serpent in Eden.**
- **At this the serpent said to the woman; You positively will not die. ([Genesis 3:4](#))**
- **Consequently the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was something to be longed for to the eyes, yes, the tree was desirable to look upon. So she began taking of its fruit and eating it. Afterward she gave some also to her husband when with her and he began eating it. ([Genesis 3:6](#))**

- **At that he said; Who told you that you were naked? From the tree from which I commanded you not to eat have you eaten? (Genesis 3:11)**
- **And the man went on to say; The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree and so I ate. (Genesis 3:12)**
- **With that Yehowah God said to the woman; What is this you have done? To this the woman replied; The serpent, it deceived me and so I ate. (Genesis 3:13)**
- **And Yehowah God proceeded to say to the serpent; Because you have done this thing, you are the cursed one out of all the domestic animals and out of all the wild beasts of the field. Upon your belly you will go and dust is what you will eat all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:14)**
- **And I shall put enmity between you and the woman and between your seed and her seed. He will bruise you in the head and you will bruise him in the heel. (Genesis 3:15)**
- **To the woman he said; I shall greatly increase the pain of your pregnancy, in birth pangs you will bring forth children, and your craving will be for your husband, and he will dominate you. (Genesis 3:16)**
- **And to Adam he said; Because you listened to your wife's voice and took to eating from the tree concerning which I gave you this command, You must not eat from it, cursed is the ground on your account. In pain you will eat its produce all the days of your life. (Genesis 3:17)**
- **And thorns and thistles it will grow for you, and you must eat the vegetation of the field. (Genesis 3:18)**
- **In the sweat of your face you will eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken. For dust you are and to dust you will return. (Genesis 3:19)**
- **True **freedom** is bounded by law, God's law, which allows full expression of the individual in a proper, upbuilding, and beneficial way,**

and which recognizes the rights of others, contributing to happiness for all.

- Happy is the people for whom it is just like that! Happy is the people whose God is Yehowah! A praise, of David. (**Psalms 144:15**)
- But he said; No, rather, Happy are those hearing the word of God and keeping it! (**Luke 11:28**)

.. The God Of Freedom

- Yehowah is the God of **freedom**. He **freed** the nation of Israel from bondage in Egypt. He told them that as long as they obeyed his commandments they would have freedom from want.
- However, no one should come to be poor among you, because Yehowah will without fail bless you in the land that Yehowah your God is giving you as an inheritance to take possession of it. (**Deuteronomy 15:4**)
- Only if you will without fail listen to the voice of Yehowah your God so as to be careful to do all this commandment that I am commanding you today. (**Deuteronomy 15:5**)
- David spoke of **freedom** from care within the dwelling towers of Jerusalem.
- Ask, O you people, for the peace of Jerusalem. Those loving you, O city, will be **free** from care. (**Psalms 122:6**)
- May peace continue within your rampart, **freedom** from care within your dwelling towers. (**Psalms 122:7**)
- However, the Law provided that in case a man became poor he could sell himself into slavery so as to provide the necessities for himself and his family. But **freedom** was granted by the Law to this Hebrew in the seventh year of his servitude.
- In case you should buy a Hebrew slave, he will be a slave six years, but in the seventh he will go out as one set **free** without charge. (**Exodus 21:2**)

- In the Jubilee, occurring every 50th year, **liberty** was proclaimed in the land to all its inhabitants. Every Hebrew slave was **freed**, and each man was returned to his land inheritance.
- And you must sanctify the fiftieth year and proclaim liberty in the land to all its inhabitants. It will become a Jubilee for you, and you must return each one to his possession and you should return each one to his family. (**Leviticus 25:10**)
- A Jubilee is what that fiftieth year will become for you. You must not sow seed nor reap the lands growth from spilled kernels nor gather the grapes of its unpruned vines. (**Leviticus 25:11**)
- For it is a Jubilee. It should become something holy to you. From the field you may eat what the land produces. (**Leviticus 25:12**)
- In this year of the Jubilee you should return each one to his possession. (**Leviticus 25:13**)
- Now in case you should sell merchandise to your associate or be buying from your associates hand, do not you wrong one another. (**Leviticus 25:14**)
- By the number of the years after the Jubilee you should buy from your associate, by the number of the years of the crops he should sell to you. (**Leviticus 25:15**)
- In proportion to the great number of years he should increase its purchase value, and in proportion to the fewness of years he should reduce its purchase value, because the number of the crops is what he is selling to you. (**Leviticus 25:16**)
- And you must not wrong anyone his associate, and you must be in fear of your God, because I am Yehowah your God. (**Leviticus 25:17**)
- So you must carry out my statutes and you should keep my judicial decisions and you must carry them out. Then you will certainly dwell on the land in security. (**Leviticus 25:18**)
- And the land will indeed give its fruitage, and you will certainly eat to satisfaction and dwell in security on it. (**Leviticus 25:19**)

· The Freedom That Comes Through Christ

- The apostle Paul spoke of the need of humankind to be set **free** from **enslavement to corruption**.
- That the creation itself also will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious **freedom** of the children of God. (**Romans 8:21**)
- Jesus Christ told Jews who had believed in him;
- And so Jesus went on to say to the Jews that had believed him; If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. (**John 8:31**)
- And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. (**John 8:32**)
- To those who thought they had **freedom** just because they were Abraham's fleshly descendants, he pointed out that they were slaves of sin, and he said; Therefore if the Son sets you free, you will be actually **free**.
- And so Jesus went on to say to the Jews that had believed him; If you remain in my word, you are really my disciples. (**John 8:31**)
- And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you **free**. (**John 8:32**)
- They replied to him; We are Abraham's offspring and never have we been slaves to anybody. How is it you say; You will become **free**? (**John 8:33**)
- Jesus answered them; Most truly I say to you, every doer of sin is a slave of sin. (**John 8:34**)
- Moreover, the slave does not remain in the household forever, the son remains forever. (**John 8:35**)
- Therefore if the Son sets you **free**, you will be actually free. (**John 8:36**)
- Yes, since you were set free from sin, you became slaves to

righteousness. (**Romans 6:18**)

- However, now, because you were set free from sin but became slaves to God, you are having your fruit in the way of holiness, and the end everlasting life. (**Romans 6:22**)
- The **Christian Greek Scriptures** speak of the followers of Christ as being free. Paul showed that they were children, not of a servant girl, but of the **free** woman.
- Wherefore, brothers, we are children, not of a servant girl, but of the **free** woman. (**Galatians 4:31**)
- Whom he refers to as being the Jerusalem above.
- But the Jerusalem above is **free**, and she is our mother. (**Galatians 4:26**)
- He then exhorts; For such **freedom**, or; With her **freedom**, Christ set us **free**. Therefore stand fast, and do not let yourselves be confined again in a yoke of slavery.
- For such **freedom** Christ set us free. Therefore stand fast, and do not let yourselves be confined again in a yoke of slavery. (**Galatians 5:1**)
- At that time certain men falsely claiming to be Christian had associated themselves with the Galatian congregations. They were making an effort to induce the Galatian Christians to give up their **freedom** in Christ by trying to gain righteousness by works of the Law, instead of by faith in Christ.
- Paul warned that they would thereby fall away from Christ's undeserved kindness.
- See! I, Paul, am telling you that if you become circumcised, Christ will be of no benefit to you. (**Galatians 5:2**)
- Moreover, I bear witness again to every man getting circumcised that he is under obligation to perform the whole Law. (**Galatians 5:3**)
- You are parted from Christ, whoever you are that try to be declared righteous by means of Law. You have fallen away from

his undeserved kindness. (**Galatians 5:4**)

- For our part we by spirit are eagerly waiting for the hoped-for righteousness as a result of faith. (**Galatians 5:5**)
- For as regards Christ Jesus neither circumcision is of any value nor is uncircumcision, but faith operating through love is. (**Galatians 5:6**)
- All those who want to make a pleasing appearance in the flesh are the ones that try to compel you to get circumcised, only that they may not be persecuted for the torture stake of the Christ, Jesus. (**Galatians 6:12**)
- For not even do those who are getting circumcised keep the Law themselves, but they want you to be circumcised that they may have cause for boasting in your flesh. (**Galatians 6:13**)
- The **freedom** that the early Christians enjoyed from bondage to sin and death and from fear, For God gave us not a spirit of cowardice, but that of power and of love and of soundness of mind was exemplified in the outspokenness and freeness of speech of the apostles in proclaiming the Good News.
- For God gave us not a spirit of cowardice, but that of power and of love and of soundness of mind. (**2 Timothy 1:7**)
- Now when they beheld the outspokenness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were men unlettered and ordinary, they got to wondering. And they began to recognize about them that they used to be with Jesus. (**Acts of Apostles 4:13**)
- What then? Nothing, except that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is being publicized, and in this I rejoice. In fact, I will also keep on rejoicing. (**Philippians 1:18**)
- For I know this will result in my salvation through your supplication and a supply of the spirit of Jesus Christ. (**Philippians 1:19**)
- In harmony with my eager expectation and hope that I shall not be ashamed in any respect, but that in all freeness of speech Christ will, as always before, so now be magnified by means of my body, whether through life or through death. (**Philippians**

1:20)

- They recognized this freeness of speech about the Christ to be a valuable possession, one that must be developed, guarded, and maintained in order to receive God's approval. It was also a suitable subject of prayer.
- For the men who minister in a fine manner are acquiring for themselves a fine standing and great freeness of speech in the faith in connection with Christ Jesus. (**1 Timothy 3:13**)
- But Christ was faithful as a Son over the house of that One. We are the house of that One, if we make fast our hold on our freeness of speech and our boasting over the hope firm to the end. (**Hebrews 3:6**)
- While with every form of prayer and supplication you carry on prayer on every occasion in spirit. And to that end keep awake with all constancy and with supplication in behalf of all the holy ones. (**Ephesians 6:18**)
- Also for me, that ability to speak may be given me with the opening of my mouth, with freeness of speech to make known the sacred secret of the Good News. (**Ephesians 6:19**)
- For which I am acting as an ambassador in chains, that I may speak in connection with it with boldness as I ought to speak. (**Ephesians 6:20**)

.. Proper Use Of Christian Freedom

- The inspired Christian writers, appreciating God's purpose in extending undeserved kindness through Christ, You were, of course, called for **freedom**, brothers, repeatedly counseled Christians to guard their **freedom** and not to take license or wrongful advantage of that freedom as an opportunity to indulge in works of the flesh.
- You were, of course, called for **freedom**, brothers, only do not use this freedom as an inducement for the flesh, but through love slave for one another. (**Galatians 5:13**)
- Or as a blind for badness.
- Be as free people, and yet holding your **freedom**, not as a blind

for badness, but as slaves of God. (1 Peter 2:16)

- James spoke of peering into the perfect Law that belongs to **freedom** and pointed out that the one who was not a forgetful hearer, but persisted as a doer, would be happy.
- Be as **free** people, and yet holding your **freedom**, not as a blind for badness, but as slaves of God. (1 Peter 2:16)
- The apostle Paul enjoyed the **freedom** he had gained through Christ but refrained from using his **freedom** to please himself or from exercising it to the point of hurting others.
- In his letter to the congregation at Corinth, he showed that he would not injure another person's conscience by doing something that he had the Scriptural freedom to do but that might be questioned by another with less knowledge, whose conscience might be offended by Paul's acts.
- He cites as an example the eating of meat offered before an idol prior to being put in the market to be sold. Eating such meat might cause one with a weak conscience to criticize Paul's proper **freedom** of action and thereby to act as a judge of Paul, which would be wrong. Therefore, Paul said,
- Why should it be that my freedom is judged by another person's conscience? If I am partaking with thanks, why am I to be spoken of abusively over that for which I give thanks? Nonetheless, the apostle was determined to exercise his **freedom** in an upbuilding, not a detrimental, way.
- All things are lawful, but not all things are advantageous. All things are lawful, but not all things build up. (1 Corinthians 10:23)
- Let each one keep seeking, not his own advantage, but that of the other person. (1 Corinthians 10:24)
- Everything that is sold in a meat market keep eating, making no inquiry on account of your conscience. (1 Corinthians 10:25)
- For, to Yehowah belong the earth and that which fills it. (1 Corinthians 10:26)

- If anyone of the unbelievers invites you and you wish to go, proceed to eat everything that is set before you, making no inquiry on account of your conscience. (**1 Corinthians 10:27**)
- But if anyone should say to you; This is something offered in sacrifice, do not eat on account of the one that disclosed it and on account of conscience. (**1 Corinthians 10:28**)
- Conscience, I say, not your own, but that of the other person. For why should it be that my **freedom** is judged by another person's conscience? (**1 Corinthians 10:29**)
- If I am partaking with thanks, why am I to be spoken of abusively over that for which I give thanks? (**1 Corinthians 10:30**)
- Therefore, whether you are eating or drinking or doing anything else, do all things for God's glory. (**1 Corinthians 10:31**)
- Keep from becoming causes for stumbling to Jews as well as Greeks and to the congregation of God. (**1 Corinthians 10:32**)
- Even as I am pleasing all people in all things, not seeking my own advantage but that of the many, in order, that they might get saved. (**1 Corinthians 10:33**)

· The Christian's Fight And Mankind's Hope

- Paul shows that there is a danger to the Christian's **freedom** in that, whereas the Law of that spirit which gives life in union with Christ Jesus has set you free from the Law of sin and of death.
- Therefore those in union with Christ Jesus have no condemnation. (**Romans 8:1**)
- For the Law of that spirit which gives life in union with Christ Jesus has set you **free** from the Law of sin and of death. (**Romans 8:2**)
- The Law of sin and of death working in the Christians body fights to bring one into bondage again. Therefore the Christian must set his mind on the things of the spirit in order to win.
- I find, then, this Law in my case. That when I wish to do what is

right, what is bad is present with me. (**Romans 7:21**)

- I really delight in the Law of God according to the man I am within. (**Romans 7:22**)
- But I behold in my members another Law warring against the Law of my mind and leading me captive to sins Law that is in my members. (**Romans 7:23**)
- Miserable man that I am! Who will rescue me from the body undergoing this death? (**Romans 7:24**)
- Thanks to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So, then, with my mind I myself am a slave to God's Law, but with my flesh to sins law. (**Romans 7:25**)
- For those who are in accord with the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those in accord with the spirit on the things of the spirit. (**Romans 8:5**)
- For the minding of the flesh means death, but the minding of the spirit means life and peace. (**Romans 8:6**)
- Because the minding of the flesh means enmity with God, for it is not under subjection to the Law of God, nor, in fact, can it be. (**Romans 8:7**)
- So those who are in harmony with the flesh cannot please God. (**Romans 8:8**)
- After outlining the Christian conflict, Paul goes on to speak of the joint heirs with Christ as sons of God. Then he refers to others of mankind as the creation and presents the marvelous purpose of God that the creation itself also will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious **freedom** of the children of God.
- So, then, brothers, we are under obligation, not to the flesh to live in accord with the flesh. (**Romans 8:12**)
- For if you live in accord with the flesh you are sure to die, but if you put the practices of the body to death by the spirit, you will live. (**Romans 8:13**)
- For all who are led by God's spirit, these are God's sons. (**Romans**

8:14)

- For you did not receive a spirit of slavery causing fear again, but you received a spirit of adoption as sons, by which spirit we cry out; Abba, Father! (**Romans 8:15**)
- The spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are God's children. (**Romans 8:16**)
- If, then, we are children, we are also heirs. Heirs indeed of God, but joint heirs with Christ, provided we suffer together that we may also be glorified together. (**Romans 8:17**)
- Consequently I reckon that the sufferings of the present season do not amount to anything in comparison with the glory that is going to be revealed in us. (**Romans 8:18**)
- For the eager expectation of the creation is waiting for the revealing of the sons of God. (**Romans 8:19**)
- For the creation was subjected to futility, not by its own will but through him that subjected it, on the basis of hope (**Romans 8:20**)
- That the creation itself also will be set free from enslavement to corruption and have the glorious **freedom** of the children of God. (**Romans 8:21**)

.. Figurative Use

- When Job, in his suffering, wished to find release in death, he likened death to a **freedom** for those afflicted. He evidently alludes to the hard lives of slaves, saying; In death the slave is set free from his master.
- Small and great are there the same, and the slave is set free from his master. (**Job 3:19**)
- Why are there those waiting for death, and it is not, although they keep digging for it more than for hidden treasures? (**Job 3:21**)
- Those who are rejoicing to gleefulness, they exult because they find a burial place. (**Job 3:22**)

