

“FREE INDEED”

Sunday, July 4, 2010

Text: John 8:31-36

INTRODUCTION:

On July 2, 1776, Congress voted to approve a complete separation from Great Britain. Two days afterwards – July 4th – the early draft of the [Declaration of Independence](#) was [signed](#), albeit by only two individuals at that time: [John Hancock](#), President of Congress, and [Charles Thompson](#), Secretary of Congress. Four days later, on July 8, members of Congress took that document and read it aloud from the steps of Independence Hall, proclaiming it to the city of Philadelphia, after which the Liberty Bell was rung. The inscription around the top of that bell, *Leviticus 25:10*, was *most appropriate for the occasion: “Proclaim liberty throughout the land and to all the inhabitants thereof.”*

I. **SPIRITUAL LIBERTY PROCLAIMED BY GOD:**

“Thus says God the LORD, Who [created](#) the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who [gives breath](#) to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: Isaiah 42:6 “I, the LORD, have [called You](#) in righteousness, And will [hold Your hand](#); I will [keep You](#) and [give You](#) as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, Isaiah 42:7 To open blind eyes, To [bring out prisoners](#) from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. Isaiah 42:8 I am the LORD, that is My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images. Isaiah 42:9 Behold, the former things have come to pass, [And new things I declare](#); Before they spring forth I tell you of them.” (Isaiah 42:5–9 NKJV)

The First Amendment has erected a wall of separation between church and state, but that wall is a one directional wall; it keeps the government from running the church, but it makes sure that Christian principles will always stay in government.

Thomas Jefferson, President of the United States January 1, 1802 in an address to the Danbury Baptists.

II. SPIRITUAL LIBERTY PROVIDED BY CHRIST:

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;” (Isaiah 61:1 NKJV)

“The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;” (Luke 4:18 NKJV)

III. SPIRITUAL LIBERTY PERPETUATES THE TRUTH:

The first separation of religious principles from public education. This is the case that removed school prayer. There were no precedents cited. The court did not quote previous legal cases or historical incidents. A new direction in the legal system - no longer constitutional. Engel v. Vitale, June 25, 1962.

“And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32 NKJV)

“And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” (Romans 6:18 NKJV)

IV. SPIRITUAL LIBERTY PROMISES FREEDOM:

The reason that Christianity is the best friend of government is because Christianity is the only religion in the world that deals with the heart.

Thomas Jefferson.

“There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death. Romans 8:3 For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, Romans 8:4 that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. Romans 8:5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. Romans 8:6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Romans 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. Romans 8:8 So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.” (Romans 8:1–8 NKJV)

V. SPIRITUAL LIBERTY PICTURES THE SPIRIT:

French writer Alexis de Tocqueville, after visiting America in 1831, said, "I sought for the greatness of the United States in her commodious harbors, her ample rivers, her fertile fields, and boundless forests--and it was not there. I sought for it in her rich mines, her vast world commerce, her public school system, and in her institutions of higher learning--and it was not there. I looked for it in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution--and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great!"

Alexis de Tocqueville.

“Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.” (2 Corinthians 3:17 NKJV)

Eze 36:27 “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.

“If you love Me, keep My commandments. John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— John 14:17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. John 14:18 I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.” (John 14:15–18 NKJV)

1Co 3:16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

1Co 6:19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

2Ti 1:14 That good thing which was committed to you, keep by the Holy Spirit who dwells in us.

1Jo 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.