

INDEPENDENCE DAY

(John 8:31, 32)

Introduction:

1. Tuesday will mark the 241 anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Fourth of July is a day that we stop to remember the day when the Continental Congress issued a formal declaration of independence from Great Britain. We stand as the fortunate benefactors of our forefathers who strove for, fought for, and maintained our freedom.
2. As Christians we need to be mindful of our spiritual independence day, the day we were baptized. And for those who have not yet put on Christ in baptism you need to consider the freedom offered by God through Christ to all.
3. Let us consider this morning the words of our Lord specifically regarding this truth that He said would set us free, what we would be freed from, and one of the biggest words in all scripture; IF.

Discussion:

I. The truth that shall make you free.

- A. Notice that the truth is defined for us in the context of v31. The “truth” is the word of Jesus. Compare that to John 17:17 and John 7:16; 12:48 et al.
- B. The word of God is truth, whether concerning physical or spiritual things.
- C. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12 in its context; Rev. 1: 16).
- D. At its most simple, the truth, the word of Jesus and of God, the gospel, is the power of God unto salvation because it is how we access the grace of God (Rom. 5:1, 2).

II. What the truth frees us from.

- A. Sin = John 8:24, 33-36.
 1. Rom. 5:1, 2 = Rom. 10:17; 10; Luke 13:3, 5; Mk. 16:16; 1 John 1:7.
 2. Rev. 1:5
- B. Death = John 8:51; 5:25-29 (both temporary and everlasting).
 1. Death as the wages of sin (Rom. 6:23).
 2. Death because of unbelief (John 8:24).
- C. Wrath = John 3:36; 1 Thess. 1:10; 5:9.
- D. Fear = freed from sin, death, and wrath makes us free from fear. Fear has become hope. And the love of God (TRUTH!) casts out fear (1 John 4:18; Luke 1:13, 30; 2:10; 5:10; 8:50; 12:7, 32; Rom. 8:31ff; 2 Tim. 1:7; et al).
- E. Loneliness = John 14:23; Matt. 28:20.
- F. Sorrow = Matt. 5:4; 2 Thess. 1:7.

III. One of the biggest words in the Bible...IF (John 8:31).

- A. All this can be yours...IF you abide in His word.
 1. IF is the lever of a covenant. THEN is that which is desired (cp. Matt. 17:20).
 2. “Abide” in His word = “continue” in the KJV, NASB; “hold to” in the NIV. Abide = *meno* = to remain, not to depart, to continue to be present, to be held, kept, continually-Thayer. If we “hold, keep continually” Jesus’ words we will be His disciples and will thus know the truth and be set free from all the aforementioned (cp. John 15; Rom. 11).
- B. IF is the difference between having God as our Father or the devil as our father (John 8:42-47).

Conclusion:

1. This Independence day you will probably enjoy a day off of work, have a picnic/cookout, watch some fireworks, and maybe even sing some patriotic songs as you gratefully remember all those who have set you free from the tyranny of man.
2. But what will you do with Jesus and His words? Will you take them in and receive them gladly? Will you submit yourself to them and obey them? Will you remain in His word unto death? Would you be free now and evermore?
3. Invitation.

MORE ON “INDEPENDENCE DAY”

1. The counterintuitive nature of our “independence”.
 - The first lesson on dependence in the garden (Gen. 2).
 - The panoply of lessons on our dependence (Gen. 2, 3; Ex. 33:3, 4; Josh. 1:9; Ezek. 10; Matt. 23:38; 28:20; Rom. 6:23; Phil. 4:13; Jas. 4:8).
 - The means is the goal and vice versa.
 - Independence from God is hell (2 Thess. 1:9; Matt. 9:12).
2. God has blessed us by giving us physical bodies and a physical universe that we might be “free” to choose our eternal abode. We must not become entangled in the testing ground and fall short of our heavenly goal (1 John 2:15-17; Heb. 12). Never forget the fate of the testing ground (2 Pet. 3:10-16).
3. The simplicity of totality, again. Gaining entrance to heaven for eternity is easy as pie. The problem is most people are not willing to submit to God’s will or are not willing to walk the difficult path (Matt. 7:13, 14; 2 Thess. 1:8; Deut. 30:11-20 and its Christian application in Rom. 10). The enemies of mankind are pride and rebellion.
4. Eph. 4:4-6 = There is but one God and father who sent His one special Son attested to by the Holy Spirit who gave us the one faith which taught us about the one baptism which places us within the one body of God’s people wherein lies our one and only hope. The simplicity of it (1 Cor. 1:18-31).
5. Would you be free from the burden of sin? There’s power in the blood! Heaven will surely be worth it all.

***ABIDE IN THE TRUTH
OF JESUS CHRIST AND
BE SET FREE FROM SIN
AND DEATH!***