

Freedom In Christ | 7/2/17

- Opening
 - President John Adams (2nd President):
 - “It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty”.

We know what July 4th is, but what is July 2nd?

Resolution of Independence voted on July 2nd

Letter written by our 2nd president John Adams to his wife Abigail on July 3rd 1776.

<http://www.masshist.org/digitaladams/archive/doc?id=L17760703jasecond>

I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. **It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty.** It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more.

You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. -- I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. -- Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which **I trust in God** We shall not.

He sought for devotion to God as a first before other celebrations

Reflecting on this statement by President John Adams while our “Declaration Of Independence” was being drafted, what was our founding fathers perspective with God and country?

- Freedom in Christ
 - As Christians, we have been set free, we have been given freedom through Christ.
 - As put in the HCSB “Christ has liberated” us.
 - Galatians 5:1 (ESV)
 - “For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”
 - Galatians 5:1 (HCSB)
 - “Christ has liberated us to be free. Stand firm then and don’t submit again to a yoke of slavery.”
 - What then is this freedom?
 - This freedom means that the believer is no longer in bondage to the condemnation or curse of the law which is death.
 - Those who disobey God’s commandments His laws are subject to its condemnation, the penalty of death.
 - However, as Christians we have been given freedom from this punishment and penalty.

- We are now children of God and are destined to spend eternity with Him, not with Satan in the Lake of Fire.
- This freedom means we are not in bondage to the law.
 - If one could adhere perfectly to God’s laws then that person would be made righteous. However, no one can do this.
 - Therefore, we are not tied to a yoke of slavery to the law attempting to abide by it for our righteousness.
 - **Because our righteousness is made through our belief in Jesus Christ.**
 - Romans 3:21-24
 - “But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus,”
 - This was the primary problem of the Pharisees, they sought justification by adherence to the law.
 - **What does this “freedom” that you have received through Christ mean to you?**
- **Our freedom was not free, it came at a great cost.**
 - **Just as our freedom that we celebrate and enjoy today did not come free, neither did our salvation.**
 - **What was the price for our freedom here in the United States?**
 - **What was the price of our freedom to be justified and made righteous before God?**
 - **What do they have in common?**
 - Our freedom came at a great cost, that cost was the sacrifice of life.
 - The brave men and women who have fought for our country gave their lives so that we could be free.
 - **God’s sacrifice however was far greater and the benefits outweighed even what our veterans have done for our country.**
 - God’s sacrifice of His son Jesus Christ upon the cross allowed Him to become a substitute for us, so that He took on the burden of death instead of us.
 - Romans 3:25
 - “whom God put forward as a propitiation by his blood, to be received by faith. This was to show God’s righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over former sins.”
 - Hebrews 10:10
 - “And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.”
 - Hebrews 10:14
 - “For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.”
 - **Do Christians at times perhaps do not fully appreciate the sacrifice that God has made for us?**
- What then are we to do with our freedom that Christ has given us?
 - With this freedom that we now have in Christ as being Christians, what are we to do with it?

- We are saved and going to heaven and He has forgiven our sins, so does that mean we can just do whatever we want? Are we to spend our time repeatedly sinning and asking for forgiveness or just have a purely inward focus?
- Freedom also reflects our free will and ability to “choose”.
 - Freedom in the United States
 - Our freedom that we have here in the United States gives us the ability to worship God and do almost anything that we want, because we are “free”.
 - This freedom gives us the ability to good, but it also gives us the ability to choose to do wrong.
 - While the United States is a free country and we are free, there are laws that we can “freely” on our own accord break.
 - One can choose to spend their time doing good and productive to society, or one can freely choose to be a drag on the world and cause as much mayhem as possible.
 - Our freedom in Christ also gives us the ability to choose.
 - Our freedom in Christ can also be seen in the free will that He has given us.
 - We are not robots that God dictates our every move, He has given us freedom to choose to do right or to do wrong. To obey His commandments or to break them.
 - **So, we as Christians much also choose how we are going to use this freedom that He has given us.**
 - Are we going to use it to further His kingdom? Or are we going to use it to be the most non-productive Christian possible?
- Our Freedom in Christ must not be used to sin.
 - Galatians 5:13
 - “For you were called to freedom, brothers. **Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh**, but through love serve one another.”
 - 1 Peter 2:16
 - “Live as people who are free, **not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil**, but living as servants of God.”
 - Romans 6:1-2
 - “What shall we say then? **Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound?** By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?”
 - Paul was directed by the Holy Spirit to addresses those that thought since God used the sins of man as a way to ultimately bring about His glory and grace that it was ridiculous to think that sinning somehow could be used to glorify God.
 - Having been given this freedom in Christ we must strive to stay away from sin.
 - Just because we have the ability to sin and ask for forgiveness does not mean that God wants that from us.
 - Being a Christian does not just simply mean that you have your fire insurance and you can live your life as you please in complete disobedience.
 - We must not use this freedom He has given us to purely focus on ourselves.
 - This freedom isn’t just about what can we do for ourselves, but it’s about others.
 - We must not use this freedom as a veil to sin.
 - Unfortunately, many have used “Christianity” as a veil for sin.
 - Just because someone says they are doing something “for the Lord” doesn’t mean they truly are.
 - For example, the medieval church put many people to death and even tortured people to convert them to Christianity.
 - There was also what is known as the “inquisition”, this was basically justified torture to root out heresy.

- John Hus (1369-1415) a reformer before the reformation suffered this by the Roman Catholic church.
 - God wants much more from us than this.
 - **Do Christians use their freedom as a “veil” for sin?**
- God desires that we use our freedom to serve one another through love.
 - God does have a desire for this freedom that He has given us, He wants us to lovingly serve one another.
 - Galatians 5:13
 - “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, **but through love serve one another.**”
 - 1 Peter 2:16
 - “Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, **but living as servants of God.**”
 - Romans 6:13
 - “Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your **members to God as instruments for righteousness.**”
 - **God has called us to instead use our freedom and abilities that He has given us serve one another.**
 - This is what God desires us to CHOOSE to do with the freedom that He has given us.
 - He wants us to present all that He has given us as instruments of righteousness I service to OTHERS NOT TO OURSELVES.
 - To lay down one’s own life is the greatest act of love.
 - Scripture tells us that to sacrifice one’s life for another is the greatest act of love that once can show.
 - John 15:13
 - “Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”
 - This is love that our fallen veterans have shown us, that they desired that we have this free country to live in.
 - But a greater act of love was shown by God, when He sacrificed Jesus on the cross. This was the ultimate act of love, that shows how much He truly loves us.
 - Christians then are called to take this same act of immense love that we have received from God and bestow it upon others.
 - John 13:34-35
 - “A new commandment I give to you, **that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.** By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - **What do you think this looks like if we are truly living it out?**