

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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## **Liberty**

"I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death." – Patrick Henry, speech in the Virginia Convention, March 23, 1775

"Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." – George Washington, letter to James Madison, March 2, 1788

"Liberty may make mistakes but tyranny is the death of a nation." – Matteotti

"We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." – Thomas Jefferson

Liberty cannot be preserved without general knowledge among the people." – John Adams

The forefathers of America knew well the value of liberty. Tyranny and oppression are terrible taskmasters of any nation. Liberty and freedom as such joys in the midst of such misery.

It is ironic that man can see the value of liberty both nationally and politically, but seems to be blind to it in matters of religion. With man, he finds himself in the bondage of sin, but oblivious to that reality. As Paul wrote the church of Rome, "Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness" (Rom. 6:16)?

As Paul was writing to the brethren, he referenced the liberty we have in Christ. "For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs – heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together" (Rom. 8:15-17).

It is remarkable that James speaks of the new covenant of Christ as, "the perfect law of liberty" (James 1:25). It provides us liberty and freedom from the shackles of sin. "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23).

When we are baptized (immersed) into Christ we are freed from the bondage of sin. "For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin" (Rom. 6:5-7).