



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Free Indeed

LESSON 10

The Price of Liberty

John 11:49-52

“And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself; but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; and not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.”

Liberty is a word that is often sung about and treasured. For many people in this world, liberty is a concept that is longed for yet never realized. The Word of God reveals that liberty is never free. True liberty always has a cost.

In John 11:49–52, God’s Word records that Caiaphas spoke of one man dying for the nation. Though this religious leader did not realize it, he was speaking not only

politically, but also prophetically. The Messiah, the Lord Jesus Christ, would indeed die for the nation to which He came. God took the words of the high priest and used them for a prophecy of redemption.

The Price of Our Spiritual Liberty

Someone Must Die for the Sins of the People.

Caiaphas says, *“It is expedient...that one man should die for the people”* (John 11:50). In this statement we see, first of all, the necessity of Christ’s death. All of humanity had been put under the bondage of sin. The Word of God declares in Romans 3:23, *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.”* The fact that we are sinners means that we are separated from God—condemned under the law of God, and subject to sin’s power.

The liberty that everyone needs from spiritual bondage cannot be purchased without a payment. True justice demands satisfaction. The wages of our sin is death. (Romans 6:23) For this reason, Christ had to die. Christ’s sacrifice on the cross was no accident; it was not simply an outcome of hatred toward the Saviour. Christ’s death had always been the eternal plan of an all-knowing God. The Lord Jesus Christ came into this world to give Himself a ransom to the justice of a perfectly holy God.

The price of our spiritual liberty also requires the substitution of a perfect Saviour. Caiaphas states that *“one man should die for the people.”* This concept is called substitution. The Lord Jesus Christ did not merely die as an exemplary figure; He died as a substitute for you and for me. The innocent was substituted for the guilty. The

righteous was substituted for the unrighteous. The sinless was substituted for the sinful. Christ bore our sins in His body on the tree and took our judgment that we rightly deserved. The cross is where the righteous justice of God met the mercy and grace of God in the Person of Jesus Christ Himself.

The result of our spiritual liberty is amazing. Because of the sacrifice of Christ, we are freed from the penalty of sin, which is hell. We are also set at liberty from the condemnation of the law of God because Christ perfectly fulfilled God’s holy law. We are also given liberty from the dominion of sin. No longer are we subjects, victims, and slaves to our old sin nature. Spiritual liberty could never be earned by fallen men and women. True spiritual liberty has never been earned; it is purchased with the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no true liberty apart from the cross of Christ. There is no forgiveness without our Saviour’s sacrifice. The Lord Jesus Christ paid the full price for our spiritual liberty, and without His substitutionary death, we would all be eternally lost.

The Cost of Our Christian Liberty

We Must Die to Self.

As Christ died to purchase our spiritual liberty, there is a parallel truth that is often overlooked by Christians today. In order for us to use our Christian liberty properly, we must die to self. The apostle Paul states in I Corinthians 15:31, “...*I die daily.*” This truth enables us to understand that our old sin nature must be put to death

on a regular basis. Our ambitions, sinful desires, and selfish nature continually seek to dominate us.

Some Christians do not understand the biblical concept of Christian liberty. In order to use Christian liberty rightly, we must understand that liberty is not license. Liberty is not freedom *to* sin, but rather it is freedom *from* the power of sin. The grace that God gives to us in salvation is the same grace that teaches us to deny ungodliness and to live soberly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12).

Another important truth about our Christian liberty is that we are called to self-denial. Christ commanded those who follow Him to take up their cross (Luke 9:23), which means to embrace death to the old life and death to self. This call to deny ourselves deals with our selfish desires, our pride, and our personal will. Christian liberty only flourishes where the self-life has been crucified.

The third truth about Christian liberty is that we are not our own; we have been purchased with the very blood of Christ (I Peter 1:18-19). We belong to the Lord, first by *creation*: He is our Maker. We also belong to the Lord by *redemption*: He is our Redeemer. Because we are not our own, our choices should honor Christ. The actions that we take should reflect the Lord Jesus, and we should live daily to please God. True Christian liberty is not doing what we want, but rather doing what Christ wants for us. As we die to self, Christ lives powerfully through us. The world says freedom comes from asserting ourselves, but Christ tells us true freedom comes from surrender to Him.

The Price of Our National Liberty

Patriots Have Died So That We May Enjoy the Freedoms We Have Today.

Some who live in the United States of America enjoy the freedoms and liberties that we have may not understand that these freedoms came at a tremendous cost. The cost of freedom is that, throughout our nation’s history, men and women have sacrificed their lives so that others may be free. Liberty has been purchased on battlefields like Bunker Hill and Yorktown and has been defended at Gettysburg and Antietam. Places such as Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, and the beaches of Normandy all point to the fact that the cost of liberty is indeed very high. Even today, Gold Star Families who have in recent years lost loved ones to war remind us that liberty is not free.

We may worship freely, speak our minds, and assemble without permission from our government. All of these wonderful liberties have been secured by those who have given their lives so we may carry these freedoms to the next generation. The liberty we have been given carries great responsibility. We should value our freedom, protect it, and use our liberties wisely. If we do not use our freedoms, we may soon find them eroded and eventually entirely nonexistent.

As we reflect on our nation and our amazing freedoms, we must remember that our liberty should not isolate us, but rather unite us. Through the death of our Saviour, we have been reconciled to God and are united as the people of God. May we use our liberty in Christ to take the gospel to people who need salvation and tell them of a

LESSON 10 – “The Price *of* Liberty”

Saviour who went to the cross and defeated death, hell, and the grave so that they may have true freedom in Christ.