

Bible Reading

John 8:31-36

II Corinthians 4:3-4

Romans 3:19

Galatians 4:21-31

Isaiah 61:1

Romans 8:2

John 1:12

Psalm 107:8-14

Review Questions

In John 8:31-36, what argument did some bring to Christ when He spoke of their need to be made free?

According to Romans 3:19, who is guilty before God and in need of salvation?

In Isaiah 61:1, the prophecy concerning Christ predicted that He would proclaim what message?

According to Romans 8:2, from what have God's children been set free?

Read the song of deliverance in Psalm 107:8-14. According to this psalm, when we have been set free by Christ, what should we do?

Lesson 13

Free Indeed

"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

John 8:36

In John 8, the Bible records a confrontation between Christ and a gathering of Jews. The crowd divides between those who believe upon Him and those who strongly oppose Him and His teachings. Read John 8:31-36 and notice the two crowds before Christ.

To those who believed upon Him, the Lord Jesus emphasized the importance of His Word. He instructed, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed."* He also gave these new believers a precious promise, *"Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."*

What a comfort it must have been to hear these words from the Lord! His promise guaranteed they would no longer live under the deception of Satan's lies. The truth of God would make them free!

The Jews who opposed Christ raised great objection to His promise of freedom. They took offense to the notion that they needed to be set free. Resenting Christ, they attempted to argue against His message.

Notes

The freedom found in Jesus Christ is not fantasy; it is reality.

Some believe Christ's Word, and others take offense at His Word. In which group are you?

Notes

The Deception of Sin

The unbelievers who stood before Christ were greatly deceived. In John 8:33, they answered the Lord Jesus, "...We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?" They responded with a spirit of self-justification, offended that Christ would suggest that they needed to be set free from bondage.

Many people think that their religious identification has exempted them from the need to be set free from sin.

Satan seeks to blind man to his need of Christ (II Corinthians 4:3-4). In John 8, the unbelieving Jews were blinded by their religious heritage. Christ made them aware that they were the servants of sin. He said, "...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever

committeth sin is the servant of sin." No matter what their heritage or lineage was, they were sinners bound in sin. Romans 3:19 teaches that "all the world" is "guilty before God." We are all under the bondage of sin and unable to deliver ourselves from sin's chains.

The Deliverance of the Son

The only answer for man's sin is the Son of God. The Lord Jesus Himself is the great Emancipator from the slavery of sin. In John 8:35, Christ gave a simple illustration to reveal their need of Him. This analogy clearly taught them that, even though they were outwardly identified with God's house, they would be cast out if they remained in their sin. They needed a Saviour!

In verse thirty-six, the Lord Jesus declared, "If the Son therefore shall make you free...." There is hope for the sin-bound soul! Deliverance from sin could never be achieved

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by their religion or by their heritage. The Son must make them free. The Son was their only hope.

The prophecy of Jesus Christ in Isaiah 61:1 was that He would "proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound." Sinners who seek deliverance by any means other than Christ will only find themselves more deeply bound in sin. If we believe on Him, He will make us free. There is life and liberty in the Son (Romans 8:2).

The Declaration of the Saviour

When Christ spoke of His power to make men free, He made an amazing declaration. He said in John 8:36, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." Notice this promise, "...Ye shall be free indeed." Satan offers a false freedom that, in actuality, is bondage. But Christ provides freedom "indeed." The liberty we have by faith in Christ is genuine, real, authentic liberty! It is the freedom for which our souls have always yearned.

Notice Psalm 107:8-14. Those who have been set free by Christ have something to sing about! We are "free indeed." This is a reality! Sin no more has a hold upon us, and we are no longer bound by Satan and doomed to hell. Now, we must echo the same truthful declaration that our Lord made long ago. The liberating power of Christ is still in effect today.

The world in which we live needs hope. We need to declare that the Son can make them free indeed!

Notes

The Son of God has the power to break the chains of sin and set captives free!

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