

Bible Reading

John 8:12-36
Isaiah 59:14-15
Romans 5:12
Proverbs 5:22

Romans 6:6-7
Ephesians 4:15
John 17:17
James 1:25

Review Questions

According to Isaiah 59:14-15, what are the results when “truth is fallen in the street”?

In John 8:34-36, what did the religious leaders fail to acknowledge about themselves?

Read Romans 6:6-7. From what is the believer set free? What does this mean?

Compare John 8:32 and John 17:17. What has the power to set us free?

In James 1:25, what phrase is given to describe the Word of God? What does it mean?



“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

John 8:32

All across our world, people long to be free. Most of them are looking in the wrong place to find the freedom they need. Where is liberty truly found?

Notes

The scene in John 8 is one of conflict between the Jewish religious leaders and the Lord Jesus. In the midst of all this conflict, Christ lovingly sought to reveal Himself to the crowds of people who were at the temple. He declared in John 8:12, *“I am the light of the world...”*

He explained that He had been sent by His Father (v. 16-18). Christ spoke very plainly, *“...If ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins”* (v. 24).

The Bible records in John 8:30, *“As he spake these words, many believed on him.”* To these new believers, the Lord Jesus immediately gave an exhortation. John 8:31-32 records, *“...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed: and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* Christ revealed an amazing connection between truth and freedom. Where truth is disparaged and denied, there is bondage. Where truth is proclaimed and received, there is freedom.

In many places, truth is exchanged for lies.

The principle is that truth is always connected to liberty.

Notes

The Bondage of Sin

The people to whom Christ spoke were in bondage. However, some refused to acknowledge that they were captives. John 8:33-34 records the denial of the religious leaders. Their eyes were closed to their own sinfulness. They believed a lie and thought that good deeds and religious routines made them righteous. But they were wrong. Christ said, *"...Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."*

Nothing blinds a man like cold religion.

We are all born in iniquity (Romans 5:12) and therefore held as a captive by the cords of our own sins (Proverbs 5:22). How shall we be set free? It is only the truth that can make us free! Only the Lord Jesus Christ, Who is *"the way, the truth, and the life,"* (John 14:6) can break the chains of sin and set us free!

The Power of Truth

The Lord Jesus declared, *"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* (John 8:32). Truth is powerful! It is so potent that it liberates man from the tyranny of sin and sets him free to become everything God intended him to be.

God's Word teaches in Romans 6:6-7 that all those who have placed their faith in Christ have been set free from the dominion of sin. Before knowing Christ, we have no power to overcome sin; however, after we have believed the truth, our old man is crucified with Christ, and we have been set free from sin's captivity and are now able to live for the Lord.

If you know someone who is bound in sin, what does that person need? Give him the truth! Proclaim the truth that

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He is the sinless One who bled and died in the sinner's place. Declare the truth that He rose again the third day victorious over death and hell, and that He alone has power to deliver from the captivity of sin. Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15)!

The Source of Liberty

When Christ said, *"...The truth shall make you free,"* He revealed liberty's true source. John 17:17 teaches, *"...Thy word is truth."* We identify the true source of liberty as the Word of God. Wherever the Bible has been received and believed, freedom has followed.

The Lord said in John 8:31, *"...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed."* To *"continue"* in His Word means to be obedient to His Word. Simple obedience to God's Word is the means by which we can experience all the freedom that is ours in Christ.

Sadly, many have allowed this truth to fall into the street. They have believed the lie that says freedom comes by ignoring God's commands and living as we want. The truth is, disobedience to God's Word always leads back to bondage.

James 1:25 states, *"But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein..."* God's Word is *"the perfect law of liberty."* It is God's law, but it is also the true source of liberty when we live in obedience to it.

The most liberated life one can live is a life lived in obedience to God's Word.

Notes

Nothing else has the power to liberate the soul of man but the truth.