



BIBLE STUDY SERIES

Free Indeed

LESSON 3

False Freedom

II Peter 2:19

*“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption:
for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”*

Freedom. The mere mention of the word evokes ideals of liberty, sacrifice, and choice. From the Garden of Eden to the founding of America, freedom and liberty are words that stir the hearts of all people.

The Word of God reveals to us the source of true liberty. However, God’s Word also warns us of false freedom, promised by false teachers, that leads to more bondage. Peter, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, writes to the believers in the first century and

warns of false freedom. We would do well to heed his counsel closely. He writes in II Peter 2:19, *“While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”*

Satan’s tactic of offering freedom but delivering bondage is as old as the first temptation in the Garden. Eve was promised liberty and God-like powers. Instead, she was bound to the penalty of sin. Sin never liberates. Only Christ can make men genuinely free. Genesis 3:1-5 exposes Satan’s ancient tactic of promising liberty but bringing captivity instead.

Today, Satan’s tactics are much the same. The circumstances may have changed, but the lie remains the same. The Lord Jesus tells us in John 8:44 that Satan *“is a liar, and the father of it.”* Satan is the author of false freedom and seeks to tempt us in the same manner. The moment Adam and Eve accepted this “freedom,” they became slaves to sin and its corruption.

The Lie as Old as Eden

Since our first parents, Adam and Eve, lived in the sinless environment of Eden, Satan has done his best to convince humanity that God withholds good things and that obedience is bondage. The Bible records in Genesis 3:4-5, *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: for God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”* This was a temptation to disobey

God, disguised as the gift of freedom. Satan did not present himself as a dictator but rather as a liberator, convincing Eve that God was unkind to restrict her from something that would make her better.

Today, that same false freedom appeals to many who seek to shrug off the social mores and Judeo-Christian ethics found historically in the United States of America. The lie, as old as Eden itself, is still being propagated in the twenty-first century. Cities that are filled with looting, riots, and anarchy are promoted as places of “cultural expression.” Lawmakers, magistrates, governors, mayors, and city officials often defy federal laws and proclaim their own areas free of adherence to them. This spirit of anarchy is the spirit of Satan himself.

The authority of God and of His Word is regularly questioned by today’s society. Those who claim the most freedom act with impunity, having their consciences seared and unable feel the sting of truth when they knowingly commit wrong. These are all results of the lie as old as Eden. This lie declares that we are the masters of our own fate and that to be free from God is to live in freedom.

The Liars and Their Bondage

Through the Apostle Peter, God’s Word gives warning to the first-century believers concerning false promoters of freedom. While they promise liberty, they themselves are slaves. The Bible says, “*While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the*

servants of corruption...” (II Peter 2:19). Scripture helps us understand that the greatest purveyors of this false freedom are, in fact, servants of corruption themselves. Though they claim to be free from the restraints of Scripture and Christianity, their lives are a sad picture of genuine bondage to sin and the anarchy of self.

Those who resist the moral restraints of our nation and defy the truth of God’s Word may claim themselves to be free, but they are hopelessly bound to sin. They cannot break the power sin has over them. God says, “*...For of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage*” (II Peter 2:19). We need to look beyond the promising words of these false prophets and examine their lives—lives overruled by the bondage of the sin they so freely promote.

Much like the father of lies, who offers nothing good, these purveyors of false freedom offer complete liberty and freedom from God, yet their lives tell a far different story. Their story is one of slavery to sin and the condition that brings them lower each day, until finally, without Christ, they spend an eternity in hell. These liars and promoters of false freedom promise that immunity from moral restraints brings happiness, that exemption from accountability brings self-awareness and liberty, and that liberation from the Word of God brings new horizons and endless fulfillment. However, this is far from reality. Romans 6:16 warns, “*Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servant ye are....*” This false freedom does not produce free people; it produces slaves who recruit others into slavery.

Note the word *overcome* in II Peter 2:19. Peter is describing those who have given their lives over to false freedom. Believing themselves to be free, they are, in reality, increasingly enslaved to the sin they seek to convince others to embrace. Satan never presents sin as bondage. He dresses sin in the clothing of freedom. As Proverbs 5:22 declares, “*His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.*” Sin deceives, corrupts, and becomes the chains that bind the sinner.

The Liberty Found in Christ Alone

In John 8:32, the Lord Jesus promises, “*And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*” Genuine freedom is not the absence of restraint; it is choosing the right Master. Real freedom is inseparable from truth. We are only truly free when we choose Christ as our Saviour.

In Romans 6:18, Paul declares, “*Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.*” According to this verse, true freedom is not self-rule, but rather being ruled by Christ Himself. Every individual chooses to serve something. Sin advertises liberty but only provides broken promises, corruption, and ultimately death. Christ our Redeemer deserves our full surrender and grants to those who believe on Him eternal liberty and freedom. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua charges the people of Israel, “*Choose you this day whom ye will serve....*” Like the people of Israel, you have a choice to make.

False freedom ends inevitably in chains of sin. However, the true freedom through Christ Himself begins at the cross and leads to an eternity of liberty. Today in Christendom, many false teachers promise a false freedom that offers autonomy without accountability, without authority, and without Scripture. These false promises must be met with the truth. Christ is the Great Emancipator. Believing upon Him brings freedom from the penalty of sin. Following Him brings freedom from the power of sin. And, in heaven, every believer will experience freedom from the very presence of sin.