

Bible Reading

II Peter 2:19
Genesis 3:1-5
John 8:31-32
Proverbs 5:22

John 8:44
Romans 6:16, 18

Review Questions

According to Genesis 3:4-5, what lie about freedom did the serpent state to Eve?

In John 8:44, what do we learn about Satan?

Those who lie about liberty are actually servants to what, according to II Peter 2:19?

True freedom and liberty come only from knowing what? (See John 8:31-32)?

Joshua 24:15 tells us that we must make a choice about what important issue?

False Freedom

Lesson 3

“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.” II Peter 2:19

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 heart of every man.

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. In II Peter 2:19, the believers in the first century were warned of false freedom. We would do well to heed this counsel closely.

Satan’s tactic of offering freedom but delivering bondage, is as old as the first temptation in the Garden. Genesis 3:1-5 exposes Satan’s ancient tactic of promising liberty but bringing about captivity instead. Today, Satan’s tactics are much the same. The circumstances may have changed, but the lie remains the same.

The Lord Jesus told us in John 8:44 that Satan “*is a liar, and the father of it.*” The moment Adam and Eve accepted this “freedom,” they became slaves to sin and its corruption.

Sin never liberates. Only Christ can make men genuinely free.

Notes

Satan is the author of false freedom.

Notes

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 mankind that obedience is bondage. The Bible records in Genesis 3:4-5, *“And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die...ye shall be as gods...”*

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.

The spirit of anarchy is the spirit of Satan himself.

This 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.” 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.

The Liars and Their Bondage

Peter warned the first-century believers of the circumstances in which these false promoters of freedom exist. 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 restraints, their lives are a sad picture of bondage to sin and the anarchy of self. God says, *“...For of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”* (II Peter 2:19) We are 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.

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 possibilities of fulfillment.

However, this is far from reality. Romans 6:16 says, *“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.

The Liberty Found in Christ Alone

John 8:32 says, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”* Genuine freedom is not the absence of restraint. True freedom is choosing the right Master. We are only truly free when we choose Christ as our Saviour.

“Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.” (Romans 6:18) True freedom is not self-rule, but rather being ruled by Christ Himself. Every individual chooses to serve something. Christ our Redeemer deserves our full surrender and grants to those who believe on Him eternal liberty and freedom. Joshua said, *“Choose you this day whom ye will serve...”* (Joshua 24:15) Like the people of Israel, you have a choice to make.

Christ is the Great Emancipator! Following Him and Him alone will bring true freedom.

Notes

Sin is dressed in the clothing of freedom.