

## **Freedom**

By Roy Goodlet

Let's define the word "freedom." It is liberation from slavery, imprisonment or some kind of restraint, plus it is a privilege and not a deserved right. If you abuse it, you are likely to lose it.

I believe that many Americans abuse their freedom, and I believe many Christians abuse their spiritual freedom. I don't need to go into a long history lesson about how our country was founded and for what reasons, but it all boils down to the word "freedom." Our ancestors were willing to fight for it and cheer for it.

When our country was founded, our freedom had one major limit to it. It had to be in line with God's commandments for every single individual. The Ten Commandments were the foundation of our laws. Is it still that way? I heard the former governor of Louisiana say, "America did not create religious liberty. Religious liberty created America."

What I find most confusing though is the opinion of Americans about sin. In 2008 87% believed in the concept of sin. And of that number of people 97% of Black Americans believed in the concept of sin compared to 86% of Whites and 80% of Hispanics. And if you want to include politics in this equation then 94% of conservatives believed in sin compared to 89% of moderates and 77% of liberals.

The problem is that many Americans as well as other people in this world don't see themselves as being the responsible party behind their sin, nor do they see the need to be freed or forgiven of it. In other words they believe it's not their fault. "The devil made me do it." "I am a victim of my upbringing, environment, etc."

It doesn't make any difference in our salvation if we live in the United States of America or in Afghanistan. We all need freedom from the consequences of sin, and only Jesus Christ can give us that freedom. Our ancestors may have bought our freedom for a lifetime on earth, but Jesus Christ bought our freedom for an eternity.

You and I are not puppets on a string being controlled by God. Adam and Eve were not. Judas was not. The rich young ruler was not. And neither were Paul, or the Philippian Jailor who asked, "What must I do to be saved?" Or the Ethiopian Eunuch who asked Philip, "Here is water, why can't I be baptized?"

When it comes to choice, it means you must make a decision on one thing or another and you cannot choose both. Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and Money." (Matthew 6:24)

Right now you are faced with a choice. You can choose to write your own declaration of independence and let Jesus Christ free you from the bondage of sin, or you can choose to remain a slave to sin. The choice is yours.

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