

07-03-19 Wednesday Musing

This week we will celebrate 243 years of Independence from British rule. Independence Day is coming around tomorrow... or the 4th of July, as we like to call it. We will celebrate freedom... freedom and independence seem to be interchangeable words around this time... there will be parades... and parties... cook-outs... ball games... and all sorts of other celebrations at which "Happy Independence Day" and "Let Freedom Ring!" will be shouted from every corner of the good ole U.S. of A. And I'll be right there in the eating my hotdog with everyone else.... Patriotism runs strong in my blood... for the most part I'm extremely proud to be an American... Not necessarily proud of all that has been done over the years to achieve ownership of this great country and the wealth and power that it has attained... but very proud and thankful that I was born in the land of the brave and the free. Many.... Many in the world cannot enjoy the joys of freedom like we do. And as we hear in the news... many are desperately trying to get into our country to enjoy what 'freedom' offers... We hear every day of the horrible conditions at our southern border for those trying to enter... It is reported daily of the horrendous conditions some have been forced to endure... And while I do believe that we should receive those who wish to come... I guess for the safety of all we must have in place rules and regulations for entrance.

This brings my thoughts around to God... and the freedom He offers us... and in terms of the freedom He offers us... freedom from sin... independence cannot be interchanged with the wording... freedom from sin equals unification with God... not independence from God... Christians have freedom from sin and darkness when we follow Christ... not walk through life independent from Him... in 2 Corinthians 3:17-18 we read **"17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."** In this case 'freedom' has unlimited borders... as long as you walk in the same path that Jesus walks... 'independence' ... however... would be to go your own way... separating yourself from the path and making your own way... this is not what God requires of us... independence in this case would be synonymous with slavery... slavery to sin... freedom would be synonymous with faith... Galatians 3:23-29 tells us... **"23 Now before faith came, we were held captive under the law, imprisoned until the coming faith would be revealed. 24 So then, the law was our guardian until Christ came, in order that we might be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise."**

So as we throw those burgers on the grill... light those fireworks... and celebrate the freedom we enjoy in the good old USA... let's not forget that freedom always comes at a price... for the USA it was the price of war among men... for Christians it was the war God waged upon the unseen evils of the heavenly realms and the sins of the flesh created solely

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by human desires... Jesus paid the price for your freedom... totally... willingly... without regret....

"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:31-32)... and ... 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life. (Galatians 5:13)

As we turn to the Lord in prayer this week let us remember: Norma Simons, Family of Jeanne Williams, Family of Mary Jane Pettigrew, Family of Pat Sellars, Faye Strickland, Frances Morgan, Harvey Sharpe, Donna Freeman, Dotti Davis, and friends: Pete Pate & Jane Pate—Family of Jamie Fonville, Family of Curtis Pass, Marilyn Parsonson—Aunt of Mark Garrison, Daniel Contino—Friend of Joan Paschal, Nancy Toney, Connie Papadis, Jeanette Hudson—mother of Connie Collins, Family of Reggie Jeffries.

- ❖ The sermon title on Sunday will be "The Desire for Freedom". The Scripture will be read from Luke 4:14-21 and Ephesians 4:17-5:2.
- ❖ The Church Office will be closed tomorrow, July 4th, 2019 due to the holiday. We hope you all have a safe and happy holiday celebration.
- ❖ There is NO SUNDAY SCHOOL in the month of July. Worship will begin at it's normal 10:30am starting time.
- ❖ Mark your calendars for July 16, 17, & 18, and make plans to join us in the Bray Hall at 6:30 pm each night for the Summer Symposium. It always promises to be a fun and informative time!

Have a safe and fun 4th!

Blessing to you....

Joan 😊

