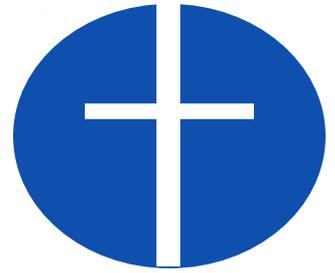


Loco Baptist Church Pastor: Marty Pinion



Welcome to the Loco Baptist Church newsletter.

Independence Day- July 4th

This month, we celebrate Independence Day on July 4th. In the United States we take this day to celebrate the birth of a nation, and more broadly, the gifts of freedom and liberty that Americans hold dear. It would be a bit too easy to simply say that American freedom is a direct reflection of the freedom described in the Bible. That's because Biblical freedom has a theological component which sets it apart. In the Bible, people are made free for a specific purpose: to serve God.

Going back to Exodus, Moses leads the people into the desert SO THAT they may worship the LORD. Indeed, the ensuing narrative offers a strong caution against the abuse of freedom, as the Hebrews build the golden calf. That is not what God had in mind. St. Paul expresses the same point. We are free from sin SO THAT we may be in Christ. Sometimes Paul even says that we are free in order that we might be *slaves* to Christ. When the Bible says we are free, it means that we are free to serve God and God's vision.

What does all this have to do with July 4th? It seems to me, that when America gets it right, we tap into the Biblical view of freedom. We see our political and social freedoms as responsibilities. Freedoms are not for us to abuse, nor does freedom exist so that we can do whatever we want. Instead, freedom provides opportunity to serve. Freedom is for a purpose.

(from www.buildfaith.org)

Galatians 5:13

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. (NIV)

Isaiah 61:1 (this is the verse Jesus reads in the synagogue)

The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners. (NIV)

Answer to June Trivia Question: **1382 A.D., by John Wycliffe**

Upcoming Events

July 9- Senior Outing @ 5:00 (See Mary/Racy for details)

July 10- Lord's Supper

July 31- Lake Day @ Cherokee Recreation Area @ 2:00; Eat around 5:00

WMU- See Mary Goldman for details

Trivia question: During the Last Supper, Peter initially became upset with Jesus because Jesus wanted to _____.
(answer in next month's newsletter)