

Declare Your Independence

Text : **John 8: 31-47**

S#1.

S#2.

A. This is the 4th of July weekend.

1. We celebrate the signing of the declaration of independence, but it was not signed.
2. In fact, independence was formally declared on **July 2, 1776**, a date that John Adams believed would be “the most memorable epocha in the history of America.” On **July 4, 1776**, Congress approved the final text of the Declaration. It wasn't signed until **August 2, 1776**.

S#3.

B. From that time Americans have always placed great importance on being free.

1. There has not yet been a successful invasion of our country.
2. We maintain the world's most powerful army to insure there will never be such.
 - a. Even a casual reading of the O.T. will demonstrate that only God can protect.
 - b. Rome had the most powerful army in the world when conquered by barbarians.
 - c. In our time, a stone age culture has kept us engaged in a war for 15 years.
3. Even so, Americans cherish their freedom and demand their rights at every turn.

C. We are much like the Jews that are described in our text.

1. When offered freedom, they strongly protested. **S#4.**
John 8: 33 – They answered Him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, ‘You will become free’?”
2. Of course, this was a totally unrealistic statement.
 - a. They had been enslaved in Egypt.
 - b. They had been repeatedly carried off into captivity. (Hooks in noses .. Isa 37:29)
 - c. They were at that time under the dominion of Rome.

D. The truth of the matter is that no one is absolutely free.

1. God created man to serve Him and put us in the garden with a task to accomplish. **S#5.**
Gen. 2: 15 – Then the Lord God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.
2. When man was evicted from the garden, God maintained ownership of man and all His creation.
Psa. 24: 1 – The earth is the Lord's, and all it contains,
 The world, and those who dwell in it.
3. Thus, though God has given man a high degree of autonomy, all men remain property and as such we can never be truly free.

I. Those who rebel against God may change masters, but they are never free. S#6.

A. There are only two ruling forces on the earth, God and Satan.

1. **Gen. 3** ... Satan has been battling against God since the garden of Eden.
2. Satan seduces people because he wants to deprive God of the fellowship God desires.

B. Satan's influence is limited to this present physical world.

1. **John 12: 31** – Now judgment is upon this world; S#7.
now the ruler of this world will be cast out.
2. **II Cor. 4: 3-4** And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, ⁴ in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

C. Satan seduces men to follow him and uses trickery to make evil appear good.

1. Satan appeals to people today in the same way he appealed to Eve in the garden.
 - a. **Gen 3: 6** – When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that S#8.
(*After Eve ate she knew what she was doing to Adam.*) it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
 - b. **James 1: 14-15** But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust, ¹⁵ Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.
2. Satan will lie to us the same way he lied to Eve. S#9.
John 8: 44 – You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.
3. He appeals to the weaknesses of our flesh. S#10.
I John 2: 15-17 Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. ¹⁷ The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever.
 - a. Satan convinces people to live for today with no thought of tomorrow.
 - b. He offers many pleasures with promises of happiness, they are fleeting and empty.
4. Satan convinces people to center their lives on earthly security.
 - a. Earthly plans have no guarantee because our bodies are temporary (*Brian Guinnee*)
 - b. This earth will not last ... “the earth and its works will be burned up.” **II Pet. 3: 10**

S#11.

II. When one is deceived by Satan he becomes enslaved by sin and by Satan.

A. Sin separates people from God.

S#12.

1. Adam and Eve committed only one sin and they were expelled from God's presence.
 - a. They did not deny God or speak evil of Him; didn't kill or steal.
 - b. They simply obeyed Satan rather than God.
2. Everyone makes that very same choice.
 - a. **Luke 16: 13** – No servant can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. (or anything)
3. As God warned Adam and Eve, so He has warned us.
 - a. **Gen. 2: 17** – ... for in the day you eat from it you shall surely die.
 - b. **Rom. 6: 23** – The wages of sin is death
 - c. Sin is anything one chooses above God. *God must reign sovereign in one's life.*

B. Sin enslaves people.

S#13.

1. **John 8: 34** – Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.
2. Sin is almost instantly addictive. *It ensnares its victims and hold them captive.*
II Tim. 2: 25b -26 ... if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, **26** and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.
3. Thus, once one sins he becomes a captured slave of Satan.

S#14.

C. Once one is enslaved by Satan he cannot save himself or be rescued by man.

1. **Psa. 49: 7-8** No man can by any means redeem his brother or give to God a ransom for him— **8** For the redemption of his soul is costly, And he should cease trying forever—
2. Religions that teach "penance" to pay for sin are in error.

D. Jesus is the only one who can ransom one from enslavement to Satan.

S#15.

1. **Mark 10: 45** – For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.
2. **I Tim. 2: 5-6** For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, **6** who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

3. Fact of life : *The one who pays the ransom owns the one he ransoms.*

S#16.

III. Whether a servant of sin or a servant of God, everyone is a servant.**S#17.****A. Jesus will pay the ransom to free you from sin, but you then become HIS. S#18.**

Rom. 6: 15-23 What then? Shall we sin because we are not under law but under grace? May it never be! **16** Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? **17** But thanks be to God **#19.** that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, **18** and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. **19** I am speaking in human terms because of the weakness of your flesh. For just as you presented your members as slaves to **S#20.** impurity and to lawlessness, resulting in further lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness, resulting in sanctification **20** For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. **21** Therefore what benefit were you then deriving from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the outcome of those things is death. **22** But now having been freed **S#21.** from sin and enslaved to God, you derive your benefit, resulting in sanctification, and the outcome, eternal life. **23** For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

S#22.**B. Being ransomed and owned by God has a direct effect on how we use of our life.****1. Our status as a ransomed slave places strict moral limitations on us. S#23.**

I Cor. 6: 14-20 Flee immorality. Every other sin that a man commits is outside the body, but the immoral man sins against his own body. **19** Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? **20** For you have been bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body. **S#24.**

2. Our status as a ransomed slave also places limitation on the contracts we can make.

I Cor. 7: 21-23 Were you called while a slave? Do not worry about it; but if you are able also to become free, rather do that. **22** For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord's freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ's slave. **23** You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men. (Debt makes us slaves)

3. In order to maintain our status in Christ, we must accept His lifestyle. S#25.

I John 2: 3-6 By this we know that we have come to know Him, if we keep His commandments. **4** The one who says, " I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him; **5** but whoever keeps His word, in him the love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in Him: **6** the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

S#26.

C. Thus, freedom does not imply the absence of any restrains on one's life.

ILL. College girl confronts a recruiter for a "Christian" college : I would never consider going to your school. I go anywhere I please any time I please; I sleep with anyone I want to sleep with; I dress any way I want to dress; I drink anything I want to drink; I smoke anything I want to smoke; I'm free.
Recruiter answered : No you're not. You're enslaved to your body, to it's lusts.

IV. The one who chooses to serve God is free from sin and its consequences.

S#27.

A. Jesus promised us freedom as a recompense for walking in His word.

S#28.

1. **John 8: 31-32** So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."
2. **John 8: 36** – If the Son make you free, you will be free indeed.

B. Failure to abide in the source of freedom returns one to slavery.

S#29.

1. **John 8: 47** – He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."
2. **John 15: 10** – If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love.
 - a. **John 15: 14** – You are my friends if you do what I command you.
 - b. **John 14: 15** – If you love Me, you will keep my commandments.

S#30.

C. Thus, our continued relationship with Christ is contingent upon continued faith.

1. **Col. 1: 21-23** And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, ^{S#31.} engaged in evil deeds, ²² yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach — ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.
2. **Rom. 11: 21-22** for if God did not spare the natural branches, He will not ^{S#32.} spare you, either. ²² Behold then the kindness and severity of God; to those who fell, severity, but to you, God's kindness, if you continue in His kindness; otherwise you also will be cut off.

V. Thus, the Christian can live free from guilt and free from fear.

S#33.

A. God has signed the declaration of our independence ... Jesus Christ.

S#34.

B. Those who have been freed by Christ have no reason for fear.**S#35.**

1. When we stand before God there will be no charge brought against us.

Rom. 8:1 – Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

2. The Christian will stand before God pure and holy.

- a. **Col. 1: 22** – yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, **S#36.**
in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach

- b. **I Cor. 1: 4, 8** – thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God
which was given you in Christ Jesus, ... **8** who will also confirm
you to the end, blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

3. If you're in Him, Jesus saved you and He wants you to know He has saved you. **#37.**

I John 5: 13 – These things I have written to you who believe in the name of
the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

CONCLUSION :

- A. Jesus Christ died to purchase freedom for all mankind
and He wants you to have it.

S#38.

- B. If you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine it is yours.

- C. Once you have it, there are only two prerequisites for keeping it.

S#39.

1. Keep trusting in Him for your salvation. *Not self or anyone else.*
2. Do your best to follow His commands.
3. If you make an honest mistake and acknowledge it, He will forgive you.

S#40.

I John 1: 8-9 If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and
the truth is not in us. **9** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and
righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness.

INVITATION :

- A. Can you say with the Apostle Paul :

S#41.

II Tim. 1: 12 – know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is
able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

- B. If you cannot, we challenge you to declare your independence from sin
By accepting the gift of freedom that Jesus offers.

S#42.**S#43.** *Communion Slide*

Lesson Text :**John 8: 31-47**

31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, " If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; **32** and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." **33** They answered Him, " We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"

34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin. **35** " The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever. **36** "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. **37** "I know that you are Abraham's descendants; yet you seek to kill Me, because My word has no place in you. **38** "I speak the things which I have seen with My Father; therefore you also do the things which you heard from your father."

39 They answered and said to Him, "Abraham is our father." Jesus said to them, " If you are Abraham's children, do the deeds of Abraham. **40** "But as it is, you are seeking to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I heard from God; this Abraham did not do. **41** "You are doing the deeds of your father." They said to Him, "We were not born of fornication; we have one Father: God." **42** Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God, for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He sent Me. **43** "Why do you not understand what I am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word. **44** " You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies. **45** "But because I speak the truth, you do not believe Me. **46** "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me? **47** " He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."