

The Cost Of Freedom

Text : **Romans 8: 1-15**

S#1.

A. Traditionally, American has been one of the freest countries in the world.

S#2.

1. However, history reveals that our freedom has come at a tremendous cost.
 - a. All total, approx. 140 million people have served in the military.
 - b. More than 1.3 million have died in wars.
 - 1) Revolutionary war 8,000 died in battle
 - 2) Civil war secured freedom for slaves ... 212, 930
 - 3) WW I 53, 402
 - 4) WW II 291, 557
 - 5) Korean War 33, 746
2. Americans have planted fields of white crosses around the world, but took nothing.

B. From the founding of this nation until this very day, our people have been willing to pay a heavy price for their freedom and for that of others.

1. Most of the 56 men who signed the declaration of independence lost everything.
 - a. 5 were captured by the British and tortured to death.
 - b. 12 had their homes looted and burned.
 - c. 2 lost sons and 2 more had sons captured, tortured and imprisoned.
 - d. 9 fought in the revolutionary war and died of wounds.
 - e. Carter Braxton of Virginia lost his fleet of ships and died in rags.
 - f. Gov. Thomas Nelson directed artillery fire on his own home and died in poverty.
2. When the civil war was becoming a lost cause for the North, Pres. Lincoln signed an executive order (Emancipation Proclamation) making it about freeing slaves.

B. Even today our freedom comes at enormous cost.

S#4.

1. Our military budget is \$612, 500, 000, 000
 - a. We keep 473 ships seaworthy.
 - b. We maintain 13, 683 aircraft ready for flight.
2. We must maintain an enormous standing army.
 - a. 1,369, 532 on active duty
 - b. 2, 266, 883 including reserves and National Guard
 - c. 255, 000 deployed around the world

C. As Colonel Walter Hitchcock famously said, "*Freedom Is Not Free.*"

1. Receiving that for which others sacrificed carries with it responsibility.
2. Remember this from Pres. Lincoln's Gettysburg address : S#5.
It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -
- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for
which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly
resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation, under
God, shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people,
by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.
3. It falls upon each generation to preserve freedom & pass it on to the next generation.
4. For this reason even now our troops are fighting in the Middle East. S#6.

Our lesson this morning will observe some to the parallels with spiritual freedom.

I. The cost of our spiritual freedom is also great.

S#7.

A. The penalty for sin is death. S#8.

1. **Rom. 6: 23** – The wages of sin is death.
2. **Rom. 3: 23** – All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. (*Bondage to Sin*)
3. Thus, sin brought the death penalty upon all mankind. S#9.
Rom. 5: 12 Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and
death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—

B. There is no way a person can pay the penalty except to die. S#10.

1. The ex-mayor of New York bragged that he had earned Heaven by giving money.
2. Many think they can restore their life by doing good works and trying to be good.
3. Once a person sins there is nothing he can do to make it right before God.

C. There had to be a solution beyond the scope of man's ability to restore life.

1. God's loved provided a way that only He could do. ... **John 3: 16**
2. God paid the penalty for our sins by sacrificing His own Son's blood. S#11.
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.
3. The Son of God left Heaven specifically to die as a sacrifice for our sins. S#12.
Phil. 2: 5–8 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,
⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard
equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself,
taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness S#13.
of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself
by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

D. Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself to give us freedom from sin.**S#14.**

Tit. 2: 14 – Christ Jesus ¹⁴ who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds

II. Thanks to the sacrifice of Jesus we enjoy many freedoms.**S#15.****A. Freedom from the Law of Sin and Death.****S#16.**

1. **Rom. 8: 1-2** Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.
2. **Rom. 6: 23** –cf– **I John 1: 6-10** ... Wages of sin is death, but there is forgiveness.

B. Freedom from the guilt of sin.**S#17.**

1. In Christ we have the forgiveness of ALL our sins.
Eph. 1:7 – In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace which He lavish on us.
2. While we are in Christ Jesus are sins are forgiven and never held against us. **S#18.**
 - a. **Heb. 10: 17** – And their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.
 - b. God still knows we committed the sins, but He does not hold them against us.
3. The fact that there is no further sacrifice needed indicates that there is no guilt.
 - a. **Heb. 10: 18** – Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.
 - b. Jesus was the once for all sacrifice that made guilt free living possible. **S#19.**
Heb. 10: 14 – For by one offering He has perfected for all time those who are sanctified.
- *c. Thus, Christians can live free of guilt. (**Phil. 4: 7** ... peace that surpasses)

C. Freedom from the fear of judgment**S#20.**

1. The Christian is assured of his vindication in judgment.
 - a. **Rom. 8:1**– Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus
 - b. **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.
2. Those who are IN Christ Jesus have a secure relationship with God. **S#21.**
I John 4: 17-18 By this, love is perfected with us, so that we may have confidence in the day of judgment; because as He is, so also are we in this world. ¹⁸ There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

3. When the Christian stands before God it will be with anticipation, not fear.
 - a. **II Tim. 4: 6-8** ... We will appear before God anticipating our crown.
 - b. As a citizen we will receive our passport into Heaven.

D. Freedom from the fear of death

S#22.

1. We will all face death and we know it. **Heb. 9: 27** .. **given unto man once to die**
 - a. Those outside of Christ face death with great consternation.
 - b. As the time draws ever closer, fear increases. (*With some fear of unknown*)

2. Those who are in Christ know they will rise again to live with God eternally.

Rom. 8: 9-11 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. ¹⁰ If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. ¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

S#23.

3. Whether alive or dead when Jesus returns, our eternal destiny is the same.

I Cor. 15: 51-53 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

S#24.

4. **I Thes. 4: 13-18** esp **17** ... This union with Christ is not temporary or probationary.
 Vs. – **17** Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

III. With freedom comes responsibility, and an ongoing cost.

S#25.

A. Thomas Jefferson is often quoted as saying :

S#26.

"The price of liberty is eternal vigilance."

1. Our country remains under constant threat from enemies.
 - a. The Russians and Chinese are continually launching cyber attacks.
 - b. There are thousands of spies among us looking for weaknesses.
 - c. Ever-increasing numbers of radical muslims seek to destroy all "Christians."
2. Our survival as a nation depends upon our seeking out and combating these threats.

B. Our Christian faith is under greater attacks than those against our nation. S#27.

1. The muslims are overtly, physically and aggressively displaying their hatred of us.
2. Satan is wiser than the sum of all his tools.

- a. The muslim threat is physical, not particularly effective against faith.
- b. The atheists are so offensive and have such poor arguments, they are little threat.
- c. Satan uses far more subversive tools to great effect.

I Pet. 5: 8 – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

3. Satan's most effective tools are those that Christians do not guard against. S#28.

- a. His forces are in a significant majority so he isolates Christians before attacking.
- b. He uses his majority to apply social pressure ..“popculture”.. everyone's doing it.
- c. In Western society he uses the media to advertise his sinful pleasures.

Heb. 2: 1 – For this reason we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away from it.

4. Satan appeals to the ego of man and his inquisitive nature.
 - a. Human knowledge, science has been promoted above the word of God.
 - b. People who will not accept what science teaches are ridiculed.

C. The best defense is to serve the agent of our freedom S#29.

1. Only the idle will drift; stay under power. *“An idle mind is the devil's workshop.”*

2. You were saved to serve. S#30.

- a. **Heb. 9: 14 – how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

- b. **Eph. 2: 10 – For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them. S#31.**

3. Do not become weary because your labors will be rewarded. S#32.

I Cor. 15: 58 – Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.

CONCLUSION :

- A. Your freedom was purchased at a terrible cost. S#33.

What are you doing with it ?

1. Story told about Abraham Lincoln**S#34.**

Went to slave market to purchase a slave girl. He won the bid and was walking away with the girl when he told her she was free. She asked, "What did you say?" He responded, "You're free." The girl ask, "Does that mean I can say whatever I want to say?" He said, "Yes." She then asked, "Does that mean I can be whatever I want to do?" He said, "Yes." Again she asked, "Does that mean I can go anywhere I want to go.?" He said, "Yes." She replied, "Then I'll go with you."

** Out of gratitude, she willingly served the one who freed her.*

- a. Are you using your freedom as an opportunity to the flesh ?
- b. Are you squandering it in idleness ?
- c. Are you serving the one who freed you by sharing it with others ?

2. What are you doing to make sure others enjoy what you have ?**S#35.**

II Tim. 2: 2 – The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

- a. What have you learned ?
- b. To whom have you entrusted it ?

B. Do you have the freedom that is found only in Christ ?**S#36.**

1. Jesus wants for you to have it.
2. He has already paid for it.
3. **Let Him set you free.**

If the Son set you free, you will be free indeed !! John 8: 32

S#37.

Lesson Text :**Romans 8: 1-15**

1 Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death. **3** For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God *did*: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as *an offering* for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh, **4** so that the requirement of the Law might be fulfilled in us, who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. **5** For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. **6** For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, **7** because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able *to do so*, **8** and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. **10** If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

12 So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh— **13** for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live. **14** For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. **15** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, “Abba! Father!”

This point goes with Roman numeral II if you have time for it.

II.

E. While we await Christ's return, we have freedom to approach God at any time.

1. Jesus is always intercedes for us.

Heb. 7: 25 – **Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.**

2. He urges us to share our concerns with Him.

I Pet. 5: 6-7 **Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, 7 casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.**

3. Even when we don't know how to pray, He is there for us.

Rom. 8: 26-27 **In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.**

4. The Christians doesn't need any other priest. **Does not have to go to the temple.**

Illustration source :

Key Bible Verse: O Israel, put your hope in the Lord, for with the Lord is unfailing love and with him is full redemption. He himself will redeem Israel from all their sins (*Psalms 130:7-8*). *Bonus Reading: Hosea 11:1-4*

There is an old story that Abraham Lincoln went down to the slave block to buy back a slave girl. As she looked at the white man bidding on her, she figured he was another white man, going to buy her and then abuse her. He won the bid and as he was walking away with his property, he said, "Young lady, you are free."

She said, "What does that mean?"

"It means you are free."

"Does that mean," she said, "that I can say whatever I want to say?"

Lincoln said, "Yes, my dear, you can say whatever you want to say."

"Does that mean," she said, "That I can be whatever I want to be?"

Lincoln said, "Yes, you can be whatever you want to be."

"Does that mean I can go wherever I want to go?"

He said, "Yes, you can go wherever you want to go."

And the girl, with tears streaming down her face, said, "Then I will go with you."

Hosea understood, you and I understand that we were bought back—His own, lovingly, wonderfully, set free.

—Steve Brown, teacher and broadcaster