

Cost of Freedom

Text : **John 8: 31-38 ; Acts 17: 22-31**

A. We are about to celebrate the anniversary of the birth of our nation.

S#1.
S#2.

1. On July 4th 1776 we declared our independence from England.
2. We fought the British for five years until 1781 when they finally surrendered.

B. We were a nation whose time had come.

1. The colonies were settled by strong people with deep religious convictions.
2. Most had come from England where people had a heritage of longing for freedom.
 - a. This desire for fair treatment spawned the “Glorious Revolution of 1688”
 - b. The revolution overthrew King James II. (*William and Mary took over*)
 - c. The power of the monarchy was limited by the “British Bill of Rights” in 1689
3. At first the colonies needed to be under the umbrella of British Power.
 - a. Each colony largely stood alone.
 - b. There were no significant national institutions such as a national military.
 - c. The colonies could not individually stand against foreign aggression of any kind.

C. The cost to the British to maintain the colonies kept increasing.

1. The French and Indian War was very costly to England.
2. The British fought it to keep control over their Western territories. (*Ohio Valley*)
3. There were only 60K French settlers against 2mil British so they recruited Indians.

D. Seeking to require the colonies to pay the cost of this war fostered revolution.

1. The British increased regulations and began enforcing collection laws. (taxes/fees)
2. The British also increased taxes on the colonies without consulting them.
3. Growing and prosperous colonies no longer felt the need for the British umbrella.

E. It was America’s time, but it wasn’t these events that brought it about.

S#3.

1. It was God who removed King George III as ruler of the colonies in America.

**Dan. 2: 21 – It is He who changes the times and the epochs; He removes kings and establishes kings; He gives wisdom to wise men
And knowledge to men of understanding.**

S#4.

2. God alone determined our borders and how long we would be a nation.

Acts 17: 27 – He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, 27 that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us;

S#5.

- a. The territorial wars were determined by God ... Indian, French, Spanish.
- b. The purchases we made were determined by God ... Louisiana, Arizona, Alaska.
3. God will determine when we cease to stand as a nation and when we cease to be free

I. Meanwhile, we celebrate being the freest nation in the history of the world. S#6.

A. American has no permanent ruling class. S#7.

1. The government must have the consent of the governed.
2. Any citizen can petition, protest against, or advocate change of the government.
3. Most any citizen can run for office.

B. Irrespective of political correctness we have freedom of speech.

1. We can't yell fire in a public assembly, but it's not even illegal to lie. **FAKE NEWS**
2. Americans can speak out even with very unpopular viewpoints.
3. We are free to evangelize religion, atheism, legalizing cannabis, etc.

C. Americans have freedom of movement

1. We are free to leave the country any time we want to.
2. We can travel anywhere in the country with no documents.
3. We can move to reside in any state or territory in the union, even islands.

D. We can do whatever we want to do as long as it does not infringe on others..

1. You can set whatever goal for your life that you want w/o interference.
2. The government does not allow anyone to be prejudice against your choices.
3. You can work for others or start a business, train yourself or remain ignorant.

E. You can own weapons of many descriptions.

1. You can use weapons for protection of your home and family.
2. We have weapons for sport and for harvesting food for our tables.
3. Bearing arms gives us the ability to resist tyranny. **(Japan would not invade b/c guns)**

F. Most importantly, we have freedom of religion.

1. The state cannot enforce an official religion on us. **(Mass. bay colon – church tax 1691)**
2. May practice any religion or none at all ... even speak out against.
3. Free to assemble for worship without apprehension or fear.

II. Our freedoms were won and are maintained at a terrible cost.**S#8.****A. The 56 signers of the Declaration of Independence all suffered greatly.****S#9.****Last line:** *“Mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor”*

1. Five were captured and tortured before they died.
 2. McKean wrote John Adams that he was being “hunted like a fox.” hide his family
 3. Abraham Clark had two of his sons captured.
 4. The son of John Witherspoon was killed at the battle of Germantown.
 5. Eleven signers had their homes and property destroyed.
 6. John Hart died while fleeing those who destroyed his home and mills. Wife died./13
 7. Carter Braxton and Thomas Nelson lent their personal fortunes, but were not repaid.
 8. Thomas Nelson’s home was taken as headquarters, he urged Washington to shell it.
 9. Those who destroyed the home of Francis Lewis jailed his wife and she died there.
 10. Nine of the 56 died from wounds sustained in battles.
- *. Those who survived made major contributions by continuing to serve the country.

B. More than a million soldiers have died defending your freedoms.**S#10.**

1. Revolutionary War ... 4,435
2. War of 1812 ... 2,260
3. Mexican War ... 13,283
4. Civil War ... 618,000
5. Spanish-American War ... 2,446
6. World War I ... 116,516
7. World War II ... 405,399
8. Korean War ... 36,574
9. Vietnam War ... 58,220
10. Gulf Wars ... 6,990 (plus 9/11 ... 2,977 +) *Freedom paid by blood of patriots*

C. This country maintains the most powerful military in the history of world.**S#11.**

1. 1,281,900 people, with an additional 801,200 people in the seven reserve components
2. We maintain approximately 800 military bases in 70 foreign countries.
(Britain, France and Russia, by contrast, have about 30 foreign bases combined.)
3. The military budget request for 2017 was \$582.7Bil before being increased. **S#12.**

* *Freedom isn’t free; we pay a high price, but it ultimately comes from God.*

III. It is only in Christ that one can be truly free.

S#13.

A. There is no true freedom and no true peace on this earth.

S#14.

1. ***“Nothing is certain except death and more taxes.”***
 - a. We live never knowing what day will be our last.
 - b. As medicine advances, ever more terrible diseases come to light, e.g. ebola.
 - c. More than a billion people want us dead just because we are Christians.
2. We are all under obligations to someone ... spouse, children, employer, creditors
3. Eternal struggles : governments seeks more and more control over our lives.

B. The worst predator we face is the prince of the air, the god of this world.

1. We can never let our guard down because he is constantly seeking our destruction.

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.

S#15.

3. He provides the rationalization for us to remain approved in our own eyes.

Prov. 21: 2 – Every man's way is right in his own eyes,
But the Lord weighs the hearts.

2. Satan attacks us in the weakness of our flesh.

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.

S#16.

C. Though everyone tries to justify himself, all become enslaved by sin.

1. Everyone sins.

Rom. 3: 10, 24 – As it is written, “There is none righteous, not even one.”
... ²⁴ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

S#17.

2. All it takes is a single sin to separate one from God. (*remember Adam & Eve*)

Rom. 6: 23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (death = *Thanatos* = separation)

3. That separation from God is eternal ... never ending.

II Thes. 1: 9 – These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from
the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,
¹⁰ when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day,

S#18.

4. Everyone who sins becomes the slave of sin.

John 8: 34 – Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.

5. One must turn away from sin in order to be freed from Satan's snare.

II Tim. 2: 25-26 – with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if **S#19.** 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.

B. It's only the knowledge of the truth of the gospel that can lead one away from sin

1. **John 8: 31-32** – So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, **S#20.** "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. When Jesus sets one free from the snare of sin, he is totally free.

John 8: 34-36 – Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone **S#21.** 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.

C. When Jesus gives us freedom from sin we have total peace of mind.

1. **Phil. 4:6-7** – Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and **S#22.** supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. **7** And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
2. **I John 4: 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.

IV. The freedom we have in Christ also comes at a high price.

S#23.

A. Our freedom costs the death of God Only Begotten Son

S#24.

1. **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
2. **I John 4: 9-10** – By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has **S#25.** sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him. **10** In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

B. As Jesus willingly gave Himself for us, He expects us to willingly give ourselves.

1. **Luke 9: 24-26** – For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever **S#26.** loses his life for My sake, he is the one who will save it. **25** "For what is a man profited if he gains the whole world, and loses or forfeits himself? **26** " For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when He comes in His glory, and the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.

2. **Gal. 2: 20** ... True independence from sin come only through surrender. **S#27**

S#28. ... Communion slide

Lesson Text :**John 8: 31-38**

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."

Acts 17: 22-31

22 So Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I observe that you are very religious in all respects. **23** For while I was passing through and examining the objects of your worship, I also found an altar with this inscription, 'TO AN UNKNOWN GOD.' Therefore what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. **24** The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; **25** nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things; **26** and He made from one man every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined their appointed times and the boundaries of their habitation, **27** that they would seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **28** for in Him we live and move and exist, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we also are His children.' **29** Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man. **30** Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, **31** because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead."