

Jesus' Gospel Frees the Slave

Spiritual Slavery (bondage) - Christ Jesus said He came “to set at liberty them that are bruised.” The Lord’s view of bondage was enslavement to sin – slavery that holds in chains of deceit, darkness, self and Satan. The end of this slavery is everlasting confinement (no freedom to leave) in darkness and fiery torment. The Lord taught that “whosoever committeth sin is the servant [slave] of sin.” (See Luke 4:18, 2Cor. 4:4, John 8:34, Luke 16:26, Rev.20:15).

Because of the fear of death (not sure what happens after) man is subject to slavery’s control. He is an easy mark for religions and philosophies that promise freedom, change or paradise – if you adhere to their ways or rules: bondage! “They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.” (See Heb. 2:14-15 / 2Pet. 2:19 ESV).

Freeing the slave - The gospel of Jesus Christ proclaims, “the Son...shall make you free.” Christ’s gospel liberates the repentant sinner who bows the knee in faith. It frees sin from our record book and from eternal judgment. It frees the mind from dead deceptions with the Spirit of life. It frees from the bondage of the Mosaic law that requires a perfect rule performance to secure a relationship with God – which stirs up the sin nature to rebel. And it frees from the citizenship of Adam’s race of master sin’s power (authority) and deathly dominion. This is “the liberty where-with Christ hath made us free.” (See John 8:32, 36, 5:24 / Rom. 4:8, 5:12-21, 6:14, 18-22, 7:4-6, 8:1-9 / Gal. 5:1).

Giving us a New Master - But while the gospel frees from sin as a master it does not leave us without a Master to follow. While Christ’s death (for death is a legal separator) frees from Adam, it is Christ’s resurrection life (for new life is a legal union maker) that links us to God – as sons. Gospel liberty is not that I am free to choose what I want (that’s the world’s liberty) but that I am now free from sin’s chains to see and do what the **Lord** chooses.

For example, Israel was freed from Egypt’s slavery for this reason: “Let my people go, that they may serve me.” The apostle, using human terms, said: “Now being made free from sin, and become servants [slaves] of God.” But Master Lord’s yoke is easy and His burden light with life and holy liberty in joy for His true church and forevermore. (See Exo. 8:1 / Matt. 11:28-30 / Rom. 6:8-23).

Social Slavery & Freedom - The NT church of Christ, though spiritually free, had slaves in their vocation as well as masters. So, there can be a social slavery and a social freedom also. Christ’s chosen apostle Paul ordained this rule for all the churches concerning social slavery. If you were called (saved) while in the vocation of slavery and an opportunity came to gain freedom, then take it. But if freedom did not present itself to you, then stay in the status God reached you.

But you were to remember that while a social slave, you are the Lord’s freeman in Christ, and rejoice in that as you obey your masters, even the harder ones. Now if you were socially free as a master, you were to remember that you are still a slave to the Lord, and in humility act as such and treat your slave with due respect. (As Philemon was to do with brotherly love to his saved

slave Onesimus upon his return). For in Christ's body, "there is neither...bond nor free: but **Christ** is all, and **in all**." And better days are ahead when all suffering creation comes "into the glorious **liberty of the children of God**." (See 1Cor.7: 20-24 / 1Pet. 2:18, Eph. 6:9 / Phil. 1 / Col 3:11 / Rom. 8:21).

Are we committed to freeing slaves with the powerful gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ?