

True Freedom

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32

The words above, which were spoken by Jesus Christ to some who doubted who He was, have been borrowed by almost everyone, whether liberal or conservative, to promote their particular philosophy. To one, these words mean they are “free” from all boundaries; free to follow their basest instincts, while to another, they are free to pursue happiness within the boundaries of law. Jesus, however, spoke of being made “free from sin” through the “knowledge of the truth.” Those He spoke to that day responded, “**What do you mean, make us free? We have never been in bondage to any man**” John 8:33. Jesus answered, “*He that commits sin is the slave to sin... If the Son therefore shall make you free (from sin), ye shall be free indeed*” John 8:34, 36.

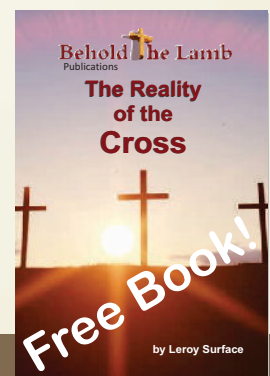
The Bible records when God sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel with an important message. At an appointed time, God would send one called “*The Messiah the Prince*” (The Christ, the Son of God) into the world to “*make an end of sins*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24-25. The simple truth Jesus said would make them free from sin, is to believe that “*Jesus is the Christ*” whom God sent into the world to “*make an end of sin*” in you. Jesus told those who doubted Him that day, “*If ye believe not that I am He (the Christ), ye shall die in your sins*” John 8:24. The Apostle John wrote, “*Whosoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*” 1 John 5:1. This, and this alone is the truth a person must believe that will make them free “*from sin to serve the living God.*”

Our great nation is dying in sin. The Bible records what Jerusalem's condition was for a generation before being destroyed by the Babylonian army, and the same words describe America in our generation. Our nation is “*Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, and maliciousness Full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, backbiters, haters of God, despiterful,*

proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful” Romans 29-31. The Bible puts forth the question as to how Jerusalem fell into such a depraved condition, asking, “*How is the faithful city become an harlot!*” Isaiah 1:21. Today, we must ask, “How did America fall into her present estate?” The Bible answers both questions, saying, they “*changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man... Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness ...to dishonour their own bodies between themselves.*” Romans 1:23-24. Their “sin” was to change their image of God, and their “punishment” was that Jerusalem's sons and daughters were given over to sexual immorality.

The second step in their decline to debauchery was they “*changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator... For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections.*” Romans 1:25-27. The Bible describes these “*vile affections*” as sexual perversions which the sons and daughters of Jerusalem were given up to. Will God punish America for these lifestyles? The fact is, these things which the “sons and daughters of America” have been given over to are our punishment for exchanging the truth of God for a lie.

While I will gladly cast my vote in November for moral conservatives, I know the answer for America is not to be found in politics. The only answer is spiritual, and the responsibility lies not in congress, but in the pulpits of America. Too many have identified with the world instead of with Jesus Christ. “We are all sinners, we sin every day,” they say. Until the truth of the gospel that makes people free from sin is preached in the churches once more, there will be no hope for our nation. In closing, I want to send you a free gospel book which contains, from the scriptures, “*the truth*” that will make the believer free, and as Jesus said, “*they shall be free indeed*” John 8:36.



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