

Let Freedom Reign 250th anniversary of USA notes

John 8:31-36

America is known around the world as a land of freedom --It is one of the principles this nation was founded upon

We all like our freedoms, but many misunderstand what freedom really means

--Freedom, as opposed to what many think, is not a license to do what you please.

--It is the right to be wrong, but not to do wrong.

--True freedom can only be understood in a relationship with the God who created us and who blesses our great nation.

1. We have many great freedoms in this country that we cherish.

I'm going to highlight just two today.

1. Freedom of religion

Note: it is not a freedom from religion

--George Washington in his Farewell Address said, "Do not let anyone claim the tribute of American patriotism if they ever attempt to remove religion from politics."

--Remember why so many settlers left Europe and other places—so they could be free to worship God as they saw fit and as they interpreted the Bible.

--First Amendment - "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Freedom to worship who you choose—a God given freedom; not even God forces Himself on people.

--However, there is only one true God--He is not the God of the Muslims, Hindus, Jehovah's Witnesses, Mormons or Unitarians, etc.

--The lie of Ecumenicalism is a ploy of Satan to make many believe that there are many paths to God—

--It's like saying everyone is on the road to your house—no, they aren't—only those who listen to the directions.

--There is only one way to the God of the universe and that way is straight and narrow and goes right through the cross of Christ.

--Patrick Henry - "It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians, not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ!"

Freedom to worship when you choose

--Did you know that 10 AM on Sundays is not the only time you can Worship.

--Jesus said regarding the Lord's Supper which is pretty much the same as corporate worship: "Do this as often as you do it remembrance of Me."

--All freedoms given to us the Word of God but taken away by those who tried to hold the power access to God.

Freedom to worship where you choose

Freedom to worship how you choose

--Boisterously/ Animatedly -- Psalm 146:1; 150:4-5

--Quietly – Psalm 46:10

2. Freedom of speech

1. Even when it comes to Christ --We are free to evangelize

Many would have us keep the name of Christ to ourselves

--If someone stops another from speaking about Mohammad, Buddha
that person will be shouted down, but if speak truthfully about Christ...

We can speak of Him in our schools

We can speak of Him in our workplaces

--Often God gives you the jobs you have so you can be His
ambassadors in that particular mission field

Even when it comes to sin -- we are free to speak.

--Although, the day is fast approaching where our message will not be
tolerated.

When it comes to lies -- We are free to set the record straight.

--Modern day deceptions -Such as Evolution or the DaVinci Code and
the Jesus Seminar

--We need to be the Elijahs and Gideons and John the Baptists of our
day who will stand against the evils of the day and boldly proclaim a
message of repentance

3. I'm glad I live in America where I have freedoms -Great freedoms

--Yet, the greatest freedoms one can experience do not come from
being a part of the USA.

John 8:31-36

What Are Some Freedoms We Should Cherish As Christians?

1. Freedom from sin because God offers forgiveness.

--"What is the Bible; what is Christianity; who is Jesus?" – a lot of ways
to answer these but my favorite is: God is trying to forgive us and
make us right with Him.

Romans 6:20-23

-The only thing that can break sin's rule in our lives is Christ

-Becoming His slave-- which is really the greatest freedom you can
experience

2. Freedom from anxiety because God offers peace.

Many walk around with all kinds of anxieties caused by family situations, workloads or even too great a
focus on failures and guilt.

--Leads to all kinds of problems, but its root is that there is no peace
with God.

--Christ offers peace; He is the "Prince of Peace" **John 14:27; John**
16:33

3. Freedom from meaninglessness --Jesus offers purpose.

Acts 26:14-16

There is a story of a spy who was captured and then sentenced to death by a general in the Persian army. This general had the strange custom of giving condemned criminals a choice between the firing squad and the big, black door. As the moment

for execution drew near, the spy was brought to the Persian general, who asked the question, "What will it be: the firing squad or the big, black door?"

The spy hesitated for a long time. It was a difficult decision. He chose the firing squad.

Moments later shots rang out confirming his execution. The general turned to his aide and said, "They always prefer the known way to the unknown. It is characteristic of people to be afraid of the undefined. Yet, we gave him a choice."

The aide said, "What lies beyond the big door?"

"Freedom," replied the general. "I've known only a few brave enough to take it."...

There are some of you this morning who need to experience true freedom.

You've got all the freedoms and privileges of what it means to be a part of our great nation.

--But you are slaves to sin -- Jesus wants to give you true freedom this morning