



ed by carnal desires and lusts: they live for the next drink, the next score of drugs, the next sexual encounter, the next opportunity to satisfy their own bodily wants—which leads only to misery, suffering, and anything but the freedom and happiness they so desperately long for. How many souls

have been lost because people tried to fill their inherent desire for God with the petty, corrupt things of this world? The power of Christ can break the hold sin has on your soul, so that you are no longer confined to an unending cycle of sin and disappointment. The Spirit of God paints a powerful and grotesque picture of those living in sin by way of analogy: **“Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly”** (Prov. 26:11). Why not give your life to Christ and be free of the sin that plagues you? No slave of sin will abide forever (cf. John 8:35). Only those who submit themselves to Christ will enjoy true freedom as He Himself declared: **“...if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed”** (John 8:36).



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Welcome Visitors

We are so glad that you joined us today.
Please come again.

● Let us know if you have any questions.

ISSUE

13.9

BULLETIN OF
THE OLSEN
PARK CHURCH
OF CHRIST

Faithful Sayings

February 27
2011



Services

Sunday: 9:30 AM
10:20 AM
6:00 PM
Wednesday: 7:00 PM

Elders:

Pat Ledbetter
Jeff Nunn
Kyle Pope

Deacons:

Dean Bowers
Eddie Cook
Bill Davis
Steve Dixon
Pat Goguen
Jack Langley
Neil Ledbetter
Brady McAlister
Walker McAnear
Lance Purcell
Rusty Scott

Evangelists:

Kyle Pope
Jason Garcia

“You Will Be Free Indeed”

By Jason Garcia

What did Christ mean when He said, **“You will know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:31 ESV)? The rest of the world would have us believe that true freedom is so unrestricted in its scope that it allows a man to indulge in and pursue whatever he desires without limitations. If we take this view, Christ immediately rebukes us saying, **“...everyone who commits sin is a SLAVE to sin”** (John 8:34 emphasis mine). So then, *true* freedom must have restrictions. The skeptic may retort, “Even your own Bible names you as a ‘slave’ to Christ!” perhaps citing Romans 6:18, and he is quite right. So how would we answer the world and the skeptic—how do we harmonize these ideas of slavery *and* freedom in Christ that seem so mutually exclusive?

First, let us answer the skeptic. Yes, the Bible clearly teaches that all men are slaves of something: **“Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteous-**



Olsen Park church of Christ

ness?” (Rom. 6:16). When Paul speaks of obedience in this passage, he is referring to obedience to Christ, so the truth of the matter is that, in this life, one can either be a slave to sin or obedient to Christ, there is no third alternative. If the skeptic wishes to somehow demean or diminish the value of obedience to Christ by equating it with modern human notions of an oppressive kind of servitude, then he has missed the point. The Christian can accurately be described as a slave or bondservant but he, nevertheless, enjoys the highest form of liberty there is—freedom from sin. No matter how oppressed or mistreated the Christian may be by his fellow man, his freedom in Christ remains unaffected. What man-made power or devil is there that can separate us from our Master (cf. Rom. 8:38-39)? Perhaps the skeptic, due to a misconception of the Christian lifestyle, thinks he is raising the curtain on Christians’ beliefs by labeling followers as “simple-minded” and “gullible.” However, all true Christians are not shy or ashamed of their chosen Master, for they have come to know the truth of His words, **“My yoke is easy and my burden is light”** (Matt. 11:30). We gladly surrender all to the Lord because He is “meek and lowly in heart” and only in Him will people find “rest for their souls”

(cf. Matt 11:29). We have chosen a kind, loving Master rather than subjecting ourselves to the miserable slavery of sin and self-indulgence (Ps. 32; 2 Pet. 2:22).

Now, let us explore the world’s concept of freedom and how it differs from that which is taught by God. As mentioned, the world touts a “freedom” that is uninhibited and allows a man to be whatever he wishes even if he becomes a terrible reprobate. Paradoxically, the Bible teaches that freedom comes through *obedience* to Christ (cf. Rom. 6:17-18). Instead of teaching that freedom is something which rejects all authority, God has shown us that true freedom can only be enjoyed with authority. Consider the tremendous liberties man had at his creation: **“you may eat of EVERY tree of the garden”** (Gen. 2:16 emphasis mine). Essentially, the whole earth could be used for man’s enjoyment, with the exception of one fruit! When that freedom was abused, and man decided to encroach upon God’s Law, the *only* law He had given them, their freedom was lost. From that point forward man was a slave to sin and subsequently

to the Law of Moses which could not impart life (Gal. 3:21). In order to set us free, God made a provision the forgiveness of our sins—the life and death of His Son: **“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery”** (Gal. 5:1). Think about it, before Christ every man was enslaved to sin and thus a prisoner of death (cf. Rom 8:2), but now the one in Christ is free from self, free from sin, free from death, and can stand justified before God (cf. Gal. 2:20; 1 Cor. 15:54-57; Rom. 5:1). Those in the world live lives that are dictat-