

Today's Order of Worship

Announcements: Greg Lowery

Song Leader: Billy Box

Opening Prayer: David Key

On the Table: Head - Josh Berryhill
Servers - Gary Addison
Greg Lowery
Eddy Dickinson

Closing Prayer: Ralph Burleson

Preparing the Lord's Supper Linda Lawrence

Weekly Service Times

Sunday

Bible Study 10:00 am

Morning Worship 10:45 am

Evening Worship 5:00 pm

Wednesday

Bible Study 7:00 pm

Visit Our Website

www.brilliantchurchofchrist.org

Elders: Deacon: Al Corkren

Leonard Key / David Key

Billy Box / Eddy Dickinson

Minister: Greg Lowery

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The Cost of Freedom



*The
Brilliant
Beacon*



A General Look At Freedom In Christ

By Andrew M. Connally

The religion of Jesus Christ is the most unique religion on earth. It takes scant Bible knowledge to realize this when one compares the Truth with any other system of religion in the world. For on the one hand, man goes from one extreme to the other, legalism to liberalism, and he stays in a constant flux. Yet, the Truth of God walks the narrow line of perfection between the two extremes. It is not oppressively legalistic nor is it permissively liberal. It is perfect as it is. Only God could produce such a system.

Jesus came to set men free (Jn. 8:32), but “free” from what? On the one hand there was the Pharisaical legalism that had perverted the Law of Moses. Jesus warned His disciples to obey the law, but to avoid its perversions that exalted the legalism about the Truth, (Matt. 15:7-9). On the other hand, He warned His disciples against the permissiveness that had denied the Truth of God concerning the honoring of one’s parents (Mark 7:11). Here again perfection is seen between the two extremes. God does not experiment; God does not make mistakes. Man needs guidance to guard against extremes and God has provided for it in His word.

The Puritans left England to settle American to avoid the oppressiveness of the Anglican church. Man constantly chafes under the oppressive yoke of legalisms, but he also goes too far when left to his own devices and ignores the limits set by God, (Jer. 10:23).

Some Great Passages On Freedom In Christ

Having worked so long in Africa among primitive peoples, denominationalists and Muslims, I constantly preached on John 8:32, “For freedom did Christ set you free”. Pagans are bowed down by superstition, ignorance, and false concepts of religion. What a joy to show the freedom in Christ. We constantly pointed out the difference in the false gods of the pagans (animism, ancestor worship, and polytheism). What a joy to show the difference in their ancestor worship and God’s Truth. Their fear of the ancestors and their power after death is monumental. They fear everything, the shadow of a passing bird, the seeing of a blood-sister during the birth of a child, the unusual size of a hyena or the roaring of a lion after a recent death in the village.

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Faye Cotton: recent scans showed no new growth, please be praying that some new treatment can be found that will help her

Mary Eddy: she is recovering from knee surgery, please be praying that she makes a full and quick recovery

Barbara Wilkinson: still having problem with infection on her feet, please pray that the medicine she is taking will cure this infection

Bill Foster: surgery went well to replace aorta valve, please be praying that his health will continue to improve

Danielle Taylor: recovering from recent spinal surgery, please pray that she makes a full recovery

Danny Harbin: recently diagnosed with prostate cancer, please keep him in your prayers

Mable Weeks: recent scans showed no new growth of cancer, please continue to pray that this cancer can be defeated

Barb Lemay: friend of Christie & Aaron, from the Midway congregation – she has advanced colon cancer; please be praying that treatments will help

Denise Kimbrell: has completed her treatments; please be praying that cancer will not return

Sandy McCaleb: has started cancer treatments, please be praying that this cancer can be treated and defeated

Edward Skinner: has been recently diagnosed with cancer, please pray that this cancer will be treatable

Upcoming Events

Today	Tri-County Singing {Tidwell Chapel}	2:00 pm
June 4 th	Country Place {Devotional}	2:00 pm
June 11 th	Nursing Home Winfield {Devotional}	2:00 pm
June 18 th – 21 st	Gospel Meeting with Keith McNeely	

THOSE WHO NEED OUR PRAYERS

Deborah Box: did find a small blood clot, please be praying that medicine will take care of this clot and there will be no further problems

Kay Dodd: has started treatments and will take them through November, please be praying that the treatments will defeat this cancer

Samuel Walker: having some heart problems, please be praying that he will receive help for this problems

Rebert Corkren: diagnosed with lung cancer, please be praying that he will receive the help needed defeat this cancer

Jan Franks: problems with a collapsed knee and heart, please be praying that he will receive the help he needs

You name it, there is a taboo against it or concerning it! How refreshing to shed the light of God’s word on such a world of darkness. So often, once seen, their joy with the Truth is wonderful to behold!

“For freedom did Christ set us free” (Gal. 5:1). The responsibility of freedom in Christ is a marvelous privilege and responsibility. It certainly frees us from the shackles of a fulfilled law (Gal. 5:1-4). It frees us from a religion of ceremonial works for salvation purposes (Rom. 3-4). It frees us from the need to boast (Eph. 2:8-10). It frees us from acting contrary to our conscience (Rom.14:23). It frees us from the “rudiments of the world” on the one hand and the “precepts and doctrines of men” on the other (Col. 2:20-22).

“And being made free from sin..., (Rom. 6:18-24), ye become servants of righteousness”. One of the greatest blessings of being in Christ is that our enslavement to our passions and pride has been broken. Any person of any age and experience in life knows of the power of sin. Sin is a cruel taskmaster, entering as an unwelcome guest who ultimately will dominate and enslave. All we have to do to see the power of sin’s enslavement is to look around. Those dominated by vile tempers, tobacco, alcohol, hard dope, and unbridled passion proliferate daily. We see their lives, works, and deeds and we shudder, giving God thanks for the freedom received in Christ. Freedom from the power of sin is a glorious wonderful, spiritual blessing.

“If, therefore, the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed” (Jn. 8:36). Christ has made us free from everything that has cursed man spiritually throughout all the ages of time. I suppose the fear of death has been man’s greatest dread down through the centuries. When Jesus ‘tasted death for every man” (Heb. 4:8), He truly made man free. His resurrection broke asunder the bonds of death and His triumph was complete (cf. Col. 2:16). He now lives forever, having the keys of death and hades; therefore, every faithful follower of our lord has nothing to fear of death or even the unseen world. Our Lord controls it all.

This magnificent concept is so wonderful that pagans and civilized men glory in its unfolding and understanding. It is a never tiring, recurrent theme in our thinking and preaching. The hope of the gospel is “an anchor for the soul both sure and steadfast” (Heb. 6:19). It buttresses our faith, it lights our pathway and encourages us on our homeward journey.

Yes, the freedom of the Son is glorious and wonderful to behold. But it brings tremendous responsibility to always use and never abuse its matchless principle. It warns us of those who neglect it or forsake it. It brings soberness as well as joy. It makes us courageous but humble at the same time.

May God help us to appreciate the freedom in Christ and may its magnitude spur us on to share it scripturally with those still enslaved in darkness, so help us God!

The Spiritual Sword, “Freedom In Christ”, April 1988, vol. 19, no. 3, p. 8-9.

In With The Old, In With The New

By Stan Mitchell

I became aware about a decade ago that our young people no longer know the old songs. They generally sing “contemporary” songs with vigor, but sit silent when many older, “traditional” songs are offered.

Let’s be clear: I am not arguing that traditional songs are better. There are many older songs that lack sufficient biblical content or whose music is not well suited to the words. If a song does not live up to spiritual expectations, new or old, it should probably fade into disuse. All old songs were new once; all new songs will be old one day.

Yet if we accept the unwritten rule that only songs written in the last five years should be sung, then what will we do in five years’ time? Eradicate the songs we’re singing right now?

Does it matter? I believe it does. I believe a great part of our congregations’ spiritual nutrition derives from the songs we sing. Our songs teach. They allow Christ’s words to “dwell in us richly” (Colossians 3:16). In song we “teach and admonish each other” (Ephesians 5:19).

In other words, the song leader bears a responsibility similar to that of the preacher, and one just as heavy. What does this congregation need to know about Deity, our responsibilities to God, and to each other? A good song leader will be able to select from a broad selection of hymns that do this job. He might ask himself, do I know a good selection of hymns on the cross, or the church? On our love for each other? Or God’s love for us? To limit himself to one genre of songs would be to limit his ability to “teach and admonish” the brethren he serves.

Such songs therefore must be rooted in biblical thought. We need to ask better questions of a song than whether it is new or old.

There have been two thousand years of hymns sung since the arrival of Christ. Three thousand years if we count the Psalms. A good song leader will spend some time thinking about the songs before him, asking whether they are biblical, elegantly expressed, whether the music lifts the words to greater heights.

We hurt senior saints when we snatch from them the songs that have fed and nourished their hearts; we hurt younger saints when we demand that “only” traditional songs be sung.

Sometimes I lead a song that is so old ... it seems new to modern singers. Christians have a rich heritage of hymns from which to draw; let’s not succumb to chronological amnesia. Every generation provides new songs that enrich what we already have; neither should we succumb to an aversion to the new just because it is new.

Song leaders, we have another, more important agenda; let’s feed our congregations by our thoughtful selection of songs. Let’s do what Paul suggested: Do “everything” for the purpose of “edification” (1 Corinthians 14:26).

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