

# TRUTH SETS MEN FREE

The majority of people in the world are not free men, even if they are living in a society and culture where they enjoy political freedom. The Lord Jesus Christ taught, “The truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). Jews then responded, “We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can you say, ‘You will be made free?’” (v. 33) The Lord answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin. . . . Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” (vs. 34, 36) Like most of the Jews in the first century, men today do not realize they are shackled by their own sins and need to be made free by Jesus.

Truth has come through Jesus Christ (John 1:17). He is “the way, the truth and the life” (14:6). He came to free men from the bondage of sin and death by giving His own life a ransom (Mark 10:45). No other but the Son of God has the power to justify through His blood sinners who believe (Romans 3:25) and in the end to call them forth unto the resurrection of eternal life (John 5:29). That is why Jesus taught that He could make men free indeed. Outside of Christ men are still subject to bondage. If a man dies still a slave of sin, he dies without hope (Ephesians 2:12).

The Lord Jesus revealed that when a believer abides in His word, he is indeed a disciple and will know the truth (John 8:31-32). His word is the truth. Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into all truth and bring to their remembrance everything He taught (John 14:26; 16:13). He taught whatever the heavenly Father sent Him to teach, and the Father’s command is everlasting life (John 12:50). The gospel of Christ is God’s power “to salvation for everyone who believes” (Romans 1:16). Therefore, the truth frees men because it saves. James wrote, “Lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.” (James 1:21)

The knowledge of the truth which sets men free is much more than just a gathering of information to be stored. Knowing truth includes the personal application of it. “Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. . . . He who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.” (James 1:22, 25) Failure to act and to respond correctly to the truth of Christ does not free a man from his sins. The apostle John explained that we know God and know we are in fellowship with God if we keep His word and commandments (1 John 2:3, 5). “He who says, ‘I know Him,’ and does not keep His commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.” (v. 4)

Men can be free from spiritual slavery because there is redemption through Christ’s precious blood and the forgiveness of sins (Ephesians 1:7). Christians are called to no longer be conformed to the lusts that once enslaved them (1 Peter 1:14; Romans 12:2). No longer allowing sin to reign in their bodies, sin will not have dominion over them. The new man in Christ presents himself a servant and instrument of righteousness to God because he has been set from sin (Romans 6:12-14).