

Good News From Chardon

July 18, 2021

Issue 29

Freedom

Church of Christ

128 Maple Ave.

Chardon, OH 44024

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By Mike Riley

Too many people are looking for a church that pleases them rather than a church that pleases God. When the standard of excellence in the church is “what I like,” there is a horrible tyranny of selfish pursuit. People deceived by this approach think they are being liberated, but they are really being enslaved.

Freedom Through Obedience

True freedom can only come through submission to the will of God (Matthew 7:21). Having a standard for truth beyond ourselves is the only right way we can have the freedom to function as we ought.

As long as we place our preferences as the standard for Christian faith, we are enslaved by a system that binds us tightly. Understanding the will of God, however, provides a context within which we can be free. As Jesus told His followers, **“If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”** (John 8:31-32 NKJV).

In the words of the old Shaker hymn; ‘Tis the gift to be simple; ‘Tis the gift to be free; ‘Tis the gift to come down where we ought to be.”

The law of God facilitates our freedom as human beings in the same way traffic laws facilitate our freedom to travel from one side of town to the other. Without these laws to regulate us, driving would be encumbered, not liberated, just as we would not be liberated by not following God’s laws.

Freedom Through Truth

The difference between self-centered verses and God-centered approaches to religion, is like the differing purposes of a projector and a flashlight. A projector casts an image with the purpose of fooling your senses into believing something is present that really is not. However, engaging the image may be on the screen, but it really does not exist.

A flashlight, in contrast, reveals reality thorough illumination. When I go hiking through the woods, can you imagine how useless my flashlight would be if, instead of revealing the truth about the path ahead, it projected a fanciful image of whatever I chose to see at that moment? A projector is appropriate for entertainment because it is dealing with fantasy. A flashlight is appropriate for illumination because it reveals reality.

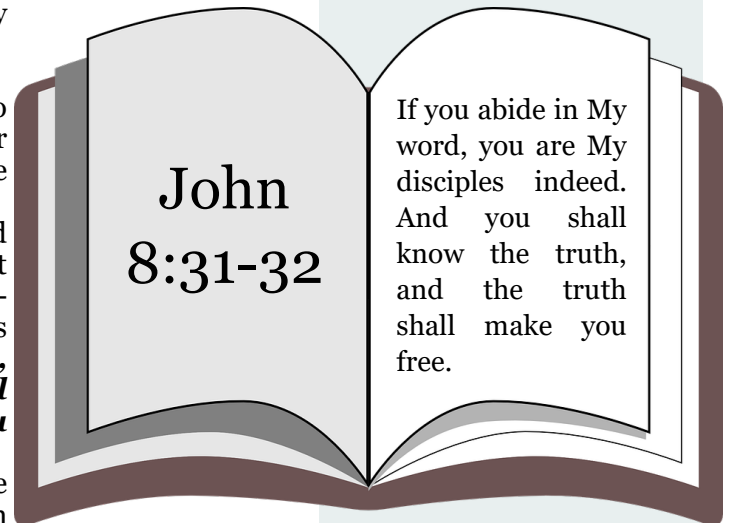
In His grace, God has provided illumination through Scripture. **“Your word is a lamp to my feet,”** the Psalmist writes, **“And a light to my path”** (Psalm 119:105).

The Bible does not exist to titillate our flights of fancy, but to inform and direct us in accuracy. This truth is a light that frees us from the darkness of sin and the enslavement of eternal death. In the truth of Scripture, we are free to be the people God would have us to be.

Far too many Christians today point to an isolated, out-of-context verse or idea as their excuse for disobeying God. Let us choose to be those who **“retain the standard of sound words”** that is the whole counsel of God **“in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus”** (cf. 2 Timothy 1:13 ESV).

Conclusion:

Let’s choose to be those who are truly free “in Christ”; free to submit to His will and serve Him with our all this week and always!



Schedule of Services:

Greeting: Tom

Song Leader: Ray

Opening Hymn:

19—All Hail the Power of Jesus Name

Opening Prayer: Larry

Hymn:

551—Do All In the Name of the Lord

Scripture Reading: Ryan

John 8:28-36

Hymn:

293—Night With Ebon Pinion

Lord’s Supper: Dale

Hymn:

559—Tis Sweet to Trust In Jesus

Sermon: Tom

Invitation Hymn:

198—There’s Power In The Blood

Closing Hymn:

661—Take The Name of Jesus With You

Closing Prayer: Tom

PRAYER LIST

*Bonnie and her family .
 *Margaret and Albert.
 *Wanda and her family.
 *Kathy, her sister and friends. Kathy went to the ER earlier this week.
 *Zarna’s family and friends
 *Larry and Ruth.
 *Pat and Ron and their family.
 *Juanita’s sister Betty and the rest of her family.
 *Mary and her family.
 *Robert and Sara and their children.
 *Ray and Barbara and their family.
 *Dale and his family.
 *Ray, Rebecca, and Steven.
 *Myron & Carole and their family.
 *Mark and his family.
 Mark has not been feeling well.



CALENDAR

July 18—Worship 11 am.
 Speaker: Tom
 July 18—Bible Study 6pm
 on-line with
 Dale
 July 25—Worship 11 am.
 Speaker: Tom
 July 25—Bible Study 6pm
 on-line with
 Dale
 Aug. 1—Worship 11 am.
 Speaker: Tom
 Aug. 1—Bible Study 6pm
 on-line with
 Dale

The Truth Shall Make You Free

John 8:28-36

Abides	Abraham	Alone	always
answered	anyone	assuredly	believed
Bondage	commits	descendants	Father
house	Jesus	Myself	never
nothing	please	slave	speak
Spoke	taught	these	things
those	whoever	words	

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Hidden Message: " _____
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“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who’ll decide where to go.” – Dr. Seuss

SUNDAY: Worship — 11:00 am; Bible Study — 6:00 pm (on Zoom)
 Website: Chardonchurchofchrist.org
 E-mail: church_of_Christ@roadrunner.com
 Pod Cast: Chardon.podbean.com
 Follow us on FaceBook

Answer to Puzzle : "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."