

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

As we come to this time of communion, I would like to share a few thoughts pertaining to the term “freedom”.

Yesterday, our country celebrated Independence Day – a day to remember when this country was set free from British rule. What an incredible day that was when the Declaration of Independence was signed! Freedom!

As Christians and American citizens, we are aware that here are two areas of thought concerning this matter of freedom. On one hand, we enjoy secular freedom. By that, I mean, that as we live and function in society, we are free to make choices and decisions at our discretion, as long as they are lawful and pleasing to the Lord.

On the other hand, we enjoy spiritual freedom. Some of the spiritual freedoms we enjoy involve the areas of conscience and opinion, but the most precious one is the freedom from sin. We read in 1 Peter 2:16...”Act as free men, and do not use your freedom as a covering for evil, but use it as servants of God”. Revelation 1:5...”And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness who loves us and freed us from our sins by His blood...”

As Christians, we sin at times but the main point is that sin does not rule us – we are not bondservants of sin!

Another point I would like to stress concerning secular and spiritual freedom is this...both of these freedoms have come, that is, became a reality, by way of a heavy price.

Concerning secular freedom... just read some history about “D-day” when the U.S. and allied forces stormed the beaches of Western Europe to thwart Hitler’s plan to dominate the world. Thousands died.

Concerning spiritual freedoms, Jesus paid the price for our sins by suffering that horrific death on the cross. In 1 Corinthians 6:20 we read "For you have been bought with a price, therefore glorify God in your body". The price? 1 Peter 1:18-19 we read "Knowing that were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ"

As we enter this time of communion and partake of the emblems, we remember Christ's life and also His death on Calvary's cross.

Prayer:

Father in heaven,

Words fail to fully thank you and praise You for the gift of Your Son.

Thank you for the forgiveness of sin that flows from the cross because of Christ's blood that was shed there. We praise You because of Christ's shed blood, we have been freed from the bondage of sin.

Lord, please bless these emblems that represent Christ's body and blood, and bless our meditation as we partake.

We pray in Jesus' name, Amen