

TRULY FREE

John 8:31, 32

So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word then you are truly disciples of mine; and you will know the truth and the truth will make you free."

True freedom is not found where many search. After all, who is truly free by pursuing a life of sin? We are reminded that "when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness" (Romans 6:16).

One may say "I'm free to do as I please" and then pursue any sinful lifestyle. While that person may have exercised their God-given ability to choose, they are not "free." They have simply chosen a different kind of master.

On the other hand, in Christ we find real freedom. That does not imply that we don't have a master. What it means is that, in choosing Jesus, we are set free from sin so that we can become servants of righteousness (Romans 6:17, 18).

Real freedom is found in the truth of which Jesus spoke in John 8:32, the truth that He is the Son of God. When we embrace that truth and respond to Him in obedient faith, we gain real freedom. That truth frees us from the guilt of sin and from its hold over our lives.

God has offered us an gift that is beyond anything we can imagine. He has also given us the ability to choose, the ability to choose His Son or sin. One choice leads to life, the other leads to death. We can choose one but we can't have both.

--Ron Harper--

The Gospel According To Jesus Part II

Last week, we explored how the life of Jesus and his teachings are what we should be striving to live by, along with all the words of the Bible. This week, let's explore what Paul refers to as "the gospel" in 1 Corinthians 15:1-8. There are three simple components to the gospel of Jesus that Paul tells us about in these few verses.

The first part of the gospel of Jesus is found in verse 3. Christ died. Why? The text goes on to say that he died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures. This part of the gospel (verse 1) goes all the way back to the Old Testament prophecies of the coming messiah and savior. Isaiah 53:7 poetically describes the coming crucifixion of Jesus by saying, "like a lamb that is led to the *slaughter*..." (Emphasis added). It was necessary for Jesus to die because he is and was our perfect sacrifice (Hebrews 10).

The second is found in verse 4 as it says, "that he was buried..." Christ was really dead. It was not a "passing out" from pain or lack of blood flow. Jesus had gone to rest in Paradise. His body was an empty vessel. Only flesh remained. Matthew 27:50 attests to this as it says, "And Jesus cried out with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit." Without true death, how could Jesus do the last part of his gospel?

The third part is also found in verse 4 and continues to verse 8. Jesus had risen from the dead! Not only was he raised from the dead, but he also showed himself to several people and lives forever in Heaven with God. Behold the Lamb! One of the more in depth accounts of the resurrection is not even found in the gospels. Acts 1:1-11 shows Jesus interacting and commissioning his apostles for a period of forty days! Jesus conquered death and now all those who are in him have the ability to conquer death also (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

2 Thessalonians 2:8 tells us that one day Jesus will take vengeance on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. How can we obey an action? Read Romans 6 and think about it. We'll look at it together next week!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

SICK

Ralph Gilbert Opal Jones-fractured spine

TAKING TREATMENTS

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

SHUT INS

Rita Reed, Mable Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

PRAYER REQUEST:

Shirley Bibb, Clyde & Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Martha DeVore, Doris Mobbs, Selma Boyd, Wilburn Laws, Larry & Geri Melton, Betty Shoemaker, Ralph Gilbert, Mary Williams, Bessie Bowman, Rosalie Phifer, Janneil Brown, Jeanie Young, Selvin Stephenson, Cody Pepper

NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:

*MEMBERS

ADAMS PLACE: Nora Fann*

DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA: Jean Nickens*

NHC: Sue Reeves*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton*

MORNING POINTE: (Brentwood) Betty Shoemaker

STONES RIVER MANOR: Edna Vance*, Virgie Leonard*, Margaret Davidson*, Jeweldean Hall*, Laura Wiser*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight*, Martha DeVore

MILITARY

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

NEWS & NOTES

Pictures for the pictorial directory will resume on Sunday, August 23rd in the gym. There is a sign-up sheet on the counter. Please sign up for the time that works best for you. For your dress planning, our back drop will be a medium gray color. Please see Rick Corum or Larry Benson if you have any questions.

Rush is September 18-20th. Sign-up sheet is on the counter.

THANK YOU CARDS

We have received a Thank You card from:

*** Charlotte Markum and Jennifer Hopkins**

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Murfreesboro, TN 37133-2067

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(615) 893-8212

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Murfreesboro, TN 37128

Email:
office@salemcreekcoc.org

We're on the web!
www.mdcoc.net

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Currently meeting at
Middle Tennessee Christian School
100 E. MTCS Rd.
Murfreesboro, TN 37130

Sunday	
Morning Worship	8:30 am
Bible Classes	9:45 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

ELDERS

B.K. Ham
Jim Hatfield
Jon Holland
Andy Mitchell
Randall Phifer
Fred Rogers
Keith Short

MINISTER

Ron Harper

ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

DEACONS

Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover	Wendell Wilson

FOR THE RECORD

August 9, 2015

Sunday	AM worship	193
	Bible classes	140
	PM worship	138
	Contribution	\$4,968.65

Wednesday	PM Bible classes	130
Wednesday	AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)	----

GREETERS

Please be at the door 15 minutes
prior to services!



August 16

B.K. & Jan Ham
Jim & Pat Davidson

August 23

Louise Smithson
Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

To Our Honored Guests...

We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back to Middle Tennessee Christian School while our new building is under construction.

We were honored by your presence!