

The Messenger

COLDWATER CHURCH OF CHRIST

July 6, 2014



Misunderstood Freedom

The Fourth of July or Independence Day is a time that we in America celebrate and remember our freedom as a nation. Like most national holidays, we often ignore their significance, but nevertheless, it is basic knowledge that America is "the land of the free." Do you remember when you were young what you thought when adults emphasized how grateful we should be to be "free"? I remember especially in the first, second and third grade how often the teachers would point out that America is where we are free, whether it was in music class or literature, we were reminded often. But how did I and my peers of great wisdom respond? - "If we are free, then why do we have to be at school?" Or maybe we would extend it to the dreaded homework, - "I am a free American, I don't have to do this homework!" Clearly we were missing the point of what it meant to be free.

In the New Testament we also see this same term "freedom," used to describe Christians. Many scriptures talk about it; take 2 Corinthians 3:17 for example: "*Now the Lord is Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.*" You might think also of passages like "*the law of liberty*" as James describes the New Covenant (Jas 1:25, 2:12). It is apparent that we who are in Christ are free or at liberty in some way, but just like our ignorance of America's freedom we failed to understand in our youth, so ...

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you... (1 John 1:5).

**VISITORS,
WELCOME!**

Sunday:

9:30 a.m. Bible Class

10:30 a.m. WORSHIP

1:00 p.m. WORSHIP

Wednesday:

7:00 p.m. Bible Class

We have Bible classes for
all ages & Pew Packers
each Sunday at 12:30

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ELDERS

Billy Bland

Seth Daniel

Jim Jackson

W. Timothy Wilkes, Sr.

DEACONS

Jason Bayless Jared Brown

Jerry Davis Jeffrey Ferrell

Ron Johnson Andy Ratliff

Tim Wilkes, II

PREACHER

Clifton Angel

... also many fail to understand the freedom that we have in Christ. To make matters worse, not only is it the people's gossip that causes us to misunderstand this freedom in Christ, but also the majority of preachers and bible teachers also contribute, saying things like "we don't have to be worried about sin because Christ has set us free." While a statement like this is not completely false, (we are free from the sins we have repented from), it also happens to be intentionally deceiving, giving the impression that sin is no big deal.

So what is our "freedom in Christ" that the scriptures tell us of so often? And what isn't it? Our freedom in Christ comes down to two major things, we are free from the complexity of the Old Law (Old Testament), and we are free from the wages of our past sins, which is death (Rom 6:23). The Old Law was very difficult to follow, a heavy burden on those who lived under it, and just as the Hebrew writer says, "*...He is also the mediator of a better covenant, which has been enacted on better promises. For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second.*" Heb 8:6-7. In Christ that Old Law is completely done away, something that today's denominations do not understand (Gal 3:25, Rom 7:6, Heb 8:13). The second point, our freedom from our past sins once we put on Christ is something we all know. We all know that Christ died for our sins. Less known however is how we put on Christ, a passage that describes both points, Romans 6:3 says, "*Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been Baptized into His death?*" and verse 6 says, "*knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin*". When we are buried with Christ in baptism, God at that point removes our past sins as we repent and are baptized for forgiveness, dying to our sinful self and rising to walk in the newness of life.

So what isn't our freedom in Christ? **Freedom in Christ is not freedom from law all together, just as we still have to go to school and do our homework in our free country, we also have a Christian law we must live by in our freedom of Christ.** That law is not the Old Law but it is the new law, the law of Christ (1 Cor 9:21, Gal 6:2), the law of the Spirit (Rom 8:2), the perfect law (Jas 1:25) which is the new covenant. That means we cannot choose our favorite apostle and ignore the writings of the rest, ...

... but we are to live by all the New Testament's teachings. Likewise this means that we are not free to let down our guard against sin just because at one point in our life we were placed in the grace of Christ. We can fall from grace, only "if we walk in the light as He is in the light," will we be continually cleansed by His blood (1 John 1:7). Jesus told us this so plainly in John 8:31-32, saying; "...If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of mine; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free." How often have we heard the latter portion of that passage quoted? Promising us that we can be free, yet how uncommon it is that we point out what Christ really said, that this freedom comes if and only if we abide in His word? Paul in Galatians gives us a warning so similar concerning our freedom. "For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh..." (Gal 5:13, cf. 1 Pet 2:16, 1 Cor 8:9). Ask yourself, how have you been looking at God's freedom he has given you? Just like as Americans and even more so as Christians, we have a great freedom to be thankful for and a heavy price that was paid for it. We must not forget the sacrifices that have been made. But we also need to ask our self a simple question. Are we making our freedom in Christ into something that it is not?

–written by **Charlton Rhinehart**

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Sermon Review

AVOIDING ADULTERY

(Hebrews 13:4; Proverbs 4:23ff)

- I. The Clarification of Adultery
- II. The Key to Avoiding Adultery
- III. Some Concepts for Avoiding Adultery

Admit that you are subject

Devisе a plan for avoidance

Uare responsible for your part

Learn what God says

Take time to be modest

Elude strange men/women

Remember the consequences

Yield not to temptation

TIME

Elusive

James 4:13–14

Manageable

Ecc 3:1–8

Invariable

Gen 1:14–19

Temporary

2 Pet 3:9–10

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

1. See last page for upcoming VBS's.
2. July 25 – 26: Southaven Youth Rally
See postcard on bulletin board for details.
3. August 1: Coldwater Lock-In
4. August 23: Memphis Redbirds Game
Not just for youth; for all ages!
5. August 29: Fifth Friday Youth Devo
@Andy & Molly's House
6. September 27: Memphis Zoo Trip
Also for all ages!

NEWS & NOTES

Please Pray

Andy & Molly, were sick Wednesday, but are on the mend; **Seth Daniel**, taking medication equivalent to chemo, which causes great fatigue and sickness; **Several** traveling for missions and vacations; **Wiley & Betty Tuggle**; **Helen Bowman**.

NetCasters
Fishers of Men
Far East Missions

Family & Friends

Trent Childers, emergency surgery for internal bleeding and in ICU; **Charles Savage**, prostate cancer, he has several doctor appts. and tests upcoming this month; **Andy's grandmother**, hospice; **Carla Carlson**, cancer has returned, continuously receiving chemo; **Janet Colvett**; **Trixie Savage**; **Janie Brister**; **Ava Roten**, **Brett Rutherford**, **Jason Spencer**; **Frankie Burfield**, cancer; **Jack Higginbotham**; **Tasha Higginbotham**, on donor list for kidney transplant; **Lauren Harrell**, breast cancer; **James Cooper**, Jan's brother, cancer; **Marie Sims**; **Renee Loya**, Ruth's niece, Parkinson's, MS, & dystonia; **Eli Williams**, cancer returned, receiving treatments; **Ray Maples**; **John & Anita Simpson**; **Martha Hatfield**, Lynn's grandmother, stage 4 cancer; **Virginia Johnson**, stage 4 lung cancer; **Joy Angel**, various health problems; **Linda Perkins**, leukemia; **Mac Owen**; **Bob Spurlin**; **Ally Jo Kelly**, toddler with leukemia; **Brad & Sheri Daniel**; **Joe & Josephine Johnston**, and their sons, Charles and Chris.

Birthdays

7/3	Ruth Brister	7/13	Seth Daniel
7/4	Inez Neyman	7/14	Jason Bayless
7/4	Jimmy Sowell	7/19	Toranda House
7/5	Layla Johnson	7/24	Jayce Brown
7/6	Cali Bayless	7/31	Porter Ferrell
7/7	Aemon Ratliff		

Anniversaries

7/3 Sammy & Grace Williams

Get Involved!

Sunday Afternoon for the Savior -- TODAY
Between Services

Thyatira VBS -- July 6 – 9, 7 – 8:30 each night
Theme: Dreams of the Bible

Southaven VBS -- July 7 – 9
See flyer on bulletin board

Nesbit VBS -- July 14 – 18, 7 PM nightly
Theme: Dreams & Visions of the Bible
See flyer on bulletin board

Independence VBS -- July 21 – 23
7 – 8:30 each night

Angel Wedding Reception -- July 26
Come & Go 2 – 4

Privileged to Serve

Sunday, July 6

Morning

Prayer Before Class	Jim Jackson
Announcements	Billy Bland
Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Lord's Supper:	
Preside	Jeremy Moore
	Johnny Bayless
Assist	Jerry Davis
	Ron Johnson
Opening Prayer	Jason Bayless
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Closing Prayer	Joe Owen

Afternoon

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Opening Prayer	Timothy Wilkes, Sr.
Sermon	Clifton Angel
Lord's Supper	Ron Johnson
	Jerry Davis
	Jeffrey Ferrell
Closing Prayer	

Wednesday, July 9

Song Leader	Andy Ratliff
Prayer	Jared Brown
Invitation	Billy Bland
Prayer	Joe Owen