

FREEDOM TO BE A SLAVE

Rom. 6:22



— Celebrating the —
FOURTH *of* **JULY**
- I N D E P E N D E N C E D A Y -

“But **now being made free from sin, and become servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.”

❖ The past, present, and promise for the believer is wrapped up in Rom. 6:22.

The history of our country becoming an independent nation from the tyranny of King George III and the United Kingdom has its origin 246 years ago. *The Declaration of Independence* was signed by 56 patriots on July 4, 1776. Historians disagree about whether most of the delegates signed on July 4 or August 2. However, some delegates must have signed later than July 4 because they joined Congress after the July 4 adoption of the document. The last person to sign was Matthew Thornton of New Hampshire, who joined the Continental Congress in November, 1776, and signed in the lower right corner of the document. The youngest signer was Edward Rutledge, at 26 years old, and the oldest was Benjamin Franklin, at 70 years old.

Some of us take our American liberties as normal. They are not. Most of the world has never had such liberty and never will in the foreseeable future.

Freedom is never free! Unabashed patriotism is NOT a sin. The Fourth of July is not only a day to have a picnic; it is the occasion for us to remember what happened on July 4th, 1776!

<http://bucklinsociety.net/colonial-history/signers-of-the-declaration-of-independence/#:~:text=Nine%20of%20the%2056%20who%20signed%20the%20Declaration,sons%20serving%20in%20the%20Revolutionary%20Army%20who%20died>

The Declaration of Independence also speaks about unalienable rights. It says that that “all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights like life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.” These rights cannot be bartered away, or given away, or taken away except in punishment of crime. Governments are instituted to “secure,” not grant or create, these rights.

Inalienable right refers to rights that cannot be surrendered, sold or transferred to someone else, especially a natural right such as the right to own property. However, these rights can be transferred with the consent of the person possessing those rights.

<https://definitions.uslegal.com/i/inalienable-right/#:~:text=Inalienable%20right%20refers%20to%20rights%20that%20cannot%20be,the%20consent%20of%20the%20person%20possessing%20those%20rights>

inalienable
not transferable to another or not capable of being taken
away or denied; not alienable:
<https://www.dictionary.com/browse/inalienable>



When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

*We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed **by their Creator** with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness.*

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Declaration-of-Independence/Text-of-the-Declaration-of-Independence>

- ❖ The history of the United States is a miraculous display of God's handiwork in world history. His fingerprints are all over this wondrous story of freedom.
- ❖ Even more miraculous is the display of God's grace in the freedom of mankind through the work of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ This morning we will observe what the Bible says about...

FREEDOM TO BE A SLAVE

I. THE EXPECTATION FOR THE BELIEVER, Rom. 6:4-7

A. The Believer's Identification with Christ, 6:4-5

Rom. 6:4 Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death**: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so **we also should walk in newness of life**.

5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness of his* resurrection:

❖ Believers identify with Christ's death and its finality via the burial, symbolical in baptism.

- ❖ Since a believer is saved by the fact of the “burial,” so is the believer to identify with Christ by the next fact – “...*in the likeness of his resurrection*:”
- ❖ The ramifications of a believer’s salvation is “...even so **we also should walk in newness of life.**”

B. The Believer’s Independence through Christ, 6:6-7

Rom. 6:6 Knowing this, that **our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.**

7 For he that is dead is **freed from sin.**

❖ Salvation produces a radical change in the life of a believer, that sin is no longer the master, a believer “...is **freed from sin.**”

Jn. 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and **the truth shall make you free.**

II. THE EFFECT UPON THE BELIEVER, Rom. 6:8-10

A. The Ramifications of Identifying with Christ, 6:8

Rom. 6:8 Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that **we shall also live with him:**

❖ The paradox of a believer is being both dead and alive – dead to sin and alive to God.

Gal. 2:20 **I am crucified with Christ:** nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, **who loved me, and gave himself for me.**

B. The Reality of Identifying with Christ, 6:9-10

Rom. 6:9 Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.

10 For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God.

❖ Christ is the example – we identify with Him, and live like Him...unto God.

III. THE EFFORT FROM THE BELIEVER, Rom. 6:11-14

A. The Reasoning for the Believer, 6:11

Rom. 6:11 **Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- ❖ A believer is commanded to reach a logical conclusion – reckon or think it out.

Original Word: λογίζομαι

Part of Speech: Verb – **Imperative**

Transliteration: logizomai

Definition: **to reckon**, to consider

Usage: I reckon, count, charge with; reason, decide, conclude; think, suppose.

logízomai (the root of the English terms "*logic*, *logical*") – properly, *compute*, "take into account"; *reckon* (come to a "bottom-line"), i.e. *reason* to a *logical conclusion*(decision).

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3049.htm>

❖ The believer is to die to self, crucifying the flesh, and living a victorious life.

Rom. 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable unto God, **which is your reasonable service**.

2 And **be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that ye may **prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**.

B. The Response of the Believer, 6:12-14

Rom. 6:12 Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

13 Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God.

14 For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.

❖ A believer is to yield to God, die to self, and do not let sin “have dominion over you.”

1 Cor. 15:31 I protest by your rejoicing **which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.**

IV. THE EXCHANGE FOR THE BELIEVER, Rom. 6:15-23

A. The Exchange from Bondage for a New Liberty, 6:15-18

Rom. 6:15 What then? shall we sin, because we are not under the law, but under grace? God forbid.

16 **Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey;** whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

18 **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.**

- ❖ A believer is changed, having real freedom, no longer in bondage to sin.
- ❖ A believer, being free, can now become “**the servants of righteousness.**” → free to be a slave.

B. The Exchange from Bondage for a New Loyalty, 6:19-20

Rom. 6:19 I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; **even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness.**

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

❖ The command is for believers to now “yield” to being “**servants to righteousness unto holiness.**”

C. The Exchange from Bondage for a New Longevity, 6:21-23

Rom. 6:21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things *is* death.

22 But **now being made free from sin, and become servants to God**, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

23 For the wages of sin *is* death; but **the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

- ❖ The radical exchange for a believer is fruitfulness for God's glory, becoming servants of God, "and the end everlasting life."
- ❖ The future for the believer is totally dependent upon "Jesus Christ our Lord."



Conclusion

Gal. 5:1 **Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free**, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. ...

5 For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

6 For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but **faith which worketh by love**.