

Freedom Still Ringing

Leviticus 25:8 – 10

I. Intro

A. READ Leviticus 25:8 – 10

B. The Year of Jubilee

- i. Occurred every 50 years – festival of celebration – celebration time established by God for His people
- ii. To celebrate liberty, freedom, also redemption – not so much liberty, freedom as nation of people, but liberty, freedom, and redemption only found in trusting and obeying God
- iii. In Year of Jubilee, everything was set free; person who sold or mortgaged land it was returned to original owner; person who sold himself or family member into slavery to pay a debt, that person was freed; all debt and financial obligations were forgiven
- iv. Hebrew word for “jubilee” - *yobel* meant ram's horn; to announce the time of forgiveness and celebration was announced by stationing horn-blowers throughout towns and all over the land and horns blown

C. Statement - “Let Freedom Ring”; ASK: Is freedom still ringing or has it been dampened? 3 reasons for believers why freedom will always ring

II. 1 – Real Freedom Only Comes from God

A. Hear these words:

*“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...”*

*“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.**”*

B. All men are endowed with specific unalienable rights by the Creator

C. “unalienable” - something that is non-transferable, can only come from above

- i. Disagreement between James Madison, Thomas Jefferson on word used – Jefferson wanted “inalienable”, Madison wanted “unalienable”
- ii. Madison wanted it absolutely understood that freedom was not humanly designed, but divinely bestowed; key to maintaining freedom was to trust in Almighty God

D. Consensus of our founding fathers: Jefferson - “Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure, when we have removed their only firm basis - a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of

God.”; John Adams - “Our Constitution was made only for a moral and religious people.”; Even past U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower - “Without God, there can be no American form of government, nor an American way of life.”

E. Real freedom rings because it comes only from God; it's spiritual freedom from God through faith in Jesus Christ

F. Galatians 5:1 (NIV)

1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

G. Galatians 5:13 (NIV)

13 You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love.

III. 2 – Real Freedom is Governed by Love

A. What Paul is saying: real freedom is when you love others more than yourself

B. 2 extreme thoughts: Liberalism – *I can do whatever I want, whenever I want, however I want because I am free*; Legalism – *Don't do this, don't do that – I'm God's watchdog – you're free but with limits*

C. Paul says that even today only one true answer for liberalism and legalism – Love

D. Certainly, our nation must be guarded by laws, but mostly our nation must be governed by love for God and love for one another; and real freedom rings

E. Laws without love is legalism; Love without laws is liberalism

IV. 3 – Real Freedom is Guided by Wisdom

A. People confused that freedom is being able to do whatever you want; but freedom is being able to do what you ought

B. There is a standard, guide for real freedom – and God's Word, the Bible, is the true guideline for true freedom

C. Real freedom always asks: *Before I do what I'm about to do, what is the right, Godly thing to do, what is the loving thing to do, what is the wise thing to do*

D. James 1:25 (NIV)

25 But the man who **looks intently** into the perfect law that gives freedom, **and continues** to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but **doing it**--he will be blessed in what he does.

E. 1 Peter 2:16-17 (NIV)

16 Live as **free men**, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; **live as servants of God.**

17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

F. Doing this, real freedom rings

V. Close

A. Real freedom rings because it comes from God – not from any government

B. Real freedom rings when it is governed by love for God and for others

C. Real freedom rings as it is guided by God's Word and God's wisdom

D. Real freedom rings glorifying God through His Son, Jesus Christ

E. Romans 8:1-2 (NIV)

1 Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,
2 because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set *you* free from the law of sin and death.