

Liberty – Pt 4 final – consequences of liberty

Today we conclude our topic of liberty. In our previous study we established – (1) False brethren can be threatened by our liberty in Christ, (2) let not our liberty be a stumblingblock to the weak, and (3) our liberty is not measured by another man's conscience. In this study we establish – (1) the heathen have liberty from righteousness, and (2) the Christian has liberty from sin.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

1. The heathen have liberty from righteousness.

"For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness" (Rom.6: 20).

Within the context of Rom. 6 a heathen is a servant of sin. Therefore he has liberty from righteousness, he is free from righteousness, he can only sin, and the consequences, "the wages of sin is death" (Rom.6: 23). And we know that "the wicked shall be turned into hell" (Ps.9: 17). And those who obey not the gospel "shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord" (2 Thes.1:9).

2. Christians are free from sin (have liberty from doing evil).

"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...For he that is dead is freed from sin" (Rom.6: 4 & 7).

In the context of Rom. 6 a Christian is buried with Christ in baptism unto death, that we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. And being "made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness", yielding your "members servants to righteousness unto holiness", and "servants to God" with the consequence – everlasting life (Rom.6: 22).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life.

The man in 1Cor.5 was put out of the church for his sin that his "spirit may be saved in the day of our Lord Jesus" (verse 5).

Question to think about.

1. To have liberty from sin, to be free from sin does that mean we have to be sinless?
2. If no, what are the consequences for a Christian that uses their liberty to an occasion to the flesh, that walks after the flesh?

Our answer from the scriptures.

1. NO a Christian is not sinless – consider our example of the man in 1Cor.5 – his spirit was saved. And those in the Corinthian church Paul could not speak unto them "as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ" (1 Cor.3: 1).
2. When the Christian obey's God they are blessed. When they use their liberty for an occasion to the flesh, and walk after the flesh there is condemnation (not death and hell, because he is free from the consequence of sin – death and hell).

Let us remember that God is "without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work" 1Pet.1: 17) Paul says to the church in Corinth – "when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world" (1Cor.11: 32). This is affirmed in the book of Hebrews – "My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth" (Heb.12: 5 & 6). So, let us walk in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free and use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh. There are consequences, blessing for obedience and chastisement for disobedience.