

# Lessons in Liberty

## Freedom Must Be Defended

Text: Galatians 2:3-5

### Introduction:

1. Liberty in Christ is related directly to morality – it is not a license to sin.
2. The cost of freedom in Christ is precious – it cost God His Son, it cost Jesus His life, and it costs man his total surrender.
3. Possessing liberty fills one with gratitude, resulting in abundant freewill offerings.
4. Yet, freedom can be lost or even stolen from a person.
5. Thus, with great diligence, freedom must be defended.

### I. The Principle Historically – The Right to Bear Arms

- A. Thomas Jefferson declared: "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."
- B. The Founding Fathers understood that liberty was won at great cost and required great effort to maintain and defend.
  1. At the end of the Constitutional Convention, Benjamin Franklin declared that the sun was rising upon the American nation.
  2. However, he also warned that the new government was "a republic, if you can keep it."
  3. John Adams wrote: "You will never know how much it has cost my generation to preserve your freedom. I hope you will make a good use of it."
  4. Samuel Adams said: "The truth is, all might be free if they valued freedom, and defended it as they ought."
- C. To ensure that liberty could be defended, the Constitution was written to prohibit the government from infringing upon the right to bear arms.
  1. The Second Amendment states: "A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."
  2. Thomas Jefferson stated: "What country can preserve its liberties if its rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."
- D. Indeed, the Founders understood the fragile nature of liberty.
- E. John Adams declared: "But a Constitution of Government once changed from Freedom, can never be restored. Liberty, once lost, is lost forever."
- F. Good citizens must be willing to defend their liberty.

### II. The Principle Spiritually – Stand Fast in Freedom

- A. Paul wrote to the Galatians concerning their liberty in Christ.
  1. 3:23 – The Law of Moses had served as a jailor for those imprisoned by sin.
  2. 3:24-25 – The Law brought them to Christ where freedom exists.
  3. 4:31 – Christians are children of freedom.
  4. 5:1 – Thus, Christians are to stand fast in liberty, not becoming entangled in that which enslaves.
  5. 5:13 – God calls man to freedom.

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- B. However, they were abandoning their liberty for the bondage of error and sin (1:6-9).
- C. Thus, Paul declared and demonstrated the proper way to defend one's freedom in Christ (2:3-5).
  - 1. Do not give in to the pressure to practice error.
  - 2. Do not be deceived by false brethren.
  - 3. Do not confuse bondage for liberty.
  - 4. Do not compromise with false doctrine for a moment.
  - 5. Do not neglect the truth of the Gospel.
- D. Freedom in Christ must be defended by standing for and proclaiming the Truth!

## Conclusion:

- 1. Don't become entangled in the bondage of sin.
- 2. Live in liberty in the Lord!