

Lessons in Liberty

The Free Gift: Glorious Liberty

Text: Romans

Introduction:

1. The theme of the book of Romans is the Gospel of Christ and its power to save from sin (1:16-17).
2. One means of explaining the Gospel's power is Paul's emphasis on the freedom produced and procured by it.
3. These passages help one to understand the meaning of true liberty.
4. As a result, a feeling of gratitude toward God and a respect for His Word is produced.

I. Gracious Liberty

- A. To explain the universal need for the Gospel, Paul first explains the worldwide plague of sin.
 1. 1:18-32 – The Gentiles are sinners in need of salvation.
 2. 2:1-29 – The Jews are sinners in need of salvation.
 3. 3:1-31 – All are sinners in need of salvation.
- B. Even though all have sinned, Paul declared that man is “justified freely” by the grace of God (3:23-24).
- C. The word for “freely” means, “Gratuitously or undeservedly.”
 1. It comes from a Greek word that refers to “a gift or a gratuity.”
 2. It refers to something that is offered or given even though it is not deserved (cf. Matthew 10:8; 2 Corinthians 11:7; Revelation 21:6; 22:17).
- D. This gift cost Jesus His blood to satisfy the justice of God so man could receive justification, redemption, and forgiveness **freely!**
- E. Later, Paul would refer to this as the “free gift” (5:15-18).
 1. This Greek word is *charisma* (χαρισμα).
 2. It means, “A divine gratuity; a favor one receives without any merit of his own; the gift of divine grace.”
 3. It is a gift because it is given by God; it is free because it is offered to all without being based upon merit.
 4. This is the same word that is used for spiritual gifts or miraculous abilities in the early church (1:11; 1 Corinthians 12:4).
- F. This same word is used in Romans 6:23 – “For the wages of sin is death; but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (ASV).
 1. Spiritual death is earned by committing sin.
 2. Spiritual life is given freely by God in Jesus.
- G. Indeed, God is the Giver of gracious liberty!

II. Gratuitous Liberty

- A. Freedom in Christ is also gratuitous – unwarranted and extravagant!
- B. Paul declared: “For he that is dead is freed from sin” (6:7).
 1. The word for “freed” means, “To render, declare, or pronounce one to be righteous, or such as he ought to be.”

Lessons in Liberty

2. This word is used 40 times in the Bible and is translated with some form of the word "justify" in 39 instances.
3. Yet, justification involves freedom from sin and its consequences.
- C. This is gratuitous liberty because it is essentially unjustified justification.
- D. Paul continued to write about being "made free from sin" (6:18-23).
 1. The word for "made free" means, "To liberate; to set at liberty, to make free."
 2. One is made free from sin by obeying the Gospel of Jesus, including being baptized for the remission of sins (6:3-4, 17-18).
 3. One who is made free from sin becomes a bondservant to righteousness.
 4. One who is made free from sin demonstrates holiness and is rewarded with everlasting life.
- E. Thus, God grants unworthy men spiritual freedom, justification, holiness, and Heaven!
- F. Indeed, the Gospel is good news of gratuitous liberty!

III. Glorious Liberty

- A. Liberty in Christ is glorious because of that from which the Christian is freed.
- B. By the Gospel, man is freed from the Law of Moses (7:1-4).
 1. The Old Law condemned.
 2. The Gospel saves.
- C. By the Gospel, man is freed from the law of sin and death (8:1-2).
 1. The wages of sin is death.
 2. The gift of God is eternal life.
- D. By the Gospel, man is freed from the law of destruction (8:18-21).
 1. In the world, there is suffering from temptations and trials.
 2. For the Christian, there is freedom in the glory of the resurrection and Heaven.
- E. By the Gospel, man is freed from the law of condemnation (8:31-39).
 1. The devil and the world seek to condemn.
 2. The Lord freely gives love and victory.
- F. Indeed, Jesus is the Redeemer of glorious liberty!

Conclusion:

1. God gives gracious liberty – the free gift of salvation.
2. The Gospel provides gratuitous liberty – unjustified justification in Heaven.
3. Jesus grants glorious liberty – freedom from all law but His.
4. True freedom is found in faithful service to Jesus.