

"Glorious Liberty"

Scripture Lesson: - Romans 8: 18-27.

Text: - Romans 8: 21.

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Introduction: - There is a glorious liberty for the children of God. Men have shunned the total obedience which God requires in fear of losing their liberty. But obedience to God is an obedience that sets men free. When doing the will of God becomes the supreme motive in life, the soul finds liberty. The apostle Paul speaks of this liberty as the "glorious liberty of the sons of God."

The world is full of slavery. Yes, there is yet slavery of the whole man in the world. For many years we have boasted that civilized nations have banished human slavery. But there is a slavery of the spirit that still abounds in the world. The victim of any injurious habit is a slave. He is not a free man. The scripture says, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye obey it in the lusts thereof." A state of bondage exists in every life, until the bondage is broken by the power of Christ. His power is sufficient to set men free. Paul expressed it in these words, "For the law of the spirit of life in Christ hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

The teaching of the Bible is very plain, that if we live under the control of the physical, we shall die. But if we live under the control of the divine spirit of God, we shall live

I.

The greatest lifting power in life is love. Love moves upon different planes and levels. It flows through different channels. There are the downward channels through the flesh, there are the upward channels of life into the realm of the spirit.

There are multitudes of people who waste the love instinct in the flesh. They never know the glorious reality of love on the higher levels of the spirit. When love follows only the channels of the

flesh, it reaches its limits quickly. It is a blind alley, a dead end road.

Those who have their love channeled into the higher sphere of the spirit, find themselves directed into realms of magnificent spiritual achievement. This is what Jesus does with the life that is yielded to him. He brings an enthronement of love to the human heart, which directs life upon an ascending scale, ever rising higher in the attainment of new victories.

We need the power of God to deliver us from the dissatisfaction complexes of life. Frank C. Laubach in his book, "You Are My Friends", says, "There are people who develop a dissatisfaction complex. They are dissatisfied with what they have with what they are. They are unable to get the ~~the~~ things they would like to have, or go to the place where they would like go. So they ruin their happiness by grumbling about their fate. No one can achieve success and happiness until he has learned to adjust himself to his environment. Paul said, "I have learned in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content."

II.

The defeats of life come from the inner defeats of the spirit. A spirit that is defeated is robbed of its power to fight. The only way to overcome these defeatist attitudes is to employ "the expulsive power of a greater affection". No person in all history has proven so effective in driving out defeatist attitudes out of the hearts of men as Jesus Christ.

The inner grudges and resentments of the soul give way to the touch of his transforming hand. The soul is never at liberty while holding inner grudges and resentments. The loving of our enemies is contrary to human nature. We need the touch of the divine in order to overcome the disposition to hate our enemies. Jesus can melt this hardness of heart, and bring an attitude of love toward everybody.

III.

The discouragements of life are quite frequent and common, but Christ has proved himself to be sufficient for all of these discouragements. The fears of life are like evil spirits, which torment the soul. They hedge men about until they are defeated. They are more powerful than human strength. Man is not able to combat these fears alone. As we look to God for help we forget ourselves. At the transfiguration it was said of the disciples, "they saw Jesus only". We can never become strong until we lose sight of ourselves.

Christ gives power to those who yield themselves to his will. The power which Christ gives is the power to carry out his purpose. He does not give power for selfish reasons or purposes. Christ does not answer prayer to gratify our selfish ambitions. Selfish plans are like an infected member of the body. The infection must be eliminated if the body is to become strong.

Sometimes an infection requires a major operation. The selfish plans of our lives need the major operation, involving submission to God's will. Such an operation is not pleasant. Men do not yield easily and readily to the will of God. There is such selfishness in man that the struggle is often bitter before the human will is yielded to the divine. Christ stands ready to entrust such power to men as they will use for his glory. The difference in the manifestations of spiritual power in different lives may be explained by the willingness to use the power of Christ for his glory and not for selfish purposes.

Conclusion:- It is only as we enter into complete harmony with God's will that the power of Christ is released unto us. When the disciples of Jesus tarried ten days in the upper room, and had their lives sifted to the point where selfish motives and ambitions were taken out of their lives, they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the enduement of power that had been promised by Jesus. Christ's power was then so manifest in

their lives, that a new era was ushered into the world. Have you the glorious liberty of the sons and daughters of God? If you have, I rejoice with you; if not, I am glad there is a fountain where we may dip and come away refreshed.