

As we prepare to celebrate "political" freedom might I suggest we give some thought to "spiritual" freedom as well.

With all that is happening in the world and in our lives many are weighed down with heavy spirits. Gun violence, inflationary prices, the stock market plummeting and a war threatening world peace; all these have people on edge.

We need freedom from doubt, depression, deception, oppression, burdens, turmoil, busyness, and guilt just to name some of the pressures we experience.

We can have a spiritual freedom that frees us from these problems if we turn to Jesus. Quickly, think about what Jesus had to say about each of these issues or what He did to address them.

- Doubt - In place of it , Jesus commends faith in God-NOT certainty. (Mk.11:23) He offers evidence. (John 20:26-29)
- Depression - Jesus came to "bind up" the brokenhearted (Is. 61:1) Also, (John 16:22)
- Deception - Jesus said "Abide by My Word and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:32)
- Oppression - Jesus was anointed to set at liberty those who were oppressed. (Lk. 4:18)
- Burdens - Jesus said "Come to me all you who labor and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. (Mt. 11:30)
- Turmoil - Jesus Messiah shares our afflictions and lifts us up and carries us in all the days of old (Is. 63:9) He also said," In Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation but take heart I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)
- Busyness - Jesus points to priorities when Martha complains of busyness (Lk. 10:40-42)
- Guilt - "...By the blood of Jesus [we can] draw near to God with a sincere heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience...." (Heb. 10:22)

Celebrate our political freedom to be sure, but take some time to consider the freedom available for your spirit as well. Thank You Jesus.

As I conclude this final newsletter Paula joins me in thanking all of you for the joy we have had in service to the Lord among you. You are a wonderful church family!!! We will miss you, but shall continue excited about the prospects for ministry God is giving you with the leadership of Pastor Zac.

Many Blessings Await,

Pastor Ron