JESUS OFFERS FREEDOM
(John 8:31-36)

I. We have freedom from sin.
A. Our reading contains a tremendous discussion between Jesus and a group of Jews that were challenging Him.
B. Notice what Jesus said happens when people abide in His word.
   1. We are truly His disciples.
      a. This means we are true followers of Jesus and not imitators.
      b. We keep His teachings and no others when it comes to matters of the soul.
      c. The word “continue” is the same word translated “abide” used so many times by John in his first letter.
      d. It means to dwell, take up residence.
      e. The true disciple of Jesus stays encamped in God’s word.
   2. This allows us to know the truth of the gospel.
      a. Jesus is the focal point of the message because He embodies truth (John 14:6).
      b. This truth is source of all knowledge of what God wants us to do.
      c. When we abide in that word we will know what God wants out of us in order to be faithful to Him.
   3. Then we are made free.
      a. We are freed from that which enslaves.
      b. We know that sin enslaves the soul (Romans 6:17).
      c. It is very true that we are still servants when Christians (Romans 6:22).
      d. However, the servitude is different because we have consented to it, accepting the purchase price of our souls (1 Corinthians 7:23).
C. Notice the response of the Jews: “We be Abraham’s seed and were never in bondage to any man.”
   1. What an extremely false statement!
   2. They had been enslaved by the Babylonians and currently were in servitude to Rome.
D. They were servants spiritually as well, which was the real point of the words of Jesus - “Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.”
   1. Whoever lives in a sinful state and leads a life dedicated to sin is sin’s servant.
   2. You do the bidding of Satan when living in sin.
   1. At one time in the life of every man, each is a servant of sin.
   2. If we are Christians, we are justified, made right with God, by His marvelous grace.
   3. There is an important fact we must remember:
      a. Grace cannot work without a price being paid.
b. God’s justice simply won’t allow sin to be ignored without some type penalty being paid.

4. Thus, grace is offered through the redemption given by the blood of Christ.
   a. Redemption is defined as: “the procuring of a release through the payment of a price.”
   b. Later in Romans 3, Jesus is called the propitiation.
   c. Another version renders that “sacrifice of atonement.”
   d. Jesus did what He did in order to satisfy the demands of the justice of God.
   e. Without that death, there would be no freedom from sin.

F. In order to be free we must die to sin (Romans 6:7).

G. Paul said that could be done (Romans 6:17-18).
   1. They obeyed a form or standard of teaching - the gospel.
   2. It is not ritualistic obedience, but obedience from a heart that wants to serve God and not sin.
   3. It is then that we become slaves to righteousness.

II. We have freedom from death.
   A. In Acts 2:24, one version says, “freeing Him from the agony of death.”
   B. This does not mean Christians don’t experience physical death.
      1. Only two humans never experienced death out of all that have lived - Enoch and Elijah.
      2. Whenever Jesus returns, those living will not experience physical death either (1 Corinthians 15:51-52).
   C. In Acts 2:24, Peter was preaching the sermon on Pentecost and referring to the resurrection of Jesus.
      1. The grave could not hold Jesus.
      2. The same will be true at His return.
      3. One version of 1 Corinthians 15:52 states, “the dead will be raised imperishable.”
      4. All in the graves will come forth (John 5:28-29).
      5. In this way, we will be freed from death.
   D. There is another sense in which the faithful Christian will have freedom from death.
      1. The phrase “second death” is used in Revelation to describe the place of eternal punishment.
         a. 2:11.
         b. 20:6.
      2. Faithful Christians have no need to be concerned about the second death.
         a. As long as we remain faithful we know that we will live forever.
         b. Revelation 2:10.

From an outline by John Gaines.