

Blessed To Be A Blessing – May 29, 2011

Freedom

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:2

On the Memorial Day Weekend our thoughts turn to those who have selflessly served our country in the military, especially those who have paid the ultimate price—giving up their lives for our freedom. We are overcome by that unfathomable mixture of sadness and pride as we ponder the horror of war and the dedication of those who set aside their fear and answered the call of duty to our nation. It is a sobering sense that accompanies our observations, not only because we honor the memory of those who died or were wounded in battle, but also because we are led ultimately to think of those who are now advancing the banner of freedom and offering protection to us and to others around the world.

Freedom always requires sacrifice. Our freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil required sacrifice also. Christ was wounded for our transgressions. He died to destroy the power of death over us. In the shedding of His blood we have been made free....as Christ promised us: “If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.”

Whether it is individual and national freedom or freedom from sin, death, and the power of the devil, freedom is a precious gift of God. Ultimately all freedoms come from Him, because “He upholds all things by the Word of His power.” It is more than a shame when “freedom” is used to ignore God or denounce Him. In fact God’s Word calls that wickedness and the person who does these things God counts as wicked.

The legal tender of the realm includes the moniker “In God We Trust”. In many instances nothing could be further from the truth. Each day citizens of this great nation use their freedoms to demonstrate that their only trust is in themselves and the wealth they possess. Freedom becomes the justification of all manners of perversity as men seek to justify their greed and advance their wicked and evil desires. As Christians when we

see such things we want to ask: “Just what are you thinking?” These freedoms for which blood has been shed are not always being used to the glory of God and service of neighbor, but instead in service to the evil one who never frees men, but always binds them in the shackles of death. Truly as we learn in the Scriptures, “a man’s way seems right in his own eyes...but this way leads to death.” And sadly enough, because we are sinners, we too get taken in by the ways of the world and boast of our freedoms to do as we please without considering the accountability that comes with such blessings. Of such wickedness let us truly repent. Against such wickedness let us fight with the power of the truth...God’s holy Word. For the battle is His and the victory is His that He might have the glory!

As soldiers in the army of the King we don the armor of the Gospel, for our fight is not with flesh and blood, but with the principalities and powers of darkness. And if we should be asked to give the ultimate sacrifice for Him who died for us, we do so gladly and follow in the train of the martyrs before us, for we have been made free in Christ and we would that all men would share that precious freedom and life also.

Pastor Jacobs

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