

**NAVIGATING TOWARD OUR DESTINY - Part VII**  
**Navigating Under the Flag of Honest Freedom!**

**Text: John 8:31-36**

**Key Word:** Freedom

**Key Thought:** Freedom is Founded in our Honesty with God

**An Atheist's View on Life:**

I will live my life according to these beliefs  
God does not exist  
It is just foolish to think  
That there is a God with a cosmic plan  
That an all-powerful God brings purpose to the pain and suffering in the world  
Is a comforting thought, however  
Is only wishful thinking  
People can do as they please without eternal consequences  
The idea that  
I am deserving of Hell  
Because of sin  
Is a lie meant to make me a slave to those in power  
"The more you have, the happier you will be";  
Our existence has no grand meaning or purpose  
In a world with no God  
**There is freedom to be who I want to be**  
But with God  
Everything is fine  
It is ridiculous to think  
I am lost and in need of saving.

**A Christian's View on Life:**

**(Now . . . read from bottom to top to see a different view.)**

There has been a catch phrase that has gained momentum recently. It declares "**I want my freedom.**" A number of modern pop songs have used this as a title. We also can now buy into a cellular plan with "*Freedom Mobile.*" Yet so many people are reaching a dead end on the road they thought would bring them to freedom.

I want freedom, the kind that they promised me,  
Just for livin' in this country.  
I want the freedom, the kind that makes **me** feel strong,  
But, let me tell you, **something is wrong.**

[Grand Funk Railway](#)

Last week I spoke about Navigating under a Flag of Convenience. It became clear to me (and I'm sure to you) that many merchant ships that fly under the Panamanian flag do so simply to bypass the stricter regulations of their own country. It has created a host of dangerous conditions for those who have chosen to become a working slave in what is often deplorable conditions.

### **What a Contrast it Is to Navigate Toward Our Destiny under Flag of God's Freedom!**

*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine;*

*32. and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."*

*33. They answered Him, "We are Abraham's descendants and have never yet been enslaved to anyone; how is it that You say, 'You will become free'?"*

*34. Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin.*

*35. "The slave does not remain in the house forever; the son does remain forever.*

*36. "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."*

*John 8:31-36*

#### **I. HOW DOES THE SON OF GOD SET US FREE?**

#### **II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FREE INDEED?**

#### **I. HOW DOES THE SON OF GOD SET US FREE?**

I have found a wonderful pattern in the Gospel of John that is also in this chapter. It begins with Jesus forgiving the woman who had been caught in adultery. No one was left to charge her. I believe they tried to accuse her with half-truths. It is a tactical maneuver of diversion used in partisan politics, corrupt news reporting and liars in general. Where was the man who was caught with the adulterous woman?

Jesus, empowered by the Holy Spirit and in His Father's will were the only Witnesses left. Jesus chose not to condemn her and sent her away to live a new life that wasn't bound to sin. She became a member of God's kingdom because there is no indication that she never denied her sinful actions. Her accusers were exposed and chose to leave instead of repenting of THEIR actions. The biased actions of the kingdom of this world must be confessed before freedom is offered.

## I. HOW DOES THE SON OF GOD SET US FREE?

The Pharisees and the teachers of the Law would not accept His ability to stand on His own testimony because they didn't understand that He was the Son of God and His kingdom was NOT of this world. **He came to set everyone free from the kingdom of this world of sin.** They chose to reject Him and His willingness to set THEM free just like the unnamed adulterous women. All Jesus needed was His witness and THEY would be saved and set free.

*“You judge by human standards; I pass judgement on no one.*

*16. But if I do judge, my decisions are right, because I am not alone, I stand with the Father who sent me.”*

*17. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two witnesses is true.*

*18. I am one who testifies for myself; my other witness is the Father, who sent me.”*

*John 8:15-18*

So it is clear that Jesus sets us free by the witness of the Trinity. Since Jesus is no longer walking upon this earth in a human form, we now have the third Person of the Trinity to assure us of our salvation.

*“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.”*

*Romans 8:16*

The best testimony we have that we are the children of God comes from the Spirit of God dwelling within us. It really doesn't matter what anyone else has to say just like the unnamed woman at the beginning of the chapter. WE can only be fruit inspectors.

*“By their fruit you will recognize them.”*

*Matthew 7:16*

Please be very careful when inspecting others because, like fruit, there can be scabs on apples while the inner fruit is still eatable. **It may take more than one season to have fewer scabs.** Sanctification is a process. Only God truly knows the heart of people. Only God truly can change our heart. **God sets us free from the inside out.** I believe it is best to live a better life before advertizing the changes. Those closest to us will recognize those changes before anyone. It begins in our heart and mind and works outward (Romans 12:2).

## II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FREE INDEED?

I find it so interesting the objection some of the Jews had with Jesus. They said that because they were Abraham's descendants that they had never been enslaved to anyone. That definitely wasn't supported by their history. They were slaves to Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, and Media/Persia. Even when they were speaking these words they were under the enslavement and bondage of the cruel Romans. The Book of Judges names 7 times they were living in bondage. Denial never changes the facts of life.

Ishmael (Heb - an outcast), who was one of Abraham's offspring was the son of a bondswoman. He was cast out of their home (Galatians 4:22) while Isaac, who was the son of Sarah was free and allowed to remain in their home. They had no sense they were bound. Jesus went on in the chapter to call them liars just like their father - the devil.

**The only way to be free indeed is to be born into the family of God.** Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be born again if he wanted to enter the kingdom of heaven (John 3:7). Only God can truly free us from the guilt of our past.

\*\*\* When our children were much younger we used to play many 33's on our record player. I realize this indicates how old we are. One of their favourite albums was "Bullfrogs and Butterflies." The chorus of the theme song said, "*Bullfrogs and Butterflies they must be born again.*" \*\*\*

It happens through the wonderful process of metamorphosis. One definition of the word is "the transformation of an insect or amphibian **from an immature form** or larva **to an adult form** in distinct stages."

Perhaps you've wondered how this transformation could ever happen to you just as Nicodemus questioned Jesus almost 2,000 years ago. We don't have to enter back into our mother's womb. Instead, God transforms us from the inside out. A butterfly transforms from the inside of a larva. No one can speed up the process. **It is initiated by God.** If we break open the larva before time, it will die.

I do believe God is doing a great work of transforming many people and families. I'm sure that today many, many people throughout this world will be transformed into children of God with a deep desire to serve Him and allow an abundance of changes to be made in their lives. It is only then that you will be "Free Indeed." The meaning of the word "**indeed**" is "**actually or really**" to be free. There are strings attached. There is nothing false about it. I know the day I made that step that I felt like a heavy load was removed from my shoulders. It's been almost 43 years that I will never regret.

C:\Documents\WPWin(X9)\Sermons.2018\Navigating Toward our Destiny/John 8\_31.36.wpd

Date: July 22/18

Place: FCA

Time: 10:30 Am

Song: Who You Say I Am

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**I. HOW DOES THE SON OF GOD SET US FREE?** - *John 8:15-18; Romans 8:16; Matthew 7:16; Romans 12:2*

**II. WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE FREE INDEED?** - *Galatians 4:20-22; John 3:7*