

THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

Freedom and Truth

John 8:31-32

INTRODUCTION: WELCOME

Today is the fourth of July, INDEPENDENCE DAY, and we celebrate the birth of our nation by thanking God for allowing the United States of America to persevere across the years.

- Not everything about America has always been good. Americans are people, and ALL HAVE SINNED! So there are sins in our past and sins in our present. So, not everything about America is or has been good.
- But there has been good, much good. Just as an illustration and documentation of that fact is the fact that The United States has been the largest senders of missionaries to share the gospel. For the last year for which I saw statistics, the number of missionaries being sent out from our country was 4 times as many as from the country in second place. That is unquestionably something for us as believers to celebrate and for which we should thank the Lord with all our hearts for certainly this is a work He has done in us and caused to happen across the years.

As we thank the Lord today for His goodness in our lives personally and in the life of our country across the years, we continue our look at the life of the Lord Jesus and allowing His life and words to impact our daily living.

THE CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

Jesus spoke words America needs to hear. Everyone in the world needs to hear them because Jesus spoke the words of life, but I am talking about a specific message which all Americans need desperately to hear today.

God told Hosea concerning Israel,

Hosea 4:6 NKJV My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...

That is not a principle that only applies to Israel. It applies to the people of God everywhere in whatever country they live. It certainly applies to us.

The America that I have loved all my life is rapidly being destroyed. The primary reason for that is because of the lack of knowledge by many, many Americans including Christians.

In John 8 we read,

John 8:31–32 NKJV 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

There is a direct relationship between truth and freedom.

- We know this is true for the Christian. In this same passage Jesus says,

John 8:36 NKJV Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.

- It is also true for the unbelievers. Again in this same passage Jesus addresses those in the crowd who did not believe in Him.

John 8:44 NKJV You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.

So, for every person **There is a direct relationship between truth and freedom.**

The more truth we know, but not just know, and practice, the more freedom we have.

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

America, Americans, need to know and practice truth or we will increasingly lose our freedoms.

And how do we know this truth from Jesus? Look again at our text.

John 8:31–32 NKJV 31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “**If you abide in My word**, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

AMERICA NEEDS TO KNOW AND PRACTICE THE TRUTH CONCERNING OUR ORIGIN.

- Genesis 1:1 NKJV In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
- Much of the confusion that Americans have on other issues in life begins with their confusion on this truth.
- God created all that is, including the entirety of the universe, and us.
- When you do not understand or believe this, you are going to have great misunderstanding and confusion about many other things.

- Parents, you need to teach the fact that God created the heavens and the earth to your children because nobody else will do it!
- We here at this church try to help you do it, but our time and influence with your children is miniscule compared to your time and influence.
- One of the best resources I can point you to is **answersingenesis.org**. Parents, if you are not using the resources of this evangelical ministry, you are missing the boat, and you are leaving your children to drown in a sea of unbelief.

AMERICA NEEDS TO KNOW AND PRACTICE THE TRUTH CONCERNING SEXUALITY.

- **Genesis 1:27 NKJV** So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- Gender is not a matter of choice. It is a fact of creation. Every person is born either male or female.
- A corollary of that basic truth is that God intends for the sexual relationship to be strictly between a male and a female.
- **Leviticus 18:22–24 NKJV** 22 You shall not lie with a male as with a woman. It is an abomination. ... 24 'Do not defile yourselves with any of these things; ...
- Sadly, dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, we Christians have been so intimidated by those who reject these truths based upon God as Creator, that we have quietened our voices to declare the truth of God from His Word on these issues.
- The consequence has been the increasing acceptance of homosexuality which has led to the epidemic of gender dysphoria where girls want to be boys and boys want to be girls, and our unknowing and unbelieving society is willing to give them what they want without regard to the truth.
- But what society is giving these individuals is not freedom but slavery. Slavery to the negative impact that puberty blocking drugs do permanently to the body and to the irreversible results of transgender surgery, both of which are leaving a host of injured people in their wake whose voices are silenced because they themselves are crying out contrary to the crowd to warn others, "Don't do this!"

AMERICA NEEDS TO KNOW AND PRACTICE THE TRUTH CONCERNING MARRIAGE AND FAMILY.

- Genesis again gives us the truth about how God designed the world and all of us He created to live in it. It is the book of beginnings. That is why I teach you from it often.

- **Genesis 2:24 NKJV** Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.
- Another consequence of the increasing acceptance of homosexuality is the attempt to redefine marriage.
- Folks, God has and does define marriage, and no person nor society can change that. People want to use God's vocabulary but don't want to use His dictionary.
- You can call a donkey a horse if you want to, but you can't win the Kentucky Derby when you ride him.
- Sadly, I doubt that our nation, either by law or judicial decree will ever turn back the clock on trying to redefine marriage by our own declarations, but I can tell you with a certainty that when King Jesus returns on His white horse and imprisons Satan in the pit, and begins to rule over this earth for a thousand years, the only relationships called a marriage will be those sacred unions between a husband and a wife.
- Jesus knows and practices the truth. He is truth!

AMERICA NEEDS TO KNOW AND PRACTICE THE TRUTH CONCERNING RACIAL AND ETHNIC DIFFERENCES.

- **Acts 17:26 NKJV** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, ...
- God created Adam and Eve with the genetic potential for every racial and ethnic characteristic that is possible to be expressed physically in a human body.
- We do not know what color Adam and Eve were nor what ethnicity they looked like. With such wide genetic potential within them, their children likely looked very different from mom and dad.
- Folks there is no biblical basis by which any kind of racial discrimination can be practiced by Christians.
- We are all one blood. We are all created in the image of God.
- If we hate or even dislike someone because of the way God has created them, we are not practicing the truth.
- If we use ethnic or racial slurs, God forbid! We are not practicing God's truth, and we should repent!
- This is an area of gross failure in America.
 - Too many Americans used slavery as a means of personal gain.

- Too many Americans accepted the legal system's toleration of discrimination.
- These evils also were a result of Americans not knowing and not practicing the truth of God's Word.
- So, let me ask this question. Who led the way to turning these injustices around in the United States?
- By and large it was Christian men and women, people committed to God's truth!
- And as followers of Christ, each of us should be a part of healing the racial divides that were created across long years of our nation's sin in this area.

AMERICA NEEDS TO KNOW AND PRACTICE THE TRUTH CONCERNING LIFE.

- Again it was the rejection of the truth that God is the creator of life and that specifically people are created by Him in His image that caused people to reject the truth about life itself.
- The legalization of the killing of unborn children would have never been legalized without the acceptance of the theory of evolution.
- The unborn child, called a fetus so as to remove the automatic emotional attachment to a child, was systematically diminished to the product of reproduction by two animals who evolved from apes, who evolved from other primates, who evolved from amphibians, who evolved from one cell life forms which evolved from non-living chemicals.
- So, if such a product of evolution and reproduction proved inconvenient, why not just get rid of it?
- And so many did. And so the justice system bought into the lie and denied the truth, and now we have allowed more than 62 million children to be killed legally in America by abortion.
- Finally, the medical science is catching up to the truth of the Scriptures, and more and more people are seeing that the unborn baby is simply a child and deserves an opportunity to live just as any other person does.
- We should pray that like slavery and like racial discrimination that this would be a wrong America would set right.
- That we would return to God's truth, let the truth set us free.

CONCLUSION: Are you a person committed to truth? Will you pray and help more people come to know and practice the truth that they might know the glorious freedom that God intended for them?

Have you come to the truth of Jesus Christ and salvation by grace through faith in Him?

Are you growing in truth by reading, studying, and hiding God's truth in your heart?

Jesus' word will prove true in your own life. The truth will set you free!