

Freedom Is Not Free!

by Wayne Goff

“The price of freedom is eternal vigilance.” Satan is always on the attack. He wants us to believe that we can have complete, unrestrained choice with no consequence. He is the author of the idea: “Let us do evil that good may come.” And this concept has a few advocates in the world. Jude wrote that these corrupt teachers “turn the grace of God into lewdness” (Jude 4). The apostle Peter warned: “For when they speak great swelling words of emptiness, **they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through lewdness, the ones who have actually escaped from those who live in error**” (2 Pet. 2:18).

There is *always* a **price** to pay for **sin**: (1) spiritual death, James 1:15; (2) enslavement, Romans 6:16; and (3) evil consequences, Romans 6:21. You can never do evil that good may come from it!

Jesus said that you shall know a tree by its fruit, Matthew 7:17-18. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit; a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. “Therefore by their fruits you will know them” (v. 20). Evil deeds bear evil fruit; evil men wax worse and worse (2 Tim. 3:13, **KJV**).

So when you think of “freedom” as a free moral agent of God, think also of “restriction.” There is no freedom without moral restraint. A train is never so free as when it stays on the tracks. A human is never so free as when he lives to do his Maker’s will.

Edmund Burke once said: “But what is liberty without wisdom, and without virtue? It is the greatest of all possible evils; for it is folly, vice and madness, without tuition or restraint.”

Jesus said, “You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). “Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” (John 8:34). Habitual sin enslaves its host, and only God can set that man free!

May God help us to see what is true freedom, and to exercise it in this country as “thanks” to those who died to give us the privilege.

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