

**Celebrating Our Freedom**  
**Proverbs 14:34**  
**Freedom Sunday - July 2, 2023**

**Good morning Church - Welcome to Freedom Sunday here at Calvary Vista.**

A) It has become our tradition here at Calvary on the Sunday before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July to pause in our normal study

B) Consider the freedom that we have in this country as well as to celebrate the freedom we have in Jesus

C) Jesus is the only one who can truly transform a life, a city, a culture, a family.

D) You just heard a quick testimony from 9 people - who's lives have been transformed

1) but this room is filled with 100's of transformation stories

**We love to celebrate that - -**

A) Do that today Celebrate the Victory in Jesus - Communion - **IT IS FINISHED! VICTORY CRY**

B) CELEBRATE with our brothers and sisters today who will be going into the waters of baptism

1) Declaring allegiance to Jesus

Celebrating their freedom in Jesus

C) Turn today to Proverbs 14:34 - Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people." - **PRAY**

**Yesterday I got roped into coaching my Grandsons Josiah's Bidy Ball Basketball team.**

A) Bidy Ball is for 5-7 year old kids who don't know how to play

B) They don't know how to pass - dribble or shoot

1) **Results in 1 Hour of Mass Chaos** - But is also fun and entertaining

C) I went to just support my grandson - cheer him on 1) but when the mom who was supposed to be the coach - saw me helping a few kids

D) She quickly said - **Do you want to be coach - I have no idea what I am doing.**

**Now I wanted to say - The kids have no idea what they are doing either so you will fit right in -**

A) Not what Jesus would do. - So Coach Rob

B) When we look at our country today - it resembles the mass chaos of Bidy ball -

C) But what is happening today is not entertaining

1) it is downright frightening and frustrating on so many levels.

**D) No secret America is in decline - but I Tell you this all the time -**

1) been to like 37 countries in my ministry travels - America is still by far the best place to live

**I want to briefly have us consider 3 things**

#1 How America started?

#2 Where we are now?

#3 How we as followers of Jesus are to be living in this current cultural moment?

How we started?

Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalts a nation

A) One of the reasons why America in such a short time has flourished as a nation -

B) Became a super power in the world

1) America is only 247 yrs old -

C) Compare that to some of the other super powers in the world.

1) China - 3500 yrs old

2) Russia 1,160 years old

3) Germany and England - UK - both over 1,000 years old

D) How did America rise to prominence so fast?

**It is because of this principle that our country was founded on - IT IS ON OUR CURRENCY STILL - IN GOD WE TRUST!**

A) That is at the Core of our Foundation

B) Did you know there is a Bible in the Cornerstone of the Washington Monument? -

1) The founding fathers wanted to build the foundation of our country on God's Word

**C) Did you know the cap of the Washington Monument bears the inscription Laus Deo**

1) which means praise be to God.

**Now there are those who have been trying to rewrite our nation's history**

**A) They say that the majority of our founding Fathers were Atheist and Deist**

**B) A Deist is someone who believes that God created us but then left us on our own**

**C) But I want you to listen to some of the things that some of our founding fathers wrote concerning our country.**

Consider:

**George Washington - 1st U.S. President**

"While we are zealously performing the duties of good citizens and soldiers, we certainly ought not to be inattentive to the higher duties of religion. To the distinguished character of Patriot, it should be our highest glory to add the more distinguished character of Christian." --The Writings of Washington, pp. 342-343.

**D) Many Christians in our country have reversed that - put the focus on being a patriot over that of being a Christian**

1) Washington point: Our Christian Character is most important and should shape our patriotism

**John Adams - 2nd U.S. President**

"Suppose a nation in some distant region should take the Bible for their only law book, and every member should regulate his conduct by the precepts there contained ! Every member would be obliged in conscience to temperance, frugality and industry: to justice, kindness and charity towards his fellow men: and to piety, love and reverence toward Almighty God.... **What a Utopia, what a Paradise would this region be.**"

Diary and Autobiography of John Adams, Vol. III, p. 9.

**If People just lived according to the Bible - the World would be a Utopian Paradise!**

**Thomas Jefferson - 3rd U.S. President, Drafter and Signer of the Declaration of Independence**

"I am a real Christian – that is to say, a disciple of the doctrines of Jesus Christ." --The Writings of Thomas Jefferson, p. 385.

"God gave us life gave us liberty. And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have

removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are of the Gift of God? That they are not to be violated but with His wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever..."

Thomas Jefferson --Notes on the State of Virginia, Query XVIII, p. 237.

**John Quincy Adams 6th U.S. President**

"The hope of a Christian is inseparable from his faith. Whoever believes in the divine inspiration of the Holy Scriptures must hope that the religion of Jesus shall prevail throughout the earth. Never since the foundation of the world have the prospects of mankind been more encouraging to that hope than they appear to be at the present time..... >

And may the associated distribution of the Bible proceed and prosper till the Lord shall have made 'bare His holy arm in the eyes of all the nations, and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God' (Isaiah 52:10)."

--Life of John Quincy Adams, p. 248.

**John Quincy Adams believed the world would be a far better place if the people in it lived in accordance to God's word.**

**Roger Sherman - Signer of the Declaration of Independence and United States Constitution**

"I believe that there is one only living and true God, existing in three persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, the same in substance equal in power and glory. That the scriptures of the old and new testaments are a revelation from God, and a complete rule to direct us how we may glorify and enjoy him. - The Life of Roger Sherman, pp. 272-273.

**Sherman seemed to understand that the whole purpose of mankind is to enjoy God and to glorify God.**

**Benjamin Rush - Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Ratifier of the U.S. Constitution**

"The gospel of Jesus Christ prescribes the wisest rules for just conduct in every situation of life. Happy they are, who are enabled to obey them in all situations!"

--The Autobiography of Benjamin Rush, pp. 165-166.

### **Benjamin Franklin - Signer of the Declaration of Independence and Unites States Constitution**

"Here is my Creed. I believe in one God, the [Creator of the Universe](#). That He governs it by His Providence. That He ought to be worshipped.

"As to Jesus of Nazareth, my opinion of whom you particularly desire, I think the system of morals and his religion, as he left them to us, is the best the world ever saw, or is likely to see;

--Benjamin Franklin wrote this in a letter to Ezra Stiles, President of Yale University on March 9, 1790.

### **One More:**

### **Patrick Henry - Ratifier of the U.S. Constitution**

"It cannot be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by religionists, but by Christians; not on religions, but on the gospel of Jesus Christ. For this very reason peoples of other faiths have been afforded asylum, prosperity, and freedom of worship here." --The Trumpet Voice of Freedom: Patrick Henry of Virginia, p. iii.

### **Does that sound like men who were Atheist or Deist?**

A)Not at all. -

**B)Truth be told a careful truthful study of our History will reveal**

1)that 52 of the 55 signers of the Declaration of Independence were orthodox Believers in Jesus Christ.

**C)They weren't just religious people – but they were believers in Jesus Christ.**

**D)They were men who believed the Bible was the Word of God**

**Political Science Professors at the Univ. of Houston were considering why the American Constitution has been able to stand the test of time**

**A)Why hasn't it gone thru massive revisions in 216yrs**

**B)what possessed those men to produce such an incredible Document**

**C)These Professors at the University of Houston spent 10 yrs cataloging 15,000 writings of the founding fathers –**

**D)They discovered that 34% of the founding fathers quotations were direct **word for word** out of the Bible**

**D)And that another 60% of their quotes they were quoting men who were quoting the Bible**

**E)So a total of 94% of the founding fathers quotes were directly from the Bible – Amazing Right?**

**Well someone will argue if that is true how could they condone or accept something as horrible as slavery?**

A)Well Consider this: When Jesus came into the world - when the early church was born - **Slavery was a societal norm**

**B)Slaves made up 10-20% of the Roman population in the 1st century**

1)Meaning there were an estimated 5-10 million slaves in the Roman empire during the time of Christ.

**The Bible never approves of Slavery - but it records it as something that was a part of our fallen Human Society**

**A)Slavery was the norm in society for 1,000's of years**

**B)And Slavery was a normal part of the British society that our founding fathers came out of.**

**C)Yes it is true that many of our founding fathers had slaves-**

1)Doesn't mean it was right - but means it was the norm

**D)But you have to also remember that it was Christian men like Abraham Lincoln and Oliver Cromwell**

1)Who challenged and eventually changed and outlawed the institution of slavery in this country.

**E)And it has been the clear teaching of the Bible and the declaring of the gospel message**

1)that has moved us as a country away from racial prejudice that has plagued our country from its inception.

**My point is this: Just because our founding fathers believed in Jesus and the Bible -**

**A)Doesn't mean that they clearly understood every nuance and truth of the Bible**

**B)In the same way that we didn't when we first became followers of Jesus Christ.**

**C)Many of us continued in wrong and even sinful behavior after becoming Christians -**

1)because we didn't know it was wrong

**How many of us accepted societal norms or even bought into legalistic behavior**

**A)Because we didn't clearly understand grace.**

**B)But the more that we grew in our relationship with Jesus and allowed God's word to impact our lives**

1)Those viewpoints and opinions changed

**C)The same thing was true with the founders of our country-**

1)but because some of those societal norms were engrained in the culture of the world at that time - **took longer to change.**

**But here is what I want you to note - Country was founded on the basic principles of God's Word.**

**A)God is supreme - Jesus is the source of our salvation and liberty**

**B)But unfortunately we have strayed from that foundation.**

C)Our text again **"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people."** Proverbs 14:34

**D)We are suffering the reproach because of our Sin**

**Our foundations have been destroyed. -**

**A)What happened?**

**B)The Apostle Peter shared this warning with the church in the first century.**

1)Problems would erode the purity of the early church

But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master

who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. <sup>2</sup> And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. <sup>3</sup> And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep. <sup>2</sup> Peter 2:1-3

**C)What Peter predicted/ indeed happened to the church.**

**D)False teachers came in and brought their heresies -**

1)People with wrong motives and greed - pursued evil

**By the time the book of Revelation is written by John -about 65 years after the birth of the early church**

**A)You have a church in Ephesus - left its first love**

**B)The Church in Pergamos had become carnal and worldly**

**C)The church in Thyatira had become off doctrinally,**

1)and was infiltrated by idolatry, sexual sin and pagan traditions.

**The church in Sardis, became Spiritually Dead Church:**

**A)And the church in Laodicea was Lukewarm**

**B)to the point that Jesus said they made him ill and he was going to vomit them out of his mouth.**

**What happened to the early church also happened to America?**

- Destructive Heresies have infiltrated our culture
- We have denied the Lord Jesus
- We have forsaken the teachings of the Word of God
- Motivated by greed we have deified man and devalued God.

**Result:**

- Our nation is 31 trillion dollars in debt
- Our nation is plagued by violent crime
- Plagued by drug addiction
- Porn
- Sex trafficking
- Child abuse is rampant

**Now people are confused about sex and gender - Why?**

**A) We as a nation have completely abandoned the Bible - our nation has abandoned God**

Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Isaiah 5:20

**B) Written in a time in the history of Israel - lowest - we are living in those same days**

1) Evil good and good evil - light for darkness and darkness for light

21 Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Isaiah 5:21

**That is the mentality of those who say: We don't need the Bible - we don't need God?**

A) We will do what is right in our own eyes.

**B) That is the natural tendency of man - started in the garden**

1) repeats itself over and over again - every day in every nation on the planet

**C) Now the tendency of some Christians when they see how much our nation has digressed**

1) They are tempted to pray - Lord Jesus come quickly and get us out of here and judge all of these sinners.

**That is the wrong attitude to have my friends**

A) What did God do - when man rebelled in the garden - he could have obliterated man -

**B) Could have said - I will start over until someone gets this right -**

1) God didn't do that

**C) God devised a rescue plan - His son Jesus would come into the world -**

A) To rescue man from sin and shame and eventually crush the head of the Devil

**B) It is also easy to look at what is happening in our society today and think that evil and darkness are winning. -**

**C) But to think that way is to assume that God is no longer on the Throne -**

1) God has no clue what he is doing - he is devoid of his power

**That is not true.**

**A) What we are witnessing today is exactly what God said would happen in the book of Romans**

**B) When people would forsake God and turn from his way and refuse to worship him as their creator**

1) Instead they would turn their worship to created things - rather than the creator

**C) This is what God said would happen:**

<sup>24</sup> Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. Romans 1:24

A) What Paul goes on to describe there is Homosexual and lesbian practices

**B) Where men and women would turn away from what was natural -**

1) or how God designed the body to function sexually.

**C) They would turn from the natural and pursue what was unnatural -**

1) they would burn in their hearts for one another Men with men and women with women

<sup>26</sup> Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Romans 1:26

**D) God would give them over to pursue their fleshly immoral desires**

1) If that is how you want to live - go for it

<sup>28</sup> Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. <sup>29</sup> They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. Romans 1:28-29

**But understand the reason that God was giving humanity over to pursue their fleshly desires was twofold**

A) Either they would come to their senses and see the futility and emptiness of those pursuits **and turn back to God - Prodigal**



**B)Or they would be sealing their own Judgement and fate**

**C)God says: I will let you go down that path and experience the pain and emptiness of sin and rebellion -**

1)In hopes that you might turn from your sin and turn to Jesus - receive forgiveness - salvation and freedom

**D)People are looking for Freedom today - everyone wants to be free**

<sup>32</sup> And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.....”

<sup>36</sup> Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. John 8:32, 36

**That is what God is hoping for - even for those of you today - rebelled - Prodigal**

**A)Never accepted Jesus**

**B)Living in the reality - rebellion - Empty - Painful -**

**1)God is patient - Open your heart today**

**C)Those who refuse - only sealing their own fate.**

**1)I gave you a way out - you refused to take it**

**#3 How we as followers of Jesus are to be living in this current cultural moment?**

**A)Do what Jesus and the early church did!**

**B)Big picture Perspective - Remember we are not alone in this fight**

**1)we need a dose of reality**

**C)That what we are experiencing in America the rest of the world has been dealing with for a long time**

**D)Big picture perspective that realizes that what Jesus faced in his life time**

1)and what the Followers of Jesus that we are studying about in the book of Acts - faced was FAR WORSE.

**Consider this**

**In the Grecian world that preceded Jesus -**

**A)But that still had a huge influence on the world when he was alive**

**B)This was their view of Marriage: The Grecian World said - “We have wives to bear us legitimate children and families and to keep the house. We have concubines to take care of our personal needs, and we have mistresses for our sexual pleasure.”- 4th-century BC Athenian**

statesman **Demosthenes**

**C)Now Jesus came into the world when the Romans were in charge -**

**1)this is the view of sexuality in the Roman World**

“In the Roman world there was no heterosexual/homosexual distinction. Men especially, but not exclusively, had sex with anyone they desired female or male. Some preferred females, some males, some both.” - **Tom Holland - Author and Historian**

**D)That is the world that Jesus came into - That is the world that the early church was birthed in**

**A)That was the world they were trying to impact**

**B)That was the world that Paul the Apostle ministered in**

**C)What was their collective approach?**

**They didn't make it their main objective to condemn the ills of society.**

**A)Nor did they make it their aim and intention to overthrow or undermine the Government**

**B)Their primary objective was to go after the souls of men and women**

1)by preaching the gospel and by living out the gospel.

**C)The gospel transforms lives and people whose lives have been transformed by the gospel have a transforming impact on their communities.**

**Recall Jesus said this to his Church: You are the Salt of the earth!**

**A)Remind you that Salt in the first century had 3 main uses.**

**B)It was used as a preservative - pack meat in salt**

1)It was used as a **healing element** - salt on wounds - keep it from getting infected

D)It was **used to enhance flavor in food.**

**So When Jesus calls us to be salt -**

A)He is saying that we are to be that preserving, healing and flavor enhancing agent in the world.

B)Yes we are to be a preserving influence in the world

1)Which is why I am 100% behind our Impact North county team -

C)That seeks to educate us on bills that we need to oppose

1)Bills that go against the truths of the Bible -

D)Bills that seek to undermine our moral values that the Bible puts forth.

**We need to raise our voice - we need to vote those things down.**

A)We need to see Christians running for offices in Govt. Federal State and Local

B)Why I prayed publically for John Franklin -

1)glad he is our Mayor - Need to continue to pray for him - tough job - liberal opposition

C)Why I fully support Christians running for School Board - city council positions

**D)Those are great ways for us to be that preserving element in our culture**

**Our society is getting more pagan and more godless by the month.**

A)Our society that is starting to resemble what the early church was living in under Roman rule

B)Our society that is quickly catching up to the decadence that has plagued Europe, Africa, Canada, Australia for decades.

C)We need that preserving influence in our city.

**But hear me on this: Getting the right people into office,**

A)Getting a bill over turned - reversing ROE V Wade

B)Those things are only delaying the evitable!

C)My Bible tells me plainly that before Jesus comes back for His church and especially before his 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

1)Things are going to get way worse not better.

D)More evil - not more good - more godless and less godly

**Does that mean we just give up no - We fight - we vote - we make a stand**

A)We are praying for Revival - praying for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit - AMEN -

**B)But I agree whole heartedly with what David Guzik said on my podcast last year about Revival in these last days**

C)It is going to be marked by a great distinction and contrast -

1)the Darkness is going to get darker and the light - more light

D)The Bible is clear that what we are seeing is what the Bible said would be happening in the last days

**Big Picture is there are souls are stake here:**

A)This is why we must remember - Being Salt is not just being that preserving element -

B)It is also having a healing and flavor enhancing impact upon our world

C)People all around us who don't know Jesus are hurting - fearful - frustrated -

1)they need to see something different in us

**I Love that Jesus called us the salt of the earth - salt is only effective when it gets out of the salt shaker -**

A)Only brings healing when it touches the wound

B)It only enhances flavor when it is touches the meat

C)That means we have to get out of our Christian bubble and interact with unbelievers

**Who are we touching? Who are we rubbing shoulders with?**

A)Now I am going to upset some of you - that ok ? - Permission?

**B) See It is easy for us to yell and scream about how evil our world is getting on social media -**  
1) Yell and scream about how corrupt and godless our Govt is getting

**C) It is easy to post a video or write a Blog - attend a protest**

1) or like someone else's POST and feel good about ourselves -

**D) Yea standing for truth today. Fighting the good fight**

1) Trying to be that preserving element -  
**THAT IS EASY!**

**It is a lot harder to actually go out into our world and engage with lost people -**

A) Befriend the liberal - befriend a homosexual person -

B) Befriend the person struggling with their sexual identity.

C) Yet our Lord was called the Friend of sinners!

1) Many Christians today - are just repulsed by sinners

**That is not what Jesus portrayed - that is not the vibe that the early Church was giving off - living in pagan Rome**

A) Interesting Jesus never condemned Slavery - not one sermon

B) Jesus didn't make Homosexuality the focal point of his message

C) What did Jesus and the early church do - they preached the gospel!

1) They loved sinful people.

D) The gospel has the power to transform a life -

1) the gospel has the power to transform a culture one life at a time - Contagious affect

**Now Jesus also Called us the light of the world - Matthew 5:17**

A) As the light - our lives and marriages - are to shine in the midst of the darkness -

B) like a lighthouse does in the storm

C) Shinning - **Here is the way to happiness - here is the way to fulfillment - here is the way to peace**

D) The Apostle Peter encouraged us to live in such a way - that our lives would radiate HOPE

1) Someone would be prone to ask you - what is the reason your Hope.

**E) That only happens when we are living with Jesus as the center of our lives**

**Listen to me: If people around us are not asking us that question - why are you so hopeful**

A) Maybe it is because we are coming across as uptight as everyone else

B) So They are not seeing anything different in us -

C) Lights radiate something Annoying or soothing

D) what are we radiating? Annoying or soothing?

1) Anger - fear- frustration?

E) Or are we radiating a calmness and a peace because we know where this is going -

1) we know what the ultimate outcome is

**Back in November of 2001 a series came out called 24- Kiefer Sutherland in the role of Jack Bauer**

A) Jack was a special agent in the US counter terrorism unit

B) 24 stood for the hrs in a day - 24 episodes in a season -

C) Jack Bauer would do more in that one day - to save the world

1) Than most people would do in a life time.

**D) Now Denise and I didn't start watching the show when it first came out -**

1) but around season 3 someone gave us a DVD set of the first 2 episodes for Christmas

**So we started watching Season 1 and immediately got hooked**

A) 11 o'clock at night - bed time - episode would end and Denise would say can we watch one more

B) We have to see if Jack Makes it - Stressed out.



**C)I would remind her -Babe there are 3 seasons - and Jack is in everyone he is going to make it.**

1)The question was how - how was Jack Bauer going to save the world this time?

**D)That was the entertaining part - THE HOW - no stress - he makes it**

1)9 seasons - he never died

**In a similar way - Church we know how this story ends - Jesus is coming back -**

A)Jesus is coming to the rescue -Jesus WINS

B)Jesus is going to set up his Kingdom - Jesus is going to set things right

1)Jesus is going to put an end to injustice -

D)Not suggesting -that we view life as entertainment - not -

1)real people are being killed - abused - people are hurting

**E)But we live with a Hope - and assurance - the story has a happy ending**

**AND God has invited us into the story - to play a part - to bring Hope to the hopeless**

A)To bring healing to the hurting -

B)To impact souls with the transforming message of the gospel

C)Shine as lights radiating Jesus into a world that He loves -

**D)People that He left heaven and came and died for - pay the price for their sins -**

1)Rose again from the dead - To bring freedom - and life to all who believe in his name

**Today your life**