

Title: Freedom Isn't Free – Colossians 3:1-17

Aim: Appreciate our freedom as a nation, in Christ, & gain by surrender.

Intro: What a great day in the history of our country yesterday! 250 years as a nation. Of course, that is still infancy compared to many nations in the world, but we celebrate freedom & freedoms much of the world does not enjoy. I believe God raised up America for His purposes & we have enjoyed His blessings throughout our 250 years. But you've heard it said & it certainly is true that freedom isn't free. Consider all the freedoms we enjoy – religion, speech, press, assembly, petition, right to bear arms; rights of life, liberty & pursuit of happiness & numerous other rights & protections. But again, those freedoms & rights & national freedom are not free. I) **The Cost of National Freedom.** From the Revolutionary War to the War in Iraq, over 1,400,000 military deaths have won, secured those freedoms not only for us in our nation but for many in those nations – 25,000 in Rev. War, 750,000 in Civil War, 116,516 in WWI, 420,000 in WWII, 36,574 in Korea, 58,220 in Vietnam, 294 in the 1st Gulf War, & 4500 in Iraq. That's not counting millions of the military wounded, w/their lives changed forever, & civilian casualties as well. We enjoy so much because of God's goodness & so many giving their lives. Thank God for the USA & for those who gave so much to secure our freedoms! This principle that freedom isn't free has other important applications II) **The Cost of Our Salvation.** Freedom from sin's penalty & its power/enslavement, is indeed free for us who believe/receive Christ as Savior/Lord. There's not a thing we can do to earn our salvation. Luke 4:16-21 refers back to the Isaiah 61 passage read for us earlier: ***“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll***

of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.' And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing'". Jesus said – John 8:31-32, 36 – *"If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples, & you will know the truth, & the truth will set you free...If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."* Jesus is the truth we need to know. Liberty is ours thru Christ by faith. But at what cost? It cost God the Father His only begotten Son. John 3:16- *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life."* Romans 8:32 – *"He...did not spare His own Son but gave Him up for us all..."* Again, freedom from sin's enslavement/power & its penalty – judgment & eternal death is free for all who believe, but the penalty had to be paid, judgment had to be carried out. Our freedom cost Jesus His glory for a time & His very life. John 10:11, 17-18 – *"I am the Good Shepherd. The Good Shepherd lays down life for the sheep...For this reason the Father loves Me, because I lay down My life that I may take it up again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of My own accord. I have authority to lay it down, & I have authority to take it up again."* 1 Peter 3:18 it is written of Christ: *"For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God..."* Salvation is free, forgiveness is free, eternal life is free, because Jesus bore the cost. Such

freedom isn't free. We died w/Him & were raised up w/Him to new life; our sin credited to Him & His righteousness credited to us (II Cor.5:21) – all free because of Christ. We certainly should be ever thankful to God for the free gift of Christ, & life in Christ. However, tho we are indeed set free from sin's power & penalty in Christ, II) **The Cost of Living the Christian Life**. Living free, living the Christian life is not free. It costs us everything. If we would live free, we must surrender daily – sounds like an oxymoron but it isn't. Jesus said – Matthew 16:24-25 – ***“If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself & take up his cross & follow Me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.”*** I'll not say much about that, since Pastor Derek is preaching thru Matthew & will certainly use that text in the near future. Suffice it to say denying self & dying to self & following Jesus is a costly matter. Paul added this exhortation in Romans 12:1-2 – ***“I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy & acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good & acceptable & perfect.”*** Now we get to the chosen text for today – Colossians 3:1-17 [READ] (we'll be quick). Given what God has graciously done for us in Christ, providing Christ as Savior/Lord, so that spiritually speaking we died w/Him & were raised up w/Him & seated w/Him, securely hidden w/Christ in God the Father, given sure hope in Christ, what should our response be? Put to death all that is earthly, the deeds of the body – a partial list is given: sexual immorality, impurity, passion (out of control), evil desire, covetousness/idolatry, anger, wrath, malice, slander, obscene talk, lying, etc. Put off the old – that takes thought, humility,

surrender. That takes work! Instead of this old way of thinking/living, put on the new self – again a partial gift – compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness, love. Let God’s peace be the umpire of your heart. Be a faithful student of God’s work. Whatever you do, do it to God’s glory, being thankful to Him. All of that takes denial of self & death to self, laying your life down in surrender to Christ the Lord. Paul put it this way in Galatians 5:1,13 – ***“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, & do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” “For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”*** It takes thought & work to not give yourself to sin – deny yourself, surrender. A key to living free is what Paul wrote in vss16 & 25 (vss in between are pretty important, too): ***“But I say, walk by the Spirit, & you will not gratify the desires of the flesh...If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step w/the Spirit,”*** meaning being surrendered to the Holy Spirit at work in us. I can’t live however I want to live & enjoy the liberty God has given me. But I can be who God wants us to be & who we are in Christ as I surrender to the Holy Spirit w/in me & am obedient to His leading. We’re to consider ourselves dead to sin & alive to God & stop giving ourselves to sin & the parts of our bodies to sin as instruments of righteousness. Rather, we are to give ourselves to God & our members to God as instruments of righteousness (Romans 6). It’s throughout Scripture, the NT especially. We ought to be grateful to God for His Holy Spirit w/in, working in us to make us like Christ. By daily surrender to Him, the cost of discipleship is paid out & we enjoy the freedom God provides. We have to do it daily, seeking salvation but once, but seeking the liberty of the Spirit

again & again. Freedom isn't free; it was purchased by Christ & by
surrender we enter in day by day.