

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org

Set Free to Live for God

Slave. It's an old word that we do not accept in our modern culture. What a horrible condition it would be to be someone else's property, no free will, entirely at the mercy of another. Most of us cannot comprehend this type of life. In history, there were many people were born into the ownership of someone else. Can you imagine having utterly no rights of your own and being the property of another human? Slavery is still alive in many places around the world right now.

I have a dear pastor friend who is on a mission to rescue young girls out from the sex slave industry and to place them in healthy Christian homes. He and his church have invested much money and time into delivering these young girls out of that life. According to research, 45.8 million people are still trapped in slavery at this very moment. Thank God for our natural freedom. And for those of us who are born again, we need to thank God for our spiritual freedom! You and I needed to be set free and liberated from chains.

The scripture is clear when it describes us as being born into slavery. Every child was born into bondage with no hope ever to be free from the nature of sin. This human condition could only be solved with God delivering a rescue mission for us! Without His love for us, we would all be eternally bound and lost.

The freedom bells rang throughout the universe at the moment of Jesus' birth as He came to set the captives free. The entire human race was in bondage and didn't realize it. Born in captivity to sin with no possible hope of tasting freedom except through the world's savior, Jesus Christ. The blood He shed was the price for us to step out of a race of bondage and into His family.

John 3:17-19 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

When a person is condemned to death, it means there is absolutely no way for him to escape. You and I were this person until the impossible happened and we were born out of the darkness and into the light. You were a slave to sin, and now you are free because of Christ. *"For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death."* Romans 8:2. With a loud shout, we can proclaim our liberty once and for all from our past "FREEDOM"!

My question for us is "for what reason have we been set free"? Now that God has given us life and liberty to do what we choose with it, what are we to do? What will we choose to live as? Do we take our new found freedom to dance and celebrate, do we take our liberty to live as

we choose, do we pursue a life of prosperity and abundance? All of these blessings are wonderful and yet there is a more significant blessing available to you with your freedom. With your future now in your hands, will you hold onto it tightly or will you give it all back to God? Are you willing to submit your will over to His will? Our life is the ultimate gift for us to honor God with.

It says in Titus 1:1 "*Paul, a bondservant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ, according to the faith of God's elect and the acknowledgment of the truth which accords with godliness.*" When the apostle Paul uses the word "bondservant" to describe himself, it is correctly interpreted as the word "slave." What an amazing statement this is for him to declare himself a slave to God. Paul is not the only one who does this, so does Timothy, James, Peter, and Jude! In fact, we can read how even Jesus Himself took the form of a slave, Philippians 2:7 "*but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.*"

It is clear that the purpose of our freedom is for so much more than experiencing our joy here on this earth but also for us to come to the place of maturity that we are willing to place our very lives into the hand of God. To take our freedom that He purchased for us and to give it to Him as our only purpose in this life! Entirely dependent on Him for our provision and direction. To yield to the very rights that were given to us and we no longer live for ourselves.

This is not tyrannical slavery of drudgery but a relationship of pure love and devotion. Where it is possible to fall in love with your Heavenly Father to such a depth that nothing else matters to you but His will and His desires. When the apostle Paul said, "you've been bought with a price" he is not painting a picture of a life in chains, bound to the control and mercy of God as if God purchased us to lock us up again. Instead, he is showing us what happens when we truly know Him and the incredible price that was paid for our freedom.

The blood of Jesus was the price paid for our freedom, and then when we realize the value that God places on us, that is the moment that we will have the courage and desire to no longer live for our life but His. If He was willing to sacrifice so much to set us free then how much more will He be willing to do for us if we come back to Him and choose to yield our will to Him. There is no higher expression of your love for God than to call yourself His bondservant and slave. The more we fall in love with Him the more we will want to live for Him!

ALAN TAYLOR

P O BOX 700623; TULSA, OK 74170-0623

918-447-8951

alantaylorministries.org