

YOU MUST "STUDY TO SHOW THYSELF APPROVED", IF YOU DESIRE FREEDOM ACCORDING TO 2 TIMOTHY 2:15, OTHERWISE, "YOU WILL BE DESTROYED FOR LACK OF KNOWLEDGE"...AS AMOS 3:3 STATES. AMO 3:3 can two walk together, unless they are agreed?

A PERSON WHO IS FREE HAS A POSITIVE ATTITUDE ABOUT SELF...AND HIS OR HER GOALS...FREE OF INTIMIDATION...IS NOT PUT DOWN. IN YOUR MIND.....CONSIDER THIS!!!

HOW DOES ONE ACQUIRE FREEDOM? FIRST REALIZE THAT FREEDOM IS GOVERNED OR BASED ON THE JUDGMENT OF ONE PERSON.....

NOT ON THE OPINION OF FRIENDS, RELATIVES, ACQUITTANCES, NOR EVEN ONE'S SELF.....BUT ON GOD.....JESUS.....

LET US PROVE THIS STATEMENT: PAUL SAYS:

1CO 4:3,4 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by a human court. In fact, I do not even judge myself. For I know nothing against myself, yet I am not justified by this; but He who judges me is the Lord.

WHY AM I NOT FEARFUL?.....FOR GOD HAS GIVEN ME HIS PERFECT LOVE, WHICH IS THE CASTING OUT OF ALL FEAR.

AGAIN, FREEDOM IS BEING FREE FROM JUDGMENT OF MANKIND....I CAN ONLY BE SET FREE UNDER THIS ONE CONDITION.

JOH 3:27 John answered and said, "A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

YOU ARE NOT FREE UNLESS YOU ARE BORN AGAIN!!!!

WHEN WAS MAN FIRST SET FREE?.....IN THE GARDEN OF EDEN.....AT CREATION.....MAN RECEIVED A FREE WILL....HE WAS ALLOWED TO MAKE HIS OR HER OWN DECISION.

WOULD YOU SAY THE GIFT OF A FREE WILL WAS AN ACT OF LOVE?????.....WAS THIS A LOVE PRINCIPLE OF THE SPIRIT?...

YES.....HOW MAY WE RELATE THIS FACT ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE? IN ESSENCE, "GOD, WHO IS LOVE, IS ALL OF THE FOLLOWING:

1CO 13:4-8a Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; Does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; Does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; Bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails.

IN ESSENCE, GOD WHO IS LOVE.....IS PATIENT, AND KIND; LOVE IS NOT JEALOUS, OR CONCEITED, OR PROUD OF SELF. LOVE IS NOT ILL-MANNERED, NOR SELFISH, OR IRRITABLE; LOVE DOES NOT KEEP A RECORD OF WRONGS; LOVE IS NOT HAPPY WITH EVIL, BUT IS HAPPY WITH THE **TRUTH**; LOVE NEVER GIVES UP. GOD'S LOVE , FAITH, HOPE AND PATIENCE NEVER FAILS.

AFTER HEARING ALL OF THESE FACTS, WHICH IS KNOWLEDGE....WHY DO WE ALLOW TRADITION TO JUDGE US?

WHAT TRADITIONS DO YOU EMBRACE?.....WHAT TRADITIONS DO YOU ALLOW TO GOVERN OR CONTROL YOU ??????

EXAMPLES.....

1. THE SABBATH DAY....SOME SAY SATURDAY, SOME SAY SUNDAY.
2. BELONGING TO A PARTICULAR ORGANIZED CHURCH BECAUSE IT IS THE TRADITION.
3. BELONGING TO AN ORGANIZED CHURCH TO FOLLOW THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE, NOT SEARCHING IT OUT FOR ONESELF.
4. BURIAL - CREMATION OR EARTHLY....CHOOSING ONE OR THE OTHER BECAUSE OF TRADITION.
5. USE OF "WORLDLY" PSYCHOLOGY OR COUNSELING FOR PROBLEMS OR REGARDING CHILDREN.
6. PREJUDICES
7. BEING A GOOD GUY.
 - A. SUCH AS DOING VOLUNTEER WORK
 - B. PRESSURED INTO GIVING TO ORGANIZATIONS...TIME AND MONEY.
 - C. FINDING EXCUSES FOR ONE'S ACTIONS

THE LIST COULD GO ON AND ON....

DO THE ABOVE PRESSURE POINTS DOMINATE YOUR LIFE STYLE?

DO THEY FALL IN LINE WITH THE WORD OF GOD?....IF THEY DO NOT.....FORGET TRADITION....

NOW LET US DO THE LESSON ON FREEDOM.....

FREEDOM

1. WHAT DOES THE WORD "FREEDOM" REALLY MEAN?
DOING WHATEVER IS PLEASING TO SELF AND/OR FULFILLING ONE'S DESIRES. THIS IS COMPLETE FREEDOM.
2. DO WE AS CHRISTIANS HAVE THIS FREEDOM?.....YES.

3. WHERE DO WE FIND THIS TRUTH?.....

GAL 3:24-25 Therefore the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.

GAL 3:23 But before faith came, we were kept under guard by the law, kept for the faith which would afterward be revealed.

AND:

1CO 10:29 Conscience, I say, not your own, but that of the other. For why is my liberty judged by another man's conscience?

1CO 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful; all things are lawful for me, but all things do not edify.

WHAT DOES EXPEDIENT MEAN?....ADVISABLE, WISE, ADVANTAGEOUS OR BENEFICIAL.

WHAT DOES EDIFY MEAN?....CONSTRUCTIVE, USEFUL. BUILD UP.

REWORDING 1 COR 10:23...ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME, BUT ALL THINGS ARE NOT ADVISABLE OR WISE; ALL THINGS ARE LAWFUL FOR ME, BUT ALL THINGS ARE NOT CONSTRUCTIVE.

THEREFORE WE ARE FREE BUT.....HOW SHOULD WE USE THIS FREEDOM?

1PE 2:16 As free, yet not using your liberty as a cloak for vice, but as servants of God.

4. CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION....YES.....BY GIVING IT UP OR..... HOW ELSE?

MAT 12:31,32 "Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven men. "Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but whoever speaks against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven him, either in this age or in the age to come.

ANOTHER VERSE:

LUK 12:10 "And anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man, it will be forgiven him; but to him who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit, it will not be forgiven.

AND MORE:

HEB 6:4-6 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted the heavenly gift, and have become partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, If they fall away, to renew them again to repentance, since they crucify again for themselves the Son of God, and put Him to an open shame.

5. ARE THERE ANY OTHER SINS WHICH ARE UNFORGIVABLE?....NO.

6. IS THERE ANY SIN ILLUSTRATED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHICH WOULD ENLIGHTEN OUR FREEDOM?.....YES

1CO 5:9-13 I wrote to you in my epistle not to keep company with sexually immoral people. Yet I certainly did not mean with the sexually immoral people of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I have written to you not to keep company with anyone named a brother, who is a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a reviler, or a drunkard, or an extortioner--not even to eat with such a person. For what have I to do with judging those also who are outside? Do you not judge those who are inside? But those who are outside God judges. Therefore "put away from yourselves that wicked person."

WHAT "WICKED PERSON" IS BEING REFERRED TO IN THIS PASSAGE?

1CO 5:1,2 It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality among you, and such sexual immorality as is not even named among the Gentiles--that a man has his father's wife! And you are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he who has done this deed might be taken away from among you.

1CO 5:5 Deliver such a one to Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that his spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.

EVEN THOUGH THE BODY MAY BE DESTROYED....BY DEATH...IS THIS SIN FORGIVEN?

2CO 2:6-8 This punishment which was inflicted by the majority is sufficient for such a man, So that, on the contrary, you ought rather to forgive and comfort him, lest perhaps such a one be swallowed up with too much sorrow. Therefore I urge you to reaffirm your love to him.

THE WORD OF GOD IN THIS PASSAGE IS AGAIN TELLING US "FORGET NOT THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT."

7. IF I SIN AND DO NOT CONFESS OR REPENT (ADMIT AND ASK FORGIVENESS, WHAT COULD HAPPEN TO ME?.....WOULD GOD PUNISH ME?.....NO, HOWEVER, GOD'S HAND MIGHT BE REMOVED AS A PROTECTIVE COVERING....AS YOU ARE OUT OF HIS WILL.

JAMES 1:13-15 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.

WHAT BRINGS FORTH DEATH?.....SIN.

WHO BRINGS FORTH SIN?.....YOU

WHO BRINGS FORTH DEATH?.....GOD?....NO....YOU...

DOES HE PUNISH YOU?.....NO....YOU BRING IT ON YOURSELF.

WHAT DOES THIS PASSAGE MEAN, "DRAWN AWAY OF HIS OWN LUST"...

LUST...TO HAVE AN INTENSE DESIRE OR NEED...TO CRAVE, ODILY APPETITE, FLESHLY DESIRE. IF I OVER-EAT AND AM ILL, CERTAINLY GOD DID NOT MAKE ME EAT OR BRING ILLNESS UPON ME... I DID...IF I GO IN DEBT AND AM UNABLE TO MEET MY OBLIGATION, WORRY COMES UPON ME...GOD DID NOT DO IT...I DID...IF ALL THIS IS TRUE, HOW CAN WE SAY GOD CHASTISES. CHASTISEMENT IS NOT CONCEIVED FROM THE SPIRITUAL REALM.....

I THINK A GOOD ILLUSTRATION IS PEOPLE WHO OVEREAT...GOD HAS GIVEN EACH A FREE WILL, BUT ONE PART OF A PERSON'S WILL WANTS TO BE FREE FROM THIS BONDAGE, AND THE OTHER PART OF THE WILL LUSTS TO FULFILL THE DESIRES OF THE FLESH.

THIS IS FURTHER PROOF OF WHAT WE JUST READ IN JAMES 1:13-15, GOD DOES NOT TEST OR TEMPT...WE ARE DRAWN AWAY BY OUR OWN DESIRES.

WE HAVE FURTHER PROOF:

JOB 1:1 There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

JOB WAS A MAN THAT WAS PERFECT AND UPRIGHT...HE WAS A BELIEVER.....LET US CONTINUE

JOB 1:2-5 And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East. Now his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

NOW LET US SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO JOB....

JOB 1:6-11 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them. And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing? "Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. "But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

NOW NOTICE **SATAN'S LIE NUMBER 1.** TELLING GOD TO CHASTISE JOB.
WHAT DID GOD DO?

JOB 1:12 So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

AND AGAIN THE LORD IS TALKING TO SATAN.

JOB 2:3-5 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause." So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life. "But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

SATAN'S LIE NUMBER 2.

CONTINUING:

JOB 2:6-7 So the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

IS IT WISE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR FREEDOM? OF COURSE NOT. WHO WILL SUFFER? WE WILL. DOES GOD CAUSE OUR SUFFERINGS? NO, WE DO.

WHAT ARE WE FREE FROM?

1. FREE FROM THE LAW, THE TEN COMMANDMENTS, ORDINANCES OF THE THE OLD TESTAMENT.

2. FREE FROM THE CURSE...FEAR, ILLNESS, POVERTY, BEING GOVERNED BY OTHERS SUCH ALLOWING THEM TO BE THE HEAD, AND YOU BEING THE TAIL. IN OTHER WORDS, NOT BEING A LEADER IN FOLLOWING GOD'S WORDS. ALLOWING OTHERS TO INTIMIDATE YOU, ETC.

JOH 8:32 "And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you **free.**"

JOH 8:36 "Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be **free indeed.**

ROM 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me **free** from the law of sin and death. 2CO 3:17 Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is **liberty** (FREEDOM).

WHERE IS THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD?.....IN YOU!!!!!!
IF WE ARE FREE FROM THE LAW....WHY DO WE HAVE THE LAW?

GAL 2:19 "For I **through** the law died to the law that I might live to God.

WHAT OTHER PURPOSE DOES THE LAW HAVE?

ROM 3:19 Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.

CAN WE BE SAVED BY OBEYING THE LAW?

ROM 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin.

THEN HOW ARE WE PURIFIED?

ROM 8:14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

GAL 2:16 "knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

THE LAW IS TO TEACH US WHAT IS SINFUL.

ROM 7:7 What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, "You shall not covet."

BUT THROUGH JESUS WE ARE PURIFIED.

1CO 6:11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

NO LONGER JUDGED BY THE LAW.

ROM 1:17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "The just shall live by faith."

OUR FAITH IN JESUS, HIS FAITH IN THE FATHER.

WE ARE NOT JUDGED BY OUR DEEDS. NOT JUDGED BY THE LAW..WE ARE JUDGED BY FAITH.

DOES THE BIBLE TELL US THAT WE ARE JUDGED BY FAITH OR BY OUR ACTIONS?

ROM 6:3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death?

1PE 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us, namely baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

IF WE TRY TO WORK OUR WAY TO SALVATION, ARE WE PUTTING OURSELVES UNDER A LAW AGAIN?

GAL 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

1PE 2:16 As free, yet not using your liberty as a cloak for vice, but as servants of God.

1CO 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful; all things are lawful for me, but all things do not edify.

II. WE ARE ALSO FREE FROM THE CURSE....FEAR, ILLNESS, POVERTY, ETC.

GAL 3:10 For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them."

DEU 27:26 'Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

GAL 3:13 Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"),

COL 2:14 Having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.

DEU 28:2 "And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, because you obey the voice of the LORD your God:

LET US READ DEUTERONOMY 28:16-68. THESE VERSES LIST THE ORDINANCES FROM WHICH WE ARE DELIVERED BY HIS CROSS. SEE AGAIN COLOSSIANS 2:14. SICKNESS, FEAR, POVERTY, THE LORD NOT HEARING YOU, HAVING YOUR FAMILY TAKEN AWAY FROM YOU, ETC.

THE LORD LOVES YOU AND WANTS TO BLESS YOU, AND DELIVER YOU. FOLLOWING ARE THE BLESSINGS HE WANTS TO BESTOW UPON YOU.

LET US LOOK AT DEUTERONOMY 28. DEU 28:3 "Blessed shall you be in the city, and blessed shall you be in the country.

DEU 28:4 "Blessed shall be the fruit of your body, the produce of your ground and the increase of your herds, the increase of your cattle and the offspring of your flocks.

DEU 28:5 "Blessed shall be your basket and your kneading bowl.

DEU 28:6 "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out.

DEU 28:7 "The LORD will cause your enemies who rise against you to be defeated before your face; they shall come out against you one way and flee before you seven ways.

DEU 28:8 "The LORD will command the blessing on you in your storehouses and in all to which you set your hand, and He will bless you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

DEU 28:9 "The LORD will establish you as a holy people to Himself, just as He has sworn to you, if you keep the commandments of the LORD your God and walk in His ways.

DEU 28:10 "Then all peoples of the earth shall see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they shall be afraid of you.

DEU 28:11 "And the LORD will grant you plenty of goods, in the fruit of your body, in the increase of your livestock, and in the produce of your ground, in the land of which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you.

DEU 28:12 "The LORD will open to you His good treasure, the heavens, to give the rain to your land in its season, and to bless all the work of your hand. You shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow.

DEU 28:13 "And the LORD will make you the head and not the tail; you shall be above only, and not be beneath, if you heed the commandments of the LORD your God, which I command you today, and are careful to observe them.

DEU 28:14 "So you shall not turn aside from any of the words which I command you this day, to the right hand or to the left, to go after other gods to serve them.

ARE YOU FREE? FREE TO CHOOSE!!!!!!

1CO 10:23 All things are lawful for me, but all things are not helpful; all things are lawful for me, but all things do not edify.

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EUGENE P. LA FRANCE, PASTOR

7201 SANDALWOOD DR.

PORT RICHEY FL 34668