

Celebration of Freedom

1. Freedom is costly, today we celebrate the sacrifice that provides that freedom

Matthew 18:7 (NIV) “Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to sin!”

Luke 4:18-19 “The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, for he has anointed me to bring Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim that captives will be released, that the blind will see, that the oppressed will be set free, (19) and that the time of the LORD’s favor has come.”

Ephesians 2:12-13 In those days you were living apart from Christ...You lived in this world without God and without hope. (13) But now you have been united with Christ Jesus. Once you were far away from God, but now you have been brought near to him through the blood of Christ.

2. We honor the person that provides that freedom; Jesus

Romans 5:8 But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.

1 John 2:1-2 My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. (2) He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.

3. Today’s challenge is to uphold and honor the sacrifice by our own sacrifice.

Romans 6:12-13 Do not let sin control the way you live; do not give in to sinful desires. (13) Do not let any part of your body become an instrument of evil to serve sin. Instead, give yourselves completely to God, for you were dead, but now you have new life. So use your whole body as an instrument to do what is right for the glory of God.

1 Timothy 1:15-19 (Message) Here's a word you can take to heart and depend on: Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. I'm proof—Public Sinner Number One— (16) of someone who could never have made it apart from sheer mercy. And now he shows me off—evidence of his endless patience—to those who are right on the edge of trusting him forever. (17) Deep honor and bright glory to the King of All Time— One God, Immortal, Invisible, ever and always. Oh, yes! (18) I'm passing this work on to you, my son Timothy. The prophetic word that was directed to you prepared us for this. All those prayers are coming together now so you will do this well, fearless in your struggle, (19) keeping a firm grip on your faith and on yourself. After all, this is a fight we're in.

Romans 12:1 (NIV) Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

All verses are from “Learning The Ropes” a “New Living Translation” Bible