

Living in Real Freedom

I. "For freedom Christ has set us free ..."

Longing for Freedom?

Endless Options – including *The Madness of King George*

II. "For freedom Christ has set us free - stand firm therefore...."

"Christian liberty is not to be cut off from something - it is to be joined to a new way of living"

The Liberty of Covenantal Love and the Law of God:

²⁵ But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. (James 1)

III. The "Liberty" of Contemporary Christianity

A. Poor Sam: A Modern captive of time and space

"Science has learned...."

B. Poor Sally: Under the tyranny of Post-modern feelings

"Go with your gut" / "You just gotta' have faith!"

IV. Living in the Covenantal Love and Law of God

A. Be rescued from Sam's Folly and Sally's Tyranny

³ to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; ⁴ to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth-- ⁵ Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance..." (Proverbs 1)

¹Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, ² for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. ³ When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, ⁴ he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live. ⁵ Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. ⁶ Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. ⁷ The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight. ⁸ Prize her highly, and she will exalt you; she will honor you if you embrace her. ⁹ She will place on your head a graceful garland; she will bestow on you a beautiful crown. (Proverbs 4)

B. Live the gift of structure

^{2:24} There is nothing better for a person than that he should eat and drink and find enjoyment in his toil. This also, I saw, is from the hand of God.... ^{3:12} I perceived that there is nothing better for them than to be joyful and to do good as long as they live.... ^{3:22} So I saw that there is nothing better than that a man should rejoice in his work, for that is his lot. Who can bring him to see what will be after him?

^{8:15} And I commend joy, for man has nothing better under the sun but to eat and drink and be joyful, for this will go with him in his toil through the days of his life that God has given him under the sun. (Ecclesiastes)

C. Enjoy wisdom in relationships

D. Learn boundaries for protection

V. Life Under a bridge

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