

A Message by Pastor Michael Palmer
Given to Green Ridge Baptist Church
April 17, 2011

**JESUS ALONE GIVES TRUE FREEDOM
BECAUSE HE IS THE SON OF GOD (PART 2)**

John 8:31-59

John 8:31-32 (covered last week)

true belief → abiding or remaining → in His Word → genuine discipleship → knowledge (head and heart) of truth → real freedom from sin and self

I. AS THE SON OF GOD (FULLY GOD, FULLY MAN), JESUS HAS AUTHORITY TO SET ALL FREE WHO COME TO HIM IN GENUINE "FOLLOWERSHIP" (vss. 33-36)

Vs. 34 – ***"Whoever committed sin"*** = sin is a part of our innate fallen nature, the essential wickedness of man. We all commit sins (individual acts) because of our SIN! We need deliverance from the bondage of sin and forgiveness for our sins!

Jesus as THE Son has full authority to set us free. And since this is the Sunday before Easter, let me just say a brief word about that. When Jesus hung on that cruel cross with all of my (our) sins on Him, taking the last dregs of wrath for me, He broke the power of sin. The power of sin is broken for all who come to Christ. And when He rose, He broke the power of death. And since we are in Christ today, death has no power over us!

". . . therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed."

By virtue of His person and position, Jesus has the power to set us free. By demonstration of His love and power (THE CROSS AND RESURRECTION), He accomplishes a great work for us—one that is accepted as full payment for our sin. Through His Person and His Work, we can be made FREE!

No other religion, no other philosophy teaches anything like this. Jesus Christ is the only way to God—the only Person that gives eternal life. Do you know Him? Have you ever truly repented of your sin and given your whole life unconditionally to Him? You can do that right now—today. If you need help, there are people that can help you know how to express your repentance and faith to Jesus. Please come as we invite people to respond during the invitational hymn.

II. THE CLAIM OF RELIGIOUS HERITAGE REFUTED

The Jews (Pharisees) were very proud of their religious heritage: (1) Abraham's descendants (vs. 33); (2) his spiritual children (vs. 39); (3) God's children (vs. 41.)

- They wanted to kill Jesus.
- Jesus' word had no place in them.
- Jesus accused them of doing the deeds of their father (the devil) thereby demonstrating their real spiritual heritage
- Jesus claims to be sent by God.
- The Pharisees try to say Jesus's birth is of fornication—a popular rumor generated by the religious opposition of that day.
- Jesus teaches two things about the devil here:
 - 1) He is a murderer – hate, vicious.
 - 2) He is a liar—slander, gossip, half truth, innuendo, with a view to destroy and hurt.
- In this argument Jesus asks a startling question: "Which of you convicts me of sin?" This is a claim to His sinless nature—which could only be from God!
- Jesus claimed that the reason they could not hear is because their nature was not of God. Behind this is the understanding that they had consecutively over time become more hardened to the truth, substituting their own ideas for God, godliness, what was right and good. The tragedy is that they did so without brokenness to the truth or the Person of God. They were uncircumcised in their heart.

III. THE TRUE GOSPEL, THE AUTHORITY OF JESUS, AND A SALVATION THAT IS ALL OF GOD'S GRACE WILL MAKE RELIGIOUS PEOPLE MAD (vs. 48)

- The invectives against Jesus got worse!
- You spiritual and racial half breed, what do you know? You are just a country preacher who is not learned. In fact, you are even worse . . .
- You are a devil.
- Jesus rebukes them (vss. 49-51).
- Jesus claimed that "Abraham rejoiced to see my day." How did Abraham see the day of Jesus Christ?
 - The covenant to bless all people.
 - The son – Isaac = one who laughs.
 - The son pointed to THE SON.
 - By FAITH he saw.

IV. JESUS IS THE INFINITE, ALWAYS EXISTENT, HOLY, CREATOR, GOD!

"before Abraham was, I AM"

He wants to save you, change you, give you a new life. Only He can do that!

V. KEEPING GOD'S WORD PRODUCES ETERNAL LIFE – REAL LIFE

VI. AMEN AMEN

See verses 34, 51, 58 – **"Most assuredly"** = amen, amen in the Greek.

AMEN =

- 1) An attribute of God – that which is unshakable. He is our AMEN. He is faithful . . . AMEN!
- 2) An expression of agreement whereby men and women express agreement with what God is saying. Not a man thing, but a God thing—not only emotional, but intellectual and volitional (the will). After the conquest of Canaan, the law was read and the people responded by saying AMEN.

What can we learn and apply from this passage today?

1. Jesus really does want to give us freedom from sin and eternal life—a new quality of life now and life forever.
2. We cannot rely on anything within ourselves to put us right with God.
3. "Religion" is man centered and will always produce a bitter response toward Jesus. At least those who are steeped in tradition will be this way.
4. A person can miss Jesus by an initial hardening to the gospel message that results in a continual hardening throughout life. This person can be very religious—even a tither to a local church!
5. It is the PERSON of Christ who saves, not a belief about Christ. When we release the authority of our life to Jesus without conditions, we are saved . . . AMEN!
6. In this chapter Jesus clearly claims to be God. Anyone who says He never claimed that just does not understand this book (John) and the message of the Bible.
7. We must realize that RELIGION abounds. Some just do not know—we can help them "get it." Others are harder and don't want to know.
8. We have a FANTASTIC MESSAGE: Jesus is God, He died on a cross as payment for your sin and rose again. If you repent and trust Him, He will forgive you, change you, and give you eternal life . . . AMEN!

