

Bought at a Price

St. Luke's Lutheran Church; Oakfield, WI

Sermon

July 5th, 2009



1 Corinthians 7:23 You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.

Galatians 5:1 It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.

Freedom is a gift to be cherished. Freedom is a gift given to us that was bought with the blood of another. On this 4th of July weekend our thoughts turn to the freedom we enjoy as American citizens. Yes, it is true our freedoms that we enjoy in our country have been bought with blood, sweat and sacrifice by men and women in the past generations as well as our sons and daughters today. We enjoy the freedom to pursue happiness, free speech, freedom of religion, the right to bear arms, the right to vote etc. But what good are those freedoms if we are still chained to a runaway freight train headed for death and an eternity in hell?

When we Christians think of freedom our mind's eye paints the picture of the cross. On that cross we remember the one and only Son of God who bought our spiritual freedom by his blood sweat and sacrifice. He shattered the chains of sin that held us to that nightmare train to hell. He freed us from our hopeless slavery to guilt, fear and meaningless life. We have been freed from sin death and the power of the devil. We are now free to love and serve our creator according to His Loving Design for us – we are alive and free to live forever! We serve the Lord and love the Lord who we cannot see, by serving and loving His representatives on earth whom we can see.

This weekend we honor the soldiers, senators, governors, presidents and all whose work preserves the peace and freedom of our country because they are God's representatives among us which God uses to bless us. Thank the Lord for the forgiveness we enjoy by picking up the tab the next time you see a soldier at the cash register. Thank the Lord for our freedom from sin by saying thank you to the police officer. Thank the Lord for our freedom to worship Him unhindered by manmade rules, by paying your taxes on time and with a smile on your face. Thank the Lord for our American freedom of speech by praying for President Obama and his cabinet to be a blessing to God's Kingdom.

We were bought at a price – show the Lord proper fear and honor our government.