

Northside Church of Christ

“God is a Spirit; and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”
John 4:24



The “Foolishness of God”

By Mike Riley

In 1 Corinthians 1:25-27, the apostle Paul declared, “Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. For ye see your calling brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called; But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world, to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.”

The “wise,” the “mighty,” and the “noble,” are those who prefer worldly religious systems to the gospel system. Of these classes, there are very few who ever obey the gospel. Seldom do those who take pride in their superior intellectual attainments become interested in the gospel, nor are those who are born to high position in the world, or who achieve it through unusual abilities, attracted to the story of the cross (cf. Acts 4:5-13; Acts 17:18-32).

How many fabulously rich people are in the church today? How many governors, presidents, kings and equally prominent people in our generation are Christians? Such men have little respect for the simple gospel. Further, those who are in the church are such as are regarded by the world as foolish, weak, base and ignorant, and the gospel they honor contemptible (cf. 1 Corinthians 4:8-13). But, this fact emphasizes the truth of the apostle’s argument – that God’s ways are not man’s ways.

The gospel is not compatible with human philosophy; the world by its wisdom, cannot know God (1 Corinthians 1:19-21; cf. Matthew 11:25). By making salvation available through the gospel (not through intricate schemes of human origin), God has put to shame the wise and mighty of the earth, and in so doing, shown how little He regards their efforts to improve the world apart from the gospel. Earthly wisdom has been utilized for centuries in an effort to resolve the problems of life without success; and it has been utterly unable to bring peace and happiness to the world. It is time for men to turn away from their own vain systems and embrace the gospel system of salvation – the only way to obtain eternal life (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 1:18; 1 Peter 1:3-5).

SUNDAY MORNING

Triple E
Edify, Exhort,
Evangelize
4 Square
8:30 AM

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY

II Timothy
9:30 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Worship Service
10:30 AM

WEDNESDAY NIGHT

The Acts of the
Apostles
7:00 PM



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“Study to shew thyself
approved unto God, a
workman that needeth
not to be ashamed,
rightly dividing the word
of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

Northside Church of Christ
4217 Highway 39 N
Meridian, MS 39301

Place
Stamp
Here

Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death

By Mike Riley

The historic conclusion of Patrick Henry's address in 1775 at Richmond, Virginia rings true to us living today. He concluded, "Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me – give me liberty or give me death!"

There Are Only Two Choices

In the reality of human existence, there are indeed only two choices for each of us – liberty or death. Those of us who have attained personal accountability, stand condemned before God because of our sins. By inspiration, Paul pronounced, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23 – NKJV). The sins we have committed stand us worthy of a frightening penalty, "For the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). The only relief from this death sentence is to be freed from that which condemns us to it – our sin. Ironically, that freedom requires a death of its own. Paul beautifully illustrates this death when he states in Romans 6:3-7, "Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old man was crucified with Him, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin."

Christ Gives Us "Liberty" From Sin

Christ, who knew no sin, died to liberate us from our sins (2 Corinthians 5:21). To gain that liberty, we must die with Him, crucifying our former sin-condemned self through repentance, then burying the "old man" through baptism into the death of Jesus. Because our sinful self has died and been buried with Christ, we who have undergone this process stand freed – at liberty – from sin. Liberty from sin, however, does not imply liberty to do whatever we please (Galatians 5:1,13; 1 Peter 2:16; 1 Corinthians 8:9). In fact, the totally opposite is true; "God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18). You see, by freeing us from our enslavement to sin, Christ has liberated us for the privilege of becoming enslaved to Him and to His commands. Some would complain that that's not much of a trade – one slavery for another. But when the alternative is spiritual death (eternal separation from God – Isaiah 59:2), that's actually an excellent exchange.

Freedom From Sin Requires Obedience

As Paul in Romans 6:17 illustrates, our liberty is not acquired by being passive. Becoming free requires action on our part – obedience from the heart of that to which we have been delivered by the instruction of God's word. That obedient action entails what Paul described earlier in the chapter – being baptized into Christ Jesus, into His death (Romans 6:3). Even our Lord emphasized the importance of baptism being relative to our salvation when He said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned" (Mark 16:16).

Conclusion

When we look at sin, it is important to realize that there is no "gray area" in God's eyes. We are either free from sin, through God's grace in Christ, or we die in sin – "Liberty or death," as Patrick Henry put it. And as Mr. Henry noted, the outcome depends on what course we choose to take. We can choose either to die to sin and live in Christ, obeying His will, or we can turn a dead ear to the Lord's commands, remain disobedient, and die in our sins (John 8:24; Luke 13:3; Mark 16:16). Dear reader, which do you choose? (cf. Deuteronomy 30:15-19).

Announcements

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Prayer Requests This Week

- Pray for all those with ongoing health ailments
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Communion Preparation

- Sign up sheet for 2022 is in foyer
- July - Potts

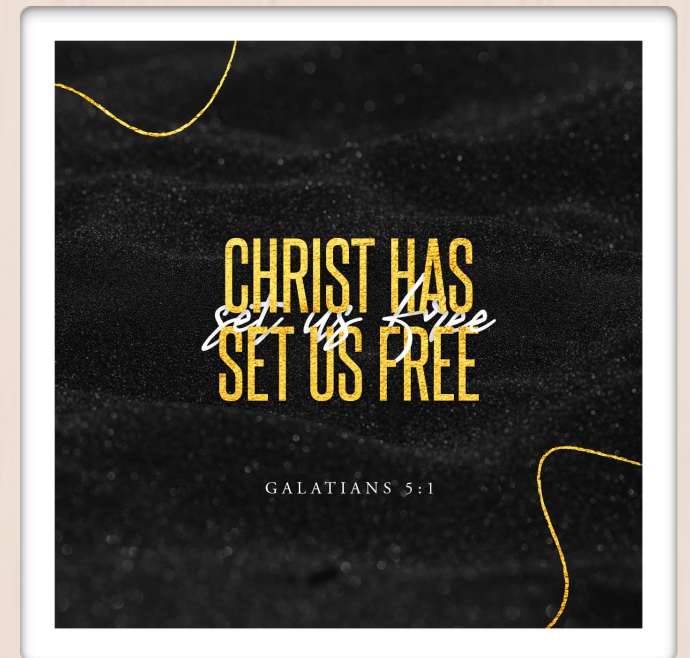
July Birthdays & Anniversary's

- Tristan Rowell - 6th
- Chuck Rowell - 11th
- Ryan and Kylie Joiner - 26th

Every Sunday Morning

@ 8:00 AM

on WTOK-TV



Sermon Notes

Men to Serve

Announcements/Opening Prayer - Don Potts
 Scripture Reading - Galatians 5:1 - 6
 Lead Singing - Chuck Rowell
 Head of Lord's Table - Rick Carlberg
 Assist on Lord's Table - James Johnson
 Scripture Reading - Luke 22:14 - 22
 Closing Prayer - Shay Cooper

Comcast Cable	6
Comcast Cable	431
Comcast Cable	1011
DirecTV	11
DirecTV	396
Dish Network	11
Over-the-air	11.3