

True freedom in God

1. The fall of man.

"God created man ... male and female created he them [Adam and Eve]",¹ and gave him a free will to obey His command — "[O]f the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it".²

The Word of God is "the law of [God's] mouth",³ "the perfect law of liberty".⁴ When Adam disobeyed, his heart (inner man — spirit and soul) became corrupted. "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world [i.e. the system of man], and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned".⁵ "[S]in is the transgression of the law".⁶

2. The current state of man before God.

"For the wages of sin is death"⁷ which is separation from God. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God".⁸

From the fall of man, "the whole world lieth in wickedness."⁹ "Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them."¹⁰ In this state, mankind is unable to reach out to God because each person's "heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked".¹¹ Men are "the servants of sin"¹² and "bring forth fruit unto death."¹³

¹ Gen. 1:27 ² Gen. 2:17 ³ Ps. 119:72 ⁴ James 1:25 ⁵ Rom. 5:12 ⁶ 1Jn 3:4
⁷ Rom. 6:23 ⁸ Isa. 59:2 ⁹ 1Jn 5:19 ¹⁰ Gal. 3:10 ¹¹ Jer. 17:9 ¹² Rom. 6:17
¹³ Rom. 7:5

4. Man must respond to the Gospel.

Man cannot earn salvation from sin through works. "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us".²⁹ The Gospel (the Good News about what God has done) must be believed for it to work in the heart of man and make him "in Christ ... a new creature"³⁰ before God.

Man must acknowledge that he is a sinner (i.e. a servant of sin) under the curse and in need of salvation as provided by the Lord Jesus Christ. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation"³¹ "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."³² God will then do His part and completely cleanse the sinner and make him into a righteous saint (i.e. in right standing with God). "[Y]e were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart ... Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."³³

5. Man's new responsibility.

A believer in Christ must guard his heart against the entrance of sin. "Keep thy heart with all diligence"³⁴ by feeding on God's Word, the Bible, and believing what God has to say in every area of life. "[D]esire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby".³⁵ "I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way."³⁶ The new heart must be kept soft before God, so that the "fruit unto holiness"³⁷ is then displayed and others are influenced for God.

²⁹ Titus 3:5 ³⁰ 2Cor. 5:17 ³¹ 2Cor. 7:10 ³² Mark 16:16 ³³ Rom. 6:17, 18
³⁴ Prov. 4:23 ³⁵ 1Pet. 2:2 ³⁶ Ps. 119:128 ³⁷ Rom. 6:22

Fallen mankind is now "guilty before God",¹⁴ "condemned already",¹⁵ and deserving of God's wrath. All who stay under this penalty of sin will suffer "the second death",¹⁶ "in hell ... being in torments".¹⁷ "The wicked shall be turned into hell".¹⁸

3. God's solution to man's sin problem.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."¹⁹ "Christ hath redeemed us [i.e. bought us back] from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us".²⁰ On the cross, Jesus "bare our sins in his own body".²¹ There is "one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all".²² Hence, "we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins".²³

Christ's blood was the precious payment needed to completely cleanse and make new the heart of man. "Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."²⁴ "A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit ... and cause you to walk in my statutes".²⁵ Now, mankind is to have "faith in his blood"²⁶ to be saved.

When Jesus "rose again"²⁷ from the dead, He legally ratified before the court of Heaven that the work of salvation had been done to redeem man from the curse. "Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."²⁸

¹⁴ Rom. 3:19 ¹⁵ John 3:18 ¹⁶ Rev. 20:14 ¹⁷ Luke 16:23 ¹⁸ Ps. 9:17
¹⁹ John 3:16 ²⁰ Gal. 3:13 ²¹ 1Pet. 2:24 ²² 1Tim. 2:5, 6 ²³ Col. 1:14
²⁴ John 3:3 ²⁵ Ezek. 36:26, 27 ²⁶ Rom. 3:25 ²⁷ 1Cor. 15:4 ²⁸ Rom. 5:9

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Victory Faith Centre holds Church services, 10 am Sunday and 7 pm Tuesday at 313 Bellerine Street South Geelong.

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