

## **The Truth Will Set You Free (*Part 2*)**

***John 8:31-38***

***Thought for the Day:*** We are set free from the penalty of sin, the power of sin, and ultimately, the very presence of sin, by putting our faith in Jesus Christ as the Savior of our soul and the Lord of our life.

Jesus taught that, if we commit sin, we are slaves to sin (vs. 34). How can we be set free from bondage to sin?

**31 So Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."**

➤ **From what do we need to be set free?**

**34 Jesus answered them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin."**

- We need to be set free from the penalty of sin.
  - The penalty of sin is death. (Romans 6:23; 5:12)
  - The Bible describes three types of death:
    - 1) Physical death – separation of the soul from the body.
    - 2) Spiritual death – separation of a person from God.
    - 3) Eternal death – separation of a person from God for eternity in the Lake of Fire (the Second Death – Revelation 2:11; 20:6, 14; 21:8).
  - Scripture is very clear that we have all sinned—we all deserve the death penalty! (Romans 3:23; 1 John 1:8-10)
- We need to be set free from the power of sin.
  - Without Jesus Christ, we are slaves to the passions of our bodies; we are in bondage to the evil desires of our sinful nature. (Rom. 6:12-13; Eph. 2:1-3)
- We need to be set free from the very presence of sin.
  - This will happen when we enter into the presence of the Lord at death or by means of the Rapture.
  - When we enter into the Lord's presence, we will be like Him both physically and spiritually. We will have a glorified, eternal body, and we will have a purified, sinless nature. (1 John 3:1-3)
  - When we see the Lord, we will receive our glorified bodies and we will be completely set free from our fallen sinful nature. (Romans 8:28-30)

➤ **What is "the truth" that will set us free from the penalty, power, and presence of sin?**

**36 So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.**

- Jesus is "the truth"—He is the only One who can truly set us free from sin!
  - John 14:6 – "Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

- Jesus sets us free from the penalty of sin by paying that penalty through His death on the cross. (1 Corinthians 15:3; Romans 5:8)
- Jesus sets us free from the power of sin by giving us His Holy Spirit who enables us to put our sinful nature to death as we submit to Him and allow Him to empower and lead us. (Galatians 5:16-18)
- Jesus will set us free from the very presence of sin when He returns to take His bride to be with Him in heaven at the soon-coming Rapture of the Church. (1 Corinthians 15:50-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

“When Jesus spoke of ‘know[ing] the truth,’ he was speaking of knowing God's revelation to man. This revelation is embodied in Jesus himself, the Word; therefore, to know the truth is to know Jesus. The truth is not political freedom or intellectual knowledge. Knowing the truth means accepting it, obeying it, and regarding it above all earthly opinion. Doing so offers true spiritual freedom from sin and death.

“Believers become truly free because they are free to do God's will, and thus fulfill God's ultimate purpose in their lives. As believers, we have the Holy Spirit living within us and guiding us on our journey through life. In fact, later in John 16:13, Jesus specifically identified the Holy Spirit as ‘the Spirit of truth’ who will ‘guide you into all truth’ (NIV).

“So Jesus promised freedom from slavery to sin. That freedom begins when we acknowledge our bondage to sin. Only God can free us through his forgiveness, which he made possible by Christ's death in our place on the cross. Jesus' sacrifice did not free us ‘to do our own thing;’ rather he freed us from doing our own thing so that we could serve him!” (*The Life Application Commentary Series*)