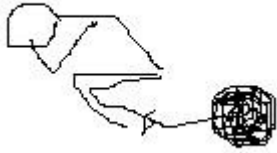


Perhaps the most important day of celebration for a country is when it gained its independence from oppression and tyranny. Its people were then free to live under the rule of their choice and free from tribute. They could practice their own religion, read their own literature, and live as they are meant.



Real freedom does not come cheap. Many soldiers, slaves, and common people have fought against oppressing forces. Some knew that they would never taste freedom themselves, that their cost was total and irrevocable. Yet they struggled on so that others might live without shackles. We have monuments and holidays to honor these patriots.

There is a tyranny that is more invasive than one country ruling over another. It destroys lives and families. Yet we cannot free ourselves from it. No army has been able to conquer it.

This tormenter pervades our thoughts, actions, and desires. Try going one day without saying a wrong word, becoming angry, or being selfish. Do you always give completely of yourself to help others? This tormenter is sin and Romans 3:23 proclaims,

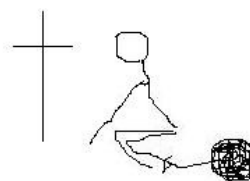
“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”

Sin is far harsher than any worldly oppressor. How many families have been destroyed by alcohol, gambling, or adultery? How many lives have been devoured by bitterness, jealousy, or unforgiveness?

If a soldier in battle is shot dead then shooting him hundreds of more times does not make him anymore dead; that first bullet was all that it took. And as he lies there he is completely powerless to do anything to raise himself from the dead.

Sin is like that bullet. The first time that we sin we become spiritually dead. Isaiah 59:2 declares, “For your sins have made a separation between you and your God.” The additional sins that we commit do not make us any more spiritually dead. We are either spiritually alive or spiritually dead; there is no in-between.

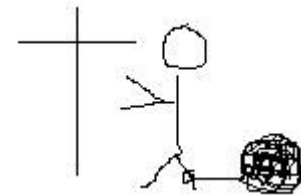
James 2:10 says, “For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles in one point, he has become guilty of all.” This does not say that if our bad deeds outweigh our good deeds then we are doomed. There are no scales. One wrong act and we are completely guilty.



Spiritually, we are like that soldier lying dead in the field. We are unable to do anything to make ourselves spiritually alive. We are utterly helpless.

We need a hero. We need someone who is stronger than the tyrant, who will make any sacrifice, and who cares enough to do this.

There was only one who never sinned. He never once had a vengeful thought even though He was beaten mercilessly. He never gave a harsh response even though He was rejected by His own friends and family. He never gossiped, became bitter, or hated. This man was Jesus Christ. He was born a baby so that He might free us from sin.



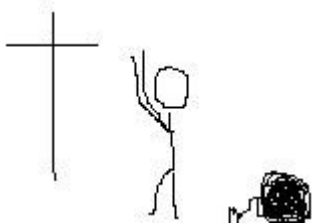
God is not an unjust and oppressive tyrant, but each time that we disobey we commit a crime against Him. Because God is perfectly holy the penalty for each crime is infinite. The result of even one sin is that we owe an debt that we cannot pay.

So we are in a dilemma; we owe an impossible debt yet we are spiritually dead. Is there any hope?

There are two ways to attempt to pay off an infinite debt. One is a payment that is infinite in quantity. The only thing that we have that is infinite is our time. So if we try to pay off sin's debt it requires an eternity in Hell.

The other way is by a sacrifice of something that is infinite in quality. Only God is of infinite quality. He willingly offered Himself as the payment for our sin. 2 Corinthians 5:21 reads, "He [God the Father] made Him [God the Son—Jesus Christ] who knew no sin [Jesus was perfectly holy] to be sin [Jesus paid the full debt] on our behalf [because He loves us], that we might become the righteousness of God in Him [that we can be free from sin's eternal penalty]."

Sin is conquered and those who were spiritually dead are now alive!



But like a slave whose chains have been unlocked we have a choice: we can stay in our dungeon of sin or we can receive the

freedom that God freely offers. To be forgiven Romans 10:9 promises "that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved." The choice is yours.

Once you have chosen Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior then get a Bible and read it every day, find a conservative church that teaches the Bible, pray often, and rejoice that you have eternal life.

If you would like more information then please contact us.

Independence Day



Freedom from Tyranny --
Remembering Those Who Gave



The stronger the tyrant, the
greater the conquering hero



The greater the sacrifice, the
higher the love and the more
worthy of honor