

FIND TRUE FREEDOM

Redemption is wrought by God, and not by man. There is not any place in the head of a man, or in the fingers of a man, however skilled or brilliant, for redemptive plans or purposes. God purposed redemption in Christ Jesus before the world began, and it does not need any editing on my part, or on the part of any living man.

True religion is not discovered or conscripted by man. Christianity grows downward from heaven, not upward from the earth. It does not stand upon the earth. Its roots are in heaven, so that man has nothing to say here at all. True religion is revealed from above.

Man has constructed many religions throughout the world, and some are very beautiful and meaningful, but they are not redemptive religions. God said, "This true religion which you are to enjoy comes from heaven above and all you are to do now is simply let the light above shine down and reflect the glory that is above.

Salvation is received from God, and not achieved by men. If men had achieved salvation even a little bit, God would have said Moses, "I'm giving you a 99% perfect blueprint. You can doodle a little and write in and improvise and put in anything you want to put in because I allow you 1%". Rather, God said, "No Moses, I give you a plan that is 100% from Jehovah your God, so don't take any liberties with the pattern".

Heaven will tell earth how to live. Remember that. Heaven speaks and it is for earth to listen. Heaven commands, and it is only for earth to obey, not to ask questions. Heaven calls and it is for earth to answer. Heaven invites and it is for earth to respond to the invitation.

The New Testament Church has also been handed the pattern, consisting of things eternally true, revealed by God. Commandments laid down by God, eternally true, and true for all nations, for each single nation and for all persons and for each single person, and true under all conditions, and not relative.

We have today what is called the relativity of morals. When you come to the things of God, open your Bible, and put away this woozy idea of relativity, this floating standard of morals. When God speaks, let the world listen. "Oh earth, hear the Word of the Lord".

Our admonition is, do not doodle the plan. Do not improvise. Do not stick in a single board or plank. Do not put one thread into the garment of God. Do not dare lay one foundation, or put one pillar upright, except God tells you to do it. Do not deviate from the pattern given by God Himself.

There is only one side to what God says. And that is God's side. We, therefore, dare not allow ourselves to take another side and begin debating. The Word of the Lord is not debatable. And the commandments of Christ are not there to be discussed by a panel. They are there to be obeyed, in humility, and tears, and with the power of the Holy Ghost within us.

This is where you find true freedom. Not making it up as you go along, but discovering the immutable, unchanging decrees of God. The Word of the Lord stands. Here it is. What are you going to do about it? “The Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” “These are my Words” says God, “and let no man add anything to them lest he be cursed. And let no man take anything away”. God's Words are not for you and me to edit and tinker with, but to believe, and obey.

We are committed to the Bible pattern, and no man has any authority to add anything to it. No man has any authority to subtract anything from it, or alter it in any way, to remold it nearer to his heart's desire.

Some people are afraid of this kind of teaching. They do not want to be confined, or fenced in. They feel that to hold any dogmatic view like this is to be narrow, tame and static. That is the devil's argument, because the answer to it all is that the misery in the world is a result of our not believing God's pattern.

All the miseries of the world come originally from the human race not following the pattern shown on the mount. God laid down a few certain rules for them, and said: “If you want to live in the light of my Face live like this”. Of course, everybody thought they knew better. Eve thought she knew better than the rest, and the result is the mess we are in.

The effect is people thinking they know better than God about things, taking things out of God's hands and taking them into their own. If Adam and his people had obeyed the pattern on the mountain and lived the way God told him to, there would be no cold war, and no hot war, and no graveyards and no bereavement and no cancers and no tuberculosis and no murders.

God has given us this wonderful world with its high peaks of snowcapped mountains, and arched over them the star-studded sky, and made the winds to blow through her valleys, and clothed her in green and decked her with flowers. And he has said: "This is yours now. Everything you put your foot on belongs to you. I've given this to the sons of men".

If you come to know God, you can go on to know God, because we are not dealing with matter, space, time, law and motion. We are dealing with the eternal God who made both the visible and invisible. Take all the creatures God ever made from the holy watchers beside the throne, to the amoeba in the sea, they could all search into God for millions of years in eternities to come and not have found, or even touched the hem of His garment.

Let men out in the world stagnate, but Christians do not stagnate. We have God, the everlasting, self-renewing fountain that never gets stale. Our mistake, and the mistake we have made all down through history, is in thinking that we know better than God.

God says: "See that you make it after the pattern" and we say: "well, we will partly do that. We are glad for the inspiration of the pattern, sure. It is wonderful to have the inspiration of the pattern. But we do not think that it is necessary to stay by the pattern. Because if we do we'll stagnate".

If that is true, then the one that goes furthest from the pattern ought to be the happiest and freest man. But you know that is not so. If it is true that keeping the Word of the Lord binds us and makes slaves out of us, and repudiating the Word of the Lord and breaking the commandments of Christ sets us free, then the man who is the furthest from God ought to be the freest man. But it is exactly the other way around.

The man who is furthest from God is the greatest slave. If the drug addict says let's cast God's chords off, he has been temporarily freed from the commandments of God but has a monkey on his back. He's now a slave to drugs or alcohol or whatever.

The four Gospels, the Book of Acts, Romans, the Corinthian Epistles, Galatians, Thessalonians, the Epistles of John and all the rest are patterns shown us in the mount. "He that has my commandments, keeps them. He it is that loves Me, and he that loves Me shall be loved by My Father and I will love him and will manifest Myself to him. If a man loves me, he will keep My

Words and My Father will love him. And We will come to him and make our home with him”.

The man to whom God has come and in whose heart God dwells is a free man compared with the man who is trying to be free in his own right. The murderer, the drunkard, the drug addict, and the suicide, they are free from the commandments of Christ, but they are slaves to the devil. The Christian, according to Paul and Christian experience, gets free from the bondage of Satan and becomes a happy servant of Jesus Christ the Lord.

Be careful to follow the pattern shown on the mount. That is where true freedom is found. Listen to people and you will go wrong. Listen to editors and those who feel they must amend the word of God how much change the truth and modify it, and you will go wrong. You will come under bondage to yourself, to the world, and to the devil. However, if you will go free, you will find that freedom lies in obedience to God's laws. Therefore, the Christian is free when he's obeying his Lord.

Keeping the law makes us free. Breaking the law makes us slaves. So it is with the stars in heaven that shine above. If you obey the pattern shown in the mount, you will be free and happy and completely at rest and be able to develop all of the hidden potentials that lie within your own nature. But if you refuse, if you fail, or if you let the word of God stay outside your knowledge, you will find yourself in inevitable bondage.

Regarding God's Word, let us love it and live in it and eat it and drink it and lie down on it and walk on it and stand on it and swear by it and live by it and rest in it. This is the Book of God. “Look that you make them after their pattern, which was shown you on the mount”. Clean up your life. Bring it around to the harmony of God.

Let us determine to obey God and do what we are told to do. Let us have faith and believe. Let us not make the mistake of mixing the two, of trying to believe what we should do and do what we should believe. There are things to do and there are things to believe. We must believe God's Word and we must obey it.

Very few Christians are prepared to go with God all the way. They go part of the way and then improvise. They follow the Lord until things look a little sticky and then they say, “Well there's no use to get radical about this and

being a fanatic. I think I can reason this out myself. So, they have a panel discussion and decide what the Lord really should have said. The result is, of course, lukewarmness, which God will spew out of his mouth.

Let us return to the Book. Or rather, let us go forward to the Book, for we lag so far behind it. Thank God for the Book. See that you do all things after the pattern shown on the mount. See that your faith conforms to God's revelation. See that your footsteps walk in God's path. If you do that, God will be an enemy to your enemies, and an adversary to your adversaries. And God will look after you.

True and undiluted freedom finds itself in the presence of God. Following the pattern set for us in God's Word will bring us into God's presence, where we will discover this freedom. Every generation seeks for something new, when really, they are seeking for something "other". It is this presence of God that is the "other" which each generation seeks and longs for, if only they knew it.