

LIFE, LIBERTY AND THE PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS

In the July Bible Study we celebrated the Declaration of Independence and the questions that surround the “equality of men” so this study will focus on the “life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness”.

So what is this “liberty and the pursuit of happiness”. Liberty is defined by Webster as: “ *the state of being free; the power to do as one pleases; the power of choice*”. These words – “liberty and freedom” – are misunderstood and misused so often to become “self-serving”. Do they really mean “to do whatever pleases you and that there are no consequences for your actions” ? I do not believe that is the case, but it has become the reality of today.

In Matthew 16: 24 – 27 we read: Jesus told his disciples, “*If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life ?*”

DENY THEMSELVES ! How is that “freedom” ? Remember “the power of choice” ! To obey God is a “choice” ! Many people are “making bad choices” because they do not “hear the word of God and are not following the Holy Spirit !

John 3: 3; Jesus said to Nicodemus, “*Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.*” John 8:31; “*Jesus said to the Jews who believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth; and the truth will set you free.’*”

So live truly “free in Christ” and not in the false freedom of this world. The Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 12: 1-2; “*I appeal to you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect.*”

THEN YOU WILL KNOW WHAT FREEDOM IS !