

LBCF 21:1 – The Definition of Christian Liberty

Michael Woody | Aug 5-12, 2018

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The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel, consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the rigour and curse of the law, and in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin, from the evil of afflictions, the fear and sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation: as also in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto Him, not out of slavish fear, but a child-like love and willing mind.

All which were common also to believers under the law for the substance of them; but under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected, and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of.

SURVEY OF SCRIPTURE

1. The liberty which Christ hath purchased for believers under the gospel, consists in their freedom from the guilt of sin, the condemning wrath of God, the rigour and curse of the law (John 3:36; Rom. 8:33; Gal. 3:13)
2. and in their being delivered from this present evil world, bondage to Satan, and dominion of sin (Gal. 1:4; Eph. 2:1-3; Col. 1:13; Acts 26:18; Rom. 6:14-18; 8:3)
3. from the evil of afflictions, the fear and sting of death, the victory of the grave, and everlasting damnation (Rom. 8:28; 1 Cor. 15:54-57; 1 Thess. 1:10; Heb. 2:14-15)
4. as also in their free access to God, and their yielding obedience unto Him, not out of slavish fear, but a child-like love and willing mind. (Eph. 2:18; 3:12; Rom. 8:15; 1 John 4:18)

5. All which were common also to believers under the law for the substance of them (John 8:32; Ps. 19:7-9; 119:14, 24, 45, 47, 48, 72, 97; Rom. 4:5-11; Gal. 3:9; Heb. 11:27, 33-34)
6. but under the New Testament the liberty of Christians is further enlarged, in their freedom from the yoke of a ceremonial law, to which the Jewish church was subjected, and in greater boldness of access to the throne of grace, and in fuller communications of the free Spirit of God, than believers under the law did ordinarily partake of. (John 1:17; Heb. 1:1-2a; 7:19, 22; 8:6, 9:23, 11:40; Gal. 2:11; 4:1-3; Col 2:16-17; Heb. 10:19-21; John 7:38-39)

WHAT DOES THIS TEACH US?

1. From the _____ and the _____ of sin. (Eph. 1:7)
2. From the condemning _____ of _____. (Eph. 2:2-3; Romans 8:1; 5:10)
3. From the curse of the law as a _____ covenant. (Gal. 3:10, 13, Romans 6:14; 7:6)
4. From this present evil world. (Gal 1:4; 6:14)
5. From bondage to Satan. (Isa 61:1; Col 1:13)
6. From the evil of _____. (Psalm 119:71; Rom. 8:28; Heb. 12:6-11; 2 Cor 4:7)
7. From the _____ of death. (Heb. 9:28; John 11:25-26)
8. From the _____ of the grave. (Job 19:26-27; 1 Cor. 15:20; 15:54)
9. From everlasting _____. (Ps. 9:17; Matt 25:41; John 5:24; 1 Thess. 1:10)
10. Believers have also _____ to God. (Eph. 3:12)
11. Believers have freedom of spirit in the _____ of God. (2 Cor. 3:17; Gal. 3:17; 4:3; 5:1; Heb. 4:16; 10:19; John 7:39; Isa. 44:3; Joel 2:28-29)