

## **“How the Truth Sets Us Free”**

John 8:31-36

Sunday Evening, July 15, 2018

**Introduction:** “Always tell the truth, that way you don’t have to remember what you said.” My mother ingrained that in me. Always telling the truth is one of the most liberating things in life. As important as telling the truth is, knowing the truth is more important. If you do not know the truth, you can’t tell the truth. Not only that, but if you do not know the truth you may believe a lie. In our Scripture tonight, Jesus shows the power of knowing the truth.

**Text:** John 8:31-36

- The Greek word *meno* is translated in most of our English Bible as “abide” or “continue.”
- The word *meno* conveys the idea of being rooted, unmoving, stable.
- Jesus mentions two benefits of abiding or continuing in obedience to Scripture in our text.
  1. “know the truth” (v.32)—“Truth includes the facts of Jesus as the Messiah and Son of God and His teachings.
  2. “Truth makes you free.”
- These Jewish people responded in verse thirty-three. Their response was not completely true. Their history had been one of bondage. The Jews had been in bondage in Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Greece, Syria, and Rome.
- The kind of slavery Jesus was talking about was not physical slavery, but slavery to sin. (See Romans 6:17,18).
- The phrase “whoever commits sin is a slave of sin” in verse thirty-four refers to practicing sin habitually.
- The Jews thought of themselves as free sons of Abraham when in reality they were slaves of sin.
- Then Jesus said, “If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed” (v.36).

**T.S.** Tonight, we look at four things that the truth sets us free from.

### **1. The truth sets us free from sin.**

- Remember “truth” refers to the facts of Jesus as Messiah and Son of God and His teachings.

- The Bible says, “We have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sin” (Colossians 1:14).
- What did Jesus teach about “truth” in our text?
- Jesus taught that the truth would make you free (v.32).
- In Christ, we are free from our sin debt. We are also free from the power and control of sin. This means that we no longer must sin. How is this possible? The answer is in 1 John 4:4.

“He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world” (1 John 4:4).

**Illustration:** In the mid-eighties, I had an experience that illustrates what I am saying. It involves a golf fundraiser I played in with Dottie’s brother Wayne. (To hear the story, listen to the sermon on the church web page [www.fbp.org](http://www.fbp.org)).

**Application:** We have something better than a pill to swallow. We have Jesus who never sinned living in us to empower us to do what in our power we cannot do.

**T.S.** The person, the work, and the teachings of Jesus set us free from sin.

## 2. The truth sets us free from bitterness.

- Remember “truth” refers to the facts about Jesus as Messiah and Son of God and His teachings.
- What did Jesus teach about bitterness?
- He taught it best on the cross.
- “Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do” (Luke 23:34).

**Illustration:** Bitterness is one of the chief ways we grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30-31).

**Application:** The way to be “bitterness free” is to totally forgive those who have hurt you. You can’t do it, but the power of the Holy Spirit living in you can empower you to do it. The condition: No unconfessed, otherwise, His anointing is not there. The Holy Spirit can free you from bitterness.

**Illustration:** One of the times in my life that I became bitter was in Seminary. (To hear the story, listen to the sermon on the church web page [www.fbp.org](http://www.fbp.org)).

**Conclusion:** We must remember that God is sovereign. We must see and believe that whatever comes in life God has allowed. See things as a test and refuse to become bitter.