

**SCRIPTURE: 1 Peter 2:11-25**

**SERMON: The Free Exercise of Religion**

5 July 2015

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**INTRODUCTION: BITTER FRUIT** (Rm.1:18f; 24,26,28 /1C6:9-11; Dn9:5f(Ezk14:14,20) /2Chr7:12-14)

**I. CHRISTIAN LIBERTY: WON BY CHRIST** (Jn.8:34f; Lk.4:1f (1Cor.10:13); Rom.8:2,17; Acts 26:18; 1Th.1:10)

**II. LIBERTY OF CONSCIENCE: GIVEN BY GOD** (Gen.1:26f; 2:7f; Ex.20:1f; Mt.6:9f; Lk.20:22; Rom.13:5; 1Cor.12:3; see *WCF*,c.20,para.2)

**III. FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION WHEN RIGHTEOUSNESS IS ILLEGAL: CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE** (Ex.1:17f; 1Kngs.18:4f; Est.4:11,16f; 5:2; 8:4; Dan.3:12f; 6:10; Mt.2:8,12; Acts 5:29; Heb.10:32-38; 11:23,27; see 1Pt.2:20f)

**IV. COST OF LIBERTY: SUFFERING** (Mt.5:10-16,44; Lk.12:4f; 1Pt.2:11,12; 20f; 3:15-17; 4:19,12f; e.g., Dan.3:12f; 6:10f; Acts 5:29f,40,42; 7:54f; 8:1f(26:11); 1Cor.4:11f; Heb.11:32f,37)

**V. DELIVERANCE INTO & OUT OF OPPRESSORS: JUDGES** (Jdgs.3:6-11 (2Sam.7:1); Ps.107; Rom. 1:18f; 24,26,28; 2Chr.36:16f; see Assyria, Babylon; Is.10:5f; Jer.50:23; 52:20f)

**CONCLUSION: NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIFE** (1Pt.2:11f,21f; 4:12f; see Lk.9:23; 6:27-36; Rm.5:8)

Discussion question:

*Brethren, what shall **WE do?** (see Acts 2:37f)*