

Introduction

- Evangelism = gospel = good news...today the good news of our liberation
- according to Wikipedia, there are over 140 "Independence Days" celebrated in the world
- Ours is marked by a "declaration of independence" from British rule in 1776
- Such a declaration assumes previous conditions considered as unfavorable, even that of oppression, slavery, or servitude
- What are all of these? They are an expression of desire for freedom from tyranny and liberation to live free to pursue what is true, good, and beautiful (whatever that ideal may be in the minds of those who declare)
- I would suggest that these are an expression of something deep in our humanity, but which such socio political actions do not fulfill
- We'll consider this morning the Scripture's declaration of another kind of liberation, that from sin and its consequences
- We can term this liberation, or a more common biblical term "redemption"; the GOSPEL is the proclamation of such liberation/redemption

The Old Testament Theme of Redemption

- In following through a biblical theology of redemption, the clearest and most highlighted example is that of Israel from Egypt
- We remember that under Joseph, the children of Abraham (the 12 tribes) were led for their preservation into Egypt
- As the story progresses, Israel is eventually seen as a threat as they grow in number and power, and a Pharaoh who does not have an appreciation for Joseph and what he did in helping preserve Egypt responds by making them slaves
- The Jews are then found, in the opening chapters of Exodus, as forced slaves who have become a primary workforce
- As God raises up Moses as a "redeemer" and liberator, God Himself uses this terminology – Ex6:6 15:13
- The phrase "house of bondage" is used (13x), especially in Pentateuch, to describe their place in Egypt
- After the Pentateuch, as the biblical writers reflect on this momentous event, it becomes the central theme of God's work on behalf of His people
- Ps19:14 (God is redeemer) 103:4 (redeems life from destruction) 106:10 (redeemed from hand of enemy) Is43:1 (do not fear)
- As Israel is oppressed by the surrounding nations as they have settled into the promised land, there is an ongoing expectation for the Lord to again redeem them from the hand of their enemies

The New Testament Theme of Redemption

- It isn't surprising that during the time of Jesus the Jews were expecting a redeemer/liberator in Messiah/Davidic King who would help them overthrow Rome - Lk1:68 (the prophecy of Zacharias)
- As the ministry of Jesus unfolds, it is clear that something different is taking place; something deeper and more profound
- One of the clearest statements of this is found in Jn8:31-36
- It is the truth that will set them free – they object
- Jesus makes this an issue of slavery to sin – the one who sins is a slave of sin – from which the Son sets free
- In the end, this will not do for many of the Jews; it is too "spiritual" and they will reject Jesus because He is not the kind of liberator/redeemer they want
- What Jesus comes to bring is what Heb9:12 calls "eternal redemption"
- A continuing problem with a nation declaring its independence from bondage is that they almost immediately are exposed to bondage of another form – this isn't primarily because of a political problem, but it is a sin problem (here, almost any structure will work if it wasn't for sin)
- So what is this redemption?

Gospel Redemption

- First and foremost we exalt and worship and honor the one who is the Redeemer, Jesus Christ – 1Cor1:30 1Pet1:18
- 1.) Redemption/liberation from the **Just Condemnation** for Sin (past/present) – Rom3:24 8:1
- 2.) Redemption/liberation from the **Eternal Consequences** of Sin (future) – Rom8:23 Eph1:14 4:30
- **Illustration:** Wolverine in being executed - there are temporary consequences, but not eternal through the resurrection
- 3.) Redemption/liberation from the **Inescapable Captivity** of Sin – Col 1:13-14 Tit2:14 Rom6:16-18
- delivered from the power of darkness, every lawless deed, no longer slaves of sin

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- If you have come to Christ by faith – YOU are free!
 - The wonderful thing about seeing our struggles is sin is that there is HOPE! To point them out is not cruel, but merciful
 - If you have not yet cast yourself in mercy, then you are still under condemnation, will suffer the consequences, and are in the captivity of sin
 - I have GOOD NEWS! If the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed!
 - This is good news that we have to tell others; this should give us great confidence in proclaiming the Gospel
 - Think of this paradigm when speaking to others