

## **Blessed boundaries**

*And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts.  
Psalm 119:45*

There are those who view liberty as being free from all constraints. However, this simple verse provides a higher view of liberty that is consistent with God's word. The psalmist with this statement reveals a divine gift of understanding the foundation of true liberty. He knows that the precepts of the Lord comprise that foundation. The more a person seeks, out of a sincere desire, the precepts of the Lord, the more understanding is gained of their benefits. The precepts that He provides for us to live by form a safe boundary within which to walk. The illustration is given of a child living in a home near the road. Although the parents may allow the child freedom to play in the yard outside, the yard with a fence around it provides more freedom to both the child and the parent. A yard with no fence requires more constraint by the parent for the child, to keep the child in the way that is safe from the danger posed by the roadway. The child in a fenced yard is freer to roam within the safe boundary.

Seeking to know the Lord's precepts provides us the spiritual and practical guidance needed to live within the boundaries of their truth, so that we have the freedom to live and walk in this world guarded by the fence of understanding what is good and bad for our lives and souls. God has given His precepts, not to keep us from the good that He has in store, but to protect us from the dangers that we might ignorantly pursue to our own detriment. Although the world and the devil may tempt us to think that the Lord is withholding something from us, just as the serpent tempted our first parents in the garden, we can know that He has given us the blessing of His precepts as guides for our spiritual growth and maturity, so that we may freely live and pursue the abundant life that He promised. Jesus said, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). And this freedom is enabled by the fulfilment of the promise, "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people" (Hebrews 8:10). Let us therefore walk at liberty, as we seek and love His precepts written in our hearts.