

Change or Chains

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? (John 8:33)

There is a vast difference in how most people view the world and how the Bible describes the world. Generally, science and technology are promoted as the answer to all problems in the world today. The theory of evolution is widely accepted and teaches that man is evolving and becoming better as time passes, so this promotes hope that a better world is within man's power. Though there have been great improvements in man's standard of living thanks to advances in science and technology, the underlying problem still exists and is manifest throughout history and in every culture. The world's problems are rooted in the curse that started with Adam and Eve and continues due to man's resulting sinful nature. This bondage to sin is ingrained in mankind until each person experiences the life change that happens by repenting and trusting God's plan for salvation.

Today's text is from a long discussion Jesus had with the scribes and Pharisees after he had declared forgiveness to an adulterous woman. Then Jesus taught that He was the Light of the World and without Him, man would walk in darkness. He went on to state if they did not believe their Messiah they would die in their sins. Jesus explained if they were His disciples they would know the truth, and the truth would make them free; but holding onto their pride, the Pharisees said they were never in bondage to any man. Jesus responded by saying that *Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin*. Therein lies the problem that plagues the whole world, that mankind is sinful and is a servant of their sin. Whether it be self-righteousness or moral depravity, man's choices are greatly impacted by his sinful nature. Man's mental state is also impacted until he resolves life's greatest issue; knowing his eternal destiny. Hebrews 2:15 says of Jesus: *And delivered them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage*. Until a person knows that they have the assurance of eternal life, they are either in religious bondage or some form of self-satisfying bondage. In most religions, a person often pursues earning closeness with God through works of the flesh, or by fabricating their own superstitious beliefs. If an individual rejects a personal relationship with God or even dismisses any acknowledgment of God, they will often fall into bondage to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, or the pride of life. People will always search for an ever-elusive satisfaction until they find true Living Water that is only found by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. *Repentance toward God, and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 20:21) release a person from the spiritual chains of bondage*.

Spiritual freedom or spiritual bondage is a choice. A person must choose to change the course of their life by surrendering to the Lord or remain captive to Satan. Though Satan's chains are strong, they can be broken by the power in the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Change or chains? Choose change and be free today. ~J. Ekis