

“Set Free By The Truth”
John 8:31-32
Sermon Series: “Set Free To Live Free”

Introduction: So far in this series, we have seen that Jesus sets us free through His finished work on the cross as we trust Him. Today we are going to see that in order to experience and live in the freedom that Jesus purchased for us that we must know and do the truth. Satan wants to enslave and destroy us. His primary method of accomplishing this goal is deception. Jesus called him the father of lies in John 8:44. His methodology dates all the way back to the Garden of Eden. The way to overcome his lies and live in freedom is through the truth. In John 8:31-32, Jesus teaches us three truths that fit together to show us how to be set free by the truth.

1. We demonstrate that we are disciples of Jesus by abiding in His Word. Abiding in His Word means to remain or continue in it. It refers to a steady diet of Scripture instead of an occasional snack. This demonstrates that we are genuinely following Jesus and practically changes our lives. We do this by reading, studying, meditating on, memorizing, listening to (audio of Scripture, sermons, podcasts, Christian music), and obeying the Word of God.

2. We know the truth through abiding in His Word. What is truth? Truth means ultimate reality. It is that which is really real. Al Mohler says, “Truth is universal, absolute, unchanging, knowable, and capable of being conveyed by language.” In Scripture, we see that truth is:

A. Personal-God is truth. The Bible calls the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit truth. Charles Colson has written, “It is the assertion that in the beginning was God, that He is responsible for the universe, for our very existence, and that He has created the order and structure in which life exists. Everything we know—all meaning flows from Him.”

B. Propositional-The Bible is truth. Jesus said to His Father that “your Word is truth” (John 17:17), and many other Scriptures affirm this.

C. Practical-Truth is not theoretical, but according to Scripture, it is the very foundation of our lives. We don’t have time to explore this fully today, but we will focus on the important reality that it sets us free.

3. We are set free by knowing the truth. Why are we set free through knowing the truth? Rick Warren says, “My thoughts control my life.” Why is this the case? Here are some ideas adapted from Rick Warren that I think are true:

A. All behavior is based on a belief (Hebrews 3:16-19).

B. Behind every sinful behavior, there is a lie I believe (Genesis 3).

C. Therefore, change always starts in the mind. In other words, we live differently by thinking and believing differently.

D. The key to changing our feelings and behavior is changing our beliefs and thinking by replacing the lies with truth.

So, how can we change the way we think? Romans 12:2 tells us that we can “be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” We do this by:

A. Feeding our minds with truth (Matthew 4:4). This is what we were talking about in point #1.

B. Freeing our minds from destructive thoughts (2 Corinthians 10:3-5). We are told to take thoughts that are not from God captive to the obedience of Christ. Here are some key convictions in doing this:

-I don't have to think what I am thinking.

-I don't have to believe what I am thinking.

-I don't have to do what I am thinking.

-I don't have to say what I am thinking.

-I don't have to post what I am thinking.

C. Focusing our minds on right things (Philippians 4:8) and especially on Jesus (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Conclusion: Get in the Word. Believe it and act on it as the truth of God. **If you are not a Christian, trust Jesus so you can know the One who is “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6).** Reality is found in Him who created all things. He died for us so we can have life and freedom in Him (John 8:24, 28).