

FREE AT LAST

ROMANS 6:15-23

Delivered August 28, 1963 by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ***“I HAVE A DREAM”*** is #1 on the list of the Top 100 American speeches of the 20th century. It ends with these words:

“Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last.”

The greatest problem all mankind faces is sin . . . ***fix that and all racism would end***, along with all the rest of mankind’s problems, which are the result of sin.

Individually, by grace, we can be “FREE AT LAST.”

THE SEVERITY OF SIN

Scripture declares sin is so evil it even corrupted the entire creation, which *“groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.”* **ROM. 8:22**

- Sin is called *“an impure thing”* (**ISA. 30:22**) and it is compared to *“the venom of serpents, and the deadly poison of cobras”* (**DEUT. 32:33**).
- It dominates the mind (**ROM. 1:21**); the affections and desire (**JOHN 3:19-21**); and the will (**JER. 44:15-17**).

THE UNIVERSAL PROBLEM

With the single exception of the Lord Jesus Christ, every human being born into this world has been born with a sinful nature.

- The natural, unredeemed person is under the tyranny of sin, hopelessly lost.
- Without Christ, sin controls our thoughts, words, actions—really, our total existence.

***WORST OF ALL, SIN DAMNS THE UNREDEEMED SOUL
ETERNALLY TO HELL. REV. 20:12-15***

THREE POINTS

- I.** The Burning Question **v. 15a**
- II.** The Obvious Answer **v. 15b**
- III.** The Axiom **v. 16**

***IN RELATION TO GOD'S WILL,
A SAVED PERSON HAS BUT TWO CHOICES:***

- *To sin*—which is to disobey Him
- *Willful Obedience*—which is to obey Him

A PERSON'S GENERAL PATTERN OF LIVING PROVES WHO THEIR TRUE MASTER IS.

- 1.** If his/her life is characterized by **SIN**, which is opposed to God's will, then he/she is **SIN'S SLAVE**.
- 2.** If his/her life is characterized by **OBEDIENCE**, which reflects God's will, then he/she is **GOD'S SLAVE**.

The end result of the first slavery is both **PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL DEATH**, whereas that of the second slavery is *righteous living*, which is the inescapable mark of **ETERNAL LIFE**.

NO CHRIST, NO REAL FREEDOM

Many people resist the claims of Christ because they are afraid of having to give up their cherished freedoms.

- Actually, of course, they have no freedoms to lose.
- The unsaved person is not free to do good or evil as he chooses.
- He is bound and enslaved to sin, and the only thing he *can* do is to sin.
- His only choices have to do with when, how, why, and to what degree he will sin.

EXPLAINING THE TWO SLAVERIES

Paul's point in the second half of **ROMANS 6** is the same one that Jesus made in **MATT. 6:24**.

- A person cannot have two different and opposing natures at the same time, and he cannot live in two different and opposing spiritual worlds at the same time.
- He is either the *SLAVE OF SIN*, which he is by **NATURAL BIRTH**, or he is the *SLAVE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS*, which he becomes by the **NEW or SECOND BIRTH**.

THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH OF THE MATTER

“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” **ROM. 6:23**

- Salvation cannot be earned by works, by human goodness, by religious ritual, or by any other thing that man can do.
EPH. 2:8-9
- Jesus Christ is the only way from sin to righteousness (**JOHN 14:6**). When we come to Him on His terms, He changes our destiny from eternal death to eternal life.
I THANK GOD I AM FREE AT LAST.