



# *Understanding* **INDEPENDENCE**

TEXT:

Galatians 5:1-10

1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage. 2 Indeed I, Paul, say to you that if you become circumcised, Christ will profit you nothing. 3 And I testify again to every man who becomes circumcised that he is a debtor to keep the whole law. 4 You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. 5 For we through the Spirit eagerly wait for the hope of righteousness by faith. 6 For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision avails anything, but faith working through love. 7 You ran well. Who hindered you from obeying the truth? 8 This persuasion does not come from Him who calls you. 9 A little leaven leavens the whole lump. 10 I have confidence in you, in the Lord, that you will have no other mind; but he who troubles you shall bear his judgment, whoever he is.

Excerpt from the Declaration of Independence:

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

Jesus explained His mission:

Luke 4:18, 21

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed;  
21 And He began to say to them, “Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.”

#### THREATS TO INDEPENDENCE:

1. \_\_\_\_\_—the fracturing of \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. 2 Corinthians 11:14 But I am not surprised! Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.
- b. John 8:44 (Jesus said) You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.
- c. 1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace...

#### THREATS TO INDEPENDENCE:

2. \_\_\_\_\_—generation of \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. 1 Samuel 17:11 I (Goliath) defy the armies of Israel today! Send me a man who will fight me!” 11 When Saul and the Israelites heard this, they were terrified and deeply shaken.
- b. Ephesians 6:11 Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil’s schemes.

#### THREATS TO INDEPENDENCE:

3. \_\_\_\_\_—the spirit of \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. 1 Kings 18:4 While Jezebel was killing off the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.

#### DEALING WITH THREATS OF FREEDOM:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ the right \_\_\_\_\_.
- a. 1 Samuel 17:26 David asked the soldiers standing nearby, “What will a man get for killing this Philistine and ending his defiance of Israel? Who is this pagan Philistine anyway, that he is allowed to defy the armies of the living God?”

b. Ephesians 5:11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them.

#### DEALING WITH THREATS OF FREEDOM:

2. \_\_\_\_\_ from obstacles that get in your way.

a. 1 Samuel 17:28-30 When Eliab, David's oldest brother, heard him speaking with the men, he burned with anger at him and asked, "Why have you come down here? And with whom did you leave those few sheep in the wilderness? I know how conceited you are and how wicked your heart is; you came down only to watch the battle." 29 "Now what have I done?" said David. "Can't I even speak?" 30 He then turned away to someone else and brought up the same matter, and the men answered him as before.

b. Romans 14:13 Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way.

#### DEALING WITH THREATS OF FREEDOM:

3. \_\_\_\_\_ to the threat.

a. 1 Samuel 17:32 "Don't worry about this Philistine," David told Saul. "I'll go fight him!"

b. Galatians 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty by which Christ has made us free, and do not be entangled again with a yoke of bondage.

c. Psalm 56:11 In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to me?

d. Ephesians 6:13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

e. 1 Samuel 17:36-37 I have done this to both lions and bears, and I'll do it to this pagan Philistine, too, for he has defied the armies of the living God! 37 The Lord who rescued me from the claws of the lion and the bear will rescue me from this Philistine!" Saul finally consented. "All right, go ahead," he said. "And may the Lord be with you!"

#### Conclusion:

While America ascribes us certain freedoms, this country does not make you who you are, and it does not truly make you free.

We gain true independence through Jesus Christ who has set us free through His finished work on the cross!

This is how we live in FREEDOM and INDEPENDENCE... WE STAND FAST IN CHRIST!

Reflection:

1. The cleverness of the devil, the schemes, have a sound of truth but they are not truth. This nation is being swayed by a scheme to turn people toward themselves and ultimately toward government rather than toward Christ.
2. Ask the right question, where is this written in the Word of God.
3. We must be aware and take our stand in Christ!