

It seems that the more freedom people gain, the less they understand and appreciate true freedom. In this special Independence Day message, we will learn three points from

1 Timothy 1-2 about how to impact our relational world us as we live in true freedom, which comes only from Jesus Christ.

We have incredible <u>freedom</u>, yet we're experiencing incredible <u>bondage</u>

The more you do as you please, the less you will be pleased with what you do

Freedom comes from being a <u>slave</u> to Jesus Christ

True freedom comes through Jesus Christ alone
John 8:36

"In God we trust": the founding truth of this country

Alexis de Tocqueville

"I sought for the key to the greatness and genius of America in her harbors; in her fertile fields and boundless forests; in her rich mines and vast world commerce; in her public school system and institutions of learning. I sought for it in her democratic Congress and in her matchless Constitution.

Alexis de Tocqueville

Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great"

Three building blocks to enjoying and living in freedom

I. Face your past
Paul was a radicalized rabbi
1 Timothy 1:12-15

Paul got saved from being religious and gave Jesus Christ lordship of his life

A three point outline in telling your story

- a. My life before Christ
- b. When I came to know Christ
- c. The difference He has made in life since I made that decision.

II. Fight for truth

1 Timothy 1:18-19

Postmodern thinking: absolutely certain that nothing is absolutely certain

The noblest virtue today is tolerance

2 Corinthians 4:4

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

II. Fight for truth

If ISIS members are willing to die for a lie, aren't we willing to live for the truth?

Part of living for the truth is fighting for the truth

Jude 1:3

Every believer has a solemn duty to resist attacks on the truth

Let your voice be known

III. Pray for people

1 Timothy 2:1-4

Pray for leaders, citizens, country, neighbors, and government

Watch your tone

Matthew 5:44

But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you,

III. Pray for people

Persecution is the world's response to truth; John 15:20

Our response: <u>love</u> people and <u>pray</u> for people "Prayer is the forerunner of mercy" —Charles Spurgeon

Because unbelievers are <u>blind</u>, they can't see at all; God must <u>open</u> their eyes

IV. Summary of today's message

Talk to yourself and others about yourself: face your <u>past</u>

Talk to men about God: fight for truth

Talk to God about men: pray for people

There's only one Man who died for the freedom of us as humans: Jesus

A Suggested Prayer

Lord, I give you my life. I know I'm a sinner. Please forgive me, I believe in Jesus, I believe He died on a cross, I believe He rose from the dead. I believe he shed his blood for my sin And I believe He did it for me personally. I turn from my sin. I turn to Jesus as my Savior. I want to live for him as my Lord. In Jesus Name

