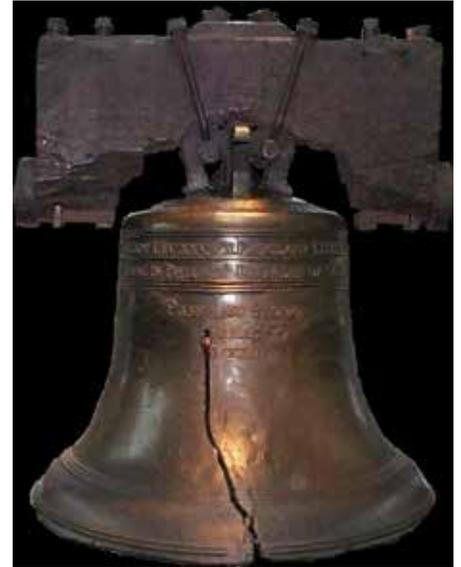


"But whoso looketh into the perfect Law of Liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed." James 1:25no3 KJV

Self-gratification or lust is the cruelest slave master of all. You cannot be rid of it without obedience to God's Word. It is the hammer that pulverizes the stocks and chains of lust and gives us freedom to leave the dungeon of sin's darkness and make our way into the Son-light of Liberty! Many mistake lust and wantonness for liberty. I am not free to indulge my flesh or infringe on the God-given rights of others, and neither are they free to trample mine. Liberty is the freedom to do right. The Truth "makes us free" of wrong. Liberty is obeying the Law of God. It is perfect, Holy, and leads me along the golden path of divine provision of that which I need today. "Give us THIS DAY our daily bread." Trials are part of Divine provision. They are quite often a direct result of disobedience and its consequences which are needful to purge the dross of unbelief from my faith that I might be more able to live in the "power of [Christ's] resurrection." If it was easy, I wouldn't need to obey God's Word, BUT I have the "perfect Law of Liberty" by which I can plan my steps to avoid evil. Without God's Word I "can do nothing!" The perfect Law of Liberty is that by which every man will be judged! It is the measure of our Saviour's Deity; that by which we are "approved" by God. Do not measure your worth by comparison to men or their works, but by God and His righteousness; "approved unto God, a worker that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth." You cannot divide (understand) Truth rightly without following the Holy Spirit, and your Text Book, God's Word, faithfully to become a "journeyman" saint. You may not consider two paralyzing strokes to be a blessing unless you have been directly blessed as a result. Without the aforesaid occurrence, you would not be reading this discourse, and I would not be enjoying my Saviour's nearness and comfort. If it is God's will I suffer, it is perfect for my life and ministry! Jesus endured the cross for the "Joy that was set before Him" and we know that at His side are "pleasures for evermore."



With all the wicked clamor round,
I'm still unfettered, heaven bound,
There's naught that mortal man can do,
'Twill keep my Savior from my view. -CGP

We can live this fleeting vapor with untold peace and joy if we learn to live within the "perfect Law of Liberty." We can minister the gift of Eternal Life to lost souls and help lift "the feeble hands that hang down" in despair. We can exhort and teach others that "perfect Law. To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus...By what law? Of works? Nay: but by the LAW OF FAITH." Faith is obedience to God's Word. With Jesus, the Word made flesh, I have liberty, because "where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." Men cannot hamper my liberty! "The Lord knoweth them that are His and the Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations (enticements to disobey), and to reserve the unjust unto the Day of Judgment to be punished." Liberty is faith in action! Jesus said:

"The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;" Isaiah 61:1 KJV