

## INDEPENDENCE

### Romans 7:24-8:2

#### INTRODUCTION

- A. The Declaration of Independence.
  - 1. Signed by 52 men, Aug. 2, 1776.
    - a. John Hancock, John Adams, Samuel Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson.
  - 2. *“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.”*
- B. These words penned over 200 years ago.
  - 1. 13 states united to claim independence.
  - 2. Still celebrated today – a reminder.
- C. Passage to freedom began many years earlier (1620 searching for religious freedom.)
  - 1. Leaving behind what they termed oppression.
    - a. Seeking a better quality of life.
    - b. And religious liberty – to worship God in their manner.
  - 2. Costing not only great finance, but also loss of life (more than 40 of 102).
  - 3. All for chasing after life, liberty, and their pursuit of happiness.
- D. Freedom in Christ.

#### I. LIBERTY.

- A. Liberty from Sin.
  - 1. Gal. 3:10-13 – redeemed from the curse of the Law.
    - a. Christ “paid” the price – “bought” us.
    - b. The term applies to the purchase of slaves.
  - 2. Gal. 4:4-5 – redeemed from under Law.
    - a. There is no forgiveness of sin under the Old Law.
    - b. Sacrifice is only a reminder of sinfulness, Heb. 10:1-4.
  - 3. Rom. 7:24-8:2 – problem of serving Law.
    - a. Paul recognizes his complete failure at righteousness.
    - b. He needed a “who,” not a “what.”
- B. But, Liberty at What Cost?
  - 1. Liberty cost lives for the NEW nation. There is always a price to be paid.
    - a. Every war for freedom costs.
    - b. Loss of life in the Revolutionary War.
    - c. Patrick Henry in 1775, *“Give me liberty or give me death.”*
  - 2. Titus 2:14 – gave Himself for us.
  - 3. 1 Peter 1:18-19 – redeemed ... blood.

#### II. LIFE.

- A. Israel’s Freedom in Canaan.
  - 1. Began years earlier leaving Egypt.
  - 2. On the verge of the Jordan, Moses’ challenge to Israel.

3. Dt. 30:15-16, 19, *“I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life...”*
- B. Life, the Promised Gift of God.
  1. Rom. 6:8-11 – died with Christ ... will live.
  2. Rom. 6:22-23 – free gift of God.
- C. Life Through Christ.
  1. 2 Tim. 1:9-10 – abolished death ... brought life.
  2. Jn. 3:14-15 – believes in Him has life.

## **CLOSING**

- A. Pursuit of Happiness.
  1. 1 Pet. 1:4 – inheritance incorruptible.
  2. Rev. 21:1-5 – description of heaven.
  3. Happiness only through giving our life to Christ.
- B. It is a Personal Choice.
  1. Patrick Henry’s proclamation.
  2. The Israelites response, Josh. 24:16-18
  3. God’s blessings based on your response!
    - a. If you obey, keep commands, listen to, and do not turn aside...
    - b. But if you do not obey...
  4. Your response:
    - a. Jesus invites you today, Mt. 11:28-30.
    - b. 2 Cor. 6:2
    - c. Heb. 3:15