



Independence Day July 4, 2003

It is estimated that some 37 million Americans will fill our highways this weekend as they travel to beaches, parks, picnics/cookouts and perhaps fireworks displays. We do these things in celebration of our independence and freedom as a nation – and rightly so. We have much to celebrate.

Webster's defines freedom¹ as; "the quality or state of being free" and "liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another." I am grateful to live in a country where I may raise a family, work, enjoy leisure time and worship in the manner of my own choosing. We should take a moment to consider the freedom we enjoy today and the high price and many sacrifices that were made for our liberty.

And let us not forget the ultimate sacrifice that was made for our sake while we were yet sinners. Jesus Christ gave His life so that we may be free from the sinful chains of this world that bind us.

If you haven't yet received this gift let me encourage you to accept it and embrace it.

Freedom and liberty await you.

And if you have already confessed your sins and accepted Jesus into your heart you are indwelt by the Holy Spirit and well able to overcome whatever challenges you are facing. Take a moment to bow down and give thanks for the sacrifice that was made on your behalf so that you may rekindle your appreciation and guard yourself against the temptations we all face daily.

You are the adopted sons and daughters of our living God. Hold fast and embrace the freedom that our forefathers fought for ~ true freedom that is from Christ.

¹**free·dom** Pronunciation: 'frE-d&m Function: *noun* Date: before 12th century

1 : the quality or state of being free: as **a** : the absence of necessity, coercion, or constraint in choice or action **b** : liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another : **INDEPENDENCE** **c** : the quality or state of being exempt or released usually from something onerous

²**Galatians 5**

¹ Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.

³**Galatians 5**

¹³ For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.