

The Only Freedom That Lasts

Key Verse: John 8:36 – “If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”

Today, May 17th, 2026, the nation of Norway celebrates its Constitution Day. On this day in 1814, while still under the crown of Denmark, a gathering of Norwegian representatives assembled and boldly declared themselves a sovereign people. They asserted their right to be free, to govern themselves, and to make their own laws. One of the powerful arguments they leaned upon was their ancient heritage—that Norway had its own kings for over a thousand years, as recorded in the Sagas by the Icelandic author Sturla Sturlasson.

Across the globe, freedom is a battle cry. It has launched a thousand ships, ignited revolutions, and filled graveyards with the bones of patriots. No one wishes to be ruled by a foreign power with an alien language, religion, or culture. From the American Revolution to the liberation of oppressed peoples in every generation, humanity aches for liberty. But today, we must ask a deeper question. Is freedom merely a political condition? Is it simply the absence of a foreign soldier or the presence of a vote? Or is there a bondage so deep that no constitution, no election, and no bloodshed can break it?

The Failure of Human Freedom

The Bible is honest about the human condition. Scripture declares, “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23, KJV). This is not a minor flaw. It is a fatal disease. Sin is not merely bad behavior; it is a condition—a state of being where we fall short of God’s perfect commands. And from this condition, no human effort can set us free.

Consider the great ones. Noah, a preacher of righteousness, after the flood lay drunk and uncovered (Genesis 9:21). Abraham, the father of faith, twice lied about his wife to save his own skin (Genesis 12:13; 20:2). David, a man after God’s own heart, fell into adultery and murder (2 Samuel 11). Peter, the bold apostle who walked on water, denied the Lord with oaths and curses (Matthew 26:74). If these giants could not free themselves from sin’s grip, what hope do we have?

Even civilizations have crumbled under sin’s weight. Sodom and Gomorrah, cities of the plain, were consumed by fire and brimstone from the Lord because their wickedness was great (Genesis 19:24-25). Nineveh, that great city, was so steeped in evil that God sent Jonah

to warn of its destruction (Jonah 3:4). Though they repented temporarily, later generations returned to sin, and the city fell. Great empires—Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome—all vanished like smoke, overcome from within by the very sin they could not master.

One human cannot give another true freedom. One nation cannot liberate another from the ultimate bondage. Why? Because the enemy is not merely a foreign king or an unjust law. The enemy is sin itself. And sin, Paul cried out, is a body of death from which he could not escape by his own strength: “O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” (Romans 7:24, KJV).

That question—who shall deliver?—is the beginning of true freedom.

What Is Sin?

We must define our enemy. Sin is not simply a list of bad actions. Sin is the condition of falling short of God’s commands. The apostle John, that same beloved disciple who became bishop of Ephesus, received a stern rebuke from the Lord Jesus himself. To the church at Ephesus, Jesus said: “Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love” (Revelation 2:4, KJV). Even the church of the apostle of love had failed to love the Lord with all their heart, soul, and mind (Matthew 22:37). If they fell short, who can boast?

Sin makes us slaves. Jesus himself taught, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin” (John 8:34, KJV). A servant does not live in the house forever. A servant has no permanent standing. And no servant can free himself from his master. The master must be overcome by someone greater.

The Only Deliverer

That is why the psalmist spoke a profound truth about the limits of human wealth and power: “They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul is precious, and it ceaseth for ever:)” (Psalm 49:6-8, KJV). The soul’s redemption is too costly. No army, no treasury, no parliament can pay the price. Only one ransom is sufficient: the life of the Son of God. This is the glorious message of the gospel. Jesus Christ was born for this very purpose. The angel declared to Joseph, “thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins” (Matthew 1:21, KJV). Not from

Roman occupation. Not from poverty. Not from political oppression—though He cares for all these. First and foremost, He saves from sins.

Who Is Jesus?

Now we must be precise about the identity of this Deliverer. For if we trust the wrong person or a divided God, we have no sure foundation. The Scripture declares that God Himself entered this world. John writes: “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:1, 14, KJV).

Hear this clearly: The Word was not a separate person. The Word was God. And that same Word became flesh. There is not a Trinity of three co-equal persons sharing power. That doctrine comes from later councils and human tradition. The Bible says, “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory” (1 Timothy 3:16, KJV).

God was manifest in the flesh. That flesh—the body of Jesus—was not of human, Adamic origin. It was a divine creation. The angel told Mary, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God” (Luke 1:35, KJV). It was a holy thing, not a sinful, Adamic thing. Jesus had no human father. His blood was the blood of God. That is why His sacrifice could pay the ransom that no son of Adam could pay. There is no Trinity of three persons. There is one God, and His name is Jesus. The Father is in the Son. The Son is the Father manifested. And the Holy Spirit—what is the Holy Spirit? It is not a third person. It is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Paul writes, “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17, KJV). Jesus himself said, “I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18, KJV). Not another person. Himself.

Therefore, when we are baptized, we must be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Peter, on the day of Pentecost, commanded: “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38, KJV). Not in titles—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—but in the name. And that name is Jesus. For there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

The Limits of Human Constitutions

The Norwegian founding fathers, inspired no doubt by the American founding fathers, understood that a free people must write their own laws. That is noble. But even noble acts are stained by sin. The American fathers wrote that “all men are created equal” and endowed by their Creator with unalienable rights. Yet they did not believe the black man or woman was fully human. The one-drop rule relegated millions to the status of cattle and sheep. They counted slaves as three-fifths of a person for representation. That is sin.

The Norwegian fathers wrote their constitution in 1814, declaring freedom. Yet they denied Jewish people entry into Norway. The first paragraph of the original constitution of 1814 contained a clause that forbade Jews from coming into the realm. That too is sin. Even the best human constitutions are written by fallen hands. They cannot deliver the freedom they promise.

The True Constitution

For the Christian, it makes perfect sense: if Jesus alone can set us free, then it is only right that He write our constitution. And He has. The New Testament is our divine charter of liberty. Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul, and the other apostles wrote not their own opinions but the very words of God. They recorded how the one true God entered His own creation, lived among us, taught us, died for us, rose again, and ascended to heaven. And He sent His Spirit—which is Himself, not another—to dwell in those who obey Him.

We must not look to Washington or Oslo for final freedom. We must look to Calvary. We must not trust in elections or armies for deliverance from sin. We must trust in the blood of Jesus. We must not be baptized in titles invented by men. We must be baptized in the saving name of Jesus Christ. And we must receive the Holy Spirit, which is the promise of the Father poured out—the Spirit of Jesus living in us, empowering us to walk in newness of life.

The Call

Today, as Norway celebrates her earthly freedom, I ask you: Are you truly free? Free from the guilt of sin? Free from the power of sin? Free from the fear of death? Only the Son can make you free. And if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed. Do not trust in your heritage, your nation, or your own righteousness. Trust in Jesus. Repent of your sins. Be baptized in His name. Receive His Spirit. Then you will know a freedom that no constitution

can grant and no tyrant can take away. For “where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17, KJV).

A prayer for freedom (pray for your own country)

Father, we thank you that you did not leave us in bondage to sin. We thank you that you came in the flesh—your name is Jesus—to save your people. We pray for the nation of Norway on this Constitution Day. Forgive the sins of her founders and the sins of her people. Send revival. And may every Norwegian, and every person hearing this message, find true freedom in the Son. In Jesus’ name, Amen.