

Freed to Live Generously

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Rev 14:6-7; Ps 46; Rm 3:19-28; Jn 8:31-36

Introduction

CCT: Jesus, the Son of God, has freed us to _____ generously.

I. If the *Son* Sets You Free

John 8:31-34 (ESV)

Why is "we've never been enslaved" absurd?

Who *practices* sin?

Romans 3:23 (ESV)

What is the consequence of sin?

Romans 6:23a (ESV)

²³ For the wages of sin is death . . .

John 8:35-36 (ESV)

Romans 3:23-26 (ESV)

II. Free to Live Generously

Romans 6:1–4 (ESV)

¹ What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? ² By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? ³ Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

New life entails living _____

A. A life of Repentance

Thesis 1 of 95 Theses:

Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, when He said *Poenitentiam agite*, willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance.

B. Repentance is More Than Sorrow

Desire to do better. To live out God's will. To become _____.

Colossians 1:28 (ESV)

²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

C. Living a More Mature Christian Life

Martin Luther's 1517 Theses, 94-95:

Choir song: "Refuge and Strength"

In the choir song, "Refuge and Strength" you first hear a very strong and exciting ascending accompaniment. What adds to the excitement of this motif is that it doesn't begin on a downbeat, creating a sense of surprise. The choir enters in a very strong motif statement of "God is our refuge and strength", again in a weak offbeat of the measure, which, although suggesting being taken by total surprise, the people claiming this statement are in complete agreement that, "God is their refuge and strength!" There is an underlying, heavily punctuated chordal statement declaring this to be so. The choir enters again in a surprising, syncopated statement of "a very present help in trouble". The word "trouble" isn't in straight rhythm suggesting the upset that trouble actually causes.

The choir enters, this time, on a much stronger beat with a totally reassuring melodic and textual message of "Therefore we will **not** fear", followed by a more emphatic statement with a climbing, forceful melodic statement reiteration of complete belief!

Next comes a totally different statement in the accompaniment of a very rhythmic jungle beat occurring for quite sometime. At first, it seems very cool, depicting perhaps, the incredibly busy lifestyles we have, the over-crowded world, and/or the chaos in the world. But, it becomes irritating, like the various things in our life. Over this "wild chaos" comes an incredibly soothing "sigh" of rest or comfort by the sopranos and altos on an "ah". That is followed by peaceful, beautiful, soaring, ever-increasing "wave-like" melodic motifs by women and men stating "though the earth should change; though the earth should crumble into the sea; let the oceans roar and foam". The last strong entrance by the choir of, "Let the mountains tremble as the waters surge", is followed by the last, strong, surging wave in the accompaniment.

The next section in the music is like the first section of the music, reminding us textually as well as musically, who is in charge of this world.

A totally different musical section occurs, now, with the underlying accompaniment depicting a peaceful running river, in which the women's voices serenely and beautifully, state that "There is a river whose streams make lad the city of God, the holy dwelling of the Most High". It seems that the "river" has gotten larger with a stronger current when the accompaniment encompasses a wider, fuller range on the piano. The whole choir enters over this bigger "river" of accompaniment with a solid and beautiful choral statement of "God is in the midst of the city. It shall not be moved. God will help when the morning dawns." The words "help" and "dawns" are held longer than most notes in this piece, perhaps showing that everything is in "God's time", not ours.

The music changes again with a driving, bombastic, ever-changing meter, stating, "The nations are in an uproar. The kingdoms of men have tottered." While the choir sings, "God thunders, the earth melts" punctuated with rests for emphasis, the accompaniment changes into some scale triplets depicting a storm.

Again the music changes to portray that "The God of hosts is with us...The God of Jacob is our fortress", with solid chords underpinning the whole choir singing the message in strength and confidence.

The last section of the piece restates the beginning of the piece, with the surprise of events, but that "God is always with us no matter what happens." The climax of the song with the choir holding the word "strength" in a glorious, beautiful and confident chord over several measures of strong, but ever-changing meter, show God's strength, even though things keep changing for us.

94. Christians should be exhorted to be diligent in following Christ, their head, through penalties, death, and hell;
95. And thus be confident of entering into heaven through many tribulations rather than through the false security of peace [ACTS 14:22].

Acts 14:22b (ESV)

²² . . . and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.

Luther's Heidelberg Disputation (1518)

20. he deserves to be called a theologian, however, who comprehends the visible and manifest things of God seen through suffering and the cross.

A mature Christian life is one that understands what?

1 Thessalonians 5:16–18 (ESV)

¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

"All for Him"... What other kinds of shirts should we see and wear proudly? Why?

How do we respond to those who struggle?

Conclusion

Romans 3:23–24 (ESV)

Free-to-Serve Capital Campaign*

as of Sep 30, 2017

<u>Campaign Pledges</u>	<u>\$1,119,970</u>
<u>Pledges Received</u>	<u>\$542,914</u>
<u>Distributions</u>	<u>\$441,412</u>
<i>Mortgage Payments</i>	<i>\$350,000</i>
<i>Lutheran High School Assoc.</i>	<i>\$17,600</i>
<i>Dominican Republic</i>	<i>\$12,906</i>
<i>Family Promise</i>	<i>\$12,906</i>
<i>Miscellaneous Expenses**</i>	<i>\$48,000</i>
<u>Account Balance</u>	<u>\$101,502</u>

We encourage all members to prayerfully consider contributing to this worthwhile campaign, on a continuing basis, a one time basis, or whatever amount a member would be comfortable contributing.

**Campaign runs Sep 1, 2015 thru Aug 31, 2018*

***Consulting Fees, brochures, etc.*