

## Liberty

As a boy, growing up during the war years of 1941 - 1945, I attended a one-room country school near the small town of Richmond, Michigan. I loved to sing our National Anthem, and recite the *Pledge of Allegiance*. I was, and am, very thankful I was born a citizen of the United States of America. I had no desire to live any place else in the world. Truly, it was to my child's mind "...the land of the free", "with liberty...for all".

But as I grew up, I began to realize that our flag, which I so loved, was not waving over me as a *free man* with *liberty*. Though I had so often repeated those words, they were not a reality to me. Oh, it wasn't because of the country I lived in. It was because of myself, and my sins, that I was not free.

Oh how thankful I am that by believing in the Lord Jesus Christ I found the truth of His Word, "*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed*" (Jn. 8:36). Now truly, by faith in Him, by His grace, I have "*the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free*" (Gal.5:1). Truly He has come "*to set at liberty them that are bruised*" (Luke 4:18).

Scripture speaks of those who are "*holden with the cords of his sins*" (Prov. 5:22). God has said of us "*All have sinned*" (Rom. 3:23), and "*there is no man that sinneth not*" (1 Kngs 8:46). My friend, only the Lord Jesus Christ can make you truly free, and give you true liberty. No nation, even one as great as ours, can give you that. Jesus said, "*Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest*" (Matt. 11:28).

"*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*" (Jn. 3:16).

"*For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death*" Rom.8:2).

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**Ed. note:** The following poem may be sung to the tune of "The Star Spangled Banner".

1) "O! I can now see,  
Through Christ's death on the tree,  
Where He suffered and died,  
So that men could be free.

2) Oh will you now trust Him,  
Your Saviour to be,  
And be freed from your sins,  
And have true liberty?"

(Chorus)  
Where God's love has been shown,  
In the gift of His own  
Dear Son on that tree,  
There He gave Him for me.  
And by faith in Him there,  
On the cross, it was where,  
My Saviour has died,  
And my sins He did bear.

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"But now being made free from sin,  
and become servants to God, ye have  
your fruit unto holiness, and the end  
everlasting life" (Rom.6:22).

"Who His own self bare our sins in  
His own body on the tree, that we, be-  
ing dead to sins, should live unto righ-  
teousness: by whose stripes ye were  
healed" (1 Pet.2:24)

H. Short □