

Choices Reveal Our True Character

Acts 4:23 [King James] “... *being let go, they went to their own company ...*”

Within these nine words lies a universal truth, every normal human being has “*a company*” however small where they feel at home and where they go when tired of being alone.

The important thing about a human being is not where we go when compelled to go, but where we go when we are free to go where we desire to go.

Within this account of the apostles Peter and John, they experienced both the above situations.

The apostles were sent to jail against their will [**Acts 4:3** NIV], but when they were freed [v23] and could go where they wished, they immediately went to their own people.

From this we see their character revealed, it is the choices in life, **not** the compulsions, that reveal true character.

For example, a person who is absent from fellowship meetings, for example, hospitalisation after an accident, was compelled to miss the meeting.

But another who chose to play golf because the weather was fine, voluntarily chose to play instead of pray.

The choice reveals just what kind of person they were.

The true character of people is revealed in the uses they make of the freedoms they experience.

1 Peter 2:16 [NIV] “*Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as servants of God.*”

The freedom we have from the death penalty that our sins earned by accepting as a substitute the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, should **not** be used to continue to sin expecting God’s Grace to continue to cover these sins.

Romans 6:1-4 [NIV] “*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning, so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptised into Christ Jesus were baptised into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*”

The liberty we have in Jesus Christ must lead to a new life as a servant of Jesus Christ. [**Romans 6:12-14; Romans 12:1-2**]

1 Corinthians 8:9 [NIV] “*Be careful, however, that the exercise of your freedom does not become a stumbling-block to the weak.*”

The wrong use of our freedom could cause problems for other people.

There is always danger that a free nation may imperil its freedom by a series of small choices destructive of that freedom.

The very liberty the fathers won in blood may be tossed away in extravagant living and debilitating pleasures.

An example of this is the fall of the powerful Roman Empire.

Today we see similar signs of nations in the western world. [Please download and study the two-part article '*Ancient Rome And Today's Society*' as listed under sub-heading '*Learning From History*']

It might be well for all of us to check our spiritual condition occasionally by the simple test of compatibility.

When we are free to go, where do we go? What choice do we make?

What company do we choose because we feel most at home with them?

Where do we choose to allow our thoughts to turn when they are free from the pressure of work, business or education?

That is when we are temporarily able to think of what we will instead of what we must, what then is our choice?

The answer to these questions may tell us more about ourselves than we can comfortably accept.

Our true character will be revealed and none of us have too much time to face up to this truth, before we have to face our Saviour, Jesus Christ. [**2 Corinthians 5:10; Romans 14:10-12**]

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14 [NIV] *“Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.”*

Every choice we make in our present physical lives will be known and judged by our Saviour Jesus Christ as to whether we have allowed the Holy Spirit to develop in us characteristics that will make us acceptable within the created family of God and receive the gift of eternal life. [**Galatians 5:22-25**]