

The background of the entire page is a collage of various US dollar bills, including \$100, \$20, and \$50 denominations, scattered and overlapping. The bills are shown in different orientations, some partially cut off by the edges of the page. The text is centered on a white background that is surrounded by these dollar bills.

Finding Freedom

The Lord is the Spirit, and where the Lord's Spirit is, there is freedom. (2 Corinthians 3:17, CEB)

Christ has set us free for freedom. Therefore, stand firm and don't submit to the bondage of slavery again. (Galatians 5:1, CEB)

Therefore, if the Son makes you free, you really will be free. (John 8:36, CEB)

In Christ we have bold and confident access to God through faith in him. (Ephesians 3:12, CEB)

This July 4, we will celebrate the 241st anniversary of our nation's freedom - our Declaration of Independence. I'm sure that many of us have plans to attend parades, throw parties, attend special events, and watch fireworks over the long weekend as a reminder of the great freedom which we enjoy here in these United States of America. People still seek to come here to enjoy what we have and, too often, take for granted.

As followers of Jesus, we know that real freedom means walking in God's Spirit of truth and love. It means not being bound and condemned by our sin, but freed to a new and eternal life by Christ's ultimate sacrifice for us. We remember that kind of freedom when we gather around the communion table, as we will do this Sunday in worship.

Unfortunately, too many people in our society aren't enjoying freedom in many parts of their lives, including the area of finances. Too many people are being dragged down by the weight of the debt they owe to others and are living from paycheck to paycheck, barely keeping their heads above water. Debt comes in many forms: credit card, car payments, student loans, late payments, mortgages, etc. For many, the burden of all this debt seems overwhelming. It's hard for people in this situation to see beyond today.

Wouldn't it be great to find a plan that would help people return to a place of freedom and peace financially? Well, that's exactly what we'll be talking about this week as we examine together what the Bible has to say about "Breaking the Chains of Debt" in our lives. Our main Scripture comes from Proverbs 22:1-16.

Wishing You Freedom in Christ!

Pastor David

June 29, 2017