



Midweek Study Notes
Sunday 3rd October 2021
Prepared by Matt

Freedom

On Sunday morning Mervyn talked to us on the subject of freedom, and asked us the question: *is true freedom gained by having no boundaries or restraints?*

In **John 8:32**, Jesus told his followers “*If you obey my teachings you are really my disciples, you will know the truth and the truth will set you free.*”



If Jesus taught that obeying his teachings is the key to experiencing freedom, why do some people see Christianity as a religion of unhelpful restrictions?

Perhaps the answer lies in **Galatians 5:12-15** in which Paul wrote: *It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom. If you bite and ravage each other, watch out—in no time at all you will be annihilating each other, and where will your precious freedom be then?*

How does the freedom Paul writes about differ from the freedom the world offers us?

Like rules in football, boundaries and restrictions play an essential role in freedom. Freedom without boundaries is not true freedom, and God is the only one who is truly qualified to set the boundaries in our lives. *Being a disciple means being disciplined.*

Read **Hebrews 4: 14-16** *Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to what we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin. Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.*

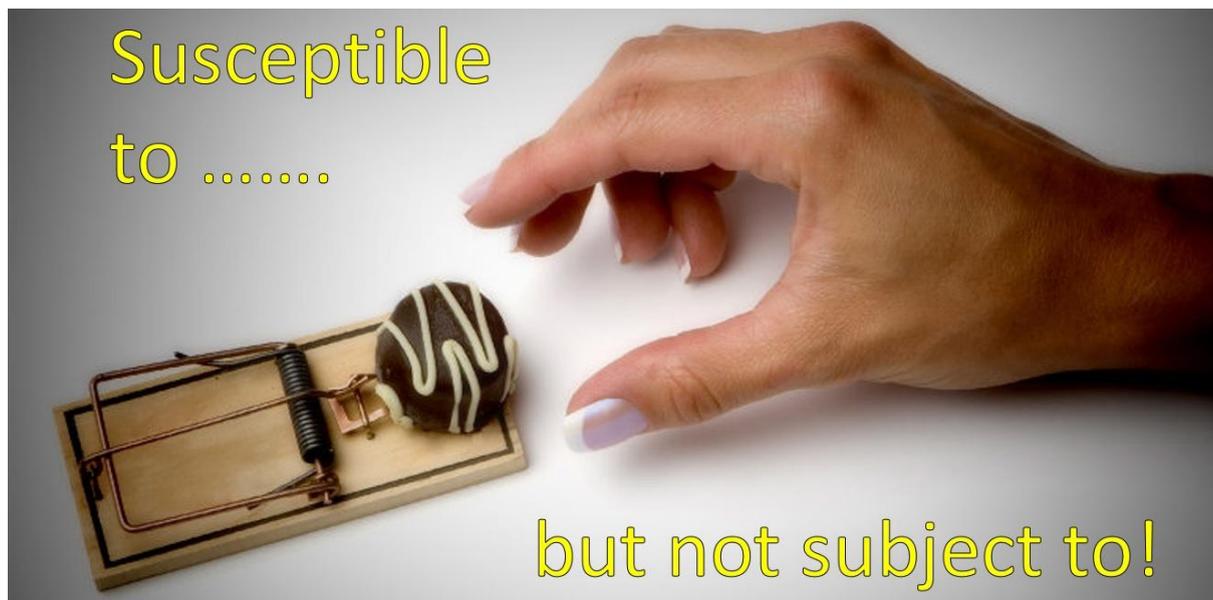
Do you find it easy to 'approach the throne of God with confidence'? If not, do you know why?

We are *all* susceptible to different areas of sin, and we can *all* find ourselves subject to those persistent temptations that are able to trip us up every time. But Jesus understands what we are going through, and as we wholeheartedly follow the only one who has ever resisted sin's temptation, the Holy Spirit can begin to untangle the bonds of sin in our lives.

Read **Romans 8:2-3** *For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set you free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful man, as an offering for sin.*

The amazing grace of God means He is able to clean the 'dirty windows' of our lives on a regular basis. *God's love, grace and patience are bigger than any and all of our sin!*

Repeat the phrase that Mervyn taught us on Sunday: **I may be *susceptible* to sin, but I don't have to be *subject* to sin!**



What would true freedom mean to you? Are there persistent temptations that regularly trip you up?

Spend some time in prayer, thanking God for the freedom He won for us through the death of His son Jesus. Give Him permission to insert His biblical boundaries into your life.

Pray for people you know who are in desperate need of true freedom in their lives. Ask God to give you the opportunity and confidence to talk to them about your faith.