

# The Bulwark

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## FREEDOM!!!

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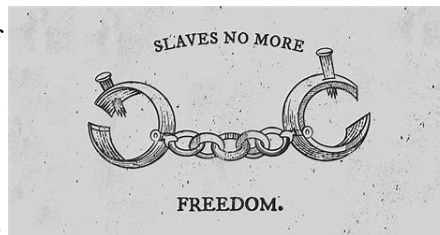
What a beautiful word, freedom. One definition of the word carries the meaning of “the quality or state of being exempt or released usually from something onerous.” Yet another usage of the word sets forth the meaning of, “liberation from slavery or restraint or from the power of another.” In short set free. Sadly, slavery of one form or another is still widely practiced today, with an estimated thirty-eight to forty-nine million people enslaved world-wide. Practiced by the under-belly of society, it is a multi billion dollar industry, that at times inter-mingles itself with the rich and powerful. Human trafficking of any sort is deplorable.

She was born into slavery in 1822, but Harriet Tubman after enduring inhumane treatment by her enslavers, escaped to freedom at the age of 27. Shortly there after she returned back to Maryland to lead family members to freedom. Then over the course of her life she brought to freedom seventy slaves according to biography.com. As a child her mother told her stories about God delivering the children of Israel out of slavery from the Egyptians. It is of interest to note, that she was given the nickname of Moses and used it as a code word for her work with Union soldiers during the Civil War. She gave her all to set free those enslaved.

There is a powerful lesson we can learn from the life and mind set of Harriet Tubman. If we have put on Christ in the waters of baptism (see Romans 6:1-5), we have been set free from sin. Notice Romans chapter six and verses six through eight, “*knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, in order that our body of sin might be done away with, so that we would no longer be slaves to sin; for the one who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him.*” Tubman felt a sense of urgency to set free others who were enslaved. Do we feel that same sense of urgency, inasmuch as the overwhelming majority of people we come across every day are enslaved to sin. We know the way to freedom, let us light the way.

The sixth chapter of Romans is rich with its discus-

sion of freedom and enslavement. Notice verse seventeen. “*But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were entrusted,*”



We have been entrusted with the gospel and the responsibility to teach others in order to set them free from the shackles of sin. Jesus directed the following as seen in Mark 16:15-16, “*Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*”

“*If you abide in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.*” (John 8:31b-32)

Don't we get our hackles up when we hear of the injustice being perpetrated upon others held in slavery of one sort or another? We question why hasn't something been done. DO SOMETHING! Well, our hackles should be up as we look out on a world enslaved to sin, and in all candor, we know exactly what should be done and we know who should do it.

To be sure we can all dredge up a litany of excuses for inaction. Moses said he couldn't speak well. Jeremiah tried to hide behind the fact that he was too young. Let's be honest with self and remember that God has heard every excuse that could possibly be offered. An excuse is an asking for an exemption to be granted to the individual. Jesus told a parable focusing on how He viewed excuses in Luke 14:16-24. He didn't view them favorably.

As christians we need to be in a manner of speaking spiritual abolitionists; seeking to set free those enslaved to sin. “*Deliver those who are being taken away to death, and those who staggering to slaughter, O hold them back.*” (Proverbs 24:11) Once again consider the words of Jesus as seen in John 8:36. “*If therefore the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.*” There is work to be done. (wbe)