

Built to Be Free From Sin!  
2 Timothy 3

Introduction:

- July 4<sup>th</sup> is focused on our country's freedom. Many times, the foundation of our country and the purpose behind its formation are grossly over looked.
- The first settlers were seeking freedom to worship the Lord! These people were bound by a government and a corrupt church that was rooted in false teaching and personal gain.
- Today, we have been provided a place to live in freedom. Some will argue that, but the truth remains that millions seek to come to America because it is known as the "land of the free!"
- However, the world, including America is still struggling to live a life free from bondage – not to a country, but to sin.
- Read 2 Timothy 3:1-7. This passage describes the lives of those in bondage!
- Every person must seek to live a life free from the bondage of sin!

**How do you build a life free from the bondage of sin?**

**1. You must establish your life on real freedom.**

- When you are building a house, or any other dwelling, you have to start with the right foundation.
  - In Florida, it is critical that you not only build on concrete, but that you compact the foundation, reinforce it with steel, and then pour a thick concrete slab.
  - Why? Because the foundation is what will support the entire structure!
  - In Matthew 7:26, Jesus taught that the fool builds his house on the sand.
  - So what can you build your life on that will lead to a life free from the bondage of sin? Truth!
  - A foundation that is solid is sometimes referred to as "true."
- We see from our text, Timothy was urged by Paul to "*continue thou in the things which thou hast learned...*"
  - The foundation of Timothy's spiritual life was founded on truth!
  - We are all born with a sin nature, seeking to satisfy our own wants and desires. You are born in bondage to these things!
  - However, the truth is what can set a person free!
  - Jesus said, "...*the truth shall make you free.*" John 8:32
  - The logical question would be, "Where is the truth?"
  - A relationship with Jesus Christ is the source of truth! John 8:36
  - Jesus said in verse 36, "*If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*"
- In order to find truth, you must have knowledge of truth.
  - The Bible teaches that the fear of God is the beginning of knowledge.

- Proverbs 9:10a
- Look at the world today. It has sought to remove the things that point to a Creator and a Supreme Being.
- Prayer is removed from most public gatherings, or at least praying to the one, true God and Savior.
- Why are we seeing people's lives destroyed and families broken? Because a healthy fear of God is being removed, leading to a lack of knowledge that leads to truth!
- When you listen to society and ignore the fact that there is only one true source for freedom, you can't build on that freedom!

The foundation is the first step in building a life free from bondage, but the second is the framework!

## 2. You must frame your life with the Bible.

- A solid foundation is required to build anything that you want to last, but once you have the foundation, you have to work to have a solid frame!
- Your life is being framed daily by the things that influence you!
  - Many great people of God in the Bible were led away from God because of the influences they allowed in their life.
  - Read 1 Kings 11:3-4. Solomon was influenced by his 700 wives!
- From a young age, God influenced Timothy, because Timothy was being taught the Bible!
- Influences come from many different places.
  - The Bible influenced Timothy, but it was because of his mother and grandmother. 2 Timothy 1:5
  - The battle for influence starts in the home!
  - What will influence you? What kind of TV, books, magazines, Web sites, and relationships are you allowing in your life?
  - What will influence those who look to you for guidance? The things that influence you will influence those who look to you!
  - Lois and Eunice had a faith that was influenced by Scripture, and therefore, influenced Timothy too!
- The influence needs to be in everything that you do.
  - The music you listen to – does it support godly living and a life of worshiping the Lord?
  - The shows you watch – do they insult the Bible and God's name? Do they encourage a lifestyle that produces any of the fruit of the Spirit?
  - The friends you keep – do they honor the Lord and encourage you in your walk with Him?
  - The hobbies you enjoy – do they help you to draw closer to the Lord, or do they distract you from thinking about Him?
- It is never too late to remove the wrong influences in your life.
  - Paul urged the church in Corinth to "*purge*" themselves of the wicked that was influencing them.

- Verse 8 ties in perfectly with the first point. Truth is needed as the foundation to frame your life on. The Bible is the tool you use to purge your heart and mind of evil influences.

Once the foundation is laid and the framework is finished, the job is not over!

3. You must continue until the job is done.

- Could you imagine if a contractor stopped building once the walls and roof were framed? The inside still needed to be finished! The interior walls needed to be rocked, the floors needed to be laid, the plumbing and electrical needed to be completed... and so on.
  - If you are a homeowner, you know that the job never seems done! There are always tasks, repairs, modifications, additions, and updating that need to be done.
  - The Christian life is much the same. There are always going to be repairs, modifications, and additions being made in the Christian life until Christ returns.
- Look at Hebrews 12:1-2. The idea is that we, as believers, must not stop and allow the distractions of this world to hinder us from finishing the race, but remain focused on Christ and serving Him.
- God is still working today and desires for the work to be finished.
  - Jesus said in Matthew 9:37, *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few."*
- Did you know that God desires for you to serve Him, and to serve until the work is done. 2 Timothy 2:21; Ephesians 2:10
  - God wants to use everyone, but He can only use those who are *"fit for the Master's use"* and that means...
    1. You must know Him as your Master and Savior.
    2. You must purge your heart and life from the things that keep Him from being able to use you.
    3. You must remain ready to be used.
- What are you doing to finish strong and contribute to the harvest?

Conclusion:

We live in a world that is seeking to bind every person to a life of selfish living, seeking to satisfy personal desires, bound up in sin.

Christ came to set you free!