

*"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."*

**John 8:31-32**

## Store In My Heart

### Psalm 33:12

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD, the people whom he has chosen as his heritage!

I have been seeing this verse more often of late and each time I wonder if the individual who mentions it really understands what the Psalmist has written.

First, it was written for the nation of Israel who were chosen by God to bring the Messiah into the world. That means it can only apply in our time in principle.

Second, nations do not have gods, only the people of a nation can serve God. The people must give themselves to do the Will of the Lord if a nation is to be blessed. When the people turn away from God they sever any relationship that might bring blessings upon the land. God has only promised blessings to those who willingly obey Him.



# Freedom Can Only Be Found From God

## Kent Heaton

Thomas Jefferson wrote, "And can the liberties of a nation be thought secure, when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God? That they are not to be violated but by his wrath? Indeed, I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just; that His justice cannot sleep forever" (Notes on Virginia, 1784). The nature of freedom is relative to what men want to be free from. Our country was founded upon the principles of the knowledge of a Creator and from His hand life is sustained. Belief in God was not ridiculed as in our day. Prayer was not banished nor service to the one true God abandoned. Freedom celebrated in this generation is freedom from the restraints of a loving Creator.

The irony of our freedom is the enslaving power of self. Karl Barth said, "What was called freedom in the European age now past collapsed, and was bound to collapse, because for a long time and at an amazingly deep level it had degenerated into a freedom for godlessness and inhumanity" (Community, Church and State, 1946). The Psalmist declared: "*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord*" (Psalms 33:12). When a nation turns away from the foundational belief that man is to serve the Creator, society falls headlong into a godless, immoral and self-serving avalanche of destruction.

Paul shows the course of man's enslavement to self in **Romans 1**. First he shows how man chose not to glorify the Creator. "*For even though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened*" (Romans

## Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about the Lord's Kingdom.

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is feeling better. Bill Venable has had low blood pressure this week.

Paula Laubach is feeling a little better this week but still dealing with covid. David Laubach has been running a low grade fever and not feeling well. They will be in isolation for about two weeks after a negative test.

Amy Simpson was not exposed to covid, her coworker tested negative.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

**1:21**). In the darkness of their hearts, men *“exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever” (Romans 1:25)*. Falling headlong into godless acts of homosexuality (vv **26,27**) they *“did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper” (Romans 1:28)*. When you take a moment to read **Romans 1:29-32** you will see the freedom man has found in serving the creature (himself) rather than the Creator (Jehovah God).

All nations exist by the power of the Creator. *“Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God” (Romans 13:1)*. In Hannah's prayer of **1Samuel 2**, she declares the majesty of God's power over all mankind: *“The Lord kills and makes alive; He brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and rich; He brings low, He also exalts. He raises the poor from the dust, He lifts the needy from the ash heap to make them sit with nobles, and inherit a seat of honor; for the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and He set the world on them. He keeps the feet of His godly ones, but the wicked ones are silenced in darkness; for not by might shall a man prevail. Those who contend with the Lord will be shattered; against them He will thunder in the heavens, The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; and He will give strength to His king, and will exalt the horn of His anointed” (1Samuel 2:6-10)*.

For man to enjoy freedom he must submit to the Creator of the world. This submission is not oppressive (**1John 5:3**) but filled with love and grace. The Lord protects us and cares for us. The Creator of the world gave His only begotten Son to give us freedom (**Romans 6:23; Galatians 5:1**). Celebrate freedom in the willingness to abide by His care and His rule. True freedom can only come from Jehovah God.

(I know of no individual who does not want freedom. Unfortunately there are many who desire freedom who do not understand that real freedom is actually restrained. If there were no restraints we would live in chaos and unrest. No one would feel safe at any time. Real freedom is restrained by the limits God has placed upon each of us. When we follow the guidelines God has left for us, we can freely go about our life in peace and security knowing that nothing here on earth can truly harm us. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!