

“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

### Amos 1:1

The words of Amos, who was among the shepherds of Tekoa, which he saw concerning Israel in the days of Uzziah king of Judah and in the days of Jeroboam the son of Joash, king of Israel, two years before the earthquake.

The prophet Amos gave warning to Israel regarding their trust in prosperity and riches. They had turned from serving God because they had become prosperous. This brought idolatry, excess and corruption. The rich oppressed the poor, all seemed more interested in bettering their situation in life than giving God what He deserved. Amos delivered warnings from God that such attitudes would lead to disaster and ruin.

Maybe Amos is a book we should read more often as it's theme seems to mirror some of what we see today. We should heed his message.



# The Truth Shall Make You Free

**Richie Thetford**

Freedom is a most precious possession. Every creature desires and enjoys its freedom. Place an insect in a jar and it will work to get free. Put a dog on a leash and restrain him in one place and he will howl and bark to be set free. We humans are no different. We do not want our liberties tampered with – we want freedom.

On one occasion, Jesus said to the Jews who believed in Him, *“If you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* **John 8:31-32**. The key to genuine freedom is found in the phrase; *“continue in my word.”* Jesus says we come to know the truth by continuing in His teachings, and truth is that which will liberate us or make us free. When we live by the principles of truth we are not bound by Satan. The application of truth will eliminate social as well as moral evils. Sin is what leads to drunkenness, fornication, adultery, idolatry, homosexuality, lasciviousness, and all other forms of immorality.

Truth will lead men and women, boys and girls to love one another. To the extent that we love one another, we shall also respect each other's rights and privileges. Jesus said when asked about the first commandment, *“The first of all the commandments is: ‘hear, o Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall love the Lord your God with all*

## Contact Us

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

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## For Our Information

Joyce Venable is still not feeling 'up to par.' Bill is isolating.

Paula Laubach had a precancerous spot removed from her cheek last week.

Adene Gray got a good report from her stress test.

Dan Henderson had some spots removed from his back and should get results this week.

Tonight we start in 1Samuel 20:1.

Wednesday at 7 pm in Ephesians 1:15.

Pray for safety, courage & healing.

*your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' this is the first commandment. And the second, like it, is this: 'you shall love your neighbor as yourself.' there is no other commandment greater than these" (Mark 12:29-31).*

When we have love for God and our neighbor, it will necessitate living by the principle found in the Golden Rule, "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12). Or as we have coined the thought: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Such behavior will contribute to peaceful relationships. It will also demand honest dealings. The Bible says, "Provide things honest in the sight of all men" (Romans 12:17). The application of the Golden Rule will cause us to have respect for law and order. This style and quality of living will always lead to the blessings of the Lord. We must understand that freedom is not something that can be legislated. It cannot be guaranteed by maintaining large armies or police forces. It comes when men and women submit to the will of the Lord.

We are reminded of the words of Paul, when he asked, "If God be for us, who can be against us" (Romans 8:31)? If we walk in truth and worship in truth, we have nothing to fear. We shall be free people in the Lord.

(This article seems to compliment our recent Bible class study where we considered "liberty" and the two articles from last week.

As the author points out, God's Word will guide us to better relationships if we will follow it diligently. Most of our relationship problems stem from an attitude of "me first", which is just a different way to say selfishness. The Word teaches us to move self way down on the list of priorities in our life. The example of Jesus and His apostles is one of service for others. The call of the Gospel is to submit to Christ and make Him our Lord as well as our Savior.

Additionally we find numerous passages that teach us to consider others and their concerns. We have an obligation to serve one another. We will never know the freedom that comes from Truth unless we put Truth into action in our daily life. DLH)



We seek only to serve God according to His Will!