



**Valley Forge Baptist • July 6, 2025**

**Pastor Scott Wendal • [swendal@vfbt.org](mailto:swendal@vfbt.org)**

### **The Price of Freedom**

**John 8:30-32**

160 nations have modeled their constitution after ours. The concept of three branches of government corresponds to the three roles of God found in Isaiah 33:22. The founding fathers drew their inspiration for our new nation from their deep faith in God.

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people peaceably to assemble.” 1st Amendment of the Bill of Rights.

Many nations do not allow for freedom of worship or speech.

In John 8 Jesus is teaching in the Temple at the Feast of Tabernacles also called the Feast of Booths. The Jews built temporary shelters called “sukkot” to remind them of their journeys in the wilderness. They emerged from Egypt as a free nation headed for the Promised Land. They remembered that God is the One who gave them their freedom and eventually their land.

Every July 4th we should, like the Jews, take time not just to thank God for our hotdogs and hamburgers, but also for God's gifts of freedom.

We are free to choose where to live; what job to have; who to marry. We are free to worship God according to the Bible. We are free to share our faith and pray in public.

*"When a service man dies, it's a tear in the fabric. We honor those who died in defense of our country. They gave up two lives, the one they were living and the one they would have lived. When they died they gave up the chance to become husbands, and fathers, and grandfathers. They gave up their chance to be revered old men. They gave up everything for our country; for us. We owe them a debt we can never repay."*

**-President Ronald Reagan**

### **What is the Price of Freedom?**

The Price of Freedom...

## **1. For the Founding Fathers was \_\_\_\_\_.**

Loss of Property, loss of Freedom, and even loss of Life.

What happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence? Five signers were captured by the British as traitors and tortured before they died. 12 had their homes ransacked and burned. 2 lost their sons fighting in the army, and another had two sons captured. 9 of the 56 fought and died from wounds or hardships in the War for Independence. When they signed this document, they pledged their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor.

The Price of Freedom...

## **2. For the Soldiers and Sailors was and is \_\_\_\_\_.**

Loss of limb, loss of a normal life, and loss of life. Many veterans are plagued with PTSD, or addiction, or tempted to commit suicide. We need to support them.

*"Patriotism has to be taught. We must pass down the principles upon which America was founded. We must tell the stories of sacrifice and dedication if we are to maintain a strong and free society for our kids and grandkids."*

**-Commentator Paul Harvey**

**Three snapshots that grew patriotism in my heart.**

1) The Battle of the \_\_\_\_\_, 1836

2) The \_\_\_\_\_, 1861-1865

360,000 Union soldiers died to save the Union and free the slaves. With the stroke of his pen, President Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation and abolished slavery from our nation.

3) World War 2

In all of history, the largest number of casualties from a war that ever

occurred was during World War 2 (70-85 million).

The service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces is the reason that we are free today. This is the reason that people risk their lives to come here. Truly, every American is an immigrant from somewhere else... and if you go back far enough, even the American Indians are immigrants... because their ancestors came here from Turkey where Noah's ark landed and Iraq where God scattered the people from the Tower of Babel. As a nation, our diversity brings unity.

The snapshot of WW2 is the Flag at \_\_\_\_\_.

In 1945, U.S. Marines fought one of the bloodiest battles in American history on a small volcanic island called Iwo Jima in the Pacific. Japanese soldiers were deeply entrenched in tunnels. The battle lasted 36 days, and nearly 7,000 American Marines died - 20,000 wounded.

The Marines at Iwo Jima remind us that every inch of freedom we enjoy was purchased with courage, blood, and sacrifice. Just as those men gave everything for our freedom, so Jesus Christ gave everything for our eternal freedom.

Yes, freedom is a precious gift... but it only lasts a lifetime. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said that you have an eternal soul that will live somewhere forever - in heaven or hell.

In John 8 Jesus said, "the truth shall make you free." Jesus told us the truth.

A. *The Truth about* \_\_\_\_\_.

We are sinners in desperate need of forgiveness.

*"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God."*  
**Romans 3:23**

If you want to be free, the first truth you need to accept is that you are a sinner in need of forgiveness.

B. *The Truth about Coming*

\_\_\_\_\_.  
*"For the wages of sin is death."*  
**Romans 6:23**

*"And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire."*  
**Revelation 20:14-15**

The truth that Jesus taught us is that there IS a heaven and hell, whether you believe it or not.

C. *The Truth about* \_\_\_\_\_.

Jesus is the Only Way to heaven, John 14:6. His death on the cross paid the penalty of sin and His resurrection guarantees eternal life.

The truth is our baptism cannot wash away our sin. It's only water. Only Jesus can forgive your sins.

*"For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."*

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

Yes, I love America. I am grateful to God that I can come to church and worship the Lord with you and not worry about being arrested. But our first allegiance is to the Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom.

How sad it would be to give your life to serve others and not receive the ultimate gift of salvation from the One who made the greatest sacrifice to take you to heaven.

**Forgiveness is a \_\_\_\_\_.**

But with this gift comes the requirement of commitment, not to a country, but to a Savior – Jesus Christ. If you choose Him today, you can be a true patriot – one who loves God and country.

Jesus Christ came to make you free...

- Free from the guilt of sin.
- Free from the penalty of sin.
- Free to live a life of meaning and purpose.

When you choose to give your heart to Christ, the Holy Spirit gives you \_\_\_\_\_ - to love God and to love others. Choose to give your heart to Jesus today!