

4. Romans: Freedom

Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. Genesis 22.10

...now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. Romans 6.22

What does it _____ to be free?

We _____ God and the world through the lens of our formative experience. Abraham's own formative experience in the world would have colored how he knew God, partly in the image of gods who could require child-sacrifice, and would have influenced him to perceive child-sacrifice as an acceptable act of worship.

"The great _____ to be learned from Abraham's faith in God is that he was prepared to do anything for God" (Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*, April 26).

Abraham was free of all of life's idols when he *reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son*. We see in Abraham the essence of true freedom.

Through Christ on the Cross, our Father has set us _____ from sin and opened the way for our sanctification.

Most of the world, even the church, thinks of sin as something we do wrong. In the biblical worldview the things we do wrong are only symptoms of sin for sin is a _____, a disease in our souls that lives in the members of our bodies.

Sin is an intangible, abstract reality that has alienating, tragic and very _____ consequences for the world. Sin can even taints the good work we claim to do for Christ.

This is what has to be confronted and transformed in our hearts, the deep-seated _____ to have and do things "my way."

There is only one cure for the sin sick _____, the soul that wants to do it "my way," and that is the Cross.

...now that you have been freed from sin and enslaved to God, the advantage you get is sanctification. The end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eternal life is not just life after I die, it is a quality of life _____ -freedom! This is a simple choice, "my way" or Christ's way, simple but never easy!