

March 17, 2022

The Lord wants you to experience real and abundant life:

**John 8:31-32** *To the Jews who had believed Him, Jesus said, "If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."* (NIV)

Here is the truth: Jesus is the Word of God. As **Col. 1:15** states: *The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.* (NIV) And knowing this truth will set us free. Free to love like He loves. Free to share that love with everyone we know. Free to walk in forgiveness instead of in judgment. This is what abundant life feels like. **Rom. 8:1-2** *Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.* (NIV)

You might be wondering, what am I a slave to, that I need to be freed? You were slaves to sin. Our sin nature is real, and it has a tremendous pull on the choices we make. But Paul reminds us in **Rom. 6:22** *But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life.* (NIV) We can know real freedom to live without the curse of sin hanging over our heads and the freedom to walk with exuberance and joy because we are not bound by the cares of this world and we can, instead, focus on the plans that the LORD has for us. He desires for us to live in the freedom of salvation and not the dread of condemnation. Can you say this out loud with me: I have been set free! Come on, a little louder: I HAVE BEEN SET FREE! That's more like it.

**Dear LORD, You have done so much for us and You have set us free from the bondage of sin and death. We can walk with the complete freedom that we are Yours and that our sins have been covered by the blood of the Lamb. In Jesus Name, Amen**