

Message Notes

"The Heavy Burden of Freedom"

Scripture Passages

(taken from the New International Version)

Introduction – "I need a nifty fifty!"

A quick review of the Freedom Series
Part one – Eating food offered to pagan gods?
(1 Cor 8:1-14)

Part two – Do Christians have "rights"? (1
Cor 9:1-18)

Part three – Living outside yourself (1 Cor.
9:19-27)

Part four – Freedom: Warning about using it
wisely (1 Cor 10:1-13)

This week – Part five – The Heavy Burden of Freedom: Fleeing Idolatry! 1 Corinthians 10:14-22

1. Flee Idolatry (1 Cor. 10:14)

What is idolatry?
Jeremiah 2:13

Isaiah 44:12-20

Romans 1:21-23

2. You are what you worship (1 Cor 10:15-18)

3. You gotta serve somebody (1 Cor 10:19-20)

4. The fallacy of living a dualistic life
(1 Cor 10:21-22)

Joshua 24:14-17

Application – "Are you living free from idols?"

The pattern of freedom from idols

1 Corinthians 10:14-22

¹⁴Therefore, my dear friends, flee from idolatry. ¹⁵I speak to sensible people; judge for yourselves what I say. ¹⁶Is not the cup of thanksgiving for which we give thanks a participation in the blood of Christ? And is not the bread that we break a participation in the body of Christ? ¹⁷Because there is one loaf, we, who are many, are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf. ¹⁸Consider the people of Israel: Do not those who eat the sacrifices participate in the altar? ¹⁹Do I mean then that a sacrifice offered to an idol is anything, or that an idol is anything? ²⁰No, but the sacrifices of pagans are offered to demons, not to God, and I do not want you to be participants with demons. ²¹You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons too; you cannot have a part in both the Lord's table and the table of demons. ²²Are we trying to arouse the Lord's jealousy? Are we stronger than he?

Jeremiah 2:13

"My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water."

Isaiah 44:12-20

¹²The blacksmith takes a tool and works with it in the coals; he shapes an idol with hammers, he forges it with the might of his arm. He gets hungry and loses his strength; he drinks no water and grows faint. ¹³The carpenter measures with a line and makes an outline with a marker; he roughs it out with chisels and marks it with compasses. He shapes it in the form of man, of man in all his glory, that it may dwell in a shrine. ¹⁴He cut down cedars, or perhaps took a cypress or oak. He let it grow among the trees of the forest, or planted a pine, and the rain made it grow. ¹⁵It is man's fuel for burning; some of it he takes and warms himself, he kindles a fire and bakes bread. But he also fashions a god and worships it; he makes an idol and bows down to it. ¹⁶Half of the wood he burns in the fire; over it he prepares his meal, he roasts his meat and eats his fill. He also warms himself and says, "Ah! I am warm; I see the fire." ¹⁷From the rest he makes a god, his idol; he bows down to it and worships. He prays to it and says, "Save me; you are my god." ¹⁸They know nothing, they understand nothing; their eyes are plastered over so that they cannot see, and their minds closed so that they cannot understand. ¹⁹No one stops to think, no one has the knowledge or understanding to say, "Half of it I used for fuel; I even baked bread over its coals, I roasted meat and I ate. Shall I make a detestable thing from what is left? Shall I bow down to a block of wood?" ²⁰He feeds on ashes, a deluded heart misleads him; he cannot save himself, or say, "Is not this thing in my right hand a lie?"

Romans 1:21-23

²¹For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like mortal man and birds and animals and reptiles.

Joshua 24:14-27 (use a pew Bible to see this passage)