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**Sermon – Memorial Day 2022 – Let Freedom Ring**

**Scripture – Galatians 5**

**Main Message. Freedom is our burden to maintain, both as Americans and as Christians.**

Whether it be God's Law or Man's Law we are not free to do anything we choose. If you have ever served in the military, they have many extra laws that pertain only to military service members. If you are a believer in Jesus Christ, you are free, but certainly not in every way. Human beings come with a conscience. Even at a young age we know right from wrong, which is why young children lie. They want to avoid repercussions of doing something wrong. They also know the lie is wrong, but in the relative mind of the individual it seems a better option. God knew that we needed some guidance surrounding our freedoms so He gave us some commandments – 10 of them actually. The laws of this nation have incorporated the earthly ones into practical common sense laws. You know, don't murder someone, don't steal from someone, along with some others.

Freedom is tenuous. Too many laws and you're not free. No laws and you have chaos. Men and women have joined the military in order to maintain the freedoms of our nation, but what are they? Few can articulate them. In the past our nation has fought battles for the cause of keeping our freedom. I've never heard anyone say, I joined up in the military to protect our laws. They are not the same thing. Tomorrow, we honor those who have died to protect our freedoms. We meet each week here in the church to honor GOD who sent Christ to die for our sins and to set us free. In both cases what should we do we do with that freedom? That is the greater question.

It is becoming clearer by the day that most people would rather be slave to something rather than free. (repeat that) A slave has no responsibilities, only duties. A free person has responsibilities *and* duties. It is harder. It comes with the burden of initiative. It requires real effort, hard work, and perseverance, because freedom is easily lost. It is lost in the minds of even those who think they are free. Some use freedom as a way to do whatever they want. Our freedom should not create slavery in others. We also cannot sacrifice safety for freedom. That is a corruption that is also quite wrong. Listen to Paul in **Galatians 5**.

**Many have fought and died on our behalf so that we could be free, so own it or it will be taken away. Christ died for our freedom, so own that as well so we can honor that incredible sacrifice.**

**We do not honor a sacrifice by ignoring it, but by living it.**