

Mark Vitalis Hoffman

REFORMATION DAY

John 8.31-36

*So if the Son makes you free,
you will be free indeed.*

REFORMATION SUNDAY

John 8.31-36

Why this text?

- *The word*
- *Truth*
- *Being free*

Context of John 8.31-36

8.12:

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world..."

>>>

confusion, controversy, conflict

>>>

8.30

As he was saying these things, many believed in him.

John 8.31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him...

Better translation (NET):

Then Jesus said to those Judeans who had believed him...

But do they continue to believe in Jesus?

John 8.31-36

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him,

"If you continue in my word,

you are truly my disciples;

³² and you will know the truth,

and the truth will make you free."

Note the logic and sequence. What makes one free?

John 8.31-36

³³ They answered him,

"We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

What part of Jesus' statement have they heard?

How do they understand freedom?

John 8.31-36

³⁴ Jesus answered them,
"Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits
sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not
have a permanent place in the household;
the son has a place there forever.

*Jesus takes their literal misunderstanding
and turns it into a metaphorical / existential truth.*

John 8.31-36

³⁶ So if the Son makes you free,
you will be free indeed.

Should it be rendered as "Son" or "son"?

John 8.31-36

How does verse 36 compare with verse 31f.?

"If you continue in my word,
you are truly my disciples;
³² and you will know the truth,
and **the truth will make you free.**"

³⁶ So if **the Son makes you free**,
you will be free indeed.

John 8.31-36

What is this "word" of Jesus?

What is "truth"?

What does it mean to be "free"?

What does freedom mean today?

Search for "freedom" on Google images and:





What does freedom mean today?

Note Douglas John Hall's
Why Christian? For Those on the Edge of Faith

Attention to
what we are "saved from" and
what we are "saved for"

What do we need to be saved from?

Tillich's identification of three kinds of anxiety

- Death and fate
- Guilt and condemnation
- Meaninglessness and despair

What does freedom mean today?

- Freedom from the power of death grants us "to live life abundantly"
- Freedom from guilt (forgiveness of sins) grants us to live by grace
- Freedom from despair and meaninglessness grants us to live for Christ and for others in friendship and service

What is the *Freedom of the Christian?* (Martin Luther)

- A Christian is a perfectly free lord of all, subject to none.
- A Christian is a perfectly dutiful servant of all, subject to all.

John 8.31-36

What is this "word" of Jesus?

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John 8.31-36

³⁶ So if the Son makes you free,
you will be free indeed.

ὁντως ἐλεύθεροι ἔσεσθε.

You WILL indeed be free

You will REALLY be free