

The Freedoms That Easter Brings!

"Now on the first day of the week...they...came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared. But they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. Then they went in and did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. And it happened, as they were greatly perplexed about this that behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. Then, as they were afraid and bowed their faces to the earth, they said to them, "**Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but He is risen!** Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'" And they remembered His words..." **Luke 24:1-12**

I. Introduction

II. The Four Freedoms That Easter Brings

1. I can be set free from the _____

"He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love (Jesus), **in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins.**" **Colossians 1:13-14**

Fact: Guilt and regret are the ultimate destroyers of happiness.

"In Jesus we have redemption through his blood, **the forgiveness of sins**, in accordance with the riches of God's grace." **Ephesians 1:7**

"**He (Jesus) has canceled every record of the debt we owed.** Christ has done away with it by nailing it to the cross." **Colossians 2:14**

"**There is no condemnation for those are in Christ Jesus**, for those who do not live according to the dictates of the flesh, but rather, they choose to live in obedience to Holy Spirit." **Romans 8:1**

"Guilt is perhaps the most painful companion of death."---Coco Chanel

"While the resurrection promises us a new and perfect life in the future, God loves us too much to leave us alone to contend with the pain, guilt and loneliness of our present life."---Josh McDowell

2. Christ wants to set me free from the _____

"Don't panic, pray! **Cast all your cares and anxieties upon the Lord**, because He greatly cares for you." **1 Peter 5:7**

"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans (unsaved people) run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Matthew 6:31-34

"There are needless burdens, such as holding on to resentments, worrying over and over about the same thing, or trying to make someone love you who won't."---anonymous

"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."---Corrie ten Boom

"There is no greater discovery than seeing God as the author of your destiny."---anonymous

What's the secret of worry-free living?

"I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13 (NKJV)

"I am ready for anything through the strength of Christ who lives in me."

Philippians 4:13

3. Serving Jesus sets me free from living _____

*"We are God's work of art---God's masterpiece. **He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things (works) He planned for us long ago.**" Ephesians 2:10*

*"Christ has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to **His own purpose and grace** which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity..." II Timothy 1:9*

*"He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He **has put eternity in their hearts...**" Eccl.3:11*

*"Life is worth nothing **unless I use it for doing the work given me** by the Lord Jesus." Acts 20:24*

"God will meet you where you are in order to take you where He wants you to go."---Tony Evans

"The greater your knowledge of the goodness and grace of God in the 'good' of your life, the more likely you are to praise Him in the storm."---Matt Chandler

“Without God, life has no purpose, and without purpose, life has no meaning. Without meaning, life has no significance or hope”---Pastor Rick Warren

4. Jesus sets me free from having to _____

*"Christ has set you free from following **the world's idea of how to be saved** by doing good and obeying various rules." **Colossians 2:20***

*"For it is by God's grace that you have been saved through faith. **It is not the result of your own works or efforts, but God's gift,** so that no one can boast about it." **Ephesians 2:8-9 (TEV)***

*"For **the wages of sin is death,** but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Romans 6:23***

“Those who go to Heaven ride on a pass and enter into blessings that they never earned, but all who go to hell pay their own way.”---John R. Rice

***“I would not give one moment of heaven for all the joy and riches of the world, even if it lasted for thousands and thousands of years.”
---Martin Luther***

“One of the most staggering truths of the Scriptures is that we absolutely cannot have ‘worked’ our way to heaven...works have a place---but only as a demonstration of having received God’s forgiveness, not as a badge of merit for having earned it.”---anonymous

ANSWER KEY:

1. guilt and shame of my past

2. worries about my future

3. life without purpose

4. earn my way to heaven