Dear Lexie,

Life and Liberty

Accordingly to the English philosopher, John Locke, all men are naturally in "a state of perfect freedom to order their actions. . . ." Second Treatise Concerning Civil Government,§ 4 (1689). America's founding fathers, particularly Jefferson and Mason, took inspiration from Locke, as a reading of the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights will reveal. Our freedoms today flow from the ideals and protections enshrined in these documents.

Upcoming Events

Future events include:
This Sabbath:
August 22, 2015

1st Service Speaker:
Pastor Don McFarlane
"Jacob Chose Rachel, But God Chose Leah"

2nd Service Speaker:
Pastor Lonnie Melashenko
"The Missing Piece"

Special Musical Guest:
Heaven's Song

CONCERT LINE-UP!:
We have a line-up of great concerts for you to invite your friends and family to at Sligo Church:
National Christian Choir Sept 26, Jaime Jorge Oct 10, Sandi Patty Nov 14!

Prayer Gathering (every Wednesday night @ 7PM)

Missed Last Week's Sermon?

Watch Live or OnDemand:
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This natural state of perfect freedom, however, is constrained either through limitations of our choosing, on the one hand, and, on the other, by institutions and systems, many of which are beyond our ability to persuade or control. Alcohol, tobacco, and now, marijuana, are drugs that are socially acceptable in our society. Consumption is voluntary—at first, that is. Those with a genetic predisposition for addiction, will soon find, however, that cessation of alcohol intake, for example, is nearly impossible. Most of the citizens or, more properly, prisoners, of the gulag state of North Korea are doomed to a bleak, subsistence where generations of a family are punished for the alleged "crimes" of an ancestor. Their choices are limited and their freedoms curtailed if not altogether nonexistent.

In his epistle (or letter) to the Galatians, Paul extorts them to “[s]tand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free [from sin and Satan's claim on us], and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1. E.G. White writes that “[t]hose who believe on Christ and obey His commandments are not under bondage to God's law; for to those who believe and obey, His law is not a law of bondage, but of liberty.” Signs of the Times (July 23, 1902).

By choosing to submit to God's will, we will find true freedom from our earthly cares, burdens, and yokes, which, despite their immediacy, are, ultimately transitory and, although we may not appreciate them now, are helping to shape and form our characters for the next phase of our existence. E.G. White states that “[a]character formed according to the divine likeness is the only treasure that we can take from this world to the next. Those who are under the instruction of Christ in this world will take every divine attainment with them to the heavenly mansions. And in heaven we are continually to improve. How important, then, is the development of character in this life.” Christ's Object Lessons at 332.

Turning back to Paul, who some scholars believed was describing poor eyesight as the thorn in his flesh (2 Corinthians 12:7), he offers that, "[n]ow we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity. All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely.” 1 Corinthians 13:12.

One day we will understand all that is unfathomable to us today. Until then, while we enjoy life and liberty, and pursue happiness, we should not become blind to our greater calling. Our mission is three-fold: (1) to navigate the narrow path of our own earthly journey; (2) help others find their way to freedom from their worldly bonds, regardless of how they were shackled; and (3) share with them the Good News about eternal and perfect freedom that comes through Christ’s gift of salvation through grace to all who accept Him.

(by Allan K. Manuel)