**Notes**

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****July 2, 2017**



A world of Difference

Part 2

“How free is free?”

Welcome

**A World of Difference**

*(Part 2 How free is free?)*

**Intro:**

Is there a way to ‘filter’ out what’s untrue & doesn’t help in the long run. Answer: there is a way!

We need to develop a word based filter based on the Bible.

**“The science is settled” … or is it?**

* Scientists and politicians (spoiler alert) say:

 -Global warming / climate change is settled

 -Evolution is a proven ‘fact’ of life.

* Don’t we all feel so much better now – they’ve figured it out!?
* Good news: The Science is not settled!
* The only thing that is settled is God’s Word! **Psalm 119:89**

**Healthy skepticism**

* Because **all** people have an agenda, opinions, and say they have ‘science’ to back it up:
* Have a **healthy** ‘skepticism’ towards what we hear and see.

 (Unhealthy skepticism leads to ‘cynicism’

**So, what’s our agenda?**

* To present to you a “world of difference” where:

-The radical good news is that in Jesus all things become brand new, and all old things have passed away.

In other words: You and I are “free indeed” **John 8:34-36**

**Question:** How free is free and what does it mean to us?

**Independence Day
*(241 years old this 4th July)***

* **The dream** of independence took shape with the Pilgrims in 1620, who fled Europe to practice their religion as they saw fit.
* America was created on the basis of a ‘set of ideas’ now enshrined in the constitution: Not ethnicity, geography or nationality.

**3 key ideas summarize America:**

* Liberty – free to pursue our dreams
* In God We Trust – these rights & liberties are God granted
* E Pluribus Unum – from many, one. (One class of citizen: American”

**Symbols:** (see pictures)

* **Coin** - Out of many, one (Latin)
* **Bell** - Liberty bell: rung to announce King’s armies surrender.
* **Eagle** - majesty, fly above
* **Flag** - Red White & Blue:

**God uses America even though it’s not a perfect nation:**

* Slavery & the civil war are two key examples.
* Despite it’s imperfections:

-America is the world leader in supporting the Gospel worldwide through missions giving / capita.

**Our citizenship carries both ‘rights’ & ‘responsibilities’**

 Rights of the nation: ‘constitution’

 Rights of the kingdom of heaven: ‘covenant promises’

And …

 Responsibilities to function as contributors to society

 Responsibilities to further God’s kingdom purposes

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

**Back to Freedom**

* Jesus came to make a world of difference in us personally declaring our “independence” from:

 Sin and it’s deadly consequences: now & later

 Lies and deceit that rob us of God’s best

 Control & manipulation of others

 Sickness & distress

**Luke 4:18-19**

Now that we are free from sin’s negativity, we can make **a world of difference** in the lives of others

**Final Take Away & Communion**

Let us remember the depths He went to make us free indeed.

He went ‘down’ to the greatest depths

To raise us ‘up’ to the greatest heights.

**Ephesians 2:4-7**