

Freedom Through the Blood

by Michael Howard

The sermon emphasizes the power of the blood of Jesus Christ to forgive and purify us completely, and encourages us to live in the reality of this freedom.

Duration: 48:50

Scripture: Leviticus 11:44, Matthew 6:33, 2 Corinthians 3:18, Hebrews 9:8-9, Hebrews 9:14, 1 Peter 1:16

Topics: "Freedom"

Description

The video shown in the sermon was about the work being done in Malawi. It highlighted the tremendous stories of what God has been doing in the nation of Malawi this year. The speaker encouraged the audience to get excited about the increase in the number of people being supported and the impact being made in Malawi. The video showcased the glorious work of God and emphasized the importance of being a part of God's building, which is the believers themselves.

Transcript

Hallelujah, it's good to be back with you this morning. Before I share from God's Word, I would just like to advertise a couple of books. This is Love Constrained.

Through the power of intercession, those of you who receive our newsletter and know about the ministry, you will know that we really believe in the power of intercession. And through the power of intercession, the nation of Mozambique was totally set free. Today, one of the most missionized countries of Africa.

And brought out of the darkness of communism, through the power of continued intercession, that saw victory in that nation. The Price of Disobedience. Excellent book.

Will really, really make your flesh squeak. The Price of Disobedience. I want to tell you friends, God, the Holy Ghost, tells us to do things so many times.

When we obey, we pay a price. And tells us quite a lot of things that we believe that are not right. And then to save a nation, the story again of the power of intercession delivering the nation of Southern Sudan.

Total peace signed at the end of December last year. And now the Southern Sudanese have complete freedom. In six years time, they will vote in the referendum as to whether to be a totally independent nation, or to remain in a federation with Khartoum.

But through the power of intercession, God set the nation free. To make their own choice and decide their own future. Hallelujah.

If you're not on our mailing list and you'd like to be, there is a card there. If you'd like perhaps to support a pastor, a worker, an evangelist in Africa, you'll be able to correspond with them, get a photograph of them, put it on your fridge, pray for them. They will certainly pray for you.

I was just in Finland and one of the supporters there, a gentleman, a businessman, who had been supporting 20 of our workers, evangelists and pastors and teachers and whatever else. And he phoned me up when I was in Finland last year and he said, I've hit a crisis. I'm in major financial problems.

I said, well, what's new? How many can attain to that this morning? And he said, I don't know if I can continue to support all of these students. It's \$30 a month, or workers or whoever he was supporting. And I said, well, brother, I don't think you really need to give up supporting them.

Not because I need your money or they need your money, but you need to give it. And he said, well, I'll really try my best. I said, well, you carry on trying your best and see what God does.

Not a few weeks later, he called me up to tell me the most incredible thing that happened in his life. And I'm talking about a big CEO of a multinational company. You say, how on earth is he in financial problems? Anybody can be in financial problems, beloved.

He phoned me up and I, at that time, I really told some of his supporters you need to pray for him. I didn't tell them what the problem was. He said that suddenly one morning, he got a phone call from a friend of his in another nation.

They had gone to school together. He said, get on the first plane you can tomorrow and get down here. I have a job for you.

He said, well, there's, he thought, well, there's no job that can beat the one that I've got. But he got on the plane and he went down to Denmark to visit this friend of his. And the friend of his had a job for him back in his home country of Finland with four times the salary.

He said, I'm increasing the number of people I'm supporting. Come on, friends. You can get excited about that.

If you have your Bibles with you, and tonight we're going to be showing a DVD on the work in Malawi, the focus that God has us in now, some tremendous stories about what God has been doing in the nation of Malawi even this year. And I'll be showing that tonight. If you have your Bibles, turn with me to the book of Hebrews in the ninth chapter.

And I'm reading from verse eight. The Holy Ghost, this signifying that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing. God's got a far more glorious tabernacle.

Come on. The first tabernacle, beloved, was just a building made with hands. God has a building made by His hands.

That building is you and me. Hallelujah. And we get a little Sunday excited.

Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices that could not make Him that did the service perfect. For 1,500 years under the law, offering gifts and sacrifices, the blood of goats and bulls could not make anybody perfect. The blood that was offered, the blood of animals, did only one thing, beloved.

It atoned for the sin of Israel. It atoned for their sin. It did not take it away.

And it could not purge the conscience of the nation of Israel. Oh, what a blessed people we are. Isn't it a terrible thing that we who have come into a new covenant, a new blessing, a new understanding, still want to go back to the old things, which stood only in meats and drinks and diverse washings and carnal sacrifices.

Verse 11, But Christ, but Christ, our beginning and our end and our all in all, but Christ, Christ in you, the hope of glory, being come an high priest. Every day at three o'clock in the afternoon, when the high priest had finished his daily sacrifice, he would turn and he would lift up his hands and he would declare, It is finished. Jesus Christ, become our great high priest, lifted up on the cross of Calvary with the blood pouring from him, declared to all the universe, It is finished.

The sacrifice is complete. We are blood washed. By the power of God.

See, in the moment we started to talk like this, I can see people's minds all across this auditorium this morning thinking, Did God really do it for me? Can this really be true? Is this as complete as the Bible says it is? We are always looking for reasons why God's word really doesn't mean what it says. Isn't it amazing how God's people spend their lives looking for reasons why this can't possibly be true. This, what the word of God says, no, really can't be true.

It's too good to be true. Amen? When somebody offers you a deal that you cannot refuse, you say, What's the catch? This is too good to be true. I don't believe it.

If somebody walked up to you this morning and said, I like you, I'm just going to give you \$100,000. You'd immediately say, What's wrong with you? Come on. If I dangled \$1,000 here at the pulpit this morning and said, The first comer, come and get it.

I guarantee you'd all just look at me and the first thing that would go through your mind is, Does he really mean it? I mean, here's \$1,000 hanging here, and I say, Come and get it, somebody. Does he really mean it would be the first thing that goes through everybody's mind. And I'm saying to you, Yes, come and get it.

And then, Oh, well, what am I going to look like if I come running from the back to come and get this? Maybe he's going to take it away. Say, I didn't really mean it. I do that with my natives in Africa.

Here's some money, come and get it. Who wants it? And everybody sits and looks at you. I really mean it.

Who wants this money? Come and take it. Well, they're a lot poorer than you are, and you would expect the whole group just to stand up and flock you, grabbing the money. No, but everybody just sits because they don't believe that it can be true that you are just offering them something for nothing.

Come on, friends. That's our mentality, and the further west you go in the world, the more it gets like that. No, this can't be real.

I've got to pay for this. I've got to sweat blood and tears for this. I've got to work for this.

I've got to do something to get this. Nobody is stupid enough to give me something for nothing. And we say that all the time in the business world.

Nobody gives you anything for nothing. Aren't we raised with that mentality? Aren't we taught that in our schools? Nobody is going to give you anything for nothing. You've got to work for everything you get.

And you know what? We bring that into the church. We bring that into the house of God. Nobody is going to give you anything for nothing.

God isn't going to give you anything for nothing. That's an absolute lie. God gave His Son because He loved us.

Hallelujah. He gave His Son to die on the cross that we might be set free. Not partially.

Not three quarters or seven eighths. But wholly. Wholly set free.

But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come. By a greater and more perfect tabernacle. Not made with hands.

That is to say not of this building. Neither by the blood of goats and calves. But by His own blood.

By His own precious, pure, spotless blood, beloved. I want to tell you this morning. There was not one iota of sin or corruption in the blood of Jesus Christ.

His blood was totally 100% uncontaminated. That's hard to accept. Because we are so sinful.

We are so deceitful. We are so fallen in Adam's nature. That it's hard for us to conceive that there came one who was so spotless.

Who was so pure. Who was so uncorrupt, beloved. That His blood was without any sin.

Therefore He could become the perfect antidote for everything that you are. And everything that I am. Not part of it.

Not a little of it. But all of it. That's hope today.

It doesn't matter what you've done. It doesn't matter how far astray you've gone. It doesn't matter where you've gone.

It doesn't matter your past. It doesn't matter your present. And it doesn't even matter your future, beloved.

I want to tell you this morning. That the blood of Jesus Christ has taken care of it all. Once and for all.

Hallelujah. He has purged you of a guilty conscience. Now here's the problem with men.

Because we believe that nothing is given for nothing. And because we believe that time washes things away. Our guilt and our shame and our sins.

And because we also believe that somehow we've got to pay. We don't accept the completed work of Jesus Christ at the cross of Calvary. We don't accept the work of the blood of Christ.

We make excuses. And I want to tell you this morning. That He has forgiven you past.

He has forgiven you present. He has forgiven you future. It is a completed work.

It was done at the cross by the blood of Jesus Christ. That was shed for you and me without any corruption or sin. That gives me hope.

And all I've got to do is rest in that absolute truth that comes from God. For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of an heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh. Of the flesh.

Making them acceptable. A substitute making them acceptable, beloved. That's what it was all about.

The sprinkling of blood. The ashes of the red heifer. Making Israel acceptable in the flesh unto God.

What about the blood of Jesus Christ? That wasn't for sprinkling. That was for absolute cleansing. How much more shall the blood of Christ.

How much more shall the blood of Christ. If Israel having been sprinkled by blood. If Israel having offered sacrifices.

If Israel having been washed with the ashes of the red heifer. Could come into the presence of God. Because their sin is atoned for.

How much more the blood of Jesus Christ, beloved. Washing away all of our sin. Casting it into the sea of forgetfulness.

Remembering no more. Purge not our flesh, but our conscience. Come on.

You don't have to be guilty about yesterday. You don't have to be guilty about the past. You don't have to be ashamed by what you've done.

You don't have to be ashamed about even what you are doing. I want to tell you this morning. It's under the blood of Jesus Christ.

It's not going to be under the blood of Jesus Christ. It is already under the blood of Jesus Christ. It's a completed work.

Why don't God's people so often gain the victory in their lives? I want to tell you why we don't gain the victory in our lives. It's because we are always looking back to the areas where we have failed. The things where we have gone wrong.

The guilt and shame of the past. The way that we have behaved. The interaction with people.

And we can't let those things go. Because there is this sick mentality in humankind, beloved, that somehow I've got to pay for what I've done. And we don't believe God's Word.

It's finished. It's finished. Your sins are forgiven.

You have been washed clean. One hundred percent washed clean. You can get excited.

How much more shall the blood of Christ who through the eternal Spirit, the blessed Holy Ghost. I'm a real lover of the Holy Spirit. I'm very passionate about the Holy Spirit.

The same Holy Spirit that dwelled in Jesus Christ when He was on this earth. The same Holy Spirit that infused the blood of Christ with power and authority. The same Holy Spirit that raised Him from the dead.

The same Holy Spirit that worked. The same Holy Spirit that came upon Him, beloved. It's the same Holy Spirit that dwells in you and me today.

He hasn't changed. He's the same. He is here to apply the blood of Christ to our lives in every area of our lives.

He is here to exalt Jesus Christ. He is here to lift up Jesus Christ. He is here to manifest Jesus Christ.

He is here to glorify Jesus Christ that you and I might glorify Him and live in His glory. These are not just wonderful words. This is the living reality of what Christ has done for us, of what Christ is doing for us and what He will ever do for us.

It's done. It's completed, beloved. All He asks us to do is to believe it and to live in it.

To walk in it. To accept it. To enjoy it.

To delight in it. Because I'm free. Free.

Free from the past. Free even from the present. And free from anything in the future.

The Eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God. So tremendous, tremendous a truth. In the Old Testament tabernacle of Moses, the high priest could enter into the Holy of Holies but once a year.

There are too many people that teach, oh, when he went in there, he went in there with some golden cord tied around his ankle. Because if he died in there, nobody could go in to bring him out. They would pull him out.

There's no such thing in the Bible. When the high priest went into the Holy of Holies, he went in with assurance because of obedience. Come on.

If he went in dressed as God prescribed, if he went in carrying the blood as God prescribed, if he went in according to the law as God prescribed it, he had no fear that he would ever die because he was walking in obedience to what God had said. And those who walk in obedience will find that God is gracious. He didn't need to worry coming out of there.

He would come out of there. But in this new covenant age, by a new and living way, that is to say, the flesh of Christ, hallelujah, Christ dwelling in me, Christ alive in me, Christ triumphant in me, Christ in me, the hope of glory. But I want to tell you when I'm totally immersed in Christ, when I'm totally lost in Christ, when I'm totally filled in Christ, beloved, that is glory.

I noticed that one of the choruses that we sang this morning was all about promises, promises, promises being fulfilled. Promises are already fulfilled. Promises are already fulfilled, beloved.

We are complete in Him. That's what the word of God says. And I like that old Pentecostal chorus, complete, complete, complete in Him.

I am complete in Him. Lacking nothing. Absolutely lacking nothing.

I want to tell you if we would only know the completeness and the fullness of Jesus Christ, we would know that He is a God who lacks nothing and as we follow Him, we too will lack nothing in Him. The eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God. Purge your conscience.

Purge your conscience. I want to tell you if your conscience is still convicting you, if your conscience, beloved, is still troubling you, you have not believed the word of God. You have not stood on the word of God.

You have not accepted the word of God. Today you need to accept that your conscience has been purged, cleansed, purified, perfected by the blood of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah.

What does it mean? Forget about the things of the past. Forget about the failings and the faults. I want to tell you if you are caught in a sin habit, if you are caught in a sin problem that rubs you and cheats you and steals away your freedom, your joy, your peace, your victory in God, beloved, fall in love with Him.

Get excited about Him. Let Him take control. Become holy even as She is holy.

If it was impossible, the word of God would not tell us to be holy even as She is holy. And as we get filled with Him, as we delight in Him and get more excited about Him, forgetting about people's opinions, forgetting about somebody else's opinion. We are ruled by people's opinion.

We are spending our lives trying to please people. And you know what? You are never going to do it. How many wives spend their whole lives trying to please their husband and the old goat can never be pleased? Leave him in his misery.

You say, well, his misery affects me. It doesn't have to, you know. You can eventually divorce yourself from his misery and live your life.

You can start to get excited about Jesus Christ. If He decides He is going to walk out, that's His business. Let Him walk.

I don't understand people who want to live in misery all their lives, never enjoy life. Oh my goodness! How we are robbed and how we are cheated because we always are dancing to somebody's opinion. We always want somebody's approval.

We always want somebody to think good of us. I want to tell you, don't worry about what people are going to think because you are never going to please them. Worry about what God is thinking, what God is doing, what God wants to do, how God works in your life.

Offer Himself without spot to God. Purge your conscience from dead works. Dead works.

Religion is such bondage. We find it everywhere we go. Dead bondage of religion.

Now, we have seen the trappings of religion so clearly displayed this past week. The funeral of the Pope. All the trappings of religion, beloved.

Dead works. God has come to cleanse us and purify us from every dead work. Every work that you think is going to make you pleasing to your friend, to your family, to your husband, to your wife.

And that, if we've got that mentality, we've got that mentality towards God. 1 John 1 verse 9 If I confess my sin, He's faithful and just to forgive me and to cleanse me from all unrighteousness. Why do I need to confess my sin? If God has taken care of it by the blood of Jesus Christ, which He has, why do I need to confess it? I'll tell you why I need to confess it.

Not because God needs to hear it, because He's already dealt with it. Because I need to. Because I need to, beloved.

In the account of the prodigal son, most people look at it from the point of view of the prodigal. I'm more concerned about it from the point of view of the father. Here was the father waiting and waiting, anxiously waiting.

He never gave up on his son. Come on. He never gave up on his son.

Day in, day out, watching, waiting from the rooftop of his mansion for this wayward son who had squandered his all in riotous living to come home. Why did the son know that he could come home? Because of the love of the father. Because of the incredible love of the father.

You're not going to go back where you're going to be criticized and condemned and rejected and humiliated. But he knew that his father loved him so incredibly that he would find acceptance in the eyes of the father. How many a person whose daughter, whose son has got into trouble, whose daughter has ended up pregnant, and they come home to mom and dad, and what do they find? They find rejection.

They find humiliation. They find all kinds of things, and they turn and they leave forever. You know what? It doesn't matter what we've done wrong.

When people come back and they want your help, they want your love, they want your acceptance, even in the midst of the wrong, beloved, we need to open our arms and we need to receive. Judgment in the body of Christ, which is not practiced by the church in this hour, is not to get rid of a wrongdoer. It's not to brush our hands and say, good, we're short of some problem maker.

It's to bring them to correction, to bring them to repentance, so that we may receive them back. That's what judgment's about. To receive the wrongdoer.

That's the heart of God. If that wasn't the heart of God, why does He command us to do such things? The prodigal comes back. The father rushes to meet him.

The prodigal has one desire in his heart. When he sees his father, I will go to my father and I will say to my father, I am no more worthy to be called your son. Make me one of your hired servants.

He's got this speech rehearsed. Do you think that the father could really care less about the speech? I tell you, when the old man saw his son coming, recognizing him by the way he walked, by the flow of his gown, he knew the boy intimately. He gathered up his skirt and he ran to meet him, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

He wasn't concerned about any speech that the boy had to offer. He wasn't concerned about what the boy had to say. This, my son, was dead and is alive.

Hallelujah! That's God concerning you today. But the father in his wisdom, in his grace, in his love and in his mercy knew that the son had to make right with him. Not for God's sake, but for the son's sake.

See, we so often misunderstand the Scriptures. Jesus said, this one cometh not out but by prayer and fasting. Well, it wasn't that the devil was going to come out by prayer and fasting.

It was that the disciples by prayer and fasting were going to get authority. And they could cast the devil out. Amen? Father, forgive me.

See, the father allowed his son to make the speech so that the son could be on right grounds with the father again. Not for the father's sake, but for the son's sake. So that the son could get free.

So that the son could be liberated. So that the son could enter into enjoyment again. The father already had purposed in his heart what he was going to do with his son, beloved.

He already knew. He already planned it. It was already clear to the father.

Bring the finest robe and put it on him. Bring shoes for his feet and bring the ring for his finger. Not just any ring.

The ring with the crest of the family that entitled the son to go to the bank and draw whatever he wanted again. But he just squandered everything in riotous living. Do you think I care? This, my son, was lost and is found.

He was dead and is alive. That's why God says if we confess our sin, he's faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Not because God needs to hear our repentance.

Not because God needs to hear our confession. But because we need to make it. And until we do and unless we do, the books are never balanced with God.

Amen? I want to tell you why some people carry the weight and the burden and the guilt and the shame for year after year after year. It's because they never confessed it. They never came before God and confessed it.

God doesn't have a problem. We have the problem. God isn't ashamed.

We are ashamed. God doesn't feel guilty. Believe me, beloved, it's we who feel guilty because we've never come to make right so that we can get free.

How much more shall the blood of Christ that blood infused with the power of the Holy Spirit filled with the life of the Holy Spirit that blood without spot that blood without stain that blood so pure life is in the blood the life of every creature in the blood and Jesus Christ offers up His life in the blood who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God purged your conscience from dead works to serve the living God purged your conscience and we have to understand the difference between condemnation and conviction the Holy Spirit comes to convict the Holy Spirit comes into your life to put His finger on issues with which He is displeased. Why? Because He knows that they are preventing you from growing in God, from enjoying God upon God's terms. I want to tell you this is God's terms, beloved.

People often ask are you at peace with God? It's not a question of are you at peace with God, it's God at peace with you. We can blot God out of our minds and say I'm at peace with God who is God? The world is saying I'm at peace with God who is God. Is God at peace with me? God can only be at peace with me by the power of the blood of Jesus Christ, no other way no other substitute no other activity, beloved.

The blood of Jesus Christ makes God at peace with me because I offer it unto Him as Christ offered His own blood to the Father. Purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. The dead sacrifices of the Old Testament the dead works of religion, the dead works of the law.

Why the law was given when God knew Israel would and could never keep it? Why did He give it? Says it was a schoolmaster to bring Him to Christ. Everywhere Israel looked in the tabernacle of Moses, in the law in the offerings and the sacrifices in everything about. The whole religious system of the church in the wilderness was Christ, Christ, Christ Christ, Christ.

Anybody that was hungry, anybody that was thirsty could not fail to see Christ in everything. When we begin to get into a religious humdrum no direction, no purpose. Everything that we do should have a direction and a purpose.

The living reality of the power of Jesus Christ is our purpose. The living reality of the power of Christ should be seen in our lives, should be manifested through our lives. Why? Because when we're wrapped up in Him He's going to change our lives, He's going to change our thinking, He's going to change our mentality.

That's what the Holy Spirit comes to do. He comes to put His finger on the issues of the flesh, on the issues of the kingdom of darkness in our lives, to what transform us and change us into the kingdom of light. I don't think like I used to think.

How many of you can say here this morning my thinking has changed? Everybody should be able to say, my thinking today is totally different than it was last year. It's certainly different than it was five years ago. It's certainly different than it was a decade ago.

I don't think like I used to think anymore. Why? Because I'm not thinking the way of the world. I'm not thinking the death of the world.

I'm thinking the way of life. I'm thinking the mind of Christ. I'm thinking the purpose of God that infills me and infuses me and delights me and satisfies me and makes me whole.

We heard quite a lot about death this morning. Dying to flesh. Dying to self.

Die to your thoughts and let God's thoughts become your thoughts. Let God's mentality become your mentality. Let God's way become your way, beloved.

Then you will begin to prosper. I want to tell you, as long as there's a struggle going on in your life about surrendering to God's way or doing it your way. Surrendering to God's desire.

God's will and God's purpose and God's all in your life. You young people sitting out there this morning and I see many of you. Surrender right now to God's way and God's will and God's purpose in your life because I want to tell you, He will always make you fruitful.

He will always make your life a blessing and it really, when it comes down to it, it's easy to die, give up, give out and give in to God. We make it so difficult. So we set up a struggling and a striving in our lives but the blood of Jesus Christ has purged us, cleansed us, worked from the inside out.

Hallelujah. Didn't just sprinkle outwardly. Thoroughly cleansed us.

Thoroughly cleansed our thoughts. Thoroughly cleansed our internal thinking. Thoroughly cleansed and purified us.

Hallelujah. Why? Because Christ lives wonderfully inside of us. People say, I want to see Jesus.

I want to see Jesus. I want to see Jesus. You've seen Him.

You've seen Him. He lives inside. Hallelujah.

Instead of wanting to see some apparition because I tell you, if that's what you're looking for, you're going to see an apparition. You're going to see a devil appearing as an angel of light. Everybody's wanting to see Jesus stuck on a wall.

The only thing God did on the wall was write on it. Amen? But He lives inside of you. He's victorious.

He's not just Jesus living in you, beloved. He is the victorious Jesus living in you. He is the conquering Jesus living in you.

He is the overcoming Jesus living in you. He is the triumphant Jesus living in you. Hallelujah.

It's time for our lives to line up with Him. Amen? It's time for our lives to line up with Him. Line up with His purposes.

Line up with His plans. Line up with His desire. You can carry on fighting that till the day you die and you will live miserably.

I'm looking at some faces this morning. There's an awful lot of misery. The Holy Spirit is here to convict us.

To put His finger on those things that God doesn't like. We get all religious and we start to tell people what we don't like. You know something? It's none of your business to tell a new believer what you don't like.

Because then you've become a religious legalist. Don't do this. Don't do that.

Don't go here. Don't go there. Don't put on makeup.

Don't paint your fingernails. Don't wear this and don't wear that. None of your business.

If God doesn't like something, He's going to tell you. There's a wonderful account of the great missionary to the Chinese, Hudson Taylor. And a wise Chinese professor came to the tea room where Taylor was preaching one night, listened intently to the message and gave his heart to Jesus.

He was a Buddhist professor at the University. In his home was a beautiful shrine dedicated to Buddha with a little Buddha statue in the shrine. He didn't think anything about it.

He had given his heart to Jesus. There was no legalist. There was nobody coming and saying, get rid of Buddha.

No, I'm not advising you to keep a Buddha. And if you've got a Buddha, get rid of him. All he had was the blessed Holy Spirit who had applied Christ to his life.

Two days after this experience of salvation, he got up one morning, went into his lounge and there was the Buddha fallen flat on his face in the temple. This had never happened before and the professor was

amazed. He called together the family who knocked Buddha over.

Nobody dares to touch Buddha. So he brushed Buddha off, polished him up and put him back in his little temple. The next morning he came again and there was Buddha flat on his face.

He called the family. Nobody touched Buddha. No servants touched Buddha.

Nobody would dare to touch Buddha. Four nights in a row the same thing happened and suddenly after the fourth night, this professor began to think, oh my goodness, maybe the new god that I am worshipping doesn't like Buddha. It doesn't take somebody coming with their legalism and telling him, you get rid of Buddha.

The Holy Spirit is well able to do the job in each of our lives. If we will only listen to him and obey him, he will take us to victory and authority and power. So this educated professor said, well, new god Jesus Christ, if you don't like Buddha, take him away.

The next morning they got up. Buddha had not fallen flat on his face in the temple. He had fallen out of the temple and smashed to pieces on the floor.

Hallelujah. When God speaks to you, convicts you, beloved. Condemnation comes from yourself.

Condemnation comes from the source of not being able to live up to somebody's expectations. Judas Iscariot condemned himself and went out and hanged himself. If you are living under condemnation, it doesn't come from the word of God.

It doesn't come from the spirit of God. It comes from yourself. People say, I'm under condemnation.

Well, that came from you. You set a standard you can't keep. And when you can't keep it, you condemn yourself.

You beat yourself up. You incriminate yourself. I want to tell you it's time to forget about that.

Deal with those things that the Holy Spirit convicts in your life because he's come to set you free. He wants to live gloriously inside you so that he can make glorify Christ who lives in you. Hallelujah.

Let us pray. Father, we love you. We thank you for so great a work that you've done.

So great a freedom that you've given. So great a love. Jesus, thank you for your blood that thoroughly, thoroughly washes us clean.

I want every head bowed and eyes closed. You say this morning, yeah, I'm living under condemnation. My conscience isn't being purged.

I'm guilty. I feel ashamed. There are things that I've not dealt with.

That's you this morning. I want you to put up your hand. Yes, that's me.

Lord, I'm not free. Come on, be bold. Thank you.

Anybody else? Put up your hand as an indication to God, Lord. Oh, Jesus. Those people that raised their hand, just stand in your seat right where you are.

Forget about everybody else. Stand up right where you are. There are many more.

There are many more. Lord, I've been living under condemnation. I've been living under bondage.

I've been living under my conscience that isn't free. That hasn't been thoroughly washed. I feel guilty about things of the past or things of the present.

That's you. Just stand up right where you are. I want everybody to lift their hands to the Lord.

I'm going to pray right now. Father, in the name of Jesus, by his outpoured blood that washed us thoroughly clean, that purges our conscience and our lives from all guilt and shame, I ask you this morning, Lord, that you descend upon your people. Set them free, Lord.

Purge their consciences, Lord. Cleanse their lives thoroughly that, Father, as they walk out of here this morning, there's no more guilt. There's no more shame.

There's freedom. There's liberty in you, Father God. Thank you for your love.

Thank you for what you did at the cross. Thank you for the blood that thoroughly, thoroughly washes from all sin. Father, I lift it up to you this morning.

In the mighty name of Jesus, set your people free. May they feel your love in Jesus' mighty name. Amen.

God bless you.

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