

Ministering to Christians Seeking Spiritual Freedom and Deliverance



Newsletter—Vol. VII, No. 3
March 2013

Dear Life of Freedom Ministries Supporter:

Greetings!

According to our calendars, spring is just a few weeks away. I know many complain about the diversity of Indiana weather, but I really do enjoy the different seasons. Early spring isn't one of my favorites (usually still chilly and often wet), but the promise of late spring and summer—meaning the chance to play softball—is inviting. Most importantly, spring is the season we celebrate Resurrection Sunday, and we celebrate early this year, on March 31. I pray that Resurrection Sunday is a wonderful blessing of celebration for you.

Praises:

The last few months have had a number of trials, and some of them are still on going. I'm thankful to God for seeing me through.

I'm thankful for people who have graciously agreed to join the oversight board!

Special Note #1:

On February 10, my family lost a dear member. My mom's sister, Judy Miller, passed away in her sleep. She was a super aunt, and I will miss her. I'm thankful for how she and her husband, Devon, supported me throughout my life, and in ministry. Though I grieve for my loss, and even more so for Devon and their daughters, Kristy and Kathy, and their families, I can joyfully say that I know Judy believed in Christ Jesus. As one gentleman put it at the viewing, "Without the hope of Christ, what do we have?" It was a blessing to hear the Good News preached at her funeral, and I hope that the loss that my family has experienced will lead at least one person to saving faith.

Special Note #2:

Life of Freedom Ministries Board has made some changes. As was noted last month, Herb Maust has passed away. Also, Rich and Anita Yoder have stepped down from the board. I'm *extremely* grateful for their help in establishing this ministry. New to the board are friend Brent Reinhardt, friend Jason Miller, ministry colleague Natalie Abigail, and Pastor Terry Tyler. Stepping down from the position of president is Nelson Martin, being replaced by Harley Miller. The new vice president is Ken Yoder, replacing Rich Yoder. I'm so thankful for these individuals being willing to join the board, and am thankful for the help and support that the board members have given in the last six years.

Something to Consider:

1 Timothy 1:3-4—³ *As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer* ⁴ *nor to devote themselves to myths and endless genealogies. These promote controversies rather than God's work—which is by faith.*

False doctrines and myths can be dangerous for Christians. Instead of building up a Christian or a

church, they cause questioning of the Good News and Biblical truth. Asking questions for further understanding is proper and good for learning more about God and growing in relationship with Him. However, the questioning, or “controversy,” that the Apostle Paul is writing about to Timothy is not the kind of questioning for understanding. Instead, it is questioning with what I call, “an attitude.”

The reason that it is with an attitude is that the focus is on aspects that are not central to the Gospel, and are often twisted to fit an agenda or lifestyle. In this case, Paul is addressing the problem that Jews were trying to bring Jewish law into Christian practice. At the same time, Gentiles were trying to bring pagan practices into the church. Both brought doubt instead of strengthening the church.

One thing that I have noticed in the years that I’ve been in ministry is how this issue that Paul is addressing still occurs. For instance, some churches/denominations seem to focus on a part of Biblical teaching or practice and go overboard. In some cases, salvation is dependent on such practices to these groups! In ministry, I’ve seen such teaching has brought serious doubt to the wounded believer. This is not to say that I have all of the Truth! Instead, I’m writing about rather extreme views.

Just as Gentiles tried to bring in pagan practice to the early church, today pagan, non-Christian philosophy has infiltrated the Christian community. Many myths and superstitions are still held, and held with a death grip. Eastern philosophy is increasingly popular in the United States, and it seems that Christians are not aware of lies behind this philosophy. These differences between Biblical Christianity and Christianity mixed with non-Christian philosophy can be subtle. Therefore, I encourage Christians to continue to learn the Bible and know God’s Truth.

Prayer Concerns:

Events: *Life of Freedom Bible Studies*—The next monthly Bible study will be on Monday, March 11th at 6:30pm. We will study more of 1Timothy. All are invited to attend.

The number of calls for help has increased. I’m honored to serve God in this way. Please pray that I will find my strength in Him and not in my flesh.

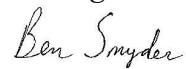
As I often ask, please pray for God’s working in scheduling so there will be little conflict.

Most of all, please pray for God to be glorified through *Life of Freedom Ministries!*

Final Thoughts:

At the March Bible study, we will address in greater depth the issues addressed in this newsletter. The powers of darkness enjoy causing Christians to doubt. My hope is that this discussion will help to get the doubt out!

Serving the Lord Jesus Christ,



Ben Snyder

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