

"The Son Shall Make You Free" The Gospel
of John Chapter 8:31-43

The Jews who believed in Jesus did not have a true saving faith (Eph. 2:8-9). This is evident as Jesus confronts them with their plot to kill Him. John Calvin wrote that "Faith alone saves, but the faith that saves is never alone." A true disciple continues (Greek *meno*, to stay, live, abide) in Jesus' word (Greek *logos*). He is the living Word (Greek *logos*, Jhn. 1: 1) who is revealed in the written word, the canon of scripture.

"The truth shall make you free," Jesus says. He is **the** truth (Jhn. 14:6). The Savior sets you free from the **penalty** of sin (Justification, Rom. 5:1). Daily continuance in allowing Him to be the living Lord of your life sets you free from the **power** of sin (Sanctification, 1 Thess. 4:3). In our glorified bodies we will even be free from the very **presence** of sin (Glorification, Rom. 8:30; 1 Cor. 15:51-57). In Christ we are now free to be the creatures God intended for all mankind before the Fall (Gen. 1 :26-27, 2:21-25; Isa. 61:1). We are freed from sin (Rom. 6:7, 18,21). We serve a new Master, whose yoke is easy (Matt. 11 :28-30). Paul warned the Galatian believers to stand fast in the liberty of Christ and not be entangled again with the yoke of bondage (Gal. 5:1). We must beware of anyone or any religion that insists that salvation is found in anything other than Christ alone through faith alone (2Cor. 3: 17). Christ plus nothing equals everything.

The Jews respond that they are Abraham's seed and have never been in bondage. Yet they had been enslaved by many (Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, etc.) and were now in bondage to Rome. Jesus' answer is that whoever commits sin (Greek present tense, signifying continuous action, IJhn. 3:8-9) is the slave of sin (Rom. 6:16-18). But if He the Son makes one free, he is no longer a slave, but a son. Full inheritance is his right (Eph. 1:5, II)!

Jesus acknowledges they are Abraham's children in the flesh. However, their works are inconsistent with Abraham's true children, those who believe in Christ (Rom. 4:3, 12; Gal. 3:21). Those in Christ are the true descendants (Greek *sperma*, seed) of Abraham (Gal. 3 :28-29; Rom. 2:2829). It is not physical lineage but spiritual birth that is crucial (fun. 3:3).

Jesus Christ is the **one** true seed of Abraham (Gal. 3:16). How ironic that those who claimed to be Abraham's children were plotting to kill the very One who descended through their lineage and is the fulfillment of all the promises of God (2Cor. 1 :20)!