

**THE DIFFERENCE IS THE GOSPEL...
PREACHING THE GOSPEL TO MYSELF EACH DAY**

Preaching the gospel to myself each day nourishes within me a holy brazenness to believe what God says, enjoy what He offers, and do what He commands.

Admittedly, I don't deserve to be a child of God and I don't deserve to be free of sin's guilt and power.

I don't deserve the staggering privilege of intimacy with God, nor any other blessing that Christ has purchased for me with His blood. I don't deserve to be useful to God.

But by the grace of God I am what I am and I have what I have, and I hereby resolve not to let any portion of God's grace prove vain in me!

And to the degree that I fail to live up to this resolve, I will boldly take for myself the forgiveness that God says is mine and continue walking in His grace.

This is my manifesto, my daily resolve; and may God be glorified by this confidence that I place in Him.

-- Milton Vincent

THE DIFFERENCE IS THE GOSPEL

CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSIVE READING

LEADER: *There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of Life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death!*

CONGREGATION: Once I was lost... and now I am found!

LEADER: *And the difference is the Gospel.*

CONGREGATION: Once I was dead... and now I am alive!

LEADER: *And the difference is Jesus.*

CONGREGATION: Once I was blind... and now I see!

LEADER: *And the difference is the good news of God's love.*

CONGREGATION: Once I was enslaved... and now I am free!

LEADER: *And the difference is God's rescuing mercy!*

CONGREGATION: Alleluia!

LEADER: *Whom the Son sets free is free indeed!*

THE STRIFE IS O'ER!

VICTORY

1. The strife is o'er, the battle their
2. Death's mightiest powers have done
3. He closed the yawning gates of
4. Lord, by the stripes which wounded

done; Now is the Vic-tor's tri-umph
worst, And Je-sus has his foes dis-
hell; The bars from heav'n's high por-tals
you, From death's sting free your ser-vants

won; Now be the song of praise be-
persed; Let shouts of praise and joy out-
fell; Let hymns of praise his tri-umph
too, That we may live and sing to

gun: Al-le-lu-ia!
burst: Al-le-lu-ia!
tell: Al-le-lu-ia!
you: Al-le-lu-ia!

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

OFFERTORY

ALL HAIL THE POWER • ECBC ORCHESTRA

CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

THE MORNING SERMON

CONRAD "BUSTER" BROWN, SENIOR PASTOR

THE ONLY TRUE FREEDOM

JOHN PIPER

*Jesus said to the Jews who had believed him,
"If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples,
and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."
(John 8:31-32)*

What is true freedom? Are you free?

Here are four things that need to be true if we are going to be fully free.

1. If you don't have the desire to do a thing, you are not fully free to do it. Oh, you may muster the willpower to do what you don't want to do, but nobody calls that full freedom. It's not the way we want to live. There is a constraint and pressure on us that we don't want.
2. And if you have the desire to do something, but no ability to do it, you are not free to do it.
3. And if you have the desire and the ability to do something, but no opportunity to do it, you are not free to do it.
4. And if you have the desire to do something, and the ability to do it, and the opportunity to do it, but it destroys you in the end, you are not fully free — not free indeed — when you do it.

To be fully free, we must have the desire, the ability, and the opportunity to do what will make us happy forever. No regrets. And only Jesus, the Son of God who died and rose for us, can make that possible.

*If the Son shall set you free,
you shall be free indeed
(John 8:36).*



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WORSHIPGUIDE



EAST COOPER BAPTIST CHURCH

The Church in Corporate Worship | FEBRUARY 10, 2019

Please use the following prayer to prepare your hearts for worship:

We gather to celebrate the freedom that Christ gives us in victory over sin, death and hell. Let our worship, and celebration of Believer's Baptism, lead us into much rejoicing!

WHOM THE SON SETS FREE... IS FREE INDEED!

REFLECTION

THOUGHTS FOR WORSHIP PREPARATION

Jesus plus nothing equals everything—the gospel— is daily becoming for me more than a theological passion, more than a cognitive reality. It's becoming my functional lifeline! And it's this rediscovery of the gospel's power that is enabling me to see that,

Because Jesus was strong for me, I am free to be weak;
Because Jesus won for me, I am free to lose;
Because Jesus was Someone, I am free to be no one;
Because Jesus was extraordinary, I am free to be ordinary;
Because Jesus succeeded for me, I am free to fail.

The banner under which Christians live reads "It is finished."

Our security is in Christ's achievement for us, so now we're free to admit our weaknesses without feeling like our flesh is bring ripped off our bones

Only when you realize that the gospel has nothing to do with your obedience but Christ's obedience for you, will you start to obey!

At no point in time, either before God saves you or after, does your behavior determine God's love for you.

Since a Christian's value and identity is anchored in Christ and is not anchored in being right, the gospel frees us to admit we're wrong.

The gospel frees us from trying to impress people, prove ourselves to people, and make people think we're something that we're not.

The gospel transforms us precisely because it's not itself a message about our transformation but Christ's substitution.

The gospel frees us to realize that while we matter, we're not the point.

"Doing" will become instinctive and spontaneous only when our hearts become deeply gripped by what's been done!

Only the gospel can liberate us from the miserable, unquenchable pursuit to make something of ourselves by using others.

Because everything we long for we already possess in Christ, we're now free to love people, not use them.

Our improvement comes from God's approval; God's approval does not come from our improvement.

Christ fulfilled all of God's conditions on our behalf so that our relationship with God could be unconditional.

The gospel frees you from the pressure of having to make something out of yourself.

Christian, the level of passion with which God loves you is not determined by the level of passion with which you love him. The Son's passion for you secured the Father's passion for you.

-- Tullian Tchividjian

OUR GRACIOUS, FREEDOM-GIVING GOD, we fall short of Your glory everyday.

We forget to submit to your will, and fail to be quiet there.

We have not kept our minds and hearts set on our true homeland, preferring instead a home of our own making.

Father, in your mercy forgive our sins.

Enable us to be holy, content people, free from every wrong desire, and from everything contrary to your mind.

Grant us more and more of the resurrection life: may it rule us, may we walk in its power, and be strengthened through its influence, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COVER IMAGE

The cover image on today's Worship Guide reflects our freedom in Christ.

Like a bird let loose from a cage... If the Son sets you free -- you are free indeed!

PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!

Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

"I will praise the Lord all my life, I will sing praise to my God as long as I live." (Psalm 146:2)

"Christianity is not a theory or speculation, but a life; not a philosophy of life, but a living presence. This realization can turn any gloom into a song." --S. T. Coleridge

Praise is our Lord's most righteous due. It is not an option whether we will offer praise--it is one of God's commands. Scriptures clearly teach that we are to offer a sacrifice of praise to God continually (Hebrews 13:15, 16).

Our daily sacrifice of praise should include joyful songs for who Christ is--"our blessed redeemer." Then we need to praise God for all of His daily blessings, which are beyond number.

We should offer praise even for the trials of life for they are often blessings in disguise.

Finally, our sacrifice should include praise for His leading in ways yet to be experienced.

This is another of the many favorite gospel hymns written by Fanny Crosby, blind American poetess. In all she wrote between 8,000 and 9,000 gospel hymn texts and supplied our hymnals with more beloved hymns that are still sung today than any other writer.

"Praise Him! Praise Him!" first appeared in a Sunday school hymnal, Bright Jewels, which was published in 1869. The song was originally titled "Praise, Give Thanks." And still today, these words evoke praise from each believing heart.

PRELUDE PRAISE

ELENA CRUDGE

PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!

JOYFUL SONG

MORNING PRAYER

OF PRAISE

CELEBRATION

OF BAPTISM

WHO YOU SAY I AM

Who does God say you are?

As believers, this is such a monumental concept to grasp and to meditate on. Our identity resides in knowing ourselves in Christ and living within the stability of knowing you are who God says you are. Who are you that God would want to rescue you? That He would choose to give up His life for you? That He wants to bless abundantly? Let's look at some declarations scripture makes over you:

I am God's workmanship, created in Christ unto good works. (Ephesians 2:10)

I am an ambassador for Christ. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

I am part of a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people. (1 Peter 2:9)

I am greatly loved by God. (Romans 1:7; Ephesians 2:4; Colossians 3:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:4)

I am born of God, and the evil one does not touch me. (1 John 5:18)

I am complete in Him Who is the Head of all principality and power. (Colossians 2:10)

So obviously, God thinks you're a pretty big deal. You're royalty, you're His workmanship, you are made complete in He who has all power and authority. You were created to love, be loved, and to serve all for the glory of the kingdom. That makes YOU and all of the things God has created you to be important. God sees you as valid and needed.

You are a child of God. That can never be threatened or taken from you. While everything around you and about you changes, this is the one thing about yourself that will stay constant.

You are chosen by a God who loves you deeply. A God who is for you and is never against you. A God who has plans for you to prosper. A God who wants a relationship with you. A God who will never let you down.

WHO YOU SAY I AM

ECBC CHOIR

Please stand and join choir in singing as directed:

Who am I that the highest King Would welcome me? I was lost but He brought me in Oh His love for me Oh His love for me

Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed I'm a child of God Yes I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me His grace runs deep While I was a slave to sin Jesus died for me Yes He died for me

Who the Son sets free Oh is free indeed I'm a child of God Yes I am In my Father's house There's a place for me I'm a child of God Yes I am

I am chosen Not forsaken I am who You say I am You are for me Not against me I am who You say I am

ALL I HAVE IS CHRIST

SOVEREIGN GRACE MUSIC

I once was lost in darkest night Yet thought I knew the way The sin that promised joy and life Had led me to the grave I had no hope that You would own A rebel to Your will And if You had not loved me first I would refuse You still

But as I ran my hell-bound race Indifferent to the cost You looked upon my helpless state And led me to the cross And I beheld God's love displayed You suffered in my place You bore the wrath reserved for me Now all I know is grace

Hallelujah! All I have is Christ Hallelujah! Jesus is my life

Now, Lord, I would be Yours alone And live so all might see The strength to follow Your commands Could never come from me O Father, use my ransomed life In any way You choose O Father, use my ransomed life In any way You choose And let my song forever be My only boast is You