

## A Truthful Church in a Confused World - John 8:31-47

Today I want to speak to our graduates, & all the rest of you get to listen in!

In the video you were asked to describe your H.S./College experience in one word... Now that you are done with school, how do you feel?

What one word sums up what you are experiencing right now? **Freedom!**

But freedom can be a funny thing - It could be said that,

- "Now that you're graduated, you're free to do whatever you want!" Or...

- "You've graduated, now feel free to move out & get a job!"

**"Freedom is life's great lie. Once you accept that, in your heart you will know peace!" – Loki (The Avengers)**

Are we ever truly free? Or are we always enslaved to someone/something?

- Professors/schools/employers/jobs/parents/government/Satan/God/religion

**John 8:31-32 – "So 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.'"**

"you will know the truth..." What truth? We live in a day where everyone has their own version of truth. **Is there even such a thing as absolute truth?**

Truth is more than right information! **Truth is not a what, it's a who!** To know truth, is to abide in the words of Jesus, thus abiding in Jesus Himself!

**"The Word became flesh & made His dwelling among us" – John 1:14.**

Jesus said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life..." – John 14:6.**

Jesus is the eternal Word of God who brings freedom because **He is Truth!** And that Truth - **"Jesus, is the same yesterday, today & forever" – Heb. 13:8**

Graduates, don't fall into the trap of what "higher learning" will try to convince you of – that God does not exist, that Jesus is not who the Bible says He is, that the things of faith are nothing but fairy tales void of reality!

You have some choices to make, we all do! Whose voice will you choose to tune your ear to when it comes to what/who you will believe to be true?

**Be careful with the wisdom of this world, for it is bound by the effects of sin.**

My prayer for you graduates is that **"Out of all the voices calling out to (you), you will choose to listen & believe the voice of Truth!" – Casting Crowns**

The Jews thought they knew better! They didn't think they needed Jesus! **They turned to their own resume & rejected the Truth right before their eyes!**

**John 8:33-38** – They claimed that their status of being the offspring of Abraham was what ensured their freedom & justified their rejection of Jesus

Do we ever do that same thing today? **Do we rely on our own resumes?**

- I'm a graduate, I'm educated, I'm a good person, I'm a member, etc.

How would you answer this, **"Do the words of Jesus find any place in you?"**

Sin has enslaved us – our minds/understanding/lives, yet Jesus offers these words of hope - **"if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." – Vs 36.**

**John 8:39-47** – Jesus basically says in this text, **"Your resume is not enough!"**

Sin has separated you from God, freedom cannot be secured based upon anything in you, & you don't even belong to Abraham but belong to the devil.

Jesus says in **Matthew 12:30 – "Whoever is not with me is against me..."**

So even though they were Abraham's seed, their rejection of Jesus as Lord & Savior left them with no place in the Kingdom of God! What about us?

What is on our **application** for Heaven? Would Jesus be one of our references?

**"Whoever is of God hears the words of God"- Vs. 47.** Do you hear His voice /His Word? Are you listening? Is the cry of your heart, "Speak O Lord"?

**"If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here" – Vs. 42.** Jesus is still here! He is alive today! Is He your truth? Is God your Father? Is freedom your song because you abide in Jesus Christ?

Freedom doesn't necessarily mean an **easy life!** The freedom the early church experienced in Christ led to many of them losing their earthly lives!

Braveheart - It was freedom that led William Wallace to fight and die for his country! **"They may take our lives, but they'll never take our freedom!"**

**We have eternal freedom in Jesus Christ!** To abide in Him is to know this truth! So for you graduates there is good news & bad news – there is freedom & there is bondage, which one will you choose to build your life upon?

**"Your heart is free. Have the courage to follow it."** – Malcolm Wallace  
I believe Jesus would say, "When you know the truth, then your heart will be truly free & you can follow Truth into all eternity!"

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