

The Truth Shall Make Us Free

John 8:31-37

1. Freedom for an individual or for a nation results from comprehending and living in accordance with natural law.
2. Since God's creation has both physical and spiritual aspects, individuals and society must learn the Truth concerning natural law (through science) and ethical-moral law (through religion), and then implement such knowledge.
3. Today, fundamental confusion exists as to the meaning of freedom.
 - Freedom must be clearly distinguished from license. Freedom promotes liberty. License promotes corruption
 - President Reagan at the ceremony of the Unknown Soldier spoke of how young men gave their lives for freedom.
 - Freedom has a price. For freedom to be preserved, individuals and a nation have to be willing to give for the higher purpose.
 - The highest purpose and the greatest freedom is that which serves the interest of God Himself.
 - For God to be totally free, the universe, all creation, and mankind must be living in perfect harmony as He originally intended.
 - When all creation is living in harmony with natural law and ethical law, God is free to experience total joy in having the purpose of creation fulfilled.
 - The ultimate effort, therefore, to liberate oneself, or one's race or nation or culture, for that which benefits all mankind.
4. Communists, claiming to advocate "people's power," in reality define it narrowly as the people of a certain class or certain philosophy.
5. This is the time to emphasize what is for the good of humanity, and inspire our national patriotism to offer America for the sake of the world.
 - We must reject efforts to isolate America from the community of nations, claiming other's problems are not our own.

- We need deep heartistic commitment to improving the lives of others, especially mobilizing the tremendous resources of this nation, its spiritual heritage and material affluence for the sake of a liberated world.
- If America doesn't connect her own destiny with the need for liberty and freedom in nations less fortunate than herself, this nation will fall victim at the hands of her own self-interest.
 - The primary danger to America lies not so much with foreign enemies but in a loss of national direction, a sense of national purpose, and the will to protect her values and vital interests.
 - In 1862, Ralph Waldo Emerson, essayist, poet, and the Unitarian minister, spoke to President Abraham Lincoln and his cabinet:

Our whole history appears as a last effort of the Divine Providence in behalf of the human race. We want men of original perception and original action who can open their eyes wider than to a nationality, namely, to considerations of benefit to the human race. In every nation of the world, there has been a leading nation, one of a more generous sentiment, whose eminent citizens were willing to stand for the interests of general justice and humanity. Which should be that nation but these states? I hope America will come to have its pride in being a nation of servants and not of the served... I wish to see America not like the old powers of the earth, grasping, exclusive and narrow; but a benefactor such as no country ever was, hospitable to all nations. Legislating for all nationalities. Nations were made to help each other as much as families are...

6. A hundred years ago, Lincoln states that our nation could not exist half slave and half free; today, the scale has expanded to the world.
 - In the name of liberation, communism is enslaving half the world.
 - Naively, human rights struggles and legitimate efforts to overcome past oppressions and injustices easily become manipulated by radical elements which seek to exploit the resentments for their own benefit.
7. Social justice, therefore, must be connected with human rights in general, meaning the right of all people to enjoy the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - We must strive to become world citizens, seeing ourselves as the children of One God, seeking for the benefit of our brothers and sisters in one huge family where God is our parent and the world our home.

- We must reject racism, nationalism, classism, or any form of racial or religious prejudice.
8. America must lead by example, championing the human rights of all her own citizens, and the rights and freedoms of those around the world.
- By giving up our own vested interests in favor of the interests of mankind, making other people's problems our own, we can experience the real meaning of the truth that can set us free.