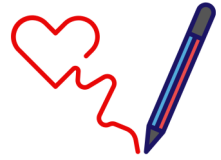


FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



The Truth Will Set You Free

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.” (John 8:31-32)

There are many people, including Christians, whose lives are ruled by fear. You would have heard from your friends that their new house renovations are guided by fengshui. The fengshui teacher warned them about the consequences if nothing is done to mitigate the bad fengshui. As for others, it may be superstitions. A famous example is the number 4 because it sounds like death in Cantonese. Another one is to avoid taking pictures in threes because the one in the middle will die. Indeed, these people are not free because the decisions they make arise out of unfounded fear.

As believers in Christ, our lives are to be guided by the Word of God – the ‘Truth’. The truth that guides our life is found in John 10:10. It says, “***The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.***” Fear is the thief that comes to steal, kill, and destroy the peace and joy that Jesus has put in us. Therefore, knowing the truth is of vital importance to set us free from fear.

So, where do we find the truth? The truth is not in the newspaper, Google, the majority’s opinions, or the words of the most powerful person in the world, but is only found in Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “***I am the way, the truth, and the life.***” Jesus is not just showing the way, but He himself is also the Truth and the Life. The closer you are to Jesus, the more freedom and less bondage you will experience in your life.

The apostle Paul was a zealous Pharisee who persecuted the Christians. After he encountered Jesus on the way to Damascus, he was completely transformed. From then on, he focused on spreading the truth of Jesus Christ that had set him free. Paul said in Galatians 5:1, ***“For freedom, Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.”***

Are you living a life that is free from the yoke of slavery? The yoke of slavery refers to anything that stops us from experiencing the true freedom that Jesus gives. It can be our worries, discontentment, greed, perfectionism, and so on. The troubled life will always be around us, but freedom in Christ means we can have an untroubled heart. Though King David was hiding from the assault of King Saul and his men, Psalm 23 showed his untroubled heart,

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me....

David's heart is untroubled because he held on to the truth that God is sovereign and of His great love for him. We, too, will be set free because of who God is. Men resort to worldly means to be set free, but with no success. May we who know the truth, let not our freedom slip away.

Pastor Kelvin