



July 2018

Dear CWR/PTM Friend and Partner,

On July 1 in Canada and July 4 in the United States, North Americans are encouraged to celebrate their freedom with parades and picnics and pyrotechnics. But what kind of freedom is being so patriotically proclaimed? Is this freedom more an illusion than a reality?

After independence was declared and won on the battlefield here in the United States, freedom needed to be protected. So the Constitution was adopted in 1787, creating the laws needed to preserve the freedoms of our independence.

Every year, in early July, freedom is celebrated. But are citizens truly free? As the annual celebration of freedom concludes, citizens remain slaves to the taxation and dominion of government and the tyranny and control of big-business religion—forever deluded, under the illusion they are free when they are anything but.

The freedom offered by the kingdoms of this world is a freedom governed by law—this freedom is an illusion because one must be a slave to the laws that government and religion enact and enforce to guarantee the “freedoms” allowed and given.

For Christians, true freedom means freedom FROM the law that enables us, by grace, to become what God will make of us. The law offers an illusion of freedom, but in fact the law is the enemy of freedom in Christ. Any attempt to preserve freedom with laws devalues, denies and destroys freedom Christ has given.

But try convincing “good” religious, church-going folks that they are really free in Christ. “Oh,” they will say, “sure we are free in Christ, **but** we need constant prayer, regular church attendance, accountability...without safeguards freedom becomes a huge free-for-all.”

Freedom for the vast majority of those who are fervently religious is merely an illusion—they are slaves to their religion!

Many buildings that house what are generically called “places of worship” (churches/mosques/synagogues) could also be defined as religious penal colonies of confinement, confession and prescriptions. Sin-management programs in these buildings offer spiritual workouts where inmates shed sins like shedding calories on exercise equipment at a gym.

Those who wish to lose sinful calories are instructed to suit up and regularly drive to the sweat mill where their endless routines are presided over by religious coaches and trainers who ensure all necessary exercises are undertaken and endured in the most painful way possible.

The law says “you must do this and you must do that—you must perform at a certain level—you must fill your quota—you must shed those sins and sweat off immoral calories—you must impress God.”

The gospel of Jesus Christ insists that we are free in Christ because of what God has done for us. The gospel says that because we are free in Christ we are free to be who and what God wants. Freedom in Christ is all about gifts offered, given and received.

*How are we given our freedom in Christ?* By the grace of God! *What must we do in order to remain free in Christ?* Nothing! Because we are free in Christ, we are free from shame, guilt and self loathing—free from worry and doubt—free so that God may use us in his service.

- **Freedom in Christ** is not freedom to do anything and everything we might wish to, giving vent to all our sensory desires and self-centered lusts.
- **Freedom in Christ** is given to us so that we might be all that he will have us be.
- **Freedom in Christ** is about being united in Christ, one in him, free in and for and through him.
- **Freedom in Christ** enables us to pass on the grace of God, serving others in the name of Jesus.

*Why are we free in Christ?* We are free to bring forth fruit. A fruit tree doesn't need to attend discipleship classes to learn how to be a tree or regularly attend a building that calls itself a church to discover the secrets of bearing fruit. A tree doesn't need to become accountable to a spiritual accountability group so that it can make sure it bears enough fruit.

A tree doesn't need to be a "member" of an orchard with other trees just like it before it can bear fruit. A tree doesn't bear fruit because it hears lectures or sermons—a tree does not bear fruit because it is threatened with hellfire or bribed with promises of heaven. **A tree bears fruit because that's what fruit trees do.**

When we become free in Christ we become children of God, and he bears his fruit within us and through us. *We bear God's fruit*—the fruit of the Spirit—not the fruit of some denomination or theologian or human leader. *We are God's workmanship*—we are his handiwork (Ephesians 2:10).

**Being free in Christ is about being transformed from "doing" into "being."** But being free in Christ is not easy—there are constant attacks from rule-keeping religious chain gangs who are convinced of the necessity of being in religious bondage in order to please and appease God. It really gets their goat to see or hear someone free of religion claiming that they are free in Christ!

So if you are truly free in Christ expect some "good" church-going folks to call you names—or at least to offer to pray for what they perceive to be your poor deluded soul. If you are truly free in Christ expect others to scream "there is no free lunch—you get what you pay for."

If you are truly free in Christ you will be attacked by those who are imprisoned by Christ-less religion. Little do those who are in bondage to the **illusion** that they are earning God's favor know that their blood, sweat and tears in religious bondage will fail to earn God's love and grace.

When you first realize you are free in Christ you won't just be attacked by others who try to undermine your freedom, from time to time you will doubt your own freedom in Christ. *It is far easier to think that we must prove ourselves to God and worry that we are falling short than it is to rest in Christ.*

We are often our own worst enemy and thus we find ourselves skeptical, doubting and worrying that God really does love us and that he has completely forgiven us. We always want to go running back to the **illusion**—the mirage—of the law, thinking that laws will either make us free or keep us free!

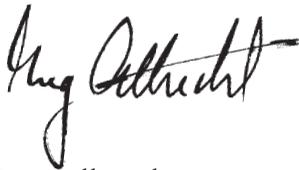
We are naturally skeptical of God's love and forgiveness. It is so very human, normal and natural to question why anyone, particularly God, would love us enough to set us free from the bondage and pain we know we deserve.

We need to hear the gospel over and over again. We must be continually reminded that God loves us and no matter how dirty and grimy our past and how unfaithful we have been, and how dubious and doubtful of his love we may be—he will never leave or forsake us.

The mess we make of our lives (and how badly we screw up when we fail to do what we know we should) does not deter or affect in any way the perfect love of God.

We are free in Christ—free at last, thank God almighty, free at last!

Giving thanks with you and all our brothers and sisters in Christ, around this world, for freedom in Christ,



Greg Albrecht  
President, Plain Truth Ministries

PS. Here are just a few of the many letters we receive thanking CWR/PTM, and we pass along our thanks to YOU for helping to support this ministry with your financial contributions and heartfelt prayers!

*We all owe our God thanks for the efforts of everyone at Plain Truth Ministries for their faith and love of the gospel.—Colorado*

*I want to share with others the story of how Jesus gave me His life. I was spiritually dead, even though I attended a church (a very legalistic church). Once I understood the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus I'm now out of bondage to performance-based religion. I thank God for blessing this incredible ongoing work of CWR/PTM. May God bless everyone involved in this ministry!—California*

*I just started reading some of your stuff, and I'm blown away by the amazing picture you give of who God is. I've always projected a mean spirit onto God. I just want to say that I'm very encouraged. Thank you!—North Carolina*

*Thank you so much for being there and letting God work through you. Because of CWR/PTM preaching the REAL GOD, I and many others are being healed spiritually, mentally and physically. Thank you, thank you, thank you!—Kentucky*

## CWR/PTM Prayer List—July 2018

These requests for prayer represent just a few of the thousands we receive and pray for. We invite you to join us in praying for these and the others that space does not permit us to include here. Thanks for joining with us as a CWR/PTM Prayer Partner.

*Please pray for my sister who has Parkinson's and my cousin who has only a few months to live.—Oregon*

*I'm currently going through a very difficult time. I have been living without employment for five years now. Please pray that I can get a job to help me support my family.—Tanzania*

*Please pray for my husband who has many problems following another stroke.—Alabama*

*I request prayer that my right knee be healed. Thank you!—Idaho*

*Please pray for more people to come to the knowledge of the beautiful truth about our precious Savior.—Tennessee*

*Please pray for God's wisdom for me, financial stability for my family and salvation for my entire family.—Texas*

*My prayer request is for my youngest son that God would begin to draw him into a relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ. —Oklahoma*

*May the Lord bless all in this work of His and a special blessing to those on the prayer list.—Maryland*

*Please pray for my son-in-law who has fibrosis. Doctors say he has maybe three years to live. Please also pray for my daughter, his wife, she's having a very hard time with this.—Kentucky*

*Please pray for me as my bone infection is not healing.—Ohio*

*Please pray for my friend, as she has so many health problems and issues with her family. Also please pray for my friend that he will find his way back to a loving relationship with God and Jesus Christ.—West Virginia*

*My husband and I are starting a business of our own—using the talents God has given us to teach others. Pray for God's continued guidance as we step over the threshold of this new door He has opened for us.—Florida*

*Please pray for me and my brothers and sisters. We are all having serious health problems.—Louisiana*

*I am beginning physical therapy for my back, hip and legs. Please pray that it will help ease my pain.—Massachusetts*

*Please pray for my son—he has four blood clots on his lungs and one on his ankle.—Saskatchewan, Canada*

*Please pray for us as my husband has diabetes and also suffers from depression. He has no medical insurance.—Texas*

*Please pray for me—I am struggling with problems that I can't solve. And please pray for my family to experience God more fully.—Kentucky*

*Please pray that my wife will have successful knee replacement surgery.—Florida*

*Please pray for God's healing so that I get the use of my right hand back as I have experienced Cellulitis in it for six weeks now.—Illinois*

*I have had Lyme disease for years now and it keeps coming back. Please pray for God's healing of this and my high blood pressure.—Maryland*

Our Father in Heaven: We thank you for your grace, mercy and love. You know each of these individuals, and we thank you in advance for the answers you will provide for each request. With thanksgiving for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, our suffering servant who heals us, in whose name we pray—Amen.