

Lesson
10

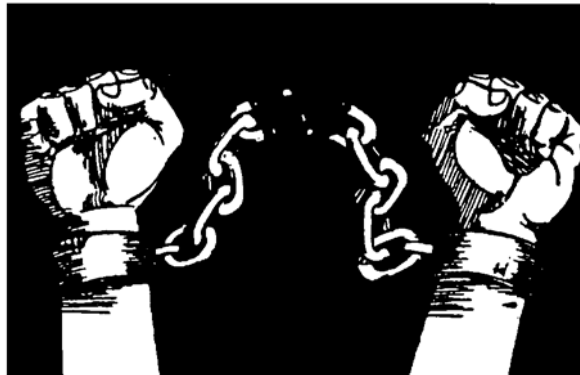
Your New Freedom

Many people today want freedom. Some want freedom from bad laws and harsh dictators. Still others want the freedom to say and do anything they please. What is real freedom? Can a person in prison be free? Can a person in an unjust society be free?

The answer is yes, because true freedom is not what is outside a person, but what is inside. In the Bible, Paul the apostle writes about “the glorious freedom of the children of God” (Romans 8:21). Only the children of God have true freedom!

This lesson explains the kind of freedom that you have right now because you are a child of God. This freedom sets you free from the terrible effects of sin. It liberates you from the fear that you will not be able to please God. It helps you overcome spiritual error and confusion. These blessings are yours because of what Jesus Christ has done for you. But they are just the beginning.

Your new life of freedom, which has already begun, will never end!



In this lesson you will study . . .

Freedom From Sin
Freedom From Fear
Freedom From Error
Freedom From Confusion
Freedom From Worry
Freedom in the Future
Keeping Your Freedom

This lesson will help you to . . .

- Discover the great freedom you have as a child of God, both now and in the future.
- Trust God more as your loving heavenly Father.
- Rest in the work Jesus Christ has done to save you.
- Live a life of freedom always.

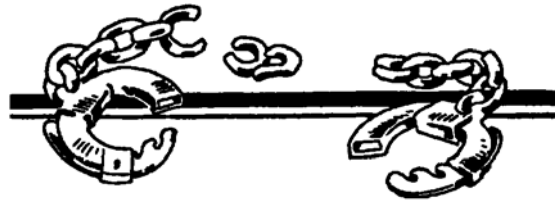
FREEDOM FROM SIN

Objective 1. Choose phrases that describe your present and future freedom from sin.

Jesus died to set you free from the guilt, punishment, power, and presence of sin.

- **Guilt:** He took the blame for everything wrong that you have ever done.
- **Punishment:** You were condemned to die, but Jesus died in your place. By accepting Him as your Savior, you are free from the death sentence.
- **Power:** Jesus conquered Satan and broke sin's power over you.

Romans 6:7-8, 11, 22; 8:1. When a person dies, he is set free from the power of sin. Since we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with Him. . . . You are to think of yourselves as dead, so far as sin is concerned, but living in fellowship with God through Christ Jesus. . . . You have been set free from sin . . . There is no condemnation now for those who live in union with Christ Jesus.



For You To Do

- 1 You are set free from the guilt, punishment, and power of sin by
 - a) doing penance for your sins.
 - b) deciding to be good from now on.
 - c) accepting Jesus as your Savior.
 - d) saying many prayers.
- **Temptation to sin:** Some people are delivered instantly from their bad habits the moment they accept the Lord. Others have to fight for weeks against their craving for tobacco, drugs, or other vices; but as they keep on praying and believing, God gives them victory.

John 8:36. If the Son sets you free, then you will be really free.

James 4:7. So then, submit yourselves to God. Resist the Devil, and he will run away from you.

If you still have a battle against bad habits, don't give up. When the devil tempts you, claim by faith the freedom that Christ gives. Begin to praise the Lord for freedom, and you will soon get victory over the tempter. Your pastor will be glad to pray with you and help you.

You will face different kinds of temptation while you live on this earth. But these temptations are tests that can help you grow. You will become stronger each time you resist them. When you get to heaven, God's work in you will be complete: you will be forever free from any desire to sin.



For You To Do

- 2 Read John 8:36 and James 4:7 five times.
- 3 Based on James 4:7, which statement is true?
 - a) The devil will defeat you if you try to resist him.
 - b) If you oppose the devil, he will go away from you.
 - c) The devil is not affected by what you do.
- Effects and presence of sin: Now you see sin and its effects all around you—suffering, sorrow, and death. Some glorious day you will go to your eternal home and be free from even the memory of sin and its effects.



For You To Do

- 4 Following are listed several kinds of freedom from sin. Match the phrase (right) to each kind of freedom it describes (left).

.... a Freedom from the guilt of sin	1) A freedom you have now and in the future
.... b Freedom from all the effects of sin	2) A freedom you have in the future
.... c Freedom from the power of sin	
.... d Freedom from the punishment of sin	
.... e Freedom from the presence of sin	
- 5 Now that you are a Christian, why does God still allow you to be tempted to sin?

.....

FREEDOM FROM FEAR

Objective 2. *Discover how you can overcome fear, error, confusion about God’s laws, and worry.*

You are free from the fear of what others may do to you. Your life is under God’s care, “hidden with Christ in God” (Colossians 3:3). You may have to suffer for Christ’s sake or even die, but He will be with you every moment. Nothing can happen to you except what He permits.

Romans 8:31. If God is for us, who can be against us?

You are free from the fear of witchcraft, the evil eye, and things that might bring bad luck. With the living Christ at your side to protect you, you do not need to use medallions, magic, fetishes, jujus, a glass of water before a picture, a charm on your child’s wrist or neck, a picture of a guardian angel, or any other pictures or images to protect you. In fact, it would make the Lord sad to see you using these things, as though He would not keep His promise to protect you.

Hebrews 13:5-6. God has said, “I will never leave you; I will never abandon you.” Let us be bold, then, and say, “The Lord is my helper, I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?”

1 John 4:4. The Spirit who is in you is more powerful than the spirit in those who belong to the world.



For You To Do

- 6 The best way to be free from fear is to
- a) use strong magic.
 - b) trust in the Lord.
 - c) light candles to an image.
 - d) go to a witch doctor.

FREEDOM FROM ERROR

Satan has trapped millions of people in false religions. He gives them mistaken ideas of how to get to heaven. They pray to the sun and the moon, to rocks, rivers, and trees, and try to find the truth in dreams and revelations. They ask the spirits of the dead to help them. They burn candles and incense to idols made of gold, silver, wood, stone, or plaster. They offer sacrifices and make vows as they pray to some spirit for help.

God's Word—not human ideas—shows us the true way to heaven. As you read God's Word, you discover the truth and are free from these errors.

John 8:31-32. Jesus said to those who believed in him, "If you obey my teaching, you are really my disciples; you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free."



For You To Do

- 7 We are set free from error by the
- a) revelations we receive in dreams.
 - b) ideas of other people about heaven.
 - c) truth we learn in the Bible.

In the following verses from the Bible, you can see that God feels very strongly against the use of images and any form of spiritism. Now that you have given your life to Him, His commands are more important than any vows you may have made mistakenly before you knew better. These commands are from God and free you from promises that you have made to any images, spirits, or false gods.

Exodus 20:3-5. "Worship no god but me. Do not make for yourselves images of anything in heaven or on earth or in the water under the earth. Do not bow down to any idol or worship it, because I am the Lord your God."

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NIV). Let no one be found among you who sacrifices his son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord.

You are free from serving any spirits or false gods because you now belong to the one true God. You are also free from the power of evil spirits and from fear of what they might do to you. God's Holy Spirit who has come to live in your heart is more powerful than any evil spirits that might want to torment you.



For You To Do

8 Have you practiced or believed any of the errors that have been listed in this lesson or in the verses from the Bible? If so, pray this prayer. Name all the practices that you now forsake. Ask God to set you free from them and any fear you may have because of them.

Heavenly Father, You are the only true God. You are greater than anything in heaven or earth. I now turn away from and will never practice those things again. I will worship You alone, through Jesus Christ Your only Son, my Lord and Savior. Amen.

FREEDOM FROM CONFUSION

In the older part of the Bible (the Old Testament), there are many laws. Some people are confused about them. What are they? What meaning do they have for us today?

Many of these laws belong to a covenant God made with the Hebrews many years ago. Moses received the terms of this covenant and all its rules for the new nation that he had led out of Egypt. It included instructions about sacrifices, holy days, forms of worship, cleanliness, and food. Some call this covenant the "Mosaic" law, naming it after Moses.

All these religious regulations were like pictures of Jesus Christ and the salvation He would provide. He would be the perfect sacrifice that would take away their sins. He would fulfill all that the Law stood for and would establish a new covenant with those who would accept Him as Savior, whether they were Hebrews or not.

So the restrictions in the Mosaic law were for the Hebrews from the time of Moses to the time of Christ. Since then, we are under the terms of the new covenant, the New Testament.



For You To Do

- 9** The time period of the Mosaic law is from the
- a) beginning of the world until Moses.
 - b) Moses until Christ.
 - c) Christ until now.

Some people get confused and think we have to keep Saturday as a holy day, as the Mosaic law required. But ever since Jesus rose from the dead on the first day of the week, the Christians have had the custom of meeting on that day, Sunday, in memory of His resurrection. Ever since Bible times, they have called it "the Lord's Day."

Today, we set aside one day a week as a time to meet together to worship God. However, we do this not because of any rules that oblige us to do so. We do this because we love God and because the Holy Spirit gives us a desire to be with our brothers and sisters in the Lord.

Under the Mosaic law the people could not eat certain animals. Under the new covenant we are not bound by these restrictions. We have the same freedom that God gave humanity long before the Mosaic law. He told Noah that humans were not to eat blood, and this prohibition is repeated in the New Testament. But we can eat any kind of meat.

Genesis 9:3-4 (NIV). “Everything that lives and moves will be food for you. Just as I gave you the green plants, I now give you everything. But you must not eat meat that has its lifeblood still in it.”

1 Timothy 4:4-5. Everything that God has created is good; nothing is to be rejected, but everything is to be received with a prayer of thanks, because the word of God and the prayer make it acceptable to God.

1 Corinthians 10:25, 27. You are free to eat anything sold in the meat market, without asking any questions because of your conscience. If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you decide to go, eat what is set before you, without asking any questions because of your conscience.

Colossians 2:16. So let no one make rules about what you eat or drink or about holy days or the New Moon Festival or the Sabbath.



For You To Do

10 Circle the letter in front of each TRUE statement.

- a The religious regulations of the Mosaic law were pictures of the perfect sacrifice, Jesus Christ.
- b Christians today must worship God on the seventh day of the week (Saturday).
- c Christians today are free to eat any kind of meat.
- d Rules about holy days apply to Christians today.

FREEDOM FROM WORRY

Your Father loves you and will take care of your needs. Trust in Him.

1 Peter 5:7. Leave all your worries with him, because he cares for you.

Matthew 6:31-33. “So do not start worrying: ‘Where will my food come from? or my drink? or my clothes?’ (These are the things the pagans are always concerned about.) Your Father in heaven knows that you need all these things. Instead, be concerned above everything else with the Kingdom of God and with what he requires of you, and he will provide you with all these other things.”



For You To Do

11 Read 1 Peter 5:7 five times.

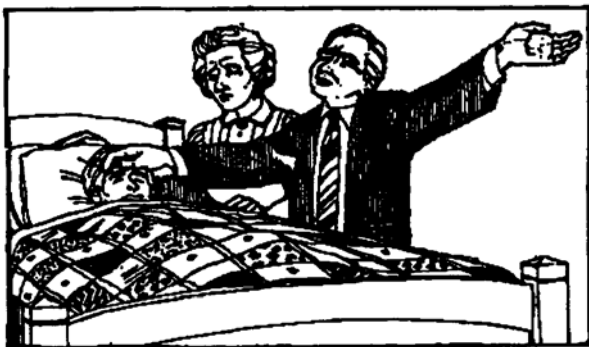
12 Are you worrying about anything? Tell your heavenly Father about it. Thank Him for the answer and stop worrying.

Sickness brings worry and anxiety into our lives. But this is another kind of worry we can leave with our heavenly Father. Jesus Christ, the Great Physician, is your best friend. He loves you. Just as He healed the sick when He was here on earth, He heals people today in answer to prayer. The

Bible says that you should ask for the church elders (the pastor and the leaders) to pray for you when you are sick.

James 5:14-15 (NIV). Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven.

Mark 16:18. “They will place their hands on sick people, and these will get well.”



The pastor and the elders may put their hands on you, or they may ask God to touch and heal you. Or they may anoint you with oil; this is a way of showing that they trust in the power of the Holy Spirit to make you well.



For You To Do

13 Do you need healing? Ask your pastor to pray for you. If you are studying by correspondence, the workers at the school will be glad to pray for you. Write them about your need when you send in your answer sheet.

Many people have had wonderful healings from God. But sometimes God chooses not to heal a person right away. For example, the apostle Paul prayed to God three times about a certain problem. God heard Paul’s prayer, but God did not remove the problem. He said to Paul, “My grace is all you need, for my power is strongest when you are weak” (2 Corinthians 12:9).

Whatever happens, though, you can trust God completely. One day He will change your body into one like that of the Lord Jesus. Your new body will be perfect! No disease, sickness, deformity, or weakness will ever cause trouble for you again.

FREEDOM IN THE FUTURE

Objective 3. *Look toward the future with confidence.*

The freedom you have now is wonderful. But God has much more planned for the future. Jesus, the Great Liberator, will come back to earth for those who belong to Him. At that time you will know, at last, the full and glorious freedom of the children of God. Jesus will take you to your heavenly home. The whole creation will be set free forever from the presence of sin and all of its effects.

Revelation 21:4. “He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared.”

Romans 8:18, 20-21. What we suffer at this present time cannot be compared at all with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. . . . For creation was condemned Yet there was the hope that

creation itself would one day be set free from its slavery to decay and would share the glorious freedom of the children of God.



For You To Do

14 Read Revelation 21:4 four times. Thank God for His message and for the glorious future He has planned for you.

KEEPING YOUR FREEDOM

Objective 4. *Choose a description of how you can keep living your new life of freedom.*

Until Jesus comes to take us home, we will still have a battle to fight against Satan. There will be temptations and trials, but we must not give up our freedom.

Galatians 5:1. Freedom is what we have—Christ has set us free! Stand, then, as free people, and do not allow yourselves to become slaves again.

Never forget that your new life and your freedom are in the Lord Jesus Christ. They depend on His presence and His power in you—not on how good you try to be. The Christian life is not keeping a set of rules. It is “Christ in you, which means that you will share in the glory of God” (Colossians 1:27).

2 Corinthians 5:17. When anyone is joined to Christ, he is a new being; the old is gone, the new has come.

Galatians 2:20. It is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. This life that I live now, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave his life for me.



For You To Do

15 Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and Galatians 2:20 five times each.

16 Your new Christian life and freedom depend on

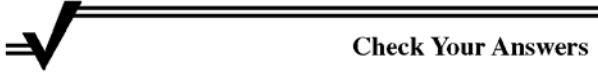
- a) your keeping a set of rules.
- b) how hard you try to be good.
- c) what you know about religion.
- d) Christ’s presence in you.

You have found in Christ a wonderful new life—eternal life with the glorious freedom of the children of God. Treasure it above all things; you will enjoy it more and more as the years go by and throughout the ages to come.

Now you are ready to answer the questions in your *Student Report for Unit Two*. Review the lessons in this unit, then follow the instructions in your student report for filling out the answer sheet. When you send your answer sheet to your instructor, ask him or her about another course of study.

CONGRATULATIONS

You have finished this course. We hope that it has been a great help to you! Remember to complete the second section of your student report and return the answer sheet to your instructor. As soon as we receive both answer sheets, we will check them over and send you your seal or certificate.



- 6 b) trust in the Lord.
- 1 c) accepting Jesus as your Savior.
- 7 c) truth we learn in the Bible.
- 3 b) If you oppose the devil, he will go away from you.
- 9 b) Moses until Christ.
- 4 a) 1) A freedom you have now and in the future
b) 2) A freedom you have in the future
c) 1) A freedom you have now and in the future
d) 1) A freedom you have now and in the future
e) 2) A freedom you have in the future
- 10 Statements **a** and **c** are true.
- 5 God allows temptations so you can learn how to overcome them and become stronger.
- 16 d) Christ's presence in you.

One Final Word

This is a special kind of book because it was written by people who care about you. These are happy people who have found good answers to many of the questions and problems that trouble almost everyone in the world. These individuals believe that God wants them to share with others the answers they have found. They believe that you need some important information in order to answer your own questions and problems and find the way of life that is best for you.

They have prepared this book in order to give you this information. You will find this book based on these fundamental truths:

1. You need a Savior. Read Romans 3:23, Ezekiel 18:20.
2. You cannot save yourself. Read 1 Timothy 2:5, John 14:6.
3. God desires that the world should be saved. Read John 3:16-17.
4. God sent Jesus who gave His life to save all those who believe in Him. Read Galatians 4:4-5, 1 Peter 3:18.
5. The Bible shows us the way of salvation and teaches us how to grow in the Christian life. Read John 15:5, John 10:10, 2 Peter 3:18.
6. You decide your eternal destiny. Read Luke 13:1-5, Matthew 10:32-33, John 3:35-36.

This book tells you how to decide your destiny, and it gives you opportunities to express your decision. Also, the book is different from others because it gives you a chance to contact people who prepared it. If you want to ask questions or explain your needs and feelings, you may write to them.

In the back of the book, you should find a card called *Decision Report and Request Card*. When you have made a decision, fill out the card and mail it as indicated. Then you will receive more help. You may use the card to ask questions or make requests for prayer or information.

If there is no card in this copy of the book, write to your ICI instructor and you will receive a personal answer.