

053120

Last Week we were talking about freedom.

Moving to salvation.

Looking at images of salvation in the NT

I am completely unsettled about the timing of this message.

Race issues so present this week

Our society's general exaltation of the idea of freedom and unease with the idea of slavery.

Dr. Josef Tson, Romanian pastor who had been jailed for his role in promoting faith and freedom in 1974 and again in 1977, and eventually exiled in 1981.

When he was speaking in America in the 1980's, he desired to be introduced as simply a slave of Christ.

He observed that "There aren't many people who are willing to introduce me as a slave. They substitute the word "servant" for "slave."

DOULOS – servant, slave

I am a white American. What do I know about slavery?

Which is a lie, because as I shared last week, we all know more about slavery than we should.

Reverse course from last week

Shocking to the system

Jet engine on landing, reverse thrust

Saves brakes, allows shorter runways

These come together in one verse.

1 Peter 2.16

¹⁶Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves.

We lose something

One of the common ways to refer to God in prayer at Slave churches in America, was My Master

At once a recognition of who is really in charge and a subtle protest against earthly master.

Justification – just as if I never sinned

Judicial acquittal

In the context of slavery, it means manumission - freeing of slave

Opens up a new relationship

Freedmen often buried in the family tombs of former masters

Redemption

I Cor 6

You are not your own; **20** you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.

Dr. Josef Tson,

In twentieth-century Christianity he could rarely we have replaced the expression "total surrender" with the word "commitment," and "slave" with "servant." But there is an important difference. A servant gives service to someone, but a slave belongs to someone. We commit ourselves to do something, but when we surrender ourselves to someone, we give ourselves up."

Reconciliation

Love that Enslaves

Ravi Zacharias

Wedding Ring

Chesterton, from *The Defendant*

The revolt against vows has been carried in our day even to the extent of a revolt against the typical vow of marriage. It is most amusing to listen to the opponents of marriage on this subject. They appear to imagine that the ideal of constancy was a yoke mysteriously imposed on mankind by the devil, instead of being, as it is, a yoke consistently imposed by all lovers on themselves. They have invented a phrase, a phrase that is a black and white contradiction in two words — ‘free-love’ — as if a lover ever had been, or ever could be, free. It is the nature of love to bind itself.

Phil 2

5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature God,
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;
7 rather, he made himself nothing
by taking the very nature of a servant,

Tson's questions:

Are we committing ourselves to something

Or are we completely surrendering ourselves to someone?

Wesley's Covenant Prayer

I am no longer my own, but thine. Put me to what thou wilt, rank me with whom thou wilt. Put me to doing, put me to suffering. Let me be employed by thee or laid aside for thee, Exalted for thee or brought low for thee. Let me be full, let me be empty. Let me have all things, let me have nothing. I freely and heartily yield all things to thy pleasure and disposal. And now, O Glorious and blessed God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Thou art mine, and I am thine. So be it. And the covenant which I have made on earth, Let it be ratified in heaven. Amen.