

Scripture: I Peter 2:11-17. 1

*3rd Sunday of Easter*

Theme: Christian Freedom.

Text: I Peter 2:16 -- "Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God."

Proposition: Christianity offers the greatest degree of freedom possible.

Date written: 24 April 1953.

Dates & places preached:

*Chapel 6, 135 1/2 West, of Buckner, Ala,  
26 April 1953*

# CHAPLAIN'S INFORMATION CARD

Name Samuel S. Devedjian Co. HQ; Bn. 2<sup>ND</sup>

Protestant ; Catholic \_\_\_\_\_; Jewish \_\_\_\_\_  
(Check Which)

If Protestant—What Denomination? ?

State below your interest or experience in:

CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETICS: Basketball + Softball

ENTERTAINMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: V. Devedjian

Father : 1044 Cooper St.  
Camden R., N.J.

## Introduction:

1. Hard to ascertain meaning of words.

a. Two-fold meaning of murder, as in Ch G lecture.

b. Two meanings of "lead."

c. "Freedom" and "Christian" are words interpreted or defined in different ways.

2. To present any truth or argument, necessary to define key words at beginning. Must do so in case of two-word phrase "Christian Freedom," which is our theme.

3. "Christian"-- characteristic of Christian people, who are those who believe in and profess Jesus Christ, and the truth taught by him.

a. Granted, people believing in Him interpret Him and His truth differently.

b. Nevertheless, many characteristics of Christians are nearly the same wherever found.

(1) Belief in God, & in

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State below your interest or experience in:

CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETICS: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTERTAINMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr. Wayne T. Babbs  
802 Elm St. Indianapolis, Ind.

Christ as of God.

(2) Belief in, and (at least) attempt to practice some basic moral laws.

(3) Interest in others.

c. Among Christians a common characteristic is emphasis on freedom. "Christian freedom" is freedom characteristic of Christians, of those living by the teachings of Christ.

4. Freedom (first 3 definitions of my Collegiate dictionary):

a. Liberation from slavery, imprisonment, or restraint.

b. Exemption from necessity in choice and action, as the freedom of the will.

c. Frankness and outspokenness.

5. The text, taken in context, deals with these concepts of freedom as they are in Christian freedom.

## I. The Scripture background.

1. Est. Peter unlocks its spiritual treasures to one who

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETICS: Baseball Softball

ENTERTAINMENT: Ring Boxing

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

Mr & Mrs John Selpe  
9.1 Batesville Ind

holds constantly in mind the word "Persecution."

2. Bible deals in several ways with fact that Christians are persecuted, do suffer, often are denied freedom, in usual sense.

a. Isaiah 53 -- Suffering servant idea. Suffering finds glorification in others.

b. Jesus' suffering explained ~~in~~ by many early Christians as suffering for the sins and shortcomings of others.

c. I Peter solves problem of suffering, of Christian lack of freedom, chiefly by saying it is a way of purifying and ennobling the soul. Brings closer fellowship with Jesus.

d. Many Christians were denying Christ in persecution of time of I Peter. Signing "libelli." I Peter written to the faithful all over the empire in such times.

e. Yet to these people, and as one of them, he could write

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If Protestant—What Denomination? \_\_\_\_\_

State below your interest or experience in:

CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETICS: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTERTAINMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

MRS DEVAUGHN, K. CROWSON  
Rt 2 Box 336 JUNCTION CITY  
OREGON

"Live as free men."

II. Interpretation of Scripture and text regarding problem of Christian freedom.

1. Verse 11 -- As "aliens and exiles" not free from pressures ~~tot~~ do as others do, if term is figurative.

2. Verse 12 -- Under a code of discipline rather than loosely "doing what everybody does."

a. This discipline helps others -- good deeds.

b. This discipline glorifies God.

3. Verses 13-14 -- Subject to human institutions and government.

4. Verse 15 -- In spite of this doing right by choice.

5. Verse 16 -- Yet, though subjects, still free, but not free to do evil, but to serve God.

6. Verse 17 -- Repetition that in Christian freedom is service of others, God & country.

7. Evidence could be marshalled to show that Christ taught these

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETICS: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTERTAINMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

Mrs + Mrs Henry Hemmes  
114 HOME ST SE GRAND RAPIDS MICH

same basic things about freedom's obligations on His followers.

### III. Application of Scriptural teachings for today.

1. Persecution still exists.

a. Olin Stockwell, brain-washing, and book ("With God in Communist China").

b. Widespread indifference to Christian worship, teachings and practice.

7 c. Social pressure to do certain wrong things.

d. "Methodism's Pink Fringe," Bishop Oxnam, conscientious objectors.†

2. Not completely free to govern self or be governless.

a. For man, presence in Army reveals that.

b. Taxes, on minority side in civic questions (like zoning), etc., demonstrate that.

3. Yet, a Christian is free, in best sense of word, in spite (or because of) these things.

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? NONE.

ATHLETICS: BASEBALL.

ENTERTAINMENT: MOVIES

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

MRS. MARTHA M. RUSSLER.  
NEEDSVILLE RD. PENNSYLVANIA.

a. Even in physical captivity & slavery he is free in mind, can contribute to others and serve God, and meets the first definition of freedom.

(1) Scripture --disciples.

(2) Stockwell.

(3) Tithing of life-termer.

(4) Non-christian hates captors, marks time, plots r release, and certainly free in no sense of the word.

b. Under above conditions, Christian may not have "exemption from necessity in choice and action" (2nd definition of "freedom") as to place and manner of life, but meets idea of freedom, surely, in attitude chosen by which to life.

c. At times frankness and outspokenness is foolish, but at other times a necessary part of faith.

(1) Stockwell's book.

(2) Early martyrs punished for not signing libelli.

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CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETICS: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTERTAINMENT: \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

ROBERT S. SHELTON GRETNA VA  
ANISA PERKIN SHELTON GRETNA VA

(3) Speak out for justice,  
honesty in government and  
society.

Conclusion: In situations where non-Christians are truly slaves, servants, subdued, Christianity offers the greatest degree of freedom possible. Not in destructive pleasures or hate (according to good or bad times), but in service to others and to God.

Christian freedom -- the firm and decisive personal choice and practice of Christ's teachings in all of life's situations.

This is the greatest degree of freedom, for it goes beyond any situation and makes the soul, spirit, mind free.

"Live as free men, yet without using your freedom as a pretext for evil; but live as servants of God.

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Name BERT RAY KENT Co. 74; Bn. 2<sup>nd</sup>

Protestant AXP; Catholic \_\_\_\_\_; Jewish \_\_\_\_\_  
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If Protestant—What Denomination? NO PREFERENCE

State below your interest or experience in:

CHURCH ACTIVITIES: Bible study \_\_\_\_\_; Bible Teaching \_\_\_\_\_

MUSIC: Choir? \_\_\_\_\_; Lead Singing? \_\_\_\_\_; Solo Work? \_\_\_\_\_

What Instrument do you play? \_\_\_\_\_

ATHLETICS: \_\_\_\_\_

ENTERTAINMENT: Swimming

Name and Home Address of Parents or Next of Kin: \_\_\_\_\_

BERT KENT  
BOYMAN TEXAS ROUTE #2