



## FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE

On July 4, 1776 the Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence. The American Colonies have already been at war with England for the past year. We celebrate the day that the Declaration was signed with little regard to the other events that were happening at the same time.

[Writing the Declaration of Independence, 1776](#) is a great web site describing the writing of the Declaration of Independence along with all of the surrounding history of the writing of the document. From June 11, 1776 to June 28 Thomas Jefferson worked on several drafts of the document here in Philadelphia. You must remember that Thomas Jefferson worked in a building that had no fans or air conditioning. He wrote the document with a feather pen where he had to dip the pen tip into the ink for every new word. This must have been pains taking arduous work during the hot summer days of June.

Along with independence and freedom comes personal responsibility. The majority of Americans do not want to hear about responsibility, but there is no freedom without responsibility. When God created human beings he gave them the freedom of choice. They could either choose to serve the Lord or to reject him. We have seen the world more and more choosing to reject the Lord and thus enslaving themselves to Satan. When you reject responsibility with your freedom, you will find yourself trapped and enslaved. Look at all of the people who say they could not help themselves. We see this happening every day when a sin becomes the excuse for some crime.

For example, one who has become inebriated and caused an auto accident while intoxicated where several died has shown that he did not use his freedom responsibly. The person had the freedom to drink, but failed to be responsi-

ble for his actions and pleaded that he couldn't help himself.

With every freedom comes the responsibility. Failure to act responsibly will cause you to suffer the heartache and pain that comes as the results of your irresponsibility.

Adam and Eve had the freedom to of choice. They lived in a marvelous garden that had everything that they wanted. The only stipulation was that they were not to eat of the tree of knowledge. When they willfully chose to eat of the accursed tree, they were driven out of the garden and forced to make it on their own.

### **Genesis 3:1-24**

1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

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8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the

field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

20 And Adam called his wife's name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.

21 Unto Adam also and to his wife did the LORD God make coats of skins, and clothed them.

22 And the LORD God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever:

23 Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken.

24 So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Failure to act responsibly will lead you down a path where you have to suffer the consequences for your irresponsibility. Just like Adam and Eve were driven out of their beautiful garden home, you also will have to pay the price.

With freedom comes responsibility. In God's court, there is no excuse. Look at the rich man and Lazarus.

### **Luke 16:19-31**

19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores,

21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover



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the dogs came and licked his sores.

22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;

23 And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.

25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.

26 And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.

27 Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father,

that thou wouldest send him to my father's house:

28 For I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.

30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent.

31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.

All of the pleadings of the rich man were to no avail, and he had to pay the price for the choices he made.

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### **Services:**

Sunday School . . . . . 11:30 AM

Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 12:00 Noon

Sunday Evening . . . . . 6:30 PM

Wednesday Evening . . . . . 7:30 PM

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