

Paul boldly proclaims, “for freedom Christ has set us free.” (Galatians 5:1)

July begins with a bang and ends with “back to school sales.” It is a month of baseball All-Star games, weekends on the river, heat and humidity, and vacations. Church life is relaxed in many congregations.

With the 4th of July celebrating our freedom as Americans, there are preaching and teaching opportunities about economic slavery and freedom. There are too many anecdotal signs that some church members are living way beyond their means. There are families in your congregation who don’t know how they are going to pay the electric bill. Some of these families live in homes with swimming pools, multiple luxury automobiles and in gated communities. They have all the appearance of affluence, yet they are enslaved to the American dream. They believe that the quality of their life is judged by the abundance of their possessions.

As we celebrate the freedom won in the 18th century, we need to remind and teach about a freedom won at Calvary’s cross. Jesus has set us free from the idolatry of things. He has given us the power to say, “I don’t need that.” And if we don’t need that, we certainly don’t need two of “that.”

Economic slavery is a tragic situation that happens in underdeveloped countries. In these times we are learning that some of our neighbors are tortured by the American form of economic slavery. Are we willing to say to our church that “stuff will not save you?”

Perhaps as the country celebrates its freedom, we can lead a Sunday School series on budgeting, debt elimination, and financial planning. For freedom, Jesus has set us free. Our task in the church is to give some of our hurting members the keys to unlock the chains and enjoy the freedom found in Jesus Christ.