

## Freedom in Christ

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Jesus Christ said, “*the truth shall make you free*” (John 8:32) and the apostle Paul wrote: “*for freedom did Christ set us free...*” (Galatians 5:1). Are you free? Christians are free in Christ!

Many U.S. citizens have freedoms afforded them by our nation’s constitution and military, but they are not free in Christ. Jesus came to the earth to free mankind (Isaiah 61:1; Luke 4:18; Ephesians 4:8). So, what kind of freedom does Christ offer?

Jesus Christ offers freedom from sin (John 8:32-36) and sin’s condemnation (Romans 8:1-2). When mankind sins and violates God’s word (1 John 3:4), they are in bondage to sin and the devil (Romans 6:6, 16-23). They need to be freed and they can be freed from this sin by obedience to the truth of the gospel (John 8:32; 2 Timothy 2:24-26). The New Testament is “the perfect law of liberty” (James 1:25; 2:12) which can free man from sin.

Jesus also offers freedom from the Old Law (Romans 7:3-4; 2 Corinthians 3:17; Galatians 3:13, 22-23; 5:1-4), freedom from the worldly philosophies (Colossians 2:8, 16-23), and freedom from the fear of death (Hebrews 2:14-15).

You should certainly cherish your freedoms as a U.S. citizen, but don’t neglect to be free in Christ. Will you obey the truth of the gospel and be free from sin today? - *Chris Reeves*

## Up-Coming Events

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- The questions for VBS are to be given to Daniel Mayberry by May 7. Thanks.
- We will have a VBS workday and card distribution starting at 9 AM on June 3.
- Plan now to attend our up-coming VBS, June 5-9, 2017.

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ  
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Clarksville, TN 37043

Website  
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times  
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm  
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!  
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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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*April 30, 2017*



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# That Little Word “Not”: Adding to God’s Word

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When you read the story of Adam and Eve’s sin in the garden and Satan’s deception, you will find that Satan added the little word “not” to God’s word. Compare what God with what Satan said.

God said the following: “*thou shalt surely die*” (Genesis 2:17).

Satan said the following: “*You shall not surely die*” (Genesis 3:4).

How much did Satan change? Just one word; the word “not”. Satan added just one word to God’s word and this became the basis for his lie and deception.

We must all learn a basic principle of life which is that God does not want us to alter His word. All through the Bible God tells us not to add to or take from his word (see Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Proverbs 30:5-6; and Revelation 22:18-19).

What happens when you add the little word “not” to God’s word? Well, let’s take a look at an example from Mark 16:16. Jesus said in Mark 16:16: “*He that believes and is baptized shall be saved; but he that disbelieves shall be condemned.*” Now, when man comes along and adds the little word “not” at different places in Jesus’ statement, you get the following false doctrines.

**HE THAT BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL NOT BE SAVED.** This is the basic teaching of atheism. When a person says there is no God

(Psalm 14:1), nothing can be done to be saved. Atheists do not believe in God, so they do not believe in Jesus, baptism, or salvation from sin. The truth is, there is a God, and there is evidence everywhere that he is our Designer (Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:20; Hebrews 3:4).

## **HE THAT BELIEVES NOT AND IS NOT BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED.**

This is the basic teaching of universalism. Universalists believe that God is so good that all will be saved in heaven regardless of how they live or what they do. The truth is, some are travelling the road to heaven and some are travelling the road to hell (Matthew 7:13-14). Not everyone will be saved (Matthew 7:21).

## **HE THAT BELIEVES NOT AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED.**

This is the basic teaching of all religions that practice infant baptism (Catholics, Methodists, Lutherans, etc.). Those who practice infant baptism teach that an infant is saved because of the faith of his parents, not his own faith. The infant does not have to believe, but he has to be baptized. The truth is, you (not your parents) have to express your faith and confession in Jesus Christ (John 6:44-45; Romans 10:9-10, 17; Hebrews 11:6).

## **HE THAT BELIEVES AND IS NOT BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED.**

This is the basic teaching of all “faith only” religions (Baptists, etc.). Those who teach faith only teach that a person is saved at the point when he believes in Jesus, before he is baptized. He has to believe to be saved, but he does not have to be baptized to be saved. The truth is,

faith alone does not save (James 2:24-26).

**HE THAT BELIEVES AND IS BAPTIZED SHALL BE SAVED.** You might recognize this as what Jesus actually said. This is what the rest of the New Testament teaches as well (see Matthew 28:18-19; Acts 2:28; 22:16; Galatians 3:27; 1 Peter 3:21). This should be our teaching! This should be our practice!

So, what have learned from the story of Adam and Even and the example of Mark 16:16? Here are a few lessons.

First, we learn how easy it is to change God’s word and twist the scriptures (2 Peter 3:16-18). All you have to do is add one little word “not” (or some other word) and you have twisted God’s word.

Second, we learn how easy it is to believe a lie (2 Thessalonians 2:10-12). Adding one little word “not” turns the truth into a lie and many today will believe it.

Third, we learn how serious a mistake it is to change God’s word. Any addition or subtraction to God’s word is preaching “another gospel” (Galatians 1:6) and the person who does that is accursed.

Fourth, we learn how common it is for “good and honest” religious persons to change God’s word. The Jews of Jesus’ day did it (Mark 7:1-13) and people do it today. Will you add to God’s word, or simply obey it as it is written? - Chris Reeves