



Finding freedom

Readings: - 1 Thess: 2:1-8, Prov: 7:1-7, Gen: 2:20-25, Prov: 3:5-6

There is a difference between freedom and licence

Freedom is having the power to choose.

Licence is giving in to out of control appetites, which is not freedom at all but enslavement.

Lust is a God given desire out of control.

The bible teaches us we find the ultimate freedom when we commit our lives to Christ.

Samson is an example to us of how; no matter how strong, gifted or brave we may be, if we allow our feelings and desires to control us we will become ensnared.

Judges 13-16, Prov: 7:22-23.

We do not realise that it controls us.

Judges 16:22.

1. Samson's priorities were wrong. *
2. Samson was un-teachable. *
3. Samson had an undisciplined lifestyle. *
4. Samson underestimated the power of his enemy. *

(* point headings taken from teaching by Ray Bevan)

1. Samson's priorities were wrong.

He developed his gifting without developing his character.

Gifting is.....decision

Character is.....decision

2. Samson was unteachable.

1 Tim: 6:10

Pierced.....Greek: (per-ee-pi-ro); meaning transfix

An un-teachable attitude is transfixated on doing everything its own way.

3. Samson had an undisciplined life style.

The world says if it feels good do it.

The bible says there is a way that seems right but it ends in death.

Prov: 14:12.

4. Samson underestimated the power of his enemy.

- He underestimated his enemy's cunning
- He underestimated his enemy's persistence.
- He underestimated the power of sin.

How to be free.

- Accept Christ as Lord as well as saviour **John 3:17; Romans 12:1-2**
- Change what we feed our mind with. **Phil; 4:8**
- Take control of our thinking **2 Cor: 10:5**
- Walk away from sin. **2 Tim 2:22**

5. Keys to keeping perspective. *

1. Celebrate the moment.....every day is God given
2. Develop a spirit of gratitude.....give thanks in all circumstances
3. Relish the battle.....David ran towards Goliath
4. Stay humble.....God draws near the humble
5. Walk in joy.....the joy of the Lord is our strength

* taken from teaching by Phil Baker