

The Rolling Roads Reminder

July 2023

Looking Over Jordan

Freedom and Liberty are broad ideas with many applications that are NOT old fashioned or out of date. We are created to be free under the rule and reign of our Creator. Recently my family viewed the Liberty Bell in Philadelphia. Even though we were viewing through the glass from the outside, we could tell the Liberty Bell certainly is a large brown bell that looks pretty old in person! It was cast in the 1750's in England, way before the American Revolution. Inscribed on the Liberty Bell are these words: "**Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout all the Land unto all the Inhabitants Thereof.**" Did you know this is from the Leviticus 25:10? I didn't know that until recently! And now you know why they call it the Liberty Bell!

For most Americans who know about it, the Liberty Bell is a symbol of freedom, something tangible that we can see, that is associated very much with the American Revolution that came in the decades after it was made. There is more that is interesting about this bell.

The Liberty Bell was hidden! As the Redcoats approached Philadelphia (then the Capital of the budding United States), it was taken down and moved to what is now Allentown, PA. There it was hidden under some floor-

boards until it could be returned to Independence Hall. So that big bell experienced the dangers of the revolution right along with the people, and they appreciated it!



And one more thing about the bell, it is cracked! To me, that somehow symbolizes that our human pursuit of freedom and liberty are not pristine and perfect. We will make mistakes, such as the "original sin" of the United States, slavery. Founders including Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson wrote slavery not only out of the U.S. Constitution, but later out of the Louisiana Purchase. But the lines ending slavery were edited out of the documents in committee, and so slavery continued on until Abraham Lincoln. The Liberty Bell had become closely associated with the abolition of slavery before the Civil War. In the British Empire, slavery ended because of the efforts of William Wilberforce and other Christians and ministers. But in the United States it took a very great upheaval, national conflict, and many deaths to end slavery. So freedom and liberty haven't been perfect, but we aim and what we know is right and true: that all men are

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Happy Birthday
America



financial report

May

Income: \$6,409

Expenses: \$6,241



Growing Towards Christ

DATES TO REMEMBER

July 4 - Office Closed

July 23 - Vesper Service at
The Carillon 4:00 PM

Each Wednesday - Pastor James'
Bible study Vidcast

"Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."
Jeremiah 17:7-8

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Lastly, I see a warning in that cracked Liberty Bell. It refused to be repaired. Once it was cracked after arriving in the colonies, it was recast. But it was rung again, and it cracked again! The symbolism here is compelling. The pursuit of freedom and liberty, the pursuit of Leviticus 25:10, will remain imperfect this side of heaven, in spite of all our efforts. So we must be forgiving, and patient with one another, but always advocating the freedom of the individual in the United States.

The state is not supreme, the government is not God, and the state derives its powers only by the informed consent of the governed. Freedom and Liberty come from God and cannot be taken away. So as you remember the Liberty Bell this July, still we are to "proclaim Liberty!"

Happy because of Jesus,
Pastor James

