



## “Choose This Day”

“Liberty or Bondage”

by “the Phoenix”- [www.phoenixseven.org](http://www.phoenixseven.org)

It is July 2nd, 2005 4:47am.

And I pause for just a moment reflecting upon the prior six stones, and quietly listen to God's "still small voice".

Preparation has been made all across this nation, for the up and coming 4th of July celebration. As a nation celebrates once more their freedom and independence. And I wonder freedom and independence from what. Bondage?

Can it be possible that one can be truly free yet experience the yoke of bondage at the same time? No they cannot.

Before I begin, I would like to address, Rod Parsley's "Freedom, Healing and Deliverance" service airing last night on TBN.

Such theatrics. I often wonder when America and "the Church" is going to finally wake up. One of the main principles behind the entire service was that you could have called in several weeks in advance and had them place a prayer cloth for you upon the altar. Then once the hands of "anointing" had been laid upon it, it could be mailed back to you, and you could share in the "anointing". Such theatrics, and yes such a farce.

Maybe I should have mailed a pair of my socks in to be put upon the altar. (Read also, the first stone, "I Stand In the Gap").

I often wonder when America and "the Church" is going to finally wake up. This is not of God, people. Rod Parsley better quickly reassess this one. And repent. And those of TBN as well.

Once more.. this is theatrics and a farce, a false teaching, and is not of God.

And to the many that receive their prayer cloths afterward? Oh well they may make good toilet paper in a pinch. Oh better not do that, they may plug your toilet. Just as they plug up and place the yoke of bondage upon you. For this is legalism in just another form. Different tune, but the same dance.

Dear reader, continue to read on.

If Christ resides in us, and we abide as part of the vine, His (Christ's) anointing resides within us all ready. You dear reader just have to follow Him and just tap into it.

For God's word, and our Lord Jesus Christ tells us:

**I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. - John 15:1-7**

If we as Christians abide in Him, and He in us, and we ask and it shall be done for us, what has prayer cloth's have to do with healing and deliverance from bondage? Not a thing people. You already have it, just tap into it. **With faith.** And not faith in a scrap or two of muslin, or what ever they are made of. Faith in Jesus Christ.

To need to have a prayer cloth on that altar of falsehood, in order to be a part of "the anointing" is legalism. Pure and simple. You have to do something, to partake of God's blessing. Besides having faith. An "object" is a poor substitute. For faith. Place your faith in Jesus Christ.

For God's perfect word tells us:

**But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: - 1 Peter 2:9**

Those in Christ are a royal priesthood themselves, and should have no need of the false teachings of Rod Parsley, or of his **ritualistic** prayer cloth's of deliverance and healing.

True believers and followers of Jesus Christ, have no need of Parsley's priestly prayer and "offering of sacrifice" (a metaphor) to receive of the blessings of God. To the Body of Christ, I say wake up sleeping giant, and shrug off this yoke of bondage.

Such theatrics, and yes such heresy. Parsley and those at TBN have fallen away, and are teaching a different Gospel. And remember dear reader scripture tells us:

**Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace. For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.** - Galatians 5:1-5

Legalism and Bondage. They go hand in hand. And if you embrace legalism dear reader, you have fallen from Grace.

Parsley and those that where with him on that platform, along with TBN, are leading you not to deliverance, but into bondage. They lead you into the lie. To all those who participated, by embracing a different Gospel they are damning your souls.

These "theatrics" are nothing but a performance, not true Christianity. It is a part of "the plague" the "Black Death" that has swept the church, this wave of falling away and falsehood. But then again scripture and Jesus tell us this.

**Let no man deceive you by any means: for *that day shall not come* , except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; - 2 Thessalonians 2:3**

Repent says the Lord. Repent.

Flee the false teachers, and let me remind you, if you support them dear reader; financially with offerings, you are following them.

Part of the greatest tragedy of "Parsley's Farce" is those that joined him upon the platform, and all across the nation. Talk about jumping on a band wagon. Hey, let's have a parade. Ever notice how almost all except a handful of the "televangelists" are just a bunch of "bobbing head" yes men? And women? It is pathetic. The riding on the coattails and brown noser's. What has happened for standing for truth? The truth of God's word, and for Jesus Christ?

The real Jesus Christ. Not their version. Their "God of their Understanding" (See the stone, "No God's Before Me").

Praise god, for such as the great Billy Graham, and a handful of others who have done just that, stood for Christ. No bandwagon for them, just Jesus. The mark of the true "great" leaders in the church. And yes of true "great" men and women.

Let us continue, and I wish to remind you of this scripture:

**And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them.- Acts 19:11-12**

The "handkerchiefs" or "prayer cloth's" as they are called by the modern day false teachers, were special only to Paul. Even the other disciples didn't have the gift. And special by the "hands of Paul", means just that. That's pretty selective, wouldn't you agree? And trust, this was a gift from God, and has nothing to do with "respecter of persons", for it was a gift of the Spirit. As are the "gift of miracles", and other gifts of the Spirit.

**Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular. And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers?**

**are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret? - 1 Corinthians 12:27-30**

No they do not..and to

Rod Parsley, Hickey, TBN, Jay Cox and Richard Roberts to name a few, I must say this: Sorry to bust your bubble, but you don't have it. Period.

So says the Lord.

Repent and Be restored.

The only thing we are instructed to do is in James 5:13-15.

**Is any among you afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. - James 5:13-15**

Isaiah 53:4-6 was and is for everyone that resides in Christ.

**Surely he hath borne our griefs (sicknesses), and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all. - Isa 53:4-6**

If there are sick among you, call for the elders of the church.. Not to be confused with calling for a prayer cloth from Parsley. Or anyone. Prayer cloths remove that true "point of contact", the laying on hands of the sick to not only the elders, but to the rest of "The Body". This is the difference.

Well enough now of "Parsley's Farce". Let us continue on into liberty.

The 4th of July.

It brings to mind visions of Independence, of freedom of God and country. America. The land of the free and the home of the brave.

Freedom.

It is one of those words, that bring about visions that almost overwhelm the mind, and yes overwhelm's the heart.

Freedom. Is one of those words.

Freedom from bondage.

**For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. - 1 Corinthians 12:13**

**Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all. - Colossians 3:11**

Christ is all and in all. And there and only there lies true freedom. And yes, Grace. Such sacrifice, such Grace. All the praise and glory to Him.

And such Love. If mankind as a race, could only learn to love, and to increase our capacity to love, my what true freedom that would bring.

A little over three years ago, in a small house trailer in Newark, AR, I felt that great love. God's love. It so "flowed" through me like that never ending spring. Baptized, "imersed" in His love. Mere words cannot describe it. Nor in how it can change a man.

Few of all saints know the great extent of God's love for us, but I do. Yes, I do. It is the same love that took Jesus Christ to the cross, for all of mankind.

For within Him there is neither Jew nor Gentile, bond nor free, but all; Christ truly is all and in all.

Such love. And dear reader, that is where lies true freedom, and true "passion" in Christ. Abide in Him, and I promise you shall be filled.

And that is true "overflow".

To love and that capacity to love. God, and one another.

"True Overflow".

I have spent many predawn hours this morning reflecting on His great love. And our capacity to love as well. Often in the past I have prayed for God to raise that level of capacity within myself, and as always He answers such prayer.

I must admit, that when it comes dear reader, at first it will almost be "intoxicating" for lack of a another word. But come it will. To be filled "To Overflowing" with His Spirit and the very nature of God himself.

To be "Filled to Overflowing". Whew. Yes, I guess intoxicating would perhaps maybe describe it; or better yet: Fullfilled. Completed. Abundance. 7

And that is true "Freedom" indeed.

Let us now dear heart, to continue onward:

Recently our great nation's Supreme Court held a ruling, that endangers not only removing God in our society but, that love as well. The very nature of God. If we remove God, we in turn are removing His very nature. For we teach our children to no longer to pursue it, not to any great depth.

And without love and mercy, our decline our fall... cannot be far behind. **For Rome decayed from within**, and succumbed to imorality. And history repeats itself.

The Commandments.

What disturbed me so deeply about the decision to remove the Commandments from all government, is that is exactly what this country was founded upon. Upon God. Case in point, our very own Declaration of Independence states:

"**WE** hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness"

Created equal, by their creator. The God of the Holy Bible, and of the Commandments.

If one will only study the backgrounds of our founding father's they will discover this:

**"Among the most inestimable of our blessings is that...of liberty to worship our Creator in the way we think most agreeable to His will; a liberty deemed in other countries incompatible with good government and yet proved by our experience to be its best support"** (*Reply to Baptist Address, 1807*). -

Thomas Jefferson

Interestesting quotation I believe you will agree. In the most agreeable to God's will. And by the founding father's experience, to be liberty's best support.

To fully understand and interpret the Constitution, should not the Supreme Court take into consideration the thoughts of our founding fathers? I believe you will agree.

And what of those of Abraham Lincoln although not a founding father, one of this nation's greatest:

**"The principles of Jefferson are the axioms of a free society."** - Abraham Lincoln

True, Jefferson as well as the others, where supporters (the "separation of church and state" is a concept, and words are not exactly found in the constitution) of religious liberty, as in government shall not impose itself upon the church, or religion. Somewhere along the line, "this has been twisted into the church removed from all government". This is not the same thing.

There is a difference.

It is my prayer here at Phoenix Seven, that our judicial system rethink its position. And yes reconsider and amend their ruling. And it is time for the true Body of Christ, to stand as a collective voice. And yes it is time, for judgement and then "overflow" for the Body as well.

Additional quotes from our founding fathers and **their faith**, will be posted to this page as time allows.

**if my people, who are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.** - 2 Chronicles 7:14

And they wonder why the United States is experiencing Hurricanes, earthquakes, drought, extreme temperatures and flooding. Our borders have been penetrated by our enemies. And "The Thunder Rolls".

**The people therefore, that stood by, and heard *it*, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.** - John 12:29

The voice of God. It thunders. For those that fail to hear, or ignore His still small voice.

**Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward; How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him ; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will? - Hebrews 2:1-4**

Many in the church today teach that God is love. And a God of Grace, and Holy. And Sovereign. And yes He is all of these things. But He also is a just God. A God of Justice.

One of the first things I studied when I returned as the modern day prodigal was the reign of Christ when He returns with the saints. You know the part when Satan has been bound for 1000 years. But then He will be loosed for a season. Turned loose.

**And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. - Revelation 20:3**

I recall at the time thinking — What? God has Satan bound and tied up, and is going to let him loose? Yes He will, turn him loose. For it would be unfair and unjust for those born during the reign of Jesus Christ, to not know temptation by Satan as we have known it. To know the sting of temptation and trial. And yes I suppose for some, the sting of failure. For like us now they also will possess “free will”. The ability of choice. To choose. Jesus or damnation. The Jesus and God of the Bible, and not the God of men’s imaginations. Now dear reader, that is a God of justice.

And many forget that. There are those in the church today that teach and preach only the “positive” aspects of Christianity, are avoiding the negative. Or shall we say - “the justice”. Of “accountability”. It is actually a balance between the two. Neither one side or the other, but a balance. Neither one side or the other. But then again straight is the gate, and few be that find it.

And now a Prophecy, given to me by God:

**The people of this nation and the world are accountable. I am A God of justice. They have fallen away unto their own imaginations and thus having fallen away, I will destroy the land. I am the Lord God and I change not. But**

**this is merely the beginning.. The beginning of a “Great Awakening” among the people. The awakenings of all awakenings. “And the Thunder Rolls” - Return.. Just as the modern day prodigal.**

I asked God what shall I do? And He told me this:

**And he said unto me, Son of man, can these bones live? And I answered, O Lord GOD, thou knowest. Again he said unto me, Prophecy upon these bones, and say unto them, O ye dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. - Ezekiel 37:3-4**

And to the “dry bones” I preach. Return to the Lord God. The true Lord God Jehovah and the true Christ. For there is salvation in no other. Amen.

When dear reader will the people of this nation turn and seek the face of the true living God? When will you?

Now just a thought...

Once in conversation with John Hughes Sr., a Missionary Baptist preacher; I was told by him that “I will not worship a God that cannot keep you”. This is in reference to the teaching of “Once Saved Always Saved”. He has removed or attempted to remove all accountability and “perseverance” from the equation.

What he is actually saying if you know the man as I do, is that he will not worship a God that won't let you do what you want to do, and still keep you. One that will not hold you accountable. Perhaps He should listen to an old Iowa proverb that I use; “Don't use Christ as a crutch”. Don't use Jesus Christ as an excuse to not follow :Jesus Christ.

For scripture tells us that only those that persevere till the end shall be saved. It is not a matter of “God Keeping You” as in the once saved always saved. It is a matter of you or someone persevering, it is a matter of overcoming the world, and above all a matter of following Christ. The real one.

There is security in Christ, and in the Gospel, the “real ones”. Just as there is no security in the false ones. Just ask the Galatians of Galatians Chapter 5:1-6.

He worships and bows down before a God of his mind. And not the God of Holy Scripture. (For additional reading I strongly urge you to read "No God's Before Me", posted in the archive section of our site). He follows a "different" Jesus Christ. Do not make the same mistake.

So dear reader, "Choose this Day" whom you will serve, freedom or bondage.

"Choose This Day". Jesus Christ or bondage.

Choose. Whom you will serve.

As for Me and my House, we will serve the Lord. In freedom, and liberty, and in love.

"And the Greatest is Love".

'the Phoenix".

And now just a brief notation of my thoughts on the Seven Stones and "Choose This Day".

My Thoughts on the "Seven Stones".

I would like to begin with the "stones as a collective whole".

Upon completion, of the seventh and final stone "Choose This Day", I was granted a day of reflection. And I must admit what a day of reflection it turned out to be. When the last stone was completed, I felt "good" about the words and those precepts contained within their pages. You see I didn't feel good in that within or of myself, but the "good feeling" came upon me. Perhaps the men and women of God will know what I mean.

But still at the same time, a vast feeling of inadequacy, not upon the stones themselves, but an inadequacy in myself.

I have reflected upon that inadequacy, and it perhaps is best described as the inadequacy a man or preacher of the Gospel feels when he has been in the presence of his maker. The Creator. And Jesus Christ. For by him and for him all things were created.

Paul perhaps stated this best, when he conveyed the thought of humility in his statement “I am the last and least of all saints”. And perhaps that is it. And as the modern day prodigal, and least of all, I can fully relate to that. Fully relate.

Yet somehow it goes much farther beyond that, much farther indeed. To describe it and place it within “a box” of mere words, I must admit is truly hard to describe, and perhaps the true preachers and ministers of the gospel will read this and know what I am talking about.

Now I would like to begin with last and final stone, “Choose This Day”. Let’s say the “last shall be first, and the first shall be last”.

To be brutally honest, the thought on legalism and “Parsley’s Farce”, had never occurred to me before, and this perhaps has given me the deepest reflection of them all.

Legalism, normally in theological terms pertains to the Law. The ritualistic laws handed down by Moses. I must admit the “seventh stone” brought new light upon that definition. And one that I had never thought of before. True, I have never been fond of “prayer cloths” for their usage today contradicts the word of God. For it was gift God specifically gave to Paul, the other disciples and Apostles didn’t have that gift. But it goes much deeper and farther than that...

If those that reside in Christ, and He in them (as part of the vine and the branches of John 15), and the promise of Isaiah 53:4-5:

**Surely he hath borne our griefs (sicknesses), and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.** - Isa. 53:4-5

And also must be taken into the context that we are all a “Royal Priesthood”. All and in all in Christ Jesus. And that “anointing” resides in us all if we are truly in Christ.

So what then and why must we have a “prayer cloth” to partake of that “anointing”? I believe you can see what I am trying to say. And what I am trying to say I guess is this:

If Parsley, who has on numerous occasions has preached and holds true (and I have heard him do so) the above scripture from John 15 and specifically Isa 53:4-5, and the scripture from 1 Peter 2:9 :

**But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: - 1 Peter 2:9**

To partake of that “anointing” that Parsley is referencing to all we must do is stand in agreement. For the “anointing” is Christ’s, and he resides in all true Christians. It is not our anointing, that breaks yokes of bondage, and that delivers, but His. And not Parsley’s nor mine, nor anyone’s. But Christ’s.

You see dear leader... one is of grace: Isa 53:4-5, 1 Peter 2:9, and the other is legal: Prayer cloth: must be had to partake of the “Grace”, the anointing.. Actually to partake of something that has already been finished, or accomplished by Christ on the Cross. Something that is already ours. And that is not Grace, but legalism in just another form. Not unlike a circumcision. As in the act.. Not in the law itself.

Grace can never be set with legalism. It doesn’t mix. So Pastor Parsley I ask this question: Is it true Isa 53:4-5?, 1 Peter 2:9? And if you hold them true, can you not see the contradiction? The difference? To have to have a cloth to be free from bondage; deliverance? When the work was already done on the Cross? Which is it? Has it been finished on the Cross or not? - Ok this was more than one question.

And of bondage and deliverance? From what perhaps the flesh? The non renewing of the mind? All other prices have been paid on the cross, and of the flesh and of the thought life, you cannot be delivered from that. The battle of the mind and the flesh is each and everyone’s own.

Now as to healing...

And to bring light to the fact that even Christ always healed differently. (As I hold true and am convicted by God that God will choose do His miracles, by something different than He used with Paul, special to Paul) .

And as in the shadow of Peter.

Sometimes Christ spoke, sometimes He used His spittle.. and as in the woman with the discharge of blood, His garment. But the key element was always faith. And that comes by Grace, and not of or in any inanimate object.

Such as a prayer cloth. You can have all the prayer cloth in the world, and if you have not faith, you have nothing, and no anointing. For the just shall live by faith. Everyone is to have their own full measure. Their own measure of faith.

I believe you can see the difference... and there is a difference.

Add that there is a vast difference from a prayer cloth and the laying on the hands and the prayer of faith from James :

**Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he have committed sins, they shall be forgiven him. - James 5:14-15**

True, there is individual anointing as upon an individual, just as there are gifts of the Spirit. Just as God still and does heal.

Just as the sign gifts, do still exist. (The gift of tongues, and the sign gifts will be covered in a separate article and will be posted in our archive section of our site).

But we must always ...always weigh everything against and adhere to the truth of God's word. And not in the twisting of scripture as those twist 1 Corinthians 13:9-12, and that which is perfect come.

If it violates that word, or any principle of that word, it is not of God.

If the sick call not on the elder's of the church, their faith never comes into play. Becomes apart of the healing.

And just as if the sick are never anointed with oil, by the elders, and have the laying on the hands, of direct contact, how does this effect the part of the whole? Does it remove the person from true contact with the Body? And is it a violation of James 5:14-15, of God's inspired word? Of His instructions to us? Yes, it would be. Any other way would make the truth into a lie, would it not? Like in a prayer cloth. A prayer cloth and/or healing by proxy.

Now as in the special gifts of the Spirit, All the Apostles had the gift of healing by the laying on of hands, but not all by the prayer cloth, and not all by his shadow.

Just one.

Can you see the difference?

Can you see it dear reader? Can you see it? Do you have the vision?

Cool concept. Here again, praise and all the Glory to God, and our Lord. And my personal gratitude for this revelation.

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After several conversations with the brothers of the faith, both locally and via the internet, we have all pretty well come up with the same conclusion. Prayer cloths

are a sham, a fake... a mere marketing ploy. A contradiction to the word of God. Avoid them. And those who use them.

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For more insight and information, please visit our ministry web site at [www.phoenixseven.org](http://www.phoenixseven.org).

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The Real Jesus Christ

For there is Salvation in no other.