



NEW HEART BEAT DEVOTIONS

Juneteenth

“Juneteenth is a federal holiday commemorating the emancipation of African-American slaves. Originating in Galveston, Texas, it has been celebrated annually on June 19th in various parts of the United States since 1865. The day was recognized as a federal holiday on June 17, 2021, when President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law. Juneteenth's commemoration is on the anniversary date of the June 19, 1865, announcement of General Order No. 3 by Union Army General Gordon Granger, proclaiming freedom for slaves in Texas, which was the last state of the Confederacy with institutional slavery.”¹

President Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation issued on January 1, 1863, had officially outlawed slavery but just in the Confederacy. The enforcement of the Proclamation generally relied upon the advance of Union troops into the Confederate States with Texas being the last. However, slavery remained legal in four border states. This meant that neither January 1 nor June 19 were the ending of legal slavery in the United States. It was not until the ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution that slavery constitutionally abolished on December 6, 1865.

President Biden should really declare December 6th as Juneteenth. But this would be one day before December 7th “a date which will live in infamy.” President Biden’s, proclamation can be read at [whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/06/18/a-proclamation-on-juneteenth-day-of-observance-2021/](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/06/18/a-proclamation-on-juneteenth-day-of-observance-2021/). It repeats some of the above history and ends with “I call upon the people of the United States to acknowledge and celebrate the end of the Civil War and the emancipation of Black Americans, and commit together to eradicate systemic racism that still undermines our founding ideals and collective prosperity.”

Another misconception of Juneteenth is that groups are using it to declare and promote their own history and agenda for rights. There is nothing in the Act that mentions women’s rights, Native American rights, American Japanese rights that we possible wronged in WW II, present American Chinese rights, Dreamers’ rights, illegal aliens’ rights, unborn children’s rights, senior rights, religious rights, nor LGBTQ rights. To do this could imply that Black lives do not really matter. It is like honoring Fathers on Mothers’ Day.

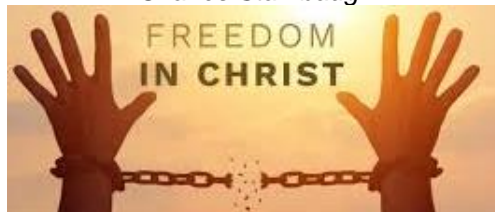
Most of us view freedom as the ability to do want we want, when we want, and how long we want. However, there must be limitations for the protection, provisions, and responsibilities to ourselves and others. But we are born with the desire to go beyond these limitations. We have the attitude that “Nobody is going to tell me what I can and cannot do.” When we go past these limitations, we enjoy what we did. We then go deeper and deeper to keep up that self-satisfaction. We may think we can stop at any time, but we soon become enslaved with it. “Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.” John 8:34 “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.” Rom 3:23 This means whether we are bond or free, we are all slaves. We cannot break our sins and punishments. “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption.” Gal 6:7,8

Jesus Christ came to set us free from sin.” If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:20. Now, when the old sinful nature comes you can say “Get behind me Satan.” This is “because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.” I John 4:4 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Gal 5:1

You may celebrate Juneteenth as the freedom for man but can you celebrate Christ for the freedom of your soul?



Charles Stambaugh



*My chains are gone,
I've been set free My God,
my Savior has ransomed
me and like a flood His
mercy reigns unending
love, [Amazing Grace](#).*

¹en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Juneteenth

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