

## Greetings Church:

Today is the final message in our Summer Family Faith Series. Please consider how you have been touched, how your family has been blessed by this series, to bring you closer to God and closer as a family. Ask God what's working for you and what needs to change as we enter into Fall 2020 with our new series "Freedom Tension" – understanding the prophecies with the practical life of a Child of God in the book of Revelation.

Blessings,

Rev. Colin Holmes

## Call to Worship: Psalm 119:1-16

1 Blessed are those whose ways are blameless, who walk according to the law of the Lord. 2 Blessed are those who keep his statutes and seek him with all their heart—3 they do no wrong but follow his ways. 4 You have laid down precepts that are to be fully obeyed. 5 Oh, that my ways were steadfast in obeying your decrees! 6 Then I would not be put to shame when I consider all your commands. 7 I will praise you with an upright heart as I learn your righteous laws. 8 I will obey your decrees; do not utterly forsake me. **9 How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.** 10 I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. **11 I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.** 12 Praise

be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. 13 With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. 14 I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. 15 I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. 16 I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.

## **Opening Hymn of Praise – 219**

### **Prayer of Approach & The Lord's Prayer**

#### **Hymn:**

#### **Responsive Reading: Proverbs 2:1-11**

**1 My child, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you,** 2 turning your ear to wisdom and applying your heart to understanding—3 indeed, if you call out for insight and cry aloud for understanding, 4 and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding. 7 He holds success in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless, 8 for he guards the course of the just and protects the way of his faithful ones. 9 Then you will understand what is right and just and fair—every good path. 10 For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul. 11 Discretion will protect you, and understanding will guard you.

**OT: Joshua 1:1-9**

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. 7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.** 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

**NT: 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 14-16**

1 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days.  
2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, **15 and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...”**

**Hymn:**

## **Freedom Teaching**

In the global arena, there are so many things a person can learn. Some of what is out there is fascinating and inspiring, yet there are other things you can learn that one might consider pretty useless. The Bible falls into both categories depending upon who you are. For some, the Word of God is fascinating as it reveals the history of the people of Israel, and inspiring as the story of redemption weaves its way

throughout the entire Bible. However, for some people history and redemption are not very exciting and may seem downright useless to them. Some might simply see the Bible as the past while those of us in the Church who have been transformed by its teachings realize the Freedom that comes from the book, we call the Holy Scriptures, the Bible.

Today, I would like to share three points about this Freedom Teaching found in God's Word. First, Freedom Teaching is Foundational, that is God has laid out for you and me the bedrock on which our lives are meant to be built upon. Secondly Freedom Teaching Starts Early, in other words, the Bible is meant to be taught to us at an early age. Unfortunately for some, it may start later in life, but it's meant to start early. And finally, Freedom Teaching Changes You, that is the person that you were, before being confronted with the Word of God is very different now that you live in the freedom that God has given you in Christ Jesus.

**1 Freedom Teaching Is Foundational** – Joshua 1:8, Psalm 119:9  
No matter what you are going to build, there needs to be a foundation to support it. Whether it's a house or garage or workshop built upon concrete or posts, you need to have a solid foundation before you can build your safely on it. If for any reason the concrete or posts fail, you will see the results inside rather quickly – cracks in the Gyproc, creaks in the

floors, or even leaks in the roof can all be the result of a bad foundation.

The same goes for your physical and spiritual lives. A solid physical foundation of bones results in a strong muscles, joints and brain. A solid spiritual foundation results in many things including blessing and purity. Joshua 1:8 “Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” This idea that Joshua is giving to his people is one of trusting in the One who brings prosperity and success. Then in Psalm 119:9 “How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word.” The psalmist reassures us, the reader, hearer and doer of the Word that our children can stay the course of faith when they live according to the Word. In other words, whether its our blessings or our purity is dependant upon the foundation it is built upon; God’s Word or the Worlds Words. The choice is yours,

But before we leave this point, remember the two types of builders mentioned in the Bible: The Wise and Foolish Builders in Matthew 7:24-27 “24Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation

on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

The foundation that your Freedom is built upon matters. Freedom Teaching is foundational to your spiritual life, so teach this to yourself, your children, your friends, your family, your neighbours.

## **2 Freedom Teaching Starts Early** – Proverbs 2:1, 2 Timothy 3:15

Let me preface this point by saying this, starting early doesn't always elude to youth, but I do believe that there is a case for starting our children into the Word at an early age, and there is a case for studying freedom teaching after coming to faith in Jesus Christ, no matter your age; young or old.

**1. Early Age** – Proverbs 2:1 “My child, if you accept my words and store up my commands within you...” 2 Timothy 3:15 “and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

**2. Early Faith** – Philippians 1:6 “being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Paul is simply affirming the early church at Philippi to have the confidence to know that God will be with you as you start

your walk with Him – His promise is to carry it on, in you, until the day of Jesus Christ – His second coming.

So, no matter your age, freedom teaching is meant to start early – for our children and then for those who come to faith at a later age, but early in their faith they learn the foundations of the faith, with confidence.

### **3 Freedom Teaching Changes You** – Psalm 119:11, 2 Timothy 3:16

- **Sin:** Psalm 119:11 “I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.” There is within the heart of every one who receives freedom teaching, that is they have received the gift of Salvation through Christ, that is changes them from a person who loves to sin, to someone who has a desire for God’s Word to change them so much that they desire to stop sinning.
- **Rebuking, Correcting & Training:** 2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness...”

**Rebuking** – expressing sharp disapproval or criticism. This is definitely something that is right for God to do in our lives. We live in a world that wants to paint everything as ok, and that’s not true. Everything is not ok... At times we need to be addressed sharply by God through His word to help us understand the truth.



**Correcting** – is more along the lines of two things, first it has to do with adjusting according to a standard and second has to do with making it right. So, let's unpack this. God, at times needs to correct us as there is a standard that we are called to follow – His Word is our lamp, or light. And in the process of correcting, God is making right the wrong in our lives through the powerful Word of God.

**Training** – the action of undertaking a particular practice. So, God wants you. God wants me, to act upon those things in His Word that will change us to become all that He designed us to be. He's, metaphorically, building our muscles – our spiritual muscles to take on the task of living His Word.

## **Conclusion**

Every fall, football great Coach Vince Lombard, took nothing for granted. He began a tradition of starting from scratch, assuming that the players were blank slates who carried over no knowledge from the year before... He began with the most elemental statement of all. "Gentlemen," he said, holding a pigskin in his right hand, "this is a football." Grandparents, Parents and Children. I end this series with these words "This is a Bible" – like Vince Lombard and his football team, I want you to start from scratch. Consider your life a blank slate and allow Freedom Teaching to sink in deep, allowing you to win in every season of your life, no matter what's going on.

# Prayers of Thanksgiving & Intercession

## Let's Pray

### **Announcements:**

Starting September 13, Financial Peace. We all need a plan for our money. Financial Peace University (FPU) is that plan! It teaches God's ways of handling money. Through video teaching by Dave Ramsey, class discussions and interactive small group activities, FPU presents biblical, practical steps to get from where you are to where you've dreamed you could be. This plan will show you how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more!

Fall Sermon Series: "Freedom Tension" – understanding the prophecies with the practical life of a Child of God in the book of Revelation.

### **Benediction:** 2 Timothy 2:15

15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.

### **Closing Hymn of Praise** 18 "Let's Just Praise the Lord"