

BARNES

July 4, 2002

on the Bay

Your Independence Day

SCRIPTURAL MEDITATION: John 15:13

"Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT: "Your Independence Day"

Undoubtedly, great sacrifice has been made for all we enjoy here in America! Our nation's Independence Day celebration should always remind us of the debt owed to those who have made freedom possible. Men and women won this privilege so we might rejoice in the heritage and deliverance left for us. Our liberty is founded on the graves of the brave. They gave up the freedom of life so we might enjoy a life of freedom.

Jesus says in John 15:13 that sacrificing one's life for another is the greatest of all expressions of love. And this is precisely what Jesus revealed. "I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep" (John 10:11). Christ provides freedom from the bondage of sin through His death on the cross. His sacrifice of life was not merely to show what love is but to win its present and eternal outcome: the forgiveness of sin and deliverance from its bondage. And such is available to all who will come to Christ and be saved. The Lord has provided this most significant expression of love; in return, our ultimate devotion to God will be the giving of our lives to and for Him.

Today, deliverance and freedom from sin's captivity are available. It is offered to all, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). Jesus loves you; He has revealed it in the most significant way possible. He is ready to break the shackles of your captivity, setting you free! If you have not known the joys of sin's forgiveness before, let today be your "Independence Day."



"The brave gave up the freedom of life
so we might enjoy a life of freedom!"

Presidential Quotes about Freedom

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn't pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same, or one day we will spend our sunset years telling our children and our children's children what it was once like in the United States where men were free." — *Ronald Reagan*

"You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves." — *Abraham Lincoln*

"Our greatest happiness does not depend on the condition of life in which chance has placed us, but is always the result of a good conscience, good health, occupation, and freedom in all just pursuits." — *Thomas Jefferson*

"Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty." — *John F. Kennedy*

"America will never be destroyed from the outside. If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves." — *Abraham Lincoln*

"The momentum of freedom in our world is unmistakable—and it is not carried forward by our power alone. We can trust in the greater power Who guides the unfolding of the years. And in all that is to come, we can know that His purposes are just and true." — *George W. Bush*

"America is best described by one word, Freedom." — *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

"The cost of freedom is always high, but Americans have always paid it. And one path we shall never choose, and that is the path of surrender, or submission." — *John F. Kennedy*

"But the separation of church and state, although a fundamental principle to which I fully subscribe, was never intended in my view to separate public morality from public policy." — *Gerald Ford*

"If you want total security, go to prison. There you're fed, clothed, given medical care and so on. The only thing lacking is freedom." — *Dwight D. Eisenhower*

