

Sermon Notes Sunday 30th September
“Breaking free” (Romans 8 : 1 – 11)

Breaking free: not without justification

Many people have been transformed by God through the teaching of Romans. They include Martin Luther and John Wesley. What impact do the following words have on you?

(Romans 3 : 23 – 24) “...for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that comes by Christ Jesus.”

(Romans 8 : 1) “Therefore there is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus”

How would you explain justification and no condemnation to someone with little understanding of Christianity?

Breaking free: Paul’s experience of liberation Saul/Paul approved of Stephen’s death (Acts 8 : 1) and made murderous threats against the Lord’s disciples (Acts 9 : 1). Some people struggle with the wonder of God’s “amazing grace” that is free and undeserved, and is nothing we can earn or purchase. Have you struggled / do you struggle with a **free** gift that is so amazing?

Breaking free: personal / national / global

Personal – some of the group may like to share their experience of being set free, initially and ongoing through faith in Jesus. “So if the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.” (John 8 : 36)

National – The Archbishop of Canterbury writes about “Reimagining Britain”

- Faith cannot be sealed off from daily life
- We need a doctrine of love and self-giving, not of power
- Democracy is necessary, but not sufficient

How do you respond to his views, and what part can we play to enable Britain to be enriched through Christianity?

Global – In what ways do you think the Church’s mission partners contribute to offering freedom in Christ in their very varied contexts?

Breaking free: abundant blessing

Share together how the gospels record Jesus bringing abundant blessing.

To become truly free, we must be bound to God. “But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves to God...” (Romans 6 : 22)

George Matheson (1842-1906) wrote, “Make me a captive Lord, and then I shall be free.” How do you understand being free in Christ, bound to God and the practical implications?

What do you regard to be the blessings Christians receive through Christ?

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