



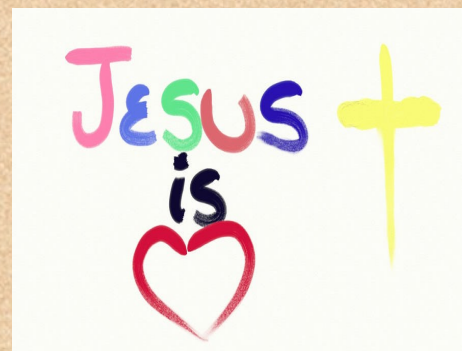
4 Ways July 4th Can Be Like Freedom in Christ:

Jason Inman

1. It's a gift. For all living Americans, July 4th is a gift. We didn't earn it—we received it from the people who lived, led, and died to fight for it. Everyone who gets a gift has two questions. First, "Who is it from?" Second, "What does it do?" My freedom in Christ is from Jesus. I didn't earn it. He died for it. That's who it's from, but what does it do? Galatians 5:1 reminds me, it's for freedom we've been set free. What does my freedom do? Give more freedom. It's freedom for me, my marriage, my kids, my friends, my co-workers, and my neighbors. I was given this gift to share.
2. It's a mid-war declaration. July 4, 1776 came only about a year after the revolutionary war began and about six years before it would finally end. Yet, it's the single most revered day of American history. This reminds me of battles we face. You may be fighting for your marriage, struggling financially, or just trying to raise godly kids. Either way, it may be time to make a mid-war declaration of your freedom in Christ.
3. It's a celebration of restoration. Remember apple pie, explosions in the sky, baseball games, and BBQ flames? All to celebrate liberty once lost—but now found. Humans love to celebrate finding lost things because we were made in God's image, and God parties big for restoration. Jesus told a story about this called the Prodigal Son. When the son came home, the Father killed his best cow and threw a party (Luke 15:11-24). Jesus even suggests angels celebrate in heaven when someone discovers freedom in Christ (Luke 15:10). And what happens when we all meet Jesus? A glorious supper (Revelation 19:16-17).
4. It's united. The Declaration of Independence was written by thirteen different colonies, but within the document, they are called "we." "We hold these truths to be self-evident ..." Jesus set you and me free as individuals, but we live out this freedom as His Church. One body with many parts (1 Corinthians 12:1-27). When your "I" becomes "we," it's amazing what we can accomplish.

Church Events

- **Wednesday, July 14th—**
4:30pm-6:30 Farm Share
- **Saturday, July 17th—**
Savannah Hirst Recital in
Sanctuary 4:00pm
- **Monday, July 19th—Missions**
Committee 6:30pm
- **Wednesday, July 21st—**
4:30pm-6:30 Farm Share
- **Wednesday, July 28th—**
4:30pm-6:30 Farm Share



Random Thoughts—*Paraprostdokians*

Ever heard of a paraprostdokian? It's a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected, meaning "contrary to expectation" or "unexpectedly." It misleads us to thinking one way, then suddenly ends on an unexpected twist. The word, paraprostdokian, appeared in print as early as 1891 in a humorous article in *Punch*: 'A "paraprostdokian," which delights him to the point of repetition.' But it is considered a contemporary addition to the English language. As yet, the word does not appear in the Oxford English Dictionary.

Paraprostdokians are frequently humorous. Stand-up comedians who like one-liners use lots of them, because the setup and punchline are all in a single line. An example might be: Last thing I want to do is hurt you... but it's still on my list. Or: "A modest man, who has much to be modest about." — Winston Churchill on Clement Atlee. Or: "There, but for the grace of God, goes God." —Winston Churchill about a pompous fellow politician. But then at times, they are profoundly serious: "Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car."

Both Paul and John seemed to have a handle on the "contrary to expectation", aspect of paraprostdokians.

Romans 6:18 ESV "And, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness." (If we are free, how are we slaves?)

Romans 6:22 "But now that you have been set free from sin and become slaves to God, the benefit you reap leads to holiness, and the result is eternal life." (Common sense tells us that every man dies. How then can we live eternally?)

John 11:25-26 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?" (How, being human, can we NOT die?)

The answer is both complex and simple. Mark 16:6 "Don't be alarmed," he said. "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him."

1 Thessalonians 4:14" For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."

July 4th is all about celebrating freedom. But there is no real freedom until we are free from the bondage of sin. We are only free when we read our bibles, we trust in God and follow His precepts; when we believe in the sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection of His Son, Jesus Christ through whom we receive salvation.

- Sandra Kelly

AN AFTERNOON OF OPERA

SATURDAY, JULY 17TH @ 4:00PM

FREE ADMISSION

TALLAHASSEE HEIGHTS UNITED
METHODIST CHURCH

3004 MAHAN DRIVE TALLAHASSEE, FL



Join us for an afternoon filled with a variety of arias and song including composers Mozart, Puccini, Barber, Brahms, Hahn, Gounod and more!

Vocalists: Erin Cheeseborough, Savannah Hirst, and Montana Smith
Pianists: Yu Chen Chien, Nadiya Caspary, and Dean Peiskee

*All vocalists have received COVID-19 vaccinations and will be singing unmasked



BG & Nancy Thomp- son	July 5th	41 Years
William & Sally Ben- jamin	July 12th	19 Years
Darlene & Michael Blain	July 12th	7 Years
Ed & JoAnn Nelson	July 13th	30 Years
Jim & Pam Pafford	July 17th	45 Years
Alex & Lyndsey Bell	July 27th	8 Years
Bill & Carol Lee Billups	July 29th	26 Years



Shay Chapman	07/02	Chris McAllister	07/18
George Cothran	07/02	Paula Reams	07/19
Viola Baker	07/02	Weldyn Harold Palmer	07/19
Nancy Caldwell	07/03	Julie McKnight	07/20
David Washington Sr.	07/03	Curtis Warren	07/21
Mackenzie Janes	07/04	Victoria Koenig	07/22
BG Thompson	07/06	Suzanne Farina	07/23
Carson Chapman	07/08	Jackson Miller	07/24
Libby Dasher	07/09	Clark Brookstone	07/25
Lily Grace Miller	07/12	Allen Reams	07/27
Phyllis Papka	07/17	Sally Matthews	07/29
June Campos	07/17	Gabe Rogers	07/29