

## Let Freedom Ring by Mark Legendre

"FREEDOM!" What a wonderful ring it has to it. "LIBERTY!" How we long for it when it is missing.

What a glorious blessing we have in this country because we possess both "freedom" and "liberty." But it hasn't always been this way. For many years America was under the control of Britain. On April 19, 1775, British troops attacked and killed 8 Minute-men who had been warned by Paul Revere that the "British are coming!" This was the first bloodshed of the American Revolution. Before this day was over, 273 British and an additional 103 Colonists were killed. The Colonists were fighting for "freedom & liberty" from the British. On June 17, 1775, the Battle of Bunker Hill took place in which 1054 British soldiers and 450 American soldiers lost their lives.

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted the "Declaration of Independence" which proclaimed the American colonies free and independent states under the name of "The United States of America", and which also defined the rights of all mankind. Thomas Jefferson was the writer of this document, which was signed by 56 men. Ever since that day, July 4<sup>th</sup> has been celebrated as "Independence Day" in America. The old "Liberty Bell" rang out "Independence" that day at Philadelphia and the old cracked bell has the inscription on it from the book of Deuteronomy which says, "Proclaim liberty throughout all the land, unto all the inhabitants thereof."

Throughout the history of man there has always been a "price to be paid" for "freedom & liberty" and it has always involved the "shedding of blood." Whether you are talking about freedom for America or liberty for Texans (The Alamo & The Battle at San Jacinto), the desire for freedom has involved the "price of blood & sacrifice" to obtain that freedom. I pray that we may never take these wonderful blessings for granted! "FREEDOM & LIBERTY!" How great they sound!

There is another type of "freedom & liberty" that we as human beings have the opportunity to receive. And it is far more valuable than the freedom we have previously discussed. It is the "FREEDOM FROM OUR SINS WHICH WE HAVE IN CHRIST!" In Galatians 5:1 we read: "Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage." In our obedience to the gospel of Christ, we obtain the "forgiveness of sins" and therefore "liberty & freedom in Christ" (Rom. 6:16-18). And once again we see that this freedom involved the "shedding of blood;" in this case the "blood of the only begotten Son of God!" In 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:18-20, we read that we have been "redeemed with the precious blood of Christ." In Matthew 26:28 Jesus said, "This is my blood, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." Having been forgiven of our sins and therefore being in a right relationship with our God is what makes life truly worth living! Have you obtained this freedom? "LIBERTY IN CHRIST!" MAY IT RING FOREVER!