

Does the Truth Make Us Free?

John 8:32

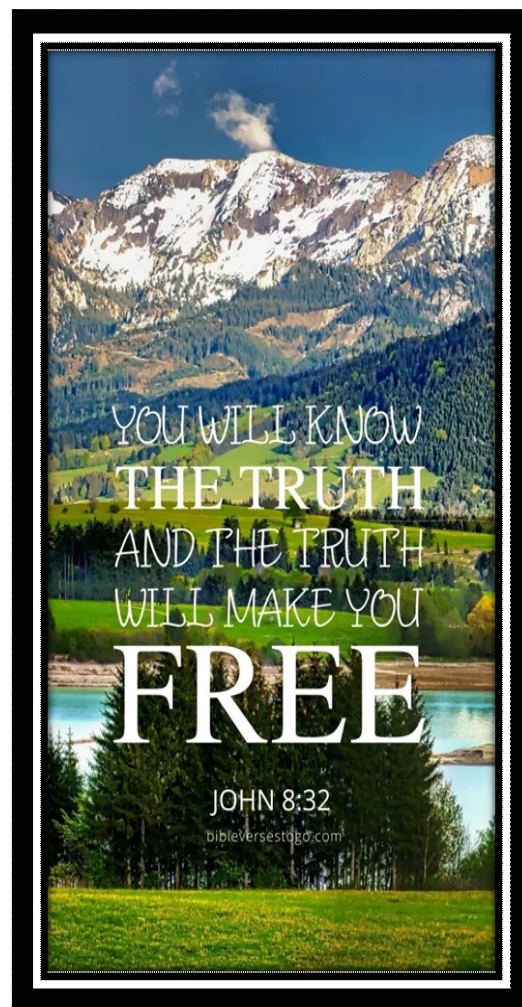
In a world saturated with half-truths, curated identities, and spiritual confusion, Jesus' words in **John 8:32** ring out with piercing clarity: ***“And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free”*** (ESV). But about what kind of truth is Jesus talking? And what kind of freedom does it offer?

This verse is often quoted in political speeches, academic settings, and personal affirmations—but its original context is far more radical. Jesus isn't speaking about intellectual enlightenment or social liberation. He's addressing a deeper bondage: slavery to sin. Just before this verse, Jesus says to the Jews who believed in Him, ***“If you abide in My word, you are truly My disciples.”*** (John 8:31). The truth that sets us free isn't abstract—it's relational and revelatory. It's the truth of who Jesus is, what He teaches, and how He transforms. And it's only accessed through abiding—remaining in His word, walking in His ways.

But why do we need freedom? Because sin enslaves. Not in obvious ways, but in subtle ones. We become bound to patterns of pride, fear, addiction, resentment, and self-reliance. These invisible prisons convince us we're in control, even as they tighten their grip. Jesus exposes this reality: ***“Everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”*** (John 8:34). The truth doesn't flatter—it liberates by confronting what's killing us.

Freedom in Christ isn't merely the absence of guilt—it's the presence of grace. It's not just being forgiven; it's being transformed. The truth Jesus offers reveals our need, but also our worth. It shows us the depth of our brokenness, but also the height of His mercy. It's the truth that we are loved, pursued, and invited into a new way of living. This kind of truth doesn't just inform—it reforms. It breaks chains. It silences shame. It empowers obedience. And it's not a one-time revelation—it's a daily walk. As we continue in His word, we grow in freedom. As we surrender to His Spirit, we walk in truth. Are you walking in the truth today?

Gary



Whose Child Am I?

John 8.37, 38

- 1) Could you imagine being in a prison that has no bars, no guards, and no visible walls?
- 2) Do we walk through life chained to habits we hate, thoughts that accuse, and wounds that never seem to heal?
- 3) Since the walls are unseen, we convince ourselves we're free.
- 4) Are we ready to walk out of the cell Christ has already unlocked?

I) Do I Have _____ Faith (John 8.31, 32)?

A) Do you know the difference between _____ faith and _____ faith?

- 1) Jesus says a genuine disciple holds to His teaching (John 8.31).
- 2) Perseverance is the mark of true faith.

B) To possess true faith, I must be united with _____, the _____ (8.32).

- 1) True disciples not only hear His words, but they must also be united with Him.
- 2) Jesus says we must come to Him if freedom is to be enjoyed.

II) Do My _____ Reveal That I Am A _____ To _____?

A) If Jesus is offering freedom, the assumption is that the Jews are currently slaves.

- 1) The Jews emphatically denied they were slaves to anyone.
- 2) What about...?

B) Everyone who _____ is a _____ to sin (8.33, 34).

- 1) This does not mean committing a single, isolated act of sin, but rather living a life of sin.
- 2) The continual practice of sin proves one is a slave to sin.

C) What is the _____ of slaves (8.35, 36)?

- 1) The Jews thought of themselves as sons of Abraham, but in reality, they are slaves (to sin).
- 2) Jesus has the power to _____ slaves.

III) Do I Know Whose _____ I Am?

A) Am I acting like my _____ (8.39-41)?

- 1) Paternity in the spiritual realm is determined by right _____, right _____, and transparent _____.
- 2) What makes me a child of God (I John 5.1)?
- 3) The Jews were acting like their father, the _____ (8.38, 41, 44).

B) The Jews accused Jesus of being a _____ and being _____ (8.48).

C) Do I desire _____ from others (8.50, 54)?

D) Will I " _____ " (8.52)?

E) Whose child am I?

- 1) Jesus knows whose His is.
- 2) Jesus again expresses His _____ (8.58).

Conclusion: Do I have true faith today?

CONNECTION

C Good morning, Western Hills! It's a time of endings and beginnings, isn't it? End of summer, beginning of school, for first year college students and their parents, is the end of a significant chapter of life and the beginning of a new one. It is the end of our summer class quarter and the beginning of the new fall quarter on the first Sunday of September. And with that in mind, I want to thank David Birdow for teaching our Sunday auditorium class this last quarter and welcome Geoff Rodman as the new teacher for the coming quarter. Also, it is the end of our Wednesday night Summer Series, and we will soon be beginning our next round of Small Groups. We have two host families so far and would like to have at least 1 or two more, so please contact me soon if you are willing and able to fulfill that need.



For our last Summer Series "Looking UP!" speaker, we welcome Elios Hinojos from the North Texas church of Christ in the Alliance Airport area of North Ft Worth.



Elios, or Eli as he prefers to be called, graduated high school in Presidio, TX and then joined the US Navy and served for 5 years. He went on to further his education, receiving his bachelor's degree in Bible and Ministry, as well as a master's degree in education. He has had a keen interest in teaching Christ to those in military service over the years and began preaching full time in 2002. He has served as the minister for the North Texas congregation since 2020. He and his wife, Blanca, have been married for 26 years and have three adult children. Their son, following in Eli's footsteps, is currently serving in the US Navy. Be sure to be here Wednesday and hear Eli complete our Summer Series wrap up, you'll be blessed!

-- Les Keele



Come to Ladies Night

September 22 for an evening of laughter and fun!

Watch the bulletin for more details or see Jennifer Scott!

SHEPHERDS	
*Greg Ball	214-801-7375
Russ Bartee	817-938-5825
Dan Kille	817-793-7493
Chuck Meyer	682-553-5444
Tom Pauley	817- 370-5515
Ross Tomlinson	682-429-1983
John Walton	817-441-0000
*Shepherd of the month	

MINISTERS	
Gary Williams:	662-321-3208
<i>Pulpit Minister</i>	
Les Keele:	817-808-0566
<i>Associate Minister</i>	
James Bowie:	817-944-4492
<i>Youth Minister</i>	

LAOTIAN MINISTRY	
John Boudtaroth	817-891-2132

DEACONS	
Jon Bartee	817-889-2686
David Birdow	972-310-1143
James Bowie	817-944-4492
Zach Brookshire	817-296-9918
Brandon Duncan	903-603-1059
Jay Garner	817-205-2070
Ben Meyer	817-673-8557
Robert Scott	817-246-0911
Matt Sloan	405-471-3404
Steve Taylor	817-291-2065
Buck Thomas	817-733-2620
Arthur Torrez	817-721-2726

MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)	
Welcome - Steven Johnson	
Song Leader - Jon Bartee	
Song - I Will Call Upon The Lord	
Song - Redeemed	
Song - Come Thou Fount Of Every Blessing	
Opening Prayer - Ben Meyer	
Scripture - John 8:37-38	
Song - Thomas Song	
Lord’s Supper - Russ Jones	
Prayer for Contribution - Russ Jones	
Song - Our God He is Alive	
Whose Child Am I? - Gary Williams	
Song - A Wonderful Savior	
Announcements - Les Keele	
Shepherd’s Prayer & Dismissal - Greg Ball	
Our Code for Tithe.ly	QR Code for
Giving	Attendance
	
Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother’s nursing room.	
Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.	
DAILY BIBLE READINGS	
Monday, August 25 Ezra 9-10; Psalm 32	Thursday, August 28 Job 7-9; Psalm 38
Tuesday, August 26 Psalm 15; Job 1-3	Friday, August 29 Psalm 39; Job 10-12
Wednesday, August 27 Job 4-6; Psalm 6	Saturday, August 30 Psalm 25; Job 13-14
	Sunday, August 31 Psalm 69; Job 15-16

Last Week			
Bible Class	135	Wednesday	109
Worship	249	Contribution	\$ 9,282.72
PM Worship	48	Budget	\$ 14,216.88

Times of Assemblies	
Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM

FAMILY PRAYER REQUESTS

NAME	CIRCUMSTANCE	PRAY FOR
Lorenza Fernandez 08/18/2025	Has upcoming surgery. 232 Lochness Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Successful surgery and recovery
Charles Stephan 08/15/2025	Is in Harris Tower, Room 628. 633 South Kate Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76108	Healing
Toun Vilaysack 08/12/2025	Passed away peacefully surrounded by family August 8, 2025, at 10 PM in his home. Please keep them in your prayers. Funeral details are pending.	The Family
Bill Baumann 08/12/2025	Is in Harris Southwest, ICU. Westmore Senior Living, 25 Leonard Trail, Room #240, Fort Worth, Texas 761144	Positive mindset and positive progression in treatment
Dwight Blair 08/12/2025	Has returned home and will continue his therapy. He would still appreciate visits. Please call before coming. 121 Lilac Lane, Azle, Texas 76020	Healing
Kate Birdow 08/03/2025	Her transition to college.	A successful school year and for her empty nester parents, David and Stephany
Bob Willyerd 8/3/2025	Is back home. 3704 Guadalupe Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76116	Better health and healing
Mary East 7/8/2025	Has been put on hospice at home and remains very weak. 101 Rambling Trail, Weatherford, Texas 76087	Strength and healing for Mary, and guidance for Karen and Mark Brahn
Nathan Rutledge 6/29/2025	Broke his hip and is at home healing. 1213 Trammell Drive, Benbrook, Texas 76126	Quick recovery
Wayne Lipham 06/10/2025	Is dealing with some eye issues that will require cataract and lens surgery. 6104 Silver View Lane, Fort Worth, Texas 76135	Procedures, recovery, and healing
Betty Kille 7/8/2025	Is continuing treatments if her body allows. 4112 Arroyo Trail, Fort Worth, Texas 76135	Strength, healing
Wanda Houston 8/21/2025	Wanda has been moved to Heart to Heart Hospital.	Peace and comfort

CONTINUE PRAYERS FOR: Patricia Emerson, Mary Ann Poulsen, Nancy Wright, Bridget Yawn, Charles Stephen, Patricia Neisler, Kitti Davis, Mignon Bandy, Sue Carpenter, Chandra Mann, Wanda Houston, Charlie, Louise and Dwayne Beagle, Aubrey Hallum, Betty Baumann, Lillian and Charles Kite, Joe and Jody Gentry, Jacki Jaso, and Betty Adams.

FRIENDS, FAMILY, AND NEIGHBORS PRAYER REQUESTS

NAME	REQUESTED BY	CIRCUMSTANCE	PRAY FOR
Kyle, husband of Robert Bow's niece	Robert Bow	Had gall bladder surgery 8/21. Things went fine and he will be going home tomorrow.	Healing 8/21/2025
Mance Stark, uncle of	Adam Powers	Has throat cancer and is undergoing radiation treatment.	Healing, strength for the treatments, and the family 08/18/2025
Deborah Doss Tinsley, cousin of	Jennifer Duncan	Has been put on hospice with stage 4 pancreatic cancer.	Healing and the family 08/18/2025
Regina Kiser, cousin of	Jennifer Duncan	Is in the hospital with pancreatic cancer.	Healing and the family as they are dealing with two loved ones affected with this horrible disease 8/18/2025
Marty Tomlinson, son of	Ross Tomlinson	Had surgery to remove kidney stones and a stint was inserted to prevent future stones.	Healing and recovery 08/12/2025
Michael and Kristen Lowrey, former members, parents are Doug and Barbara Lowrey	Roxann Whitacre	Have been blessed with a son/grandson, Luke Madison Lowrey, on August 5.	Thankfulness for a healthy baby and mother, growth, development, and family 08/12/2025
Kelsey Johnson, friend of	Jill Sloan	Is a wife, mother of 5, and nurse at Medical City Weatherford who was involved in a head-on collision on August 4. She remains in the hospital with a long road to recovery.	Healing and comfort for her family 08/12/2025
Husband of	Pam Stom	Is in Baylor All Saints with breathing issues.	Healing 08/08/2025
Pam, daughter of	Judith Dillard	Will be scheduled for a double mastectomy	Successful surgery, healing and recovery 08/03/2025
Paul Saxton	Member at Brown Street	Has health issues in addition to blood clots.	Healing and recovery 08/03/2025
Baylee, friend of	Lilly Scott	Is doing much better.	Continued healing 7/31/2025
Eric, Crystal and Will Intfen	Leah Bowie	Daughter/sister passed away on June 25, 2025. She was 20 years old.	Comfort for the family 7/21/2025
Dorene Helton, sister-in-law of	Vickie and Monty Bowers	No more cancer but she will continue her chemo for three more sessions.	Thanksgiving to God and continued improved health, help her handle the chemo 07/07/2025
Jon Silcox, step-father of	D.J. Keller	Was diagnosed with stage 3 colon cancer.	Healing 3/22/2025
John Saxton, cousin of	Adam Powers	Has had a relapse of his brain cancer. His therapy is not working.	Guide the doctors to find treatments that will work 7/13/2025

SUMMER BIBLE CLASSES

Sunday Morning:

Auditorium
David Birdow: Faith, Flaws And
Forgiveness:
Lessons From King David

Wednesday Night

Looking Up: Larry Keele
Lawrenceburg, Tennessee

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE CLASSES

Mens' and Ladies' Bible Classes will resume
following Labor Day in September.

Tuesdays 10 AM

Women

Fellowship Hall
Paula Pauley
The Dash In Between

Men

Library
Milt Birmingham
12 Part Video Series
Bible Warfare by Mike Mazzalongo
With a follow-up of "Christian" religions and Islam

OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE

If you have unused greeting cards you no longer want, please bring them to the church office to use for an upcoming Ladies' Night Project. You may see Jennifer Scott should you have any questions. Thank you.

SMALL GROUPS

We are in need of several couples to agree to host a small group in their home. Please get in touch with Les Keele if your heart is so moved.

Thank you.

CHILDREN'S BIBLE HOUR

Will Resume

September 7

There are two sign up sheets in the foyer:

- ♦ One for children who will be attending
- ♦ One for those who wish to volunteer their time and talents to the program

Please see Vickie Bowers should you have any questions.

FALL BIBLE CLASSES

Sunday Morning:

Auditorium:
Geoffery Rodman - Study Of The Psalms

Wednesday Evening:

Auditorium:
Les Keele - Fruit Of The Spirit -Galatians 5:22,23

FOOD BANK STATS

JULY FOOD BANK STATS:

200 – Families Served
\$888.38 – Cost to WHCOC
7,709 pounds – Estimated Weight of Food

ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Tom and Paula's anniversary is **September 2** - not the 21.

ATTENDANCE QR CODE

Attention
All Members
And Visitors

We Invite You To Use The QR Code for
Attendance

Which Is Located On The Last Page Of The
Bulletin Right Next To The Giving QR Code

We Are Slowly Making Our Way Into The 21st
Century

COLLEGE STUDENTS

Dear Parents,

Please provide the office with your child/children's college addresses so that we may publish them. There are those that may wish to send them notes of encouragement. Thank you.

BABY SHOWER



September 28

Honoring Baby Tunnell, Danton, and Cassidy

2 PM - 4 PM

Please RSVP Brenda Freeman, Robert Bow's sister, at **817-701-5616** or **bbow56@yahoo.com**

In lieu of cards, please bring a book which you have enjoyed the best. It can be well loved or brand new. Please write a note on the inside to remind us of you. We also ask that you bring a pack of diapers of any size to be entered to win a special prize.

Hostesses: Brenda Freeman, Sharon Pippin, Pam Eubanks, Julie Meyer and Dorothy Anderson

The Tunnells are registered at
my.babylist.com

AUGUST CELEBRATIONS:



AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

1 BILL BAUMANN
5 MARK BRAHN
5 WAYNE TONG
6 BETTY WHITE
9 AMY TOMME
10 PAM TERRELL
12 PATTI MUSSELMAN
13 KAREN BRAHN
13 JEFF SWAN
14 JAMES BOWIE
16 AUBREY HALLUM
20 LOYCE GAZAWAY
22 LATRICE TUCKER
24 MILT BIRMINGHAM
26 DANNY LEE
26 BETTY WILCOX
28 DAN PRATT
29 LEAH SAVAGE
29 STEPHANIE BIRDOW
30 SAM ANDERSON
31 JAMES RILEY BOWIE

CHILDREN

27 JUDAH BOLT

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

16 RUSS & ELLEN BARTEE
17 DWIGHT & JUDY BLAIR
26 BOB & SHERYL WILLYERD
30 LES & DEATRA KEELE

CELEBRATE

BIRTHDAYS

2 JENNIFER DUNCAN
5 JOHNNIE WRIGHT
6 MICHAEL DAVIS
7 NATHAN RUTLEDGE
16 ISAIAS TORREZ
18 STANLEY GISH
18 JILL SLOAN
19 LEANN FISHER
20 JUDY BLAIR
23 FRANKIE SMITH
25 DEBBIE ROLLINS
25 DAVID WILMINGTON
26 MARY EAST
26 ROY EUBANKS
28 SUSIE STEADMAN
28 KEENAN WILLIAMS
30 DANA SABA
30 ROBERT SCOTT

CHILDREN

1 LILAH BOLT
22 KASSIE MUONGNAMVONG
25 ANDREW SCOTT

REMEMBER ME?

4 NANCY WRIGHT
19 SUE CARPENTER
19 SUE LITTLE SMITH

ANNIVERSERIES

2	TOM AND PAULA PAULEY	59 YRS
4	JAKE AND BARBIE DEKOKER	43 YRS
18	JIM AND KAREN HAAS	60 YRS
21	SAM AND DOROTHY ANDERSON	57 YRS



SEPTEMBER

New Summer Quarter Schedule:

Adult Sunday Morning Bible Class:

Taught by David Birdow in the auditorium. He will discuss "Faith, Flaws, & Forgiveness: Lessons from King David."

Wednesday Night Bible Class:

We will have a guest speaker presenting on "Looking Up." This lesson will be broadcast live on our YouTube channel for those who are unable to attend.



LOOKING UP WEDNESDAY NIGHTS

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AUGUST 27

ELI HINOJOSA

NORTH TARRANT, FORT WORTH, TEXAS

