Walking on Sonshine

THE APOSTLE PAUL'S GLORIOUS JOURNEY TO FREEDOM

A SUMMER STROLL THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS
John 8:35 (ESV): “If the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”
Soul Liberty

John 12:24 (NIV): “Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds.”
Soul Liberty
Acts 6-8  June 2, 2019
John 6:29 (ESV): “Jesus answered then, ‘This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.’”
John 6:47 (ESV): “Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.”
Soul Liberty

Acts 10:38-39 (ESV): “Let it be known to you therefore, brothers, that through [Jesus Christ] forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, 39 and by him everyone who believes is freed from everything from which you could not be freed by the law of Moses.”
Romans 10:4 (ESV): “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”
Hebrews 9:14 (ESV): “How much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”
Acts 10:15 (ESV): “Now, therefore, why are you putting God to the test by placing a yoke on the neck of the disciples that neither our fathers nor we have been able to bear?”
Acts 6:5-8 (ESV): “They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith. 8 And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people.”
Acts 6:9-12 (ESV): “Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), and of the Cyrenians, and of the Alexandrians, and of those from Cilicia and Asia, rose up and disputed with Stephen. 10 But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking. 11 Then they secretly instigated men who said, ‘We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.’ 12 And they stirred up the people and the elders and the scribes, and they came upon him and seized him and brought him before the council.”
Acts 7:51-53 (ESV): “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit. As your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who announced beforehand the coming of the Righteous One, whom you have now betrayed and murdered, 53 you who received the law as delivered by angels and did not keep it.”
Acts 7:57-60 (ESV): “They cried out with a loud voice and stopped their ears and rushed together at him. Then they cast him out of the city and stoned him. And the witnesses laid down their garments at the feet of a young man named Saul. And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, ‘Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.’ And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, ‘Lord, do not hold this sin against them.’ And when he had said this, he fell asleep.”
Luke 23:34 (ESV): “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.”
Soul Liberty

Matthew 23:37 (ESV): “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!”
Acts 8:1-3 (ESV): “And Saul approved of his execution. And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church in Jerusalem, and they were all scattered throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles. 2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him. 3 But Saul was ravaging the church, and entering house after house, he dragged off men and women and committed them to prison.”
Main Point

THE MORE YOU HAVE TO FORCE YOUR ARGUMENT, THE LESS FORCE YOUR ARGUMENT HAS.
Soul Liberty
“[Prosecutor Wes] Nance said the four were in the front yard when an argument started between Turner and his girlfriend’s son about if Chevy or Ford is a better car manufacturer. During the argument, Nance said Turner pulled out a knife and his girlfriend tried to get between the two....Nance said Turner then went into the house and came back outside with a gun. His girlfriend put herself between Turner and her son again when Nance said Turner shot her...in the leg...."
“...The woman’s son was shot in the arm....The son’s girlfriend was hit by two bullets that Nance said ricocheted....Law enforcement and a tactical team were called to the home and warrants show investigators found the three victims yelling in pain saying that had been shot by Turner.”

(From the article “Prosecutor: Bedford Co. Shooting was the Result of Chevy vs. Ford Argument” by Elizabeth Tyree and Cynthia Beasley on wset.com, April 30, 2019)
Acts 4:32-32 (ESV): “Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. 33 And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. 34 There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold 35 and laid it at the apostles’ feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.”
Acts 2:46-47 (ESV): “And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”
Acts 9:31 (ESV): “So the church throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria had peace and was being built up. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it multiplied.”
Acts 16:5 (ESV): “So the churches were strengthened in the faith, and they increased in numbers daily.”
“Christianity fell asleep in the bosom of Constantine, and the laps and bosoms of those Emperors who professed the name of Christ.”

(From Roger Williams’ *Blody Tenent of Persecution for Cause of Conscience*)
Soul Liberty

John 20:21 (ESV): “As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
John 8:45 (ESV): “If I tell the truth, why do you not believe me?”
Matthew 18:3 (ESV): “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”
Mark 5:36 (ESV): “Do not fear; just believe.”
1 John 4:17-18 (ESV): “By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.”
John 10:28 (ESV): “I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.”
John 6:66-67 (ESV): “After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him. 67 So Jesus said to the twelve, ‘Do you want to go away as well?’”
John 18:36 (ESV): “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”
Religion cannot be true which needs such instruments of violence to uphold it."

(From Roger Williams’ _Bloudy Tenent of Persecution for Cause of Conscience_)
Application

GO FOR CONVERSION,
NEVER COERCION.
Soul Liberty

John 14:6 (ESV): “I am the way, and the truth, and the life.”
Soul Liberty
Psalm 19:6 (ESV): “[The sun’s] rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them, and there is nothing hidden from its heat.”
Soul Liberty

Acts 22:19-20 (ESV): “And I said, ‘Lord, they themselves know that in one synagogue after another I imprisoned and beat those who believed in you. 20 And when the blood of Stephen your witness was being shed, I myself was standing by and approving and watching over the garments of those who killed him.’”
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NEXT WEEK: ACTS CHAPTER NINE