

- (1) John 8: 31, 32.
- (2) John 8: 34.
- (3) John 8: 36.
- (4) Hebrews 9: 26.
- (5) Acts 10: 43.

As well as freedom, God through his Son provided the remedy for sin. He didn't just ignore it. It had to be punished, but the Lord Jesus willingly allowed himself to be punished for all the sins you have done and that have held you in slavery throughout your life. The Bible says about Jesus:

...he has appeared once for all... to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself⁴.

This means that the following invitation is extended to all humankind:

...that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name⁵.

Will you accept by faith the invitation to freedom and forgiveness that Jesus has made possible through his death?

Hayes Press, The Barn, Flaxlands
Wootton Bassett, Wilts. SN4 8DY
www.hayespress.org

Hidden Slavery 1085

HIDDEN SLAVERY



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Most people in First World countries think that slavery was ended in the 19th century. Today international law declares slavery illegal yet it still survives hidden under different guises: bonded labour and people trafficking. The UN estimates that upwards of 20 million people are held in some form of slavery; some estimates put it as high as 200 million. Although it is illegal, slavery is a reality for millions.

Jesus Christ warned of a slavery that affects the whole human race; a slavery that has a bearing on the eternal wellbeing of the soul; a slavery that is hidden deep in the human heart.

Jesus once said to a group of listeners:

*If you hold to my teaching...Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free*¹.

This remark raised a storm of protest among his audience, who insisted that they were free men. Jesus replied:

*I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin*².



Jesus was pointing out that no one is really free, for there is within everyone a capacity to do wrong, an urge so strong that it can be said to enslave us. No matter how strong-willed he or she may be, no one is immune from sinful thoughts or deeds. This fact has created a huge gulf between the Holy and Righteous God of heaven and sinful men and woman.

To his listeners, Jesus gave the illustration of a rich household of those days. In such a household domestic slaves had no real authority or freedom, but the Son and heir of the household had authority to decide major issues including setting slaves free. Jesus concluded with the words:

*So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed*³.

He was in effect saying that he, Jesus, as Son of God had the authority to set people free from the slavery of sin.

But what about our sins; surely a just and holy God cannot simply sweep mankind's failings under the carpet?

