

LIBERTY HAS ITS PRICE

In this great land of ours we as U.S. citizens are at liberty to live nearly as we please. We can go, do, think, believe and say just about anything we choose. We have that liberty. Those are our rights.

However, much to moral people's dismay, these same liberties and rights extend to the immoral, the heathen, the agnostic and blasphemers, the perverted and so on. As a U.S. citizen, I must recognize their right to speak and believe as **they** choose. I need not respect **them** nor their **beliefs**, but I do allow them to speak. Though they may be an eye-sore or an ear-sore, I must pay this price for my liberty.

Whenever I hear the name A.C.L.U. I cringe. I know that they are probably going to stand **for** something or someone I am **against**. When they go to bat for the "American Nazi Party" so they can demonstrate and march through Jewish communities, I am appalled. But, what about the people in those communities? Why, they have no rights to do likewise. Or what about the "American Communist Party?" Their aim is to undermine this republic and bring in a socialist form of government. They have the legal right to exist. But what happens when someone opposes them or their policies? The opponent has no right to do so! So many more things can be said about the humanist movement, the atheist

movement, the homosexual right movement. My, what a world!

Happily, there is a place where this kind of "liberty" does **not** exist. The kingdom of God does not allow such foolishness. This is where many people, Christians included, make great error in their thinking. In the Kingdom, we live under a theocracy, not a democracy. There is no "majority rule." We have no right to live, think, believe or say what **we** choose. Do not be mistaken...we do have liberty. Liberty in Christ (Galatians 5:1; II Corinthians 3:17; I Peter 2:16). We have liberty from sin (Romans 6:17,18), but **not** liberty from Christ's rule and law. No Christian has a right to be a drunkard, adulterer, thief, homosexual, etc. In the world, I can say very little that will affect those who so live. In the Kingdom I can and must say, "Wait, brother...sister...you may not think that way or talk that way or believe that way (if "that way" is in opposition to what Jesus taught)." When such things arise, we must stand against what people assume are their "rights" to think, talk, believe or teach as they please. They must be opposed and defeated so that the babes in Christ are not lead astray. We must keep ourselves and the church pure. Let us always look to the Lord and to His word *"that ye lose not the things which we have wrought, but that ye receive a full reward"* (II John 1:8). If we go too far, we may lose our liberty in Christ!

Brethren—

Cheryl and I will be flying from Columbus on Tuesday, July 7, making connections through Dulles airport in Washington D.C., then on to Copenhagen, Denmark, and finally to Kiev, Ukraine.

We may have one part of a day to rest before taking an overnight train to the city of Kramatorsk, Ukraine. I will be preaching for three nights for the church there, July 10-12. We will be traveling with our translators, Artem and Lisa Bonderenko. I have worked with Artem twice before and he is a faithful, dedicated brother in the Lord. His wife, Lisa, is a fine Christian woman and Bible class teacher. Kramatorsk is Lisa's home town where her parents still live. It was difficult for Lisa at first becoming a Christian because her family was so set against it. But her mom and dad are both Christians now! What a fine example she set for them.

Another overnight train trip will bring us back to Kiev on either Monday, July 13 or Tuesday, July 14. We will have our own flat to use, this way Cheryl won't get out of practice cooking for me ☺!

Our first study in Kiev will discuss "The Christian and the Government", and what the Bible teaches about "Capital Punishment." I plan to address this in three parts: The Christian And The Government; Capital Punishment; Pacifism. For myself, I am not a war-monger, but neither am I a pacifist. I do not believe the Bible teaches pacifism.

Then, Wednesday through Friday we will cover various aspects of "Leadership." I plan to approach this topic in this manner: first, "Leadership Starts With The Young: A Study Of King Josiah;" then "Christian Leadership Glorifies God;" and finally "Training Men To Be Leaders." The Russian word for "leader" has at least two applications. The first is a person with authority to rule others. Applied to the church, we would be speaking of elders. The other aspect is with reference to being responsible, taking work(s) upon oneself and getting work done. This applies to EVERY Christian. This is the meaning I am addressing.

Saturday, July 18 will be the two seminars. I am to teach "How Men Are To Use Their Talents As Leaders," and Cheryl is teaching "How Women Are To Help Their Husbands To Be Leaders In The Church." Later that same day, I shall address a "joint session" of the men's and women's seminars and deal with the subject of women wearing a veil in worship.

Finally, on our last Sunday there, I will be preaching on "Maintaining Zeal In Our Christian Lives" and "Doing All Things Decently And In Order."

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

June 7, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

"We are free in Christ, but not to do as we please!" Robin W. Haley

Keep in your prayers: Lloyd & Barbara, Hubert's sister and brother-in-law, Steve's sister, Cassandra & her foot surgery recovery, Melanie, Naomi, and all their children traveling, Margaret's sister Ozelle. Margaret will be traveling to see her this week.

Congratulations to Brandi...who graduated yesterday! Now what?? It's off to Miami U near Cincinnati in August.

Gospel meetings in Kramatorsk, Ukraine (3 nights, plus day classes July 10-12); Kiev, Ukraine (7 days and nights, plus question/answer sessions July 14-19), men's seminar in Gostomelskaya and women's seminar in Kiev (Saturday, July 18 where Cheryl will be teaching). These meetings always garner deep study from the brethren, and interest from many in the communities who come. Pray