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## *Devotion for February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

*"So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed."  
- John 8:36*

**The reading for today, Friday, February 25<sup>th</sup> is John 8:21-38, a section of which is the normal Gospel for Reformation Sunday.** Understandably, though, most sermons on that day focus on the Epistle from Romans chapter three which touch upon the three Reformation solas: Scripture alone, Grace alone, Faith alone, or the First Reading from John's Revelation which was the text used for Luther's funeral sermon.

Our little section is extremely important, though, because over the course of the past decade or so it has seemed as if freedom, as we know it in our country, is under attack. True, some groups are experiencing more freedom today than they have in the past, but that freedom is often gained at the expense of not allowing dissenting voices to speak.

Disagree with modern day concepts of morality and you will be quickly labeled a bigot, labeled and dismissed, without a further hearing. Throughout the pandemic there has been an ongoing discussion about freedom and whether or not governmental concerns about public health should trump individual freedoms and rights. Religious freedoms, too, are beginning to be questioned by the general public and some lawmakers also.

The purpose of this devotion is not to settle any of those arguments but rather to point out that the freedom Jesus spoke of had little to do with the public square and everything to do with one's standing before God. By virtue of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection and your baptism, you stand before God free from sin's wage, death. Regardless of what may be going on around you at the time in the civil realm, no one may rob you of that freedom, ever.

This weekend marks the end of the Epiphany season. Lent begins next week, Wednesday. During that time of the year you are free to attend additional services, to hear and be reminded of God's great love for you an additional time each week, to pray for the needs of all the people of God in Christ Jesus and all people according to their needs. What a joy and treasure that freedom brings. I hope and pray that I will see many of you here at Grace next Wednesday and beyond. Praise be the Holy Name of Jesus forever. Amen.

*God's blessings,  
Rev. Kevin Loughran, Senior Pastor  
Grace Lutheran Church & School*

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