



Morganton First Church of God

PO Box 1404, Morganton, NC 28680
675 Summers Road, Morganton, NC 28655
(828) 433-6709 Fax: (828) 433-0736

Sunday

Sunday School~ 9:30 a.m.
Morning Worship Service & Kid's Church ~ 10:30 a.m.
Youth Power House ~ 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Fellowship Supper ~ 5:45 p.m. & Adult Classes ~ 7:00 p.m.
KidsPlace & Nursery ~ 7:00 p.m.
Youth PowerHouse ~ 7:00 p.m.

Website: www.mfcog.com
Email: mfchog@charterinternet.com

**Our Purpose is to expand God's Kingdom, as we reach, teach,
disciple and activate people for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Pastor Don Blankenship
Interim Pastor

Kevin Wyatt
Youth Pastor

Beth Walker
Music Director

Kathy Turner
C.E. & Children's Director

Pam Bennett
Administrative Assistant



Volume 32
Issue 7
July 1, 2010

P
R
O
C
L
A
I
M
E
R



**From
Pastor Don**

Christian Liberty

In July, we celebrate independence. Americans highly value liberty, freedom, and independence. Words, ideas, concepts don't set us free. Action does. Then, words explain the action. Words on a Declaration affirm the precept. Action, blood, on the battlefield produces the freedom. The service of the soldier, willing to pay the price, buys our freedom – and preserves it. Thank you, to all who have paid and are paying that price for America.

The Word of God speaks of liberty and freedom. Jesus said, "You will know the truth and the truth will make you free." "If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed." Paul wrote to the Galatians (5:13-16 NKJV) For you, brethren, have been called to liberty, only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, beware lest you be consumed by one another. The words of Jesus (and of Paul) set the concept. The action, blood, of Jesus produces the freedom. Thank you, Jesus, for paying our price. Freedom and liberty are ordered by God for His people. He has paid the supreme price for our freedom. His Son came to set us free. You are called to liberty. What does it mean?

The liberty to which we are called, whether as Americans, or as Christians, calls for behaviors by us commensurate to the price paid for that liberty. To continue to live in sin, "to bite and devour one another," again, whether as Americans, or as Christians, means that we really don't have the freedom we purport to have. If we still walk in bondage to sin, then we are not free. Heart changes, attitude changes, behavior changes, relationship changes will occur when we have liberty...because we are free from sin, guilt, shame, wrong. Bondage (the opposite of freedom) will hold us to the old sinful ways of thinking and relating. Is it possible to speak freedom and remain in bondage? (We've only to imagine the consequences resulting from the soldier who speaks commitment to the cause, but then withdraws from the action.) Is it possible to speak Christ and remain in sin? Apparently, yes. For the church at Galatia was told "...you...have been called...liberty...serve one another..." but were warned to not "be consumed by one another."

When the desire of our hearts is not only for our freedom, but also, for the freedom of others, then we will labor to "use liberty" in the way that is right, the way that it is intended by the price paid by Christ. When we are truly set free, then we never want to walk in bondage again, nor put anyone else in bondage. Our walking in truth (freedom) honors God far more than empty words do. Church, let's walk in freedom, in the liberty to which you have been called.