

## Liberty

*Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.*

*—II Corinthians 3:17*

This is the time of year that we commemorate our Independence as a nation. We have fireworks, picnics, parades, and various celebrations. As I questioned my acquaintances, I found most had plans for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend. The focus of their plans was quite different than the focus our Founding Fathers had on the July 4, 1776.

With regards to the signing of the Declaration of Independence, John Adams wrote, *“I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.”* John Adams’ vision of the future was right in part. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July is celebrated by succeeding generations as an anniversary of our independence, but we have failed to recognize it as a day of deliverance brought about by God. We do not celebrate our holiday with solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty.

As the declaration was signed, Samuel Adams declared, *“We have this day restored the Sovereign to Whom all men ought to be obedient.”* The signers of the Declaration of Independence were restoring God as their Sovereign. They recognized that true liberty for individuals and for nations comes from Almighty God and it is man’s duty to be obedient to God.

We too need to recognize that the freedom we enjoy today in this nation was given to us because of God’s goodness and mercy. In the same way our individual freedom from the bondage of sin is a gift from God and it is granted because of God’s grace and mercy. Just as our independence as a nation was deliverance from an unwanted sovereign, our salvation is deliverance from Satan.