

# "NEGRO LIBERTY."

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A WIDE AWAKE SERMON BY

DR. CAL. M. WILLIAMS,

OF FORT SMITH, ARKANSAS.

THE GREAT NEGRO PREACHER.

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TOGETHER WITH

Sunday School Normal Lessons.

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DR. CAL. M. WILLIAMS,  
FT. SMITH, ARKANSAS.



# SERMON

BY

DR. CAL. M. WILLIAMS.

## "NEGRO LIBERTY."

*"Stand fast, therefore, in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free."—Gal., 5, 1st verse.*

**LIBERTY! LIBERTY!! LIBERTY!!!**

This whole wide world of living humanity, together with its beasts, fowls, creeping insects, and the inhabitants of the great deep from their watery aquariums, are crying out: Liberty!

Liberty means freedom to every being under the canopy of heaven that is in possession of its precious boon. Besides freedom, it means the exercise of the rights and privileges of that freedom.

But the liberty here spoken of by the Apostle means the liberty of conscience, mind and soul.

Gospel Liberty means the opening of the prison doors to the incarcerated captives of sin, turning them out to enjoy their freedom. It assures to them at once that they are no longer slaves or bondsmen; but once free, they are free indeed.

During the imminent crisis preceding the American Revolution, Patrick Henry, in his great speech of deprecation from the British yoke, said on the floor of the Hall of Congress: "Give me liberty or give me death." You see plainly, after that great man had enjoyed a life of liberty and freedom, he was afterwards ready always to die for the cause and maintenance of that liberty.

The central thought of the Apostle's admonishment calls for steadfastness, stability, stickability. He meant for them to have an abiding faith in Christ, and if necessary die for the truth of the Son of God.



The Jewish people and cosmopolitan makeup of Paul's congregation, especially the converted Christians of that body, were somewhat divided in their minds as to the right leadership, also as to the Mosaic Law and the Gospel of Christ. They thought that to be a follower of Christ and ignore the Mosaic Law and set at naught the customs, types and shadows with the priestly functions of the priesthood meant treason.

But the Apostle Paul preached to his congregation, that so far as the law was concerned, under it man had proved himself to be a total failure, and before its eyes stood as a farcical hypocrite, because not any of them had ever kept the law. He went on to tell them that the law had stopped every mouth and made the whole world a guilty culprit before God. Even in its curses, every body had been denounced. But Christ, the great Liberator, had come into the world, and was born under the law, to satisfy its greedy demands. Regardless of the impeccability of his nature, the law even cursed him in its assertions when it said, "Cursed is every one that hangeth upon a tree." But Christ had to live and die under the law to satisfy it; or else he could not have defiantly, in the face of the law, set at liberty the captive slaves of sin and hell.

The American colonist struggled for eight years in carnage warfare and bloody conflict to throw off the British yoke. The armies of Burgoyne went down before them. Lord Cornwallis fled like a pursued convict before them, and at last surrendered at Yorktown.

General Clinton, their most illustrious general and leading brave, had to vacate the American shores with all his troops after the fires of American patriotism began to wax hot. You ask me, what caused all this conflict? I answer you, Liberty!

Just after this great conflict of war was ended, the American people ratified a Declaration of Independence in this country which was and is so sublime in its meaning, until it makes the perambulating tramp, in his midnight march along the railroad ties, or the boot-black and street urchin revelling in squalor and meagreness feel just as free in their varied pursuits as do the bears or gold bug speculators in the money market of Wall Street, New York.

Liberty! Liberty!!

This is a free government. "The Land of Liberty," is her nom de plume. Did you ever see Bartholdi's Statue of Liberty in the city of New York? She stands 110 feet high, with a blazing torch extending 26 feet out above her head; altogether her height, with rock base and pedestal, reaches somewhere in the neighborhood of 500 feet in the air, throwing the light, liberty and freedom of

enlightened America to the ice berg shores of Nova Zembla and to the wilds of Tartary, and to every other nation on the face of the globe.

Immediately after America's liberty had been gained, she went to work first of all and established an inter-national law with other nations for her own safety and benefit and to-day, that law in the eyes of other nations stands before them like an iron fence. They know that to transcend over that fence means encroachment and jeopardy, and whenever any nation climbs upon the top of that fence and aims to get over, the eagle of liberty, so characteristic upon the emblem of the United States, and even upon the American half-dollar, squeals out and the squealing of that eagle means death to the intruder.

The Apostle said, "Stand fast in the liberty." Well, that is what America is doing today.

Why, it was only a few years ago since the people of Mexico cast into the prisons of that country a man by the name of Mr. Cutting. He was accused of publishing a libel against the Mexican government. This man, after being cast into the prison, was found to be an American citizen, and now what do you think the President of the United States did? I will tell you what he did. He sent Mr. Sedgwick all the way from Washington city down into Mexico as counsellor for the man. That man, Mr. Cutting, may have been guilty or he may not have been guilty, but anyhow, Uncle Sam sent for him and he had to come home, Mexico or no Mexico. It is a grand thing to be a white citizen of the United States. I don't know about us poor Negros. [Laughter.]

"Stand fast in the liberty." Another fact, my friends, like this, America has gained her liberty at the point of the bayonet and she is standing fast in it, too. Why, before she would suffer an infringement from other nations she would wage war one thousand years with all the nations of the earth, even until the last American by blood was dead. Who can blame her? She has fought and gained her liberty and she means to stick close to it. Well, that is right. Let her have liberty, but one thing is very exigent with America; and that is, she must keep her eyes open and slumber not, or else the other nations of the earth will certainly steal a march on her.

"Stand fast in the liberty."

Why, during the dark days of the civil conflict in the years 1861-62-63-64-65, battle fields with hundreds of thousands of men were swept into eternity. Men of all creeds, colors and nation-



alities joined the Union army and fought to preserve the Union. Even the negro, slave, from the rice swamps of the Carolinas and and Georgia, the cotton choppers from the sandy hillsides of Alabama, the stalwart negro from the prairie mud in the Mississippi valley, the sweet molasses negro of Louisiana, together with their brethren from the Western States, joined in the struggle and fought for liberty. The negro sent up shouts of glory hallelujah in January, 1863, when he heard the voice of Abraham Lincoln proclaiming liberty to the 4,000,000 slaves in the United States. Do you hear this? More than 75,000 negro soldiers went upon the battle fields and fought for their liberty; and they fought valiantly, too, in nearly all the famous battles; trembling not at the gallantry of the enemy or at the sight of their paraphernalia. A colored soldier color bearer at the battle of Fort Wagner, in his determination to carry the colors over the enemy's fort, said to his captain: "Captain, I will carry this flag over the enemy's camp or report to God the reason why."

Is the Negro a failure in war? No, sir. What is he, then? I can answer you by saying that he is a lion from the jungle. And now kind friend, Mr. Negro, enemy, do you tell me that the Negro is a failure altogether? Do you tell me that the Negro was a failure in the Southern cotton fields and farms? Do you go on to tell me that this Negro race, who cleared out the southern swamp lands, burned the brush, dug the ditches, drained the fields and made his master rich, is a failure? If he is a failure, he is only a failure since he became liberated, simply because you can't boss him as you please. Our Bible tells the Negro to "stand fast," and that is what he will do. We know that Africa is our God-given home, but America is our Lincoln-given home, so we have two homes, and will live in either of them if we choose.

Now, the battles are all over, the smoke has cleared away, the Negro, with the right of suffrage, is free and at home, and the first thing necessary for him to do is to stand fast in his liberty. Let him work hard, save his money, buy property and get an education; let him learn to be a man and vote as he pleases, and above all these things, let him serve God acceptably, and if he does this he will be more potent to withstand the battles of life and to lift up his fellow men than was the Irishman's bid duck in the fighting main. The Irishman threw down a big duck in the chicken fighting main and called for a stakeholder. There were forty or fifty fighting chickens in the main. The Irish man said that his chicken had br-road feet for standing, a br-road bill for nabbing, and all hell, itself, can't thr-rip him up.

That is the Negro, exactly. He has more religion, more nerve, more ambition, more intellect, when cultivated, more elbow grease, more honesty, and more ability when taught things, more fortitude and more get-up than any other people in the world. I say this without successful contradiction, for no other race in the world has come up from the fiery shadows of hades and made itself as great as the Negro in the short time of only thirty years, as the American Negro has done.

Now, let me tell you, the Negro is honest and will work for his bread, and while God sits in glory the Negro will never be "thrip-ped up."

Stand fast to your profession as a Christian. If you are a Christian today, why, be one tomorrow. Don't come here to the church, to shout around and keep up a whole lot of head racket and noise so that the preacher can hardly be heard for you, and then after you leave this house and get out into the dark you are such a black sheep that it takes all the police and Pinkertons to bring you in home.

I know that I am preaching to every sort of person tonight, both high and low, weak and strong, but thank God, old friends, I have the soothing syrup sufficient to cure your colic.

We have in this congregation tonight every kind of Negro. The high toned Negro, the frisky Negro, the good man, the good woman, the bad Negro, the uncomfortable dude who is never satisfied until he reaches the buzzard roost in the opera house and never still unless he is there. The critic snarler and the chronic grumbler is here also. You have come here tonight to weigh the preacher. All right, ponder fast for I am now fixing to hang your scalps out where the dogs won't have them.

The human mind is a very hard thing to feed, from the simple fact that it is so diversified. Some like to have a preacher scald every body else in the house but themselves, some like to hear a man's grammar and high phraseology, some like ridicule, harrangue and caricature, some want hallelujah and a big shout, some want the gospel well seasoned with sedation and Quaker-like serenity. Very few want sound doctrine and a good sin scraping.

No, no, Mr. Preacher, don't tell me about my deeds. But let me tell you, my friends, my business here is to go into that old deed cupboard of yours and get out everything in there and give it to the dogs. If you want to see a church stand fast and stand well, let her have a live preacher who always tries to do right and respect the cause of God and loves the membership; and, on the other



hand, a membership who love and reverence the church and who try to carry out the obligated duties of a church member. When such is the case, my brothers, as the boy said, that church is like the boy's old goose; she is on the spread. An old sister down east sent her son Limbrick out to set a goose. The boy made a great big nest about two feet wide in the corner of the fence and into that nest he poured sixty big goose eggs and then he took the big goose and spread her out over the eggs with outstretched wings, tied down to stakes on each side, [laughter] and then left her to set. The next day his mother saw the nest and asked him: "Lim, why did you put so many eggs under the goose?" He said, "Mamma, because I wanted to see the old goose spread herself."

Now, friends, if you want to see the church stand fast and spread itself, just take out these rings, cliques, and bosses, and let every member pay, pray and preach; then something will be done.

The Negro ought to be a better Christian than any body else in order to brave the storms of antagonism. You can't read a newspaper these days without an account of some negro lynching, and I cannot see for my life why it is that some fool nigger is always committing a rape on some virtuous white girl or woman. It is strikingly strange that the Negro lived with his master before the war times, made the crops, nursed the children, drove the carriages and in a great many instances slept in the white folk's houses, baked the bread, boiled the broth, and lived upright for 250 years. Why, bless your life, before the war you could not even hear of a Negro committing rape. No one committed rape then but the overseer or some rich master. [Laughter.] But, oh, my! these days, according to the newspapers, Negroes are committing rape and being lynched every day. They are very bad now, since freedom, I presume. No, they are not bad. It is the new way now, of killing out the Negro. When they want him dead they will placard on his forehead the word rape, and then put him to death.

But be careful; "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." You may treat the Negro as you please today, but other nations will make you reap it in coming years. God put the Negro here and all the powers of earth and hell can't kill him out or take him away unless God says so.

Stand fast, Mr. Negro.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NORMAL

AND

## OBJECT LESSONS.

### TOPIC 1.—THE WORD OF GOD.

Question.—What names do we have for the Word of God?

Answer.—Oracles.—Acts vii. chapter 38th verse; Heb. v. chapter 12th verse.

Q.—What does the word, Oracle, mean?

A.—It means the revealed Word of God to man.

Q.—What other name for the Word of God?

A.—The Scriptures.—Jno. v. chapter 39 verse; 2nd Tim. iii. chapter 15-16 verses.

Q.—What does the word, Scriptures, mean?

A.—The written Word of God.

Q.—Give some other names for the Word of God.

A.—The Old and New Testament.

Q.—What does the word, Old Testament mean?

A.—It means the will and covenant of God to the people.

Q.—What does the word, New Testament, mean?

A.—It means the will and covenant of God by his Son, Jesus Christ, to the people.

Q.—What other name for the Word of God?

A.—The Bible.

Q.—Why is it called the Bible?

A.—Because it took its name from the Greek word, Biblous, meaning the tree or bark of the Biblous tree, from which the first Bibles were made.



## CLASSIFICATION OF THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE.

## OLD TESTAMENT.

5 Penta.—Law—G., E., L., N., D.

12 Hist.—J., J., R., 1st S., 2d S., 1st K., 2d K., 1st C., 2d C., E. N. E.

5 Poetical.—J., P., P., E., S. S.

|          |   |                                                                     |
|----------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prophets | { | 5 Major—I., J., L., E., D.                                          |
|          |   | 12 Minor—Ho., Jo., Am., Ob., Jo., Mi., Na., Ha., Ze., Ha., Ze., Ma. |

Total 39.

## NEW TESTAMENT.

5 Historical—M., M., L., J., A.

21 Epistles—R., 1st C., 2d C., G., E., P., 1st T., 2d T., 1st T., 2d T., P., H., J., 1st P., 2d P., 1st J., 2d J., 3d J., J.

Historical—Rev.

Question.—Why reject the Apocrophy?

Answer.—Because C. and the A. reject them and never quote them.

## ANALYSIS OF THE WORD BIBLE.

B I B L E—Buy. Inv. Believ. Lov. Estab. The Bible.

Question.—What does the Bible reveal to man?

Answer.—1st, His origin.

2nd, His fall.

3rd, His rescue.

4th, His destiny.

It also reveals God and God's attributes.

Q.—How may the attributes of God be classified?

A.—Into natural and Moral attributes.

Q.—What are the natural attributes of God?

A.—They are 1st, Self-existence.

2nd, Eternity.

3rd, Unity.

4th, Immutability.

5th, Omnipotence.

6th, Omnipresence.

7th, Omniscience.

Q.—What are the moral attributes of God?

A.—They are 1st, Goodness.

2nd, Justice.

3rd, Veracity.

4th, Wisdom.

## ANALYSIS OF THE WORD LOVE.

L O V E.—Love. Obedience. Victory. Eternal-life.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

- |                                 |   |                                         |
|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------------|
| 1st, Object                     | { | 1st, Instruction in God's Word.         |
|                                 |   | 2nd, Win souls to Christ.               |
|                                 |   | 3rd, Build up souls in Christ.          |
| 2nd, Organization               | { | Good officers.                          |
|                                 |   | 2nd, Efficient teachers.                |
|                                 |   | 3rd, Plenty of material.                |
| 3rd, Equipment                  | { | 1st, Suitable place.                    |
|                                 |   | 2nd, Plenty of Bibles.                  |
|                                 |   | 3rd, Good music.                        |
|                                 |   | 4th, Blackboard and other helps.        |
| 4th, Qualifications of Teachers | { | 1st, Piety.                             |
|                                 |   | 2nd, Proficiency in Bible study.        |
|                                 |   | 3rd, Aptness to teach.                  |
|                                 |   | 4th, Love for the work.                 |
|                                 |   | 5th, Perseverance in and out of School. |
|                                 |   | 6th, Good sense.                        |

## FINGER WORDS FOR THE SUNDAY SCHOOL PUPIL.

## RIGHT HAND:

Thumb—Be on time.

First Finger—Study the lesson.

Second Finger—Be quiet and nice.

Third Finger—Take great interest in the lesson.

Fourth Finger—Respect your teacher.

## LEFT HAND:

Thumb—Don't lie.

First Finger—Don't steal.

Second Finger—Don't chew.

Third Finger—Don't smoke.

Fourth Finger—Don't Drink.



WHAT SCRIPTURE AUTHORITY HAVE WE FOR  
SUNDAY SCHOOLS?

2nd Tim. iii., 14 and 15.  
Deut. xi., 18 and 19.  
Luke ii., 42 and 49.  
Deut. xxxi., 12 and 13.  
Deut. vi., 6 and 9.  
Josh. viii., 34 and 35.  
2nd Chron. xx., 13.  
Ezra x., 1.  
Neh. viii., 2 and 8.  
Psalms lxxviii., 1 and 8.  
Prov. i., 10 to 17.  
Prov. iv., 1 to 13.  
Prov. xxii., 6.  
Prov. xxiii., 22 and 26.  
Ec. xi., 6.  
Ec., xii., 1.  
Joel ii., 15 and 16.  
Mat. xxviii., 19 and 20.  
John xxi., 15 and 17.  
Eph. vi., 1 and 4.  
Gen xviii., 17 to 19.  
1st Sam. ii., 18.