

# Freedom in God, Liberty on Earth, or Death!

It's Friday, the 25<sup>th</sup> of March, in the year of our Lord, 2016. Everyone is preparing for the weekend to celebrate Easter. I am in my cell in a federal detention center awaiting anxiously for my trial to start. On the tv is a movie showing the life and crucifixion and resurrection. As I watch Jesus receive his 39 stripes, the unbearable agony he's enduring, tears began to well up in my eyes. I'm usually pretty good at putting myself into other peoples' shoes and so it only took a few seconds for emotion to start flowing. So much pain did Jesus feel as his flesh was torn apart. I was reminded of a story that sent me on a short train of thought and to put them on paper. The story is about what a patriot named Patrick Henry witnessed during the days of the British tyranny against the people of the colonies. The British made a statute that made it illegal to preach without a license. So there was a certain minister who refused to take on a license and so the British decided to make an example of his rebellion and sentenced him to receive lashings in the town square in Boston. The minister took such a flogging that he passed out but the soldiers were ordered to finish. It is said that his flesh was torn open so that his ribs and bones were exposed. Place yourself

at this scene, standing next to Patrick Henry. Its a terrible vision. This is what inspired Patrick to give his famous "give me liberty or give me death" speech to leadership of the Virginia colony to rally Virginia's militia to engage in the War. I highly recomend all to read the whole speech.

What I've realized is that there seems to be a parallel between the fight for freedom from tyranny of governments and the fight for freedom from spiritual tyranny of Satan and an eternal death. The parallel is that both require suffering and sacrifice, and inevitable death. It seems that any time any group of people want to be free, some of those people have to suffer and and die.

That is what history shows. So many people suffered and died to gain America's freedom and independence from the British. But more important is the fight that Jesus fought to win freedom for every single man and woman. He suffered more than any man ever has or will. He had

not only suffered unimaginable physical pain, but also spiritual pain. Jesus' ~~eyes~~ ~~cried~~ ~~tears~~ <sup>sweat</sup> turned to ~~of~~ blood one night while in prayer to the Father asking for someone to take his place or for God to find some other way to save mankind. And then, when Jesus was on the cross, about to give up his spirit, God's plan for all came to throughtion

At this moment, having all his life been in relationship with God, suddenly bore all the sin<sup>of</sup> all people at the present and of all people in the future. As it does, the sin separated Jesus from God, and he felt this for the first time.

Think about this now, Jesus was filled with the Spirit and lived a sinless life, so he never felt this separation before. This is why Jesus cried aloud "My God, My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me". Then He died, and rose three days later in victory over death. Jesus won the war, Satan is ~~deaf~~ defeated, and we can all have freedom. But Jesus suffered and died, by himself, in that battle for freedom, and I'm thankful he did so.

I suppose I'm not doing too badly here. I guess there is always more they could do to me, up until the point of death. I do feel a degree of suffrage, but like Jesus while asking for the cup to pass, said "nevertheless, not my will, but yours". I know God has a reason and has his hand of providence in my situation because there's a bigger picture at work.

I pray to be strengthened in my faith and trust in His Providence because that's what it's come to.

It's all I have now. I no longer have any control over my situation, and must ~~learn~~ learn to rely on Him. Oh Lord, teach my how to trust and rely on you.