

Freedom: A Benefit of The Kingdom!

KJV Acts 22:27 Then the chief captain came, and said unto him, Tell me, art thou a Roman? He said, Yea.

*28 And the chief captain answered, With a great sum **obtained I this freedom.** And Paul said, *But I was free born.**

Another translation reads:

The officer went to Paul and asked him, "Tell me, are you a Roman citizen?" Paul answered, "Yes."

*28 The officer replied, "I paid a lot of money to become a **Roman citizen.**" Paul replied, "But I was born a Roman citizen."*

At that time in history Rome was considered the most powerful and long-lasting empire in the world.

To be a Roman citizen had enormous benefits:

- They couldn't receive the death penalty.
- They couldn't be crucified.
- They couldn't be tortured.
- The right to own property.

As we know America adopted many of the governmental practices of Roman.

Since Rome was the first to build roads that connected most every city in it's kingdom, Roman citizens had access to the world and protection from lesser kingdoms.

This captain had Paul in chains but was immediately afraid when he found out Paul was a Roman citizen.

Acts 22:29 Immediately, the soldiers who were going to question Paul stepped away from him. The officer was afraid when he found out that he had tied up a Roman citizen.

They had to step back, stop interrogating Paul and take the chains off him when they found out he was a citizen of Rome.

The apostle Paul knew his rights as a citizen of Rome and of the Kingdom!

We as citizens of The Kingdom of God must know our rights and declare them!

- When we do the accuser has to stop accusing, interrogating & torturing us!
- The chains must be taken off and the enemy has to step back!

The devil and demons know what kingdom we belong to:

GWN Acts 19:13 Some Jews used to travel from place to place and force evil spirits out of people. They tried to use the name of the Lord Jesus to force evil spirits out of those who were possessed. These Jews would say, "I order you to come out in the name of Jesus, whom Paul talks about."

14 Seven sons of a Jewish high priest named Sceva were doing this.

15 But the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and Paul I recognize, but who are you?"

Verse **16** says they were overcome and fled or ran away from the devils who attacked them!

John 8:34 Jesus answered them, "*I can guarantee this truth: Whoever lives a sinful life is a slave to sin.*"

Living a sinful life means a person is either **not** a citizen of The Kingdom or they don't know their rights (the power) of being a citizen of the Kingdom!

35 *A slave doesn't live in the home forever, but a son does.*

Slaves have no right to the family dwelling place and no right to be treated like family!

Only family has the right to what their father has provides.

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

Once you have been made family the powers of sin are broken off our lives we no longer live a sinful life or experience the effects of a sinful life.

The captain in charge of Paul paid allot of money to be free and enjoyed all the benefits of a Roman citizen.

All we have to do is give our lives to Christ, submit to His authority over our lives and **resist** the devil to enjoy our freedom as Kingdom citizens!

GWN James 4:7 *So place yourselves under God's authority. Resist the devil, and he will run away from you.*

The easy part is giving our lives to Christ, the hard part for many seems to be **resisting** the devil!

Resisting the devil means "**not going along with his plans**"

Devil means "slanderer, accuser and Father of lies."

When we **resist** the "**slander, accusations and lies**" that are told against God, His Word, His people and His Kingdom—the devil flees, and we walk in freedom.