

CHAINS SHALL HE BREAK

I. O Holy Night

A. The Background

- written in 1847
- By Placide Cappeau, a non religious wine dealer
- composed by adolph Adam - Jew who didn't recognize Jesus as Son of God
- Sung in Europe until it was discovered that the authors didn't follow Jesus!
- Song was banned from being sung.
- Rediscovered in 1855 by John Dwight, an activist, abolitionist and unitarian minister
- brought back into public popularity
- 1906 Christmas eve - First voice over radio broadcast was then followed by first song ever played over the radio... O Holy Night

B. The Lyrics

Vs1: Jesus comes to a lost and dying world

- *Long lay the world, in sin and error pining...*
- *A thrill of hope the weary world rejoices*

Chorus: *Surrender and submit in Awe*

- *Fall on your knees*
- *Hear the angel voices*
- *it truly is a divine night!*

Vs2: God's redemption and new way of life

- *Truly he taught us to love one another*
- *Chains shall he break*
- *in HIS name, all oppression shall cease*

II. The Message Behind the Lyrics: A Message of Freedom (Col 2:8-15)

A. Captivity (Vs 8)

1. What takes us captive?

- The world
- Satan's Lies
- Ourselves
- Philosophies, déception, traditions, elementary principals

2. What needs to take us captive?

- The only thing we are designed to be captive by is Jesus
- HE captivates us, and sets us free
 - "rather than according to Christ"

B. Who is Jesus and Who are WE? (Col 2: 9-13)

1. IN HIM:

- ALL the fullness of deity dwells (vs 9)
- You have been made complete (vs 10)
- HE is head over all rule and authority (vs10)
- We were circumcised and brought into his covenant (vs11)

- e. We are buried and and raised up (vs12)
- f. We were dead, but HE made us alive together with him! (Vs13)
- 2. Chains Shall He Break! (2 Cor 5:17, Gal 5:1)
 - We are made complete (Col 2:10)
 - a. We lack NOTHING
 - b. Stop looking for "more" when what you have IS more than enough.
 - c. If the old is gone... why then do we carry around the old ways
 - the dead dog doesn't go for a walk
 - the chains are unlocked... take them off!

C. The Debt Has Been Paid (Col 2:14-15)

- 1. Jesus Canceled the Certificate of Debt (vs 14)
 - a. Who makes Decrees against us?
 - The world
 - Satan's Lies
 - Ourselves
 - b. Satan comes to steal, kill, and destroy... our freedom! (John 10:10)
 - c. BUT JESUS takes those accusations and nails them to the cross! (Col 2:14)
- 2. Jesus DISARMS the authorities and rulers and makes a public display of them
 - a. Satan wants to make a public display of all our failures and flaws
 - b. Jesus wants to make a public display of HIS love, and Faith and Freedom!
 - c. Jesus is, and always will be... Triumphant! (Col 2:15)

D Our Chains are BROKEN! So what now?

- 1. See to it that NOTHING takes you captive:
 - Do a personal inventory. Where are you being misled or taken captive?
 - Is it the world, Satan, yourself, philosophies etc?
 - Let Jesus take you captive!
- 2. Know who Jesus is
 - in HIM all the fullness of Deity dwells
 - He is HEAD over ALL rule and authority
- 3. Know who you are
 - You are made COMPLETE in Christ
 - You have been circumcised and brought in
 - You WERE dead, but now are alive
 - You have been forgiven and HAVE BEEN set free!
- 4. Put to death ANYTHING hindering you (Romans 8:13)
 - Accept the free gift of Jesus
 - Walk in freedom
 - Wage WAR against the enemy, his schemes, and his lies!

LIFEgroup Questions:

- 1. Be Real: In what areas are you susceptible to living your life in chains and bondage?
- 2. Be Honest: What lies do you tend to believe about you that aren't from God?
- 3. Be Thoughtful: Where do you look for life and fullness other than Jesus? Does it satisfy?
- 4. Be Together: What is one thing that someone can walk with you in to help you break the chains this week?