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ABIDING IN CHRIST

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One of the most quoted verses in the Bible is John 8:32. "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." The reason that this verse is so popular with religious people is because we like the idea of "freedom". In the context of John 8:32, Jesus is referring to freedom from the eternal penalty of sin.

Jesus, while praying to His Heavenly Father said, "Sanctify them with your truth, your word is truth." (John 17:17). The word sanctify basically means to be set apart, to be separated, when used in reference to spiritual matters it involves a setting apart for religious purposes. The thread running between these two passages is "the truth" or "your truth." This, of course is referring to the will of God as revealed in the inspired (2 Timothy 3:16) word of God. So, truth, according to Jesus, both sets us free and sets us apart.

The interesting thing about this kind of truth, a truth that saves, is how we acquire it. We all are familiar with Romans 10:17, "So, then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." To be saved we must hear the truth from God's will. In addition, Jesus says in John 8:31, "...to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed." So, to be saved we must hear Jesus' word and to be His disciples we must stay there. Are you set apart? Are you free? Are you saved? Are you His disciple (learner)? If not, you can be. God wants you to be (1 Timothy 2:4).

God bless, Pat