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"Liberated and Free"

By: Pastor Jack Hibbs

"Now when He had said these things, He cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come forth!' And he who had died came out bound hand and foot with graveclothes, and his face was wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them 'Loose him and let him go.'" John 11:43-44 (NKJV)

RAISED TO LIFE

Lazarus, the brother of Mary and Martha, was a beloved friend of Jesus, but their close friendship did not stop death from visiting. Lazarus took ill, passed on, and was laid in the grave. But not for long. The Son of God spoke the word and restored him to life!

But Jesus didn't stop there – to do so would have left the miracle incomplete. Resurrected Lazarus was still wrapped head-to-toe in burial clothes until Jesus commanded, *"Loose him and let him go."*

Far too many Christians today are alive unto God but bound by the graveclothes of their past. Is that you? Have you been raised from spiritual death – your history of sin and worldliness erased – but unfettered freedom in Christ evades you? Why is that so? Is it that you don't feel forgiven?

Jesus sets men free, but Satan will do everything possible to keep you haunted by feelings of guilt and shame. He has a superior memory of all your wrong, but it pales in comparison to the memory of God.

LIBERATED AND FREE

God remembers what His Son did for you atop the cross at Calvary. He remembers the blood that blots out the guilt of all your trespasses and lawless deeds. And now, *"There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit."* (Romans 8:1)

You have been set free! Now it's time to walk in Christ's victory.

Pastor Jack Hibbs is the senior pastor at Calvary Chapel in Chino Hills, CA. His ministry, which includes "Real Life with Jack Hibbs", is seen via YouTube and on the app named for the ministry. The church's website is www.Calvarycch.org.

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Shades and Greater Shiloh Men's Bible Study

Join a group of men from both churches in a study of 1 & 2 Peter. The group meets every other Thursday starting on November 4 for 16 weeks. Warren Callaway and Bob Shields coordinate the group. This is a great opportunity to make new friends with our partner church at Greater Shiloh while studying God's Word together. Contact Mike Lazenby for more information at mlazenby@shades.org or call Mike at 205-822-1670.

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For more info on how to get involved with Men of Shades, visit www.shades.org/men

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