

# LESSON 12

## CHAPTER 21. “Of Christian Liberty and Liberty of Conscience”

“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36

### I. Paragraph 1: Christian liberty: liberty from..., liberty to....

- A. Christian liberty is purchased by Christ alone for the elect alone.
- B. Christians are liberated from legal guilt of sin, power of sin, and punishment for sin.
- C. Christians are liberated for the purpose of worshipping the triune God.
- D. Liberty of believers is greater in NT times than it generally was in OT times, the “ceremonial” law being abolished.

### II. Paragraph 2: Against Legalism: God alone is Lord of the conscience.

- A. The Christian conscience is bound only by the doctrines and commandments clearly set forth in the Word. (Regulative principle)
- B. Obedience to doctrines or commandments of men is a betrayal of the true liberty bought by Christ.
- C. To require of persons blind faith and obedience to religious systems of human invention defies liberty and rationality.

### III. Paragraph 3: Against Libertinism and Antinomianism: Liberty is no license to sin.

- A. A sinful life style can never be justified by Christian liberty.
- B. A sinful life style suggests an unregenerate heart.
- C. Christian liberty is granted specially and specifically for the pursuit of holy living.

### Discussion Questions:

What are the two main enemies of Christian liberty?

How can you know where the line is between liberty and legalism?

What kind of life styles would demonstrate an unregenerate life?

How can the Scriptures, written to an ancient culture, help us answer questions about how we are to live in our time?