

# God Given Rights

*John 1:1-13*

## Introduction

- Much discussion about the rights of countries and people
- See our Declaration of Independence

## Introduction

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed **by their Creator** with certain unalienable **Rights**, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness”

## Introduction

- Are these “rights,” and many others, given to all by God?

## Definitions

- “rights” – “that which is due to anyone by just claim, legal guarantees, moral principles, etc.”
- “unalienable” – “impossible to take away or give up”

## Our Rights

- We could look at many but these few mentioned in the Declaration should suffice.

## Our Rights - Life

- Genesis 1:1, 27 – “God created ... God created man.”
- Genesis 2:7 – “man became a living soul

## Our Rights - Life

- God is the creator of all life
- It is, ultimately, in His hands

## Our Rights - Life

- James 4:13-16 – “If the lord will, we shall both live, and do this or that.”
- Psalms 90:10 – “it is soon gone, and we fly away”

## Our Rights - Life

- God’s concept of life and time are different from ours
  - Psalms 90:4 – “but as yesterday”
- How, then, should we look at life?
  - John 20:30-31 – “life in his name”
  - I Thessalonians 4:13-18 – “so shall we ever be with the Lord”
  - I John 5:11 – “eternal life”

## Our Rights - Liberty

- Definition
- A different concept in the Bible
  - Luke 4:17-21 – “set at liberty”
  - James 1:25 – “the law of liberty”
  - Romans 8:1-2 – “Christ Jesus made me free”

## Our Rights – Pursuit of Happiness

- See the book of Ecclesiastes
- Other similar ideas
  - Luke 12:16-19 – “eat, drink, be merry”

## Our Rights – Pursuit of Happiness

- Paul’s idea of these pursuits
  - II Corinthians 11:23-27 – “more abundantly ...”
  - II Corinthians 4:16-18 – “our light affliction”

## Conclusion

- We have “life in His name,” are “free (liberated) from the law of sin and death,” and pursue the “things which are ... eternal.”
- Colossians 3:1-3 – “seek the things that are above”
- Ecclesiastes 12:13 – “the whole of man”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Hear the Word of God
  - Romans 10:8 – “But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Believe in that Word
  - Romans 10:11 – “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be put to shame.”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Repent of your sins
  - Acts 3:19 – “Repent ye therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out, that so there may come seasons of refreshing from the presence of the Lord”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
  - I John 4:15 – “Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God abideth in him, and he in God.”

## “What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
  - Acts 2:38 – “Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”