

FREEDOM

Frank Corcoran, '46

Freedom is a word that is getting bandied about quite a bit these days by statesmen, politicians, and arm-chair strategists. It is quite obvious to anyone who reads the papers or listens to radio addresses that very few people have the same concept of freedom.

Freedom is not a permission given to man to do as he pleases, regardless of the law of God or the rights of his fellow men. Such liberty is a degradation of freedom into license. Freedom, in the true sense of the word, must be confined within definite limits. It contains many things which must exist with it.

The Greek thinkers said that freedom, truth, and beauty were one and inseparable; that no two could be any good without the third; that "freedom without truth and beauty leads straight to anarchy and dissolution." In other words, it is truth and beauty that makes man free.

The Greeks lived up to this idea to the best of their ability. They pioneered in all the things that go to make up our civilization: philosophy, medicine, art, music, etc. They fought for their noble ideas of democracy and freedom. From a human standpoint, their freedom far surpassed that of any other race, but from a spiritual standpoint, they did not have true freedom because they lacked the fulness of Christ. They could free themselves from alien tyrants, but could not conquer their own passions or free themselves from sin.

The Jews also had their share of truth, beauty, and freedom. In fact they had more than the Greeks because they worshipped the one true God. They had their freedom, they loved it, they fought for it, and suffered for it. But they lost it through their pride and greed; they gave it up in exchange for the bondage of sin.

The freedom of Christ is enjoyed by the members of the Catholic Church. We, as Catholics, enjoy immeasurable truth, beauty, and freedom. This, then, is freedom: to know the truth of Christ's doctrine and to live up to it.

Here is where my concept of freedom differs from that of President Roosevelt. I do not think that freedom necessarily means freedom from want and freedom from pain. Christ never promised His followers immunity from suffering. In fact, He warned them to be prepared to accept the cross. Although true freedom can be enjoyed only in heaven, we can, by keeping God's law, have a foretaste of it here on earth.

BLESSED ARE THEY THAT MOURN.

Michael Hennessey

"Good morning, Mrs. O'Brien. I hear Jimmy's coming home soon."

"Faith he is, I hope. In his last letter he said to expect him in about a month's time."

"He's still somewhere in England, I suppose."

"Yes, he is. But he expects to be sent somewhere else after his leave is up."

"He really loves the Air Force, doesn't he, Mrs. O'Brien?"

"You know yourself he does, Willy. And I know that you do, too. You were really disappointed when you weren't accepted."

"Oh well. We can't all fly planes. Somebody has to stay at home and build them."

"Yes, and a good job you're doing, too, Willy. Jimmy said in his letter that he was proud to have a chum like you, who wouldn't quit after being turned down. He said that your heart was with every ship that flew away from the factory."

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At a Spitfire base somewhere in England, there was action a plenty. "Scramble Tiger Section" had just come through from operations. As soon as the aircraft were airborne the orders came over the R T: "Gain angels (altitude) as quickly as possible. Party of twenty Messerschmitts coming in over Dover at twenty one thousand. Intercept and engage."