**September 23, 2018**

**Volume 7, Issue 5**

Sunday School Times

***Stuff For Today***

• Bob the Square!

• Fred’s Story

• Freedom

 Published almost weekly, but more like…..whenever, so get used to it, OK?

***John 8:32***

***And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.***

As Christians, serving God is an amazing condition to experience. The fences that keep us in, the rules that God gives us to live by, are for our safety as well. They keep unwanted things from coming into our lives.

Even a casual glance at any good dictionary will reveal that the word “free” has many subtle nuances to consider when looking for its definition. We will consider and look at a few of those this morning.

***Psalm 91:9-10 If you say, “The Lord is my refuge,” and make the Most High your dwelling, no harm will come near your tent.***

Before many sporting events, we all stand and sing the National Anthem. If you have ever looked closely at the words, they tell an amazing story of what our nation held dear in her early years. One of the final phrases in the chorus includes the words “and the land of the free.” We are a free nation. And our system of government gives us tremendous liberty bounded by laws. Fences, as it were, that we do not cross. We are free to live our lives within these perimeters. Fences work two ways. First, they keep us in. We learn that we are safe when we abide within the boundaries God has designed for our lives. But fences also keep unwanted thing out. Do not smoke cigarettes and your chances of contracting lung cancer diminish drastically.

***Psalm 55:22 Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; He will never let the righteous be shaken.***

Anyone who has travelled aboard a commercial airplane understands the concept of looking to see if the lavatory is “free”, or is it “Occupied”. As Christians, we should not be occupied or pre-occupied and worried about our lives. God is in control. We can be free of such concerns.

***Luke 4:18 The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim Good News to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind; to set the captive free.***

A pendulum hanging from the ceiling attached to a long string is a good example of how God often works in our lives. He pulls us back and into position, plans our trajectory, and then turns us loose to do His work, freely swinging along, unhindered by anything else in our paths. A pendulum that resists or holds back will not operate as designed.

***Mark 4:19 But the worries of this life, the deceitfulness of wealth and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, making it unfruitful.***

Our stuff that we accumulate around us through the duration of our lives can distract us from our true destiny. Imagine if your foot were tied to a chair. You would not be free to travel unimpeded through life. It is only when the rope is undone that real freedom can be experienced. So it is with our desires for our money and the things it can buy.

***Romans 6:18 And having been set free from sin, we have become slaves to righteousness.***

Prisoners are often chained and bound for the safety of those working with them or around them. As sinners, we are prisoners and in the chains of sin. We are not

(Continued on page 2)

# The Definition of Freedom

**By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com**

**Abraham Lincoln Concerning Freedom**

By Mr. Lyle (mrlyle1@gmail.com)

 Freedom is not the right to do what we want, but what we ought.

 Those who deny freedom to others, deserve it not for themselves.

 Whenever I hear anyone arguing for slavery, I feel a strong impulse to see it tried on him personally.

 Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.