

Happy 4th of July Weekend.

Weather-wise its as usual: clear, hot, muggy.

Otherwise-- anything **but** the usual: few fireworks, gatherings, parades.

And, if our Founding Frs are in the conversation, its more their vices
... than their virtues we want to emulate... that are discussed.

Did you know that the Heritage Foundation found on avg only 20% of
those under 40 could pass the citizenship exam.

Here's a test: Who said "Give me Liberty, or give me Death?"
Patrick Henry of Virginia.

Patrick Henry owned fellow human being as slaves. A terrible thing.

He wrote he recognized it made no sense in such an enlightened time
—to be a proponent of liberty grounded in human dignity—
and yet practice and benefit from human slavery.

Patrick Henry admitted he did so because it made his life easier.
Yet he hoped one day someone would come with strength to end it.

The human condition is one of hopefully admitting the power of sin:
the tyrant that our own comfort or well-being can be.

Will I simply rest in God's love for me in my sin?

Or—let that rest be what yokes me to His power over sin,
to liberate me?

It's a challenging thing for me to not let my ego--protecting Tom--
become who is keeping me bound from being at liberty
to live the life Christ has offered me.

St Paul said "our citizenship is in heaven." Your baptismal exam is:

Who *lived* "Give **them** liberty, even if it means **my** death?"

If you said Jesus of Nazareth... you have a good start.

We are all—before and after Patrick Henry—mixes of vice, and virtue.

Recognizing that is a critical part of coming to the Lord in His meekness
... in His willingness to love us in our vices
and areas of blindness and growing virtue.

Not to simply rest in “Jesus loves me as I am.”

Jesus wants that freedom for us... but that rest is a pause,
an encouragement, from which to hear Jesus challenge us and our
comfort, our growth in freedom from staying in our vices and sin.

Jesus is the source of bringing the power of the resurrection
to bear on the tyranny of vice and sin over us.

The root of the word “yoke” in many languages is “unite”.

Its why we speak of the “yoke of marriage.” Share the Load.
We could not throw off the tyrant death of our own power.

But I can rest in His love... so I am inspired to act in His love.

Christ’s yoke and rest form a fundamental unity to shape **what I choose**
as a citizen of heaven.

To simply rest in Jesus’ loving me as I am,
but act from my own wants, plans, or comforts ...
...does that allow Christ to be Lord?

As others wiser than I have said: Christ took our freedom to
choose what I want, and made it liberty to **choose what is good**.
That good to choose, is the life, love, rltshps God created me for.

St. Paul reminds the Romans/us today: “we are not debtors to the flesh.”

We are yoked to Christ, not bound to serve life in or for this world.
Rest in Jesus acceptance, but then act as His free & willing servant.

Part of the rest God wants for me is to let the Way of the Lord,
reveal the challenges and choices that are mine to receive or refuse.

How much of the anxiousness and depression on the rise—
comes from feeling too much rides on too many decisions to make—
so me or mine don’t miss out... or find life limited in some way?

Is that a tyranny I want to live under?
Will I find the rest waiting not in *making myself*,
but **becoming** through my crosses and limits,
who **God calls me to be**?

Too often I refuse as best I can, the crosses that we could handle
if we rested in Christ and His promised help to carry them!
But, I further put myself under the control of sin, or Tom's ego:
and the burden of having to know better than God.
Like Patrick Henry, I see it as a "liberty or death" choice.
The wisdom revealed to little ones is in Christ,
we choose "Liberty thru death" to my ego.

Doesn't *Jesus*' offered independence
that is dependence on Him... and interdependence with you...
sound like a far better liberty?

Our nation's Declaration of Independence ends with these words:
And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the
protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other
our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.
I so resist the meekness of the little ones who do that for God.

Christ came to free us from all kinds of tyranny: that of sin, of death,
of Satan...and my own ego-imposed slavery to self-preservation.
Our citizenship is from heaven. St Paul proclaims.
That is our Declaration of Graced Independence
if we rest in that gift,
so we might act in its promise and power.