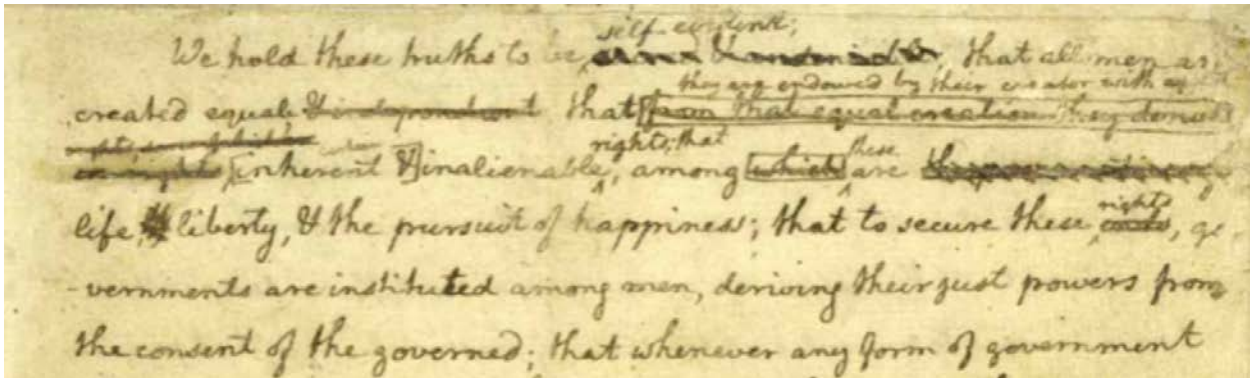




## In Dependence Day

*"I came that they may have LIFE and have it abundantly." John 10:10*



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### *Happy Summer Sisters in Christ,*

*A little rain didn't dampen the spirit of celebration when people gathered this year to commemorate the 246<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the "Declaration of Independence", on July 4<sup>th</sup>.*

*From day one, our parents strove to help us develop an independent spirit, so that we could successfully go out on our own one day. Our teachers sought to help us become free and independent thinkers and problem solvers, to make our world a better place in which to live and raise our families. It isn't so surprising then, that we might bristle when others try to control us or tell us what to do or impact our "rights" in some way. We've literally had to fight for our independence. I think it's in our DNA.*

*Adam and Eve had a great thing going in the garden of Eden with God. God had created a beautiful paradise in which they could walk and talk and enjoy wonderful fellowship and intimacy with Him. He gave man dominion over all the creatures of the air, land, and sea. He gave them good food to eat from any of the trees in the garden (except one). And as we also learn from Genesis chapter 1, God created man in (His) own image and in (His) own likeness. He set man to rule over the animal kingdom, giving him authority to name every living creature -*

even the woman! Being made in God's image meant mankind had free will, and along with that man also had the choice to obey God - or not.

*"Surely you will not die! For God knows, that in the day that you eat from it, your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good from evil."* (Genesis 3: 4,5)

Yup, sometimes the choices we make aren't so good...

So, here's an idea to think about regarding celebrating independence on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Even though it is a wonderful commemoration of our freedom as a nation; it could also be a reminder of our **DEPENDENCE ON JESUS**, our true freedom, if we are followers of Christ!

*"If the Son has set you free, you are free indeed."* (John 8:36)

*"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* Jeremiah 29:11

Our future is in Christ; to walk with Him through all eternity in perfect harmony and peace. I'm excited about paradise, aren't you?! But we can also experience His freedom now because we are no longer slaves to sin. Jesus Christ died on a cross to set you free.

God bless you Sister. If you haven't already made the very important decision to trust Jesus as the LORD and SAVIOR of your life, please do so today. If you need to talk with someone about it, please don't hesitate to give one of your Women's Ministry Team members or one of our Pastors a call today. It will be the best decision you ever make!

We love you and look forward to serving Him together with you,

Cindy Scharenberg and your Women's Ministry Team

Lori Johnson, Trudi Thackston, Karen Warwick, Kelli Hoekendorf, Daryn Jett, Andrea Henry, Jody Gabrielson, Michele Sowers

