

Freedom!

During the 1994 filming of *Braveheart*, the battle of Stirling was recreated using 2000 soldiers of the Irish Reserve Army as extras. Although the script called for them to initially reject the appeals of William Wallace (played by Mel Gibson) to fight, they had to repeat the scene seven times before they got it right.

Author Randy Wallace, in *Living the Braveheart Life*, describes how he intentionally portrayed William Wallace as a Christ-figure. Wallace was intended to personify the words of Jesus, “*You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free.*” *John 8:32.*

Christ Came To Liberate Us in Five Ways:

1. We Are Set Free for the _____ (Glory of God) Alone.

- a. “*What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather, discovered in this matter? If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about – but not before God.*” *Romans 4:1-2.* Your life is ultimately not about your glory but God’s. (*Soli Deo Gloria – ‘for the glory of God alone’*).
- b. The Jews didn’t understand that God set them free. They thought they set themselves free by keeping God’s laws. They changed “*The just shall live by faith*” (*Habakkuk 2:4*) into “*The just shall live by their faithfulness.*” This leads to bragging, as happened with the Pharisee in *Luke 18:11* and the rich young ruler in *Luke 18:18.*

2. We Are Set Free According to _____ (Scripture) Alone.

- a. “*What does Scripture say? Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.*” *Romans 4:3.* How to be liberated from sin is found not in human traditions, but in Scripture - Abraham, Adam, Jacob, Moses, David, Isaiah, Daniel and Micah were saved by faith (*Genesis 3:15, 15:6, 49:10; Deuteronomy 18:18; II Samuel 7, Isaiah 53, Daniel 9:25; Micah 5:2*).
- b. *Sola Scriptura* (“*Scripture alone*”).

3. We Are Set Free By _____ (Faith) Alone.

- a. “*Abraham believed God and it was credited to him as righteousness*”; “*His faith is credited to him as righteousness*” (*Romans 4:3,5*). Abraham grew up in Ur of the Chaldees among idol worshippers (*Joshua 24:2*). He disobeyed God’s instructions by settling in Haran and bringing family members to Canaan. Twice he lied about his wife and then slept with his servant girl.
- b. Abraham was a flawed hero who was saved by his faith, not his works – just like us! (*Sola Fidei – ‘faith alone’*).

4. We Are Set Free In _____ (Christ) Alone.

- a. *“Faith is credited to him as righteousness”; “God credits righteousness apart from works.” Romans 4:5,6. Our sins appear as debits on our account, placing us hopelessly in debt. Our good works are useless in erasing this debt (Isaiah 64:6; Romans 3:20). Only the righteousness of Christ assigned to our account is sufficient to pay our debt (Romans 3:21-25).*
- b. *Solus Christos* (‘Christ alone’).

5. We Are Set Free By _____ (Grace) Alone.

- a. *“Now when a man works, his wages are not credited to him as a gift, but as an obligation. However, to the man who does not work but trusts God who justified the wicked, his faith is credited as righteousness.” Romans 4:4-5. “The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23.*
- b. *(Sola Gratia – ‘grace alone’)*. Many people today are under the mistaken impression that they are saved by their good deeds outweighing their bad deeds. But Scripture clearly teaches that salvation is a gift from God!

***Braveheart* concludes with the execution of William Wallace. He is heartbroken by the betrayal of Robert the Bruce, but still determined to stay strong. Though his captors would release him if he said “Mercy”, Wallace gathers his strength and cries out “Freedom!” as he is put to death. In like manner, Christ died to set us free! Are you trusting in Him?**

Discussion Questions

Freedom!

1. Have you seen the movie *Braveheart*? What did you like? What didn't you like? Why did the warriors have a hard time maintaining silence after William Wallace's challenge? Did you realize that author Randy Wallace had written the screenplay with the intention of William Wallace being a Christ-figure? Why did this seem to add to the appeal of the movie? How is William Wallace like Christ in John 8:32? What is taught in Romans 6:6,9?
2. Read Romans 4:1-8. Why is it hard for people to understand that their lives are not about self-glory but about the glory of God? Have you experienced dissatisfaction even in the midst of times of success and achievement? Have you ever wondered, "Is this all there is?" How did the Jews come to believe that salvation is by works, not faith? How did they misinterpret Habakkuk 2:4? What do we learn from the story of the Pharisee in Luke 18:11 and the rich young ruler in Luke 18:18? Why did the Reformers make '*Soli Deo Gloria*' one of their battle cries?
3. Read verse 3. How had the Jews added their traditions to the Word of God? How did the medieval church do this? How do we see in Scripture that Abraham, Adam, Jacob, Moses, David, Isaiah, Daniel, and Micah were all saved by faith, not works? Why is it so easy to add our traditions to Scripture? Have you ever done this? How? Have you seen others do this? How?
4. Read verses 3-5. Why is Abraham revered by Christians, Jews, and Muslims alike? How do we see in Scripture that Abraham was a sinner just like us (see Genesis 11:31; 12:1-4,13; 16:1-2; Joshua 24:2; Acts 7:1-4)? Why did the Jews believe that circumcision was a key to attaining salvation? Why do many today believe baptism is a key to attaining salvation? Why is '*Soli Fidei*' so important?
5. Read verses 5-6. Why do we know that we can only have our account "credited as righteousness" through Christ alone? What is taught in Isaiah 64:6 and Romans 3:21-25 and John 14:6?
6. Read verses 4-5 and Romans 6:23? Why is the principle of '*Soli Gratia*' so important? Why are so many confused in believing that if their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds they can go to heaven? Have you ever had someone say that to you? Have you ever thought that yourself? How does the movie *Braveheart* end? How is William Wallace a Christ-figure in his death? Are you trusting in Christ alone?