## "Preserving Freedom" Bible Study for July 11, 2010

"As John Adams said in 1798...we need a citizenry with a strong religious and moral character to sustain the American experiment successfully. Our government is "insufficient" for any other. Religion is not the only guardian of right and wrong, but historically it has proven to have the most staying power." Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission President, Richard Land.

The purpose of this lesson is to raise our awareness of the essential elements that provided for our freedoms and must be preserved in order to preserve them.

The dignity of human life—Read Exodus 20: 13. This verse is clear. God values human life. Now, we don't go around killing other people. However, Jesus expanded the idea of valuing others in the sermon on the mount. Read Matthew 5: 21-22 and discover what value He placed on human relationships.

According to Matthew 22: 39, how are we to treat others?

What are some of the social issues we hear about all the time that erode the value of human life?

The Traditional Family—Genesis 2: 21-24 are the first mention of God's design for the family. What is His design?

How is our culture trying to redefine what a family is?

A National Work Ethic—2 Thessalonians 3: 10 says it plain. The problem in Thessalonica was that there were those who had decided the return of Jesus was so imminent that they would just sit down, look up into heaven and wait. But Paul makes it clear that is the wrong thing to do. Why is this an important issue in our culture today?

The Right to a God-centered education—Deuteronomy 6: 7 speaks to this issue. When should we teach our children the things of God? How would you actually do this if you were raising your children right now? How are those of you who are raising your children doing this now? And how is it going?

What does Ephesians 6: 4 instruct mothers to do?

According to Proverbs 1: 7, where does knowledge begin? Why is this true? What did God tell Abraham He was going to do? Genesis 12: 1-4. This is the covenant God made with Abraham.

How did Abraham respond to God's commands?

What are the conditions we must meet as a nation to preserve the blessings of God for ours and future generations?

What would you suggest we can do as individuals and as a church to preserve our freedoms?