**Mid-Week Stewardship Thought**

**The Cost of Freedom**

 Along with Thanksgiving, July is a month that offers the opportunity for Americans to express their gratitude for the privilege of living in this great country. Much blood was shed and many lives lost, and, at this time of year, we take time to honor those who fought for our freedom—freedom that has been won at great cost.

 Our spiritual freedom, too, was won at great cost. We were slaves to the Law which we could never fulfill, but Christ satisfied its requirements for us. He shed His blood and gave His life to pay the penalty for the sin we incurred, for the freedom we now have as we live in Him.

 Yes, we are truly blessed to live in this country, and we should thank God daily for this blessing and ask Him to guide, direct, and protect our leaders as well as give wisdom to citizens to choose their leaders wisely.

**Prayer:** Dear Heavenly Father, I thank You for this wonderful country and for all the freedoms that I enjoy. I especially thank You for the freedom that You have won for me through Your Son, Jesus. Use me as an instrument of Your love, grace, and mercy. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

**Blessings on your journey as a steward!**