**Liberty**

**Stand firm in the liberty with which Christ has made us free,**

**and be not harnessed again under the yoke of servitude.**

***(Galatians 5:1)***

Act as free men,

not as men who use their liberty as a cloak for their maliciousness,

but as the servants of God.

***(1 Peter 2:16)***

**Your liberty to swing your arms ends where my nose begins. *(Quoted by Stuart Chase in Vital Speeches of the Day)***

**Liberty. It's busting out all over. Isn't it glorious? Vaccinated people are pouring into the streets and parks, their unmasked faces radiating joy and relief. Friends are hugging. Kids are racing into grandparents' eager arms. Restaurants and bars are booming again. Baseball and basketball stadiums are putting real fans in the seats instead of cardboard cutouts. Concerts and theater are coming back. Some of us are even looking forward to returning**

**to our offices and escaping the sterile, one-dimensional jail cell of screens and videoconferences. Our rebirth is hard-won, purchased by a year of mask wearing, distancing, and limited socializing, which curtailed the virus' spread while we waited for vaccines. Those precautions, epidemiologists say, prevented tens of millions of additional Covid cases in the U.S. and more than 1 million additional deaths. To see what a no-mask, no-restriction America could have been, take a look at Brazil and India, where Covid races through the population like wildfire, lighting innumerable funeral pyres and filling acres of mass graves. Our wait for vaccines has been rewarded with a near-miracle. Real-world data shows that, so far, the vaccines are 99.9 percent effective in preventing hospitalizations and deaths. New Covid cases and deaths have dropped to levels not seen since the early days of the pandemic . But because this is America, lifesaving vaccines desperately sought around the world have been ensnared in issues of class, race, and political tribe: Many blue states have double the vaccination rate of several red states in the South, where roughly 2 in 3 people remain unvaccinated and the virus is still finding unprotected new hosts. But for now, let us be grateful to science and to one another for the heroic sacrifices we've made for the common good. This has been nothing less than a war, with terrible casualties. We have not yet beaten Covid, but we are winning. L'Chaim. Salud. To life. *(William Falk, in The Week magazine, June 4, 2021)***

**It is not the fact of liberty but the way in which liberty is exercised that ultimately determines whether liberty itself survives. *(Dorothy Thompson, American journalist and author)***

**Liberty is always dangerous – but it is the safest thing we have. (Harry Emerson Fosdick)**

**We in the Congress get frustrated over the inefficiencies of the decision-making process. The Founding Fathers wrote widely on their perceptions of the relationships between individuals and governments. They believed experience proved that governments deprive individuals of liberty. They did not try to structure a government that would work efficiently – except in one regard: to be efficient in the preservation of individual liberty. And that, I submit, we do superbly well. *(James A. McClure, U.S. Senator)***

**Liberty is not merely a privilege to be conferred; it is a habit to be acquired. *(Lloyd George, British prime minister)***

**Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death! *(Patrick Henry)***

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**Timid men prefer the calm of despotism to the tempestuous sea of liberty. *(Thomas Jefferson)***

**When the people fear the government, there is tyranny. When the government fears the people, there is liberty. *(Thomas Jefferson)***

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Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it. *(Learned Hand, in The Spirit of Liberty, edited by Irving Dilliard)***

**The world has never had a good definition of the word liberty. With some the word may mean for each man to do as he pleases with himself and the product of his labor; with others the same word may mean for some men to do as they please with other men, and the product of other men’s labor. Here are two different, incompatible things called by the same name: liberty. And it follows that each of the things is, by the respective parties, called by two different and incompatible names – liberty and tyranny. *(Abraham Lincoln)***

**The love of liberty is the love of others; the love of power is the love of ourselves. *(William Hazlitt)***

**Liberty may be endangered by the abuses of liberty, as well as by the abuses of power. *(James Madison)***

**Liberty is meaningless where the right to utter one’s thoughts and opinions has ceased to exist. That, of all rights, is the dread of tyrants. *(Frederick Douglass, in The Dispatch)***

**Give me the liberty to know, to utter, and to argue freely according to conscience, above all liberties. *(John Milton, in Los Angeles Review of Books)***

**One must not wait until liberty is called treason. One must not wait till the snowball has become an avalanche. *(Erich Kastner, German poet and novelist)***

**If liberty means anything at all, it means the right to tell people what they do not want to hear. *(George Orwell)***

**Good week for: The pursuit of liberty, after a Roomba robot vacuum cleaner escaped from a hotel in England and spent a full day at large in the outdoors before being located under a hedge. The device, hotel officials said, is now back “with the rest of its robot vacuum family.” *(The Week magazine, February 4, 2022)***

**Liberty will not descend to a people; a people must raise themselves to liberty. It is a blessing to be earned before it can be enjoyed. *(Theodore Tilton, American author and lecturer)***

**Liberty is the air we Americans breathe. *(Franklin D. Roosevelt)***

**Liberty is the breath of life to nations. *(George Bernard Shaw)***

**The spirit of liberty is the spirit which is not too sure that it is right. *(Judge Learned Hand, in The Washington Post)***

**Your liberty to swing your arms ends where my nose begins. *(Quoted by Stuart Chase, in Vital Speeches of the Day)***

**Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth. *(George Washington)***

**Liberty is the only thing you cannot have unless you are willing to give it to others. *(William Allen White)***

**On those occasions when your patriotism boils over like too much rice in a pot too small, you can quote Woodrow Wilson's line: “I would rather belong to a poor nation that was free than to a rich nation that had ceased to be in love with liberty.” *(L. M. Boyd)***

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