

THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT BOUND

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INTRODUCTION

A. TEXT: *“Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, of the seed of David, according to my gospel: wherein I suffer hardship unto bonds, as a malefactor; but the word of God is not bound.”* vs. 8,9.

1. Paul was in prison.
2. But the Word of God was free.
3. You may Bind the speaker - But not the Message!

B. VINE: “Bind”

1. Literally, of any sort of binding.
2. Figuratively, of the Word of God, as not being bound, its ministry, course and efficacy were not hindered by the bonds of imprisonment suffered by the apostle.

C. CAN MAN PLACE GOD’S WORD IN PRISON?

1. Can it be closed. Locked.
 2. Can man place fetters on it and thus stop or limit its power?
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EARLY EFFORTS

A. Jehoiakim’s penknife.

1. Shortly before the beginning of Babylonian captivity.
2. Jeremiah was the prophet of God.
3. The word of God, penned by the prophet was read to the king. (Jer. 36:21)
4. His response: *“Now the king was sitting in the winter-house in the ninth month: and there was a fire in the brazier burning before him. And it came to pass, when Jehudi had read three or four leaves, that the king cut it with the penknife, and cast it into the fire that was in the brazier, until all the roll was consumed in the fire that was in the brazier.”* vs. 22, 23.

B. DID THIS BIND OR LIMIT GOD’S WORD?

1. Pick up your Bible - Open it to Jeremiah.
 2. You see in your hand the futility of the act of the king.
 3. Nebuchadrezzar came and Judah went into captivity as God’s Word said.
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BY THE JEWS

A. THE CHURCH'S EARLY BEGINNING IN JERUSALEM.

1. THE Sanhedrin bring in the apostles and charge them... *"But that it spread no further among the people, let us threaten them, that they speak henceforth to no man in this name. And they called them, and charged them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus."* (Acts 4:17-18).
2. The results.
 - a. Was the Word of God bound?
 - b. A short time later the apostles are again brought before the council and... *"and the high priest asked them, saying, We strictly charged you not to teach in this name: and behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your teaching..."* (5:27-28).

B. THE PREACHING AND DEATH OF STEPHEN.

1. He spoke the Word of God; and... *"they were not able to withstand the wisdom and the Spirt by which he spake."* (Acts 6:10).
2. They "tried" him and then stoned him to death.

C. SURELY THIS WOULD BIND THE WORD OF GOD.

1. It resulted in... *"And there arose on that day a great persecution against the church which was in Jerusalem; and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judea and Samaria, except the apostles.They therefore that were scattered abroad went about preaching the word."* (Acts 8:1; 4).
 2. The Word of God spreads through the world!
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THE ROMAN WORLD

A. FROM NERO TO CONSTANTINE.

1. A time filled with horror for the Christians.
2. The history of Eusebius.

B. DID THIS BIND THE WORD OF GOD?

1. What happened to the Roman Empire.
 2. But the Word of God spread around the world.
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TODAY

A. DO PEOPLE TRY TO BIND THE WORD OF GOD TODAY?

1. Does the Word have free access to all the world today?
 - a. We know there are areas where the Bible is not permitted.
 - b. Was denied by communism.
 - c. Can't go into the Islamic world today.
2. Even in what is known as the "Christian world" men try to put fetters on God's Word.

B. HOW DO THEY TRY TO BIND THE WORD TODAY?

1. By denying its full authority.
 - a. Accept some of it, but not all of it. Take what they want.
 - b. Don't have to do exactly what it says today.
 - c. Doesn't mean what it says. ETC.
2. By Change:
 - a. By adding to it.
 - b. By subtracting.
 - c. Do this by placing more importance to traditions than to Biblical teaching.
3. By Translations.
 - a. Any translation by a religious group is to be questioned.
 - b. Many are only for profit.
4. By Creeds.
 - a. Creed....."I believe.
 - b. Man written creeds take the place of, and are accepted over the Bible.
 - c. It is no longer what God's Word says - But what the Creed teaches.

WHY

A. WHY WOULD ONE WANT TO BIND GOD'S WORD?

1. Atheist - Doesn't believe in God.
2. Others, have their own "books".

B. DO NOT LIKE WHAT IT TEACHES!

1. This was the problem of the Jews in Jesus' day. (Matt. 13:15) Closed their ears and shut their eyes.

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2. One Church (Matt. 16; Eph. 4).
 - a. Man teaches that there are many and one is as good as another.
 - b. Others teach that the church isn't important - We don't need it. But the Word of God tells us that the church cost the Blood of Christ.
 3. Baptism; Sprinkle or just ignore.
 - a. Don't see the purpose of it. Non essential.
 - b. Acts 2:38; I Pet 3: 21.
 4. Worship;
 - a. Forget what the Bible says...
 - b. Do what makes you feel good. Pleases you. Contemporary services.
 - c. John 4:24.
 5. Because they were "false teachers".....*and their word will eat as doth a gangrene; of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; men who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already, and overthrow the faith of some.*" (Vs 17,18.)
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GOD'S WORD....

A. WILL ACCOMPLISH WHAT IT SAYS.

1. Heb. 3:12-19. God's Word to the Children of Israel... "*they should not enter into his rest...*"
2. His Word is sharper than two-edged sword. (Heb. 4:12).
3. How many of them "bound God's Word" and entered the promised land?

B. HOW LONG WILL IT ENDURE OR STAND.

1. "*But the word of the Lord abideth for ever.*" (I Pet. 1:25).
2. Shall be judged by it. (John 12:48).

C. HOW THANKFUL WE SHOULD BE THAT MAN CAN'T BIND IT.

1. Because.... "*receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*" (James 1:21).
 2. No other word has the power to save. (Romans 1:16).
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