

Text: 2 Timothy 2:1-13

Theme: Unbound Word

Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father and our Risen Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

My dear beloved flock, the text for our meditation today is the Epistle Lesson of Saint Paul to Timothy the Second Letter, chapter two verses one through thirteen.

Boys and girls, I pray that you are doing well today. Do you know what I have here? I have a chain and a lock. If I were to wrap this chain around you, could you move? You might be able to wiggle, but that would be it. You would not be able to move very far. How could you free yourself? You would need to have someone else with the key to unlock the chain. This is what Saint Paul is talking about in our text for today. Saint Paul is bound in prison, every time he moves, he hears the clink of the chains, but God has the key. Paul is bound, but the Word of God is not. It goes forth to save, strengthen, and help God's people. How does the word do all this? Ponder that question as you hear the rest of the sermon.

Will endure suffering in the world, world hates word, will try to bind it.

In our world today, it does not seem as though God's Word is unbound. Rather quite the opposite. It appears as though God's word is bound. It seems like the Word has no effect upon the world. People freely disobey the word of God by breaking

His commandments. They prosper and become wealthy and famous. It does not seem like anything bad happens to them. This leads us to fall into the temptation that we could do likewise, go ahead and sin, and nothing bad will happen to us. The reality is far from that. There will be a judgement day.

The world despises the Word so much that they go as far as they can to kill those who do follow the word and they get away with it. The world hates the word, even imprisoning and killing those who follow it. This leads us to suffer in the world as the world seeks to bind the word as hard as it can. As an Indian pastor told his wife when he proposed to her. “When Pastor Arjun, a Christian convert from Hinduism, proposed to his wife, Radha, he made sure she knew what to expect. “I am a minister and have been attacked many times,” he told her. “In the future, you may be attacked. I may go to jail. Sometimes we will have food, sometimes we will not. This will be the life.” “Live or die,” she replied, “I will live for Christ.” It is not easy to endure suffering. It would be far easier to give in, renounce (deny) our faith in Jesus, and join the world, yet we are called to endure suffering. Saint Paul says to endure with him. We can endure our suffering, no matter how painful it may be, how? Our endurance given through our Lord Jesus Christ, that just as He suffered on the Cross and was glorified by His resurrection and ascension, so too will our suffering lead to glory on the Last Day.

Yet, word cannot be bound, Word goes where God directs it.

The world may indeed try to kill us and bind the word. Yet though they try as hard as they can, they cannot bind even a single syllable of it. Even in prisons where people are suffering

for their faith, they still proclaim the Word and share verses among each other as they are able to in order to strengthen and encourage each other. As Paul states, “the Word of God is not bound!” It goes freely where and when God wills it. It accomplishes the purposes which God has for it, even if it may not seem like it to our eyes. Even when it seems like everything is descending into chaos, terror, and falling apart. God’s Word is still being proclaimed, seeds are still being planted, watered, and grown, and people are still coming to faith in Jesus through the power of His Holy Spirit.

Strengthen by Christ’s D&R, Word still continues to be sent out (Pastors and members)

What can we do, when it seems as though the world is winning and the Word of God is bound? We can be strengthened by the grace of God that is in Christ Jesus. Strength found in what Jesus Christ has done for you upon the cross of Calvary. There, in His suffering, Jesus defeated Satan, defeated our sins by taking them upon Himself and suffering, bleeding, and dying for us. Rising again from the dead, Jesus destroys the power of death. Jesus has won for us the victory over everything that would seek to do us harm. He bore all things for us, so we would not be crushed beneath our overwhelming load of sin, death, and guilt.¹ As the great missionary, J. Hudson Taylor, often said, “It is not by trying to be faithful, but in looking to the Faithful One, that we win the victory.”²

¹ Engelbrecht, E. A. (2009). [*The Lutheran Study Bible*](#) (p. 2082). Concordia Publishing House.

² Wiersbe, W. W. (1996). [*The Bible exposition commentary*](#) (Vol. 2, p. 245). Victor Books.

Endure in the comfort that He is faithful

In the victory of Christ, we find the endurance and comfort that we need for this body and life, unto life everlasting. We endure in the comfort that even when we have our doubts, worries, and fears, He is faithful for He cannot deny Himself. We endure knowing that God's Word is not bound, but is still being proclaimed to this very day though pastors, those whom God has appointed over His flocks, in order to proclaim His Word of Law and of Gospel. The Word of God given for the convicting of sins and absolving of the penitent. The Word is being spread by the members of the church as they live out their lives and vocations. Through you, how you interact with friends, family members, loved ones, strangers on the street. How we treat those around us proclaims and confesses that we either deny or follow Christ. That as Dietrich Bonhoeffer once said "Your life as a Christian should make non-believers question their disbelief in God."

Dear beloved flock, endure. Endure in the grace, knowledge, and love of God shown to us in Christ Jesus our Lord as you proclaim through your thoughts, words, deeds, and interactions with others the wonderous Word of God.

The peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, guard and keep your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. Amen.