

II Tim. 2:9

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SUBJECT: The Word of God
is Not Bound

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II Tim 2:9 I suffer trouble - even unto bonds, but the word of God is not bound.
 Isa. 55:11 My word shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing which I send it."

THE WORD OF GOD IS NOT BOUND

Resistance and imprisonment bound Jesus, Jewish & Roman.
 But his mission for the word of God. Bound every generation and every prison - across every frontier - then and now.

1. A common thing - looking over the world, its history - to see God's Word Subverted.

(1) Visibly.

- Within the past 25 years, one fourth of the population of the whole world has come under the sway of dictators who either deliberately or completely destroy the religious liberties of the people over whom they rule. The acid test of inherent totalitarianism in any movement or government is its hostile attitude towards religious liberty. Contemporary events reveal that the goal, common to all forms of totalitarianism, is the destruction of religious liberty.

- Same story of the Dark Ages: Heretics burned. Huss, Hutter, burned.
- Same story of Pagan Rome, under Diocletian, Aetius, Julian the Apostate, Nero
- Same story of Antiochus Epiphanes.

(2) Blind refusal to hear.

- Libertine America
 Not because we do not know what God says about morality that our hearts - young people - are unwilling to obey. ^{lack of conviction. Lack of awe. unwillingness to obey, really.}
- Same story of the Dark Ages. We know the Bible says so - so. But we shall take advantage for the satisfaction of our appetites.
- Same story of Micah II King 22 when Ahaz hated because he spoke the Word of God, when the false prophets of Judah wrote on the fore ^{because persons}

(3) In difference, neglect.

- or of that's India Book, then why don't we read it? Carters.

- Some story of II Chron. 34. 15-17, Hilkiah, high priest, on repairing the old new temple, finds the Bills.

2. How does the Word live?

Neglected by those who profess to love it. Some say by neglect's sake.
Refused by those who destroy it. ... done by the school of grammar and
Violently hated by those who seek to destroy it. ... to give the word death.

Because it is fire, flame, breath, spirit, life, truth. Inexhaustible, immortal, perpetual.

Leaps every prison wall, smokes through every iron bar, crosses every frontier, leaps every mountain range, visits every isle of the sea, seeks every ocean.

Stars may fall, earth melt with fervent heat.

Heaven and earth may pass away but my words shall remain.

When many die, your words pass away.

The things which they have heard of me, the same I want them to put to proof, man, who shall be able to reach them also." II Tim. 2: 2
(c) the same promise in London.

1. I have gazed on the vast spaces of the desert. And yet, when I look at the mountain of the Lord, I shall still be a young man of life.
2. I have stood in awe before the great high Mountains of the Sierra Nevada. And yet when that colossal heap of granite has crumbled into dust, the Word of God shall stand to the Rock of Ages.
3. I have gazed at night into the vast spaces of the firmament. And yet, when every star that shines has passed and gone out, the Word of God shall still be the Light of the World.

If every copy destroyed, for money of men enough to repurchase the word of God.

If every man destroyed, for literature, inconsistency.

If all the earth destroyed, saints and angels in glory will still be inhabiting the Word of God.

Whittier has put into verse the story of a secret
possession of a precious Biblical manuscript, a travelling
Waldensian merchant who gradually imparts his treasure
to a noble lady to whom he has been exhibiting his
wondrous silks.

"O lady fair, I have yet a gem which
gives luster flings

than the diamond flash ^{from} the
jewelled crown on the lofty brow
of kings;

A wonderful pearl of exceeding price
whose virtue shall not decay;

Whose light shall be as a spell
to thee and a blessing on thy way."

The cloud went off from the
pilgrim's brow as a scroll,
magic book,

Unchased with gold or gem of cost
from his flowing robe he took.

Survived the opposition of the keenest intellects, but before
scales of the various ages & history.

No keener intellect was entered the field of controversy
than Celsus, bitter enemy of Christ. He of Scythians,
of the 2^d century. Hardly anything new has been
said against the rise of the first Jesus assault.
Most of the arguments, late days are but the repetition
of the propositions maintained by Celsus. The French
Encyclopaedists of the 18th century Voltaire,
Diderot, Rousseau - with great literary skill,
intellectual courage - the Bible ridiculed, lapped.
Their contemporaries across the English Channel, the
English Deists - their rivals in learning or intellectual
ability - such brilliant writers as Gibbon,
Bolingbroke, Hume. All these in Celsus...

The Roman attempt to stifle it down with the
bludgeon of rule, broke down. The Roman army
commanded by eagles to stamp the Bible out of
existence. During the period of the two great
persecutions 63-303 these objects were
constantly aimed at: the suppression of public worship
: the destruction of the idolatrous temples
: the wiping out of the Holy Scriptures.

Diligent search world-wide was made for the discovery
of copies of the Holy Book; no means of torture were left
untried to force confessions of where it was being
concealed. Men, women, boys, laid down their lives
rather than surrender the Holy Scriptures to the
destroyer. The great church historian Eusebius
describes - "I saw with my own eyes - the inspired
and sacred Scriptures engulfed in the fire in the open
market place."