



CONNECTION

April, 2016

“The Word of God is Not Bound!”

⁸ Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, the offspring of David, as preached in my gospel, ⁹ for which I am suffering, bound with chains as a criminal. But the word of God is not bound! ¹⁰ Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, that they also may obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

¹¹ The saying is trustworthy, for:

If we have died with him, we will also live with him;

¹² *if we endure, we will also reign with him;*

if we deny him, he also will deny us;

¹³ *if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. (2 Tim 2:8–13 ESV)*

We live in troubled times. People of most every generation have said that, and often with very good reason. Life is hard. It's not all bad. We can usually point to other people and other times who are having a rougher time of things. And, even in the hardest of moments, there is goodness and blessing, because God is still with us.

There are lots of good reasons for concern. Terrorism is in the news daily. The presidential campaign has people up in arms. The economy does not seem to be going so well. Christians are concerned about the erosion of religious liberties. Add to these, our own specific, particular situations, our challenges and trials. We feel the troubles, and we are often fearful. I am prone to hand-wringing and complaining as anyone else. I am trying to remember one fact and one phrase.

The fact is, Jesus Christ is risen from the dead. We just celebrated that, but I'm not sure the significance of this has sunk into us as deeply as it should. Jesus has defeated the powers of sin and death, and promised to raise us to be with Him. Our confidence rests upon his death and resurrection. But we are quick to return to our habits of hand-wringing and complaining, just a few days after Easter. It's not that the resurrection of Christ takes away the issues. Our concerns are real. We ought to think, act, and pray with godly wisdom. But we must do so as those who remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead.

The phrase is, “the word of God is not bound.” Paul was. He was literally in bondage, in prison because of his faith. His religious liberty was all but gone. But opposition to Christ and his gospel does not imprison the gospel. The concerns of our day, as real as they are, cannot put the gospel in chains or render it ineffective. Jesus is alive, risen from the grave. And He brings salvation with great glory to his people. We must not live as if we did not know this. We must not doubt or despair. God is mighty to save us and others.

I'm going to try to remember that. Maybe you will too. And maybe we will wring our hands less in fear, and fold our hands more in prayer and praise. Let's speak the word of the gospel to ourselves and others. The word of God is not bound.

Yours, in Him

Pastor Dave

Men's First Saturday Bible Study

April 2, at 9:00 am, in the Lounge.
Colossians 4:2-18

Come join us for Bible study, sharing,
spiritual conversation and prayer!

Believe and Belong!

**An introduction to
First Presbyterian Church
for those interested in membership,**

**Sunday Mornings
11:00 AM – 12:00 Noon
April 10 – May, 2015**

Pastor Eikenberry will be leading a class
for all those who are interested in learning
more about becoming a member of First
Presbyterian Church. We will learn about:

- the basics of Christian faith
- what it means to become a church member
- the major events of church history
- our Presbyterian heritage and beliefs
- the life of our particular congregation

In this class, we will “go to the source” and learn about the Christian faith through the Gospel of Luke. We will also explore the summary of Biblical teaching presented in the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

Please call or email the church office if you plan to come. We want to be sure to have enough materials on hand! (1-847-662-6483, office@firstpreswaukegan.com)

Upcoming Sermons

April 3

Celebration of the Lord's Supper
John 21:1-25

“Feed My Sheep”

¹⁷ He said to him the third time, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” and he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. ¹⁸ Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were young, you used to dress yourself and walk wherever you wanted, but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and another will dress you and carry you where you do not want to go.” (John 21:17–18 ESV)

April 10

Ephesians 1:1-10

“The Blessings of Being Adopted by God”

In love ⁵ he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will... (Eph 1:4–5)

April 17

Ephesians 1:11-14

“Our Glorious Inheritance”

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. ¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, ¹⁴ were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Eph 1:11–14 ESV)

April 24

Ephesians 1:6

“The Praise of His Glorious Grace”

...to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved.(Eph 1:6)