

THE ETERNAL WORD OF GOD

In our lesson text, Paul shares a **doctrinal concept** that helped him endure undeserved suffering in the angelic conflict. (2 Tim.2:9b) “But the word of God is not imprisoned.”

This is true because the word of God is eternal. It is not constrained by time or circumstances. “By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by **the word of God**, so that what is seen was not made out of things which are visible.” (Heb.11:3; 2 Pet.3:5)

Yet it was the cause of Paul sitting on death row in a Roman prison

- (2 Tim.2:9a) “For which (my gospel) I suffer hardship (kakopatheo/ p.a.ind) even to imprisonment as a criminal.”

This same word of God brought spiritual comfort to Paul while sitting on death row – “For this reason (doctrinal concept) I endure (hupomeno/ p.a.ind) all things.” (2 Tim.2:10a; 2 Cor.11:23-28; Gal.6:17)

This same word of God has developed spiritual growth in the soul of Paul to the point where he both understand and accepts the bigger picture of the will of God regarding his present circumstances of life.

- (2 Tim.2:10b) “**For the sake of** those who are chosen (eklektos), **that (hina) [bigger picture]** they also may obtain (tugchano/ a.a.subj) the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with it eternal glory.”
- (1 Pet.1:23) “For you have been born again no of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God.”
- (1 Pet.2:2) “Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation.”

**This lesson will study six aspects of the Eternal Word of God
and how it helped Paul endure undeserved suffering even martyr’s death in the angelic conflict.**

1. The doctrinal concept of The Eternal Word of God:

“But (alla) [adversative conjunction] the word of God (ho logos tou Theos) is not imprisoned (ouk deo / perf.p.ind)” is based on the basic or elementary (Heb.5:12) bible doctrine of Matt.24:35, “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words shall not pass away.”

2. The Bible as the word of God is an independent entity in the plan of God.

(Matt.5:18) “For truly (amen) I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, **not** the smallest letter () or stroke () shall pass away from the Law, **until** all is accomplished.”

Note that this is a special Amen doctrine. Special emphasis is placed on the veracity of God regarding the fulfillment of this doctrine (Matt 5:17).

- The word of God cannot be destroyed by man or the devil nor can it be legislated away by the government (Matt.16:18).
- “Every word of God is tested [found flawless] (NIV); He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him.” (Prov.30:5) (NAS)

3. Our doctrinal concept (But the word of God is not imprisoned) means that the word of God is not bound or limited by the circumstances of life.

Paul was able to see his circumstances of life by the word of God and understand God’s will in it. This is important because things may not be as they seem – because we walk by faith and not sight (2 Cor.5:7).

- (Isa.55:8-9) “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways.”

The great communicator of the word of God is on death row in a Roman prison but the word of God is still operational in the world.

By the end of 2 Timothy, Paul will be absent from the earth and present with the Lord but the word of God will still be operational in the world.

Today both Paul and Timothy have left earth and yet the word of God is still operational in the world.

4. Paul was also aware that the word of God residing and functioning in his soul was not bound or limited by his circumstances

- (Ps.119:105) “Thy word is a lamp to my feet, alight to my path.”
- (Isa.55:11) “So shall My word be which goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me empty, without accomplishing what I desire, and without succeeding in the matter for which I sent it.”

When David faced a hungry bear, the word of God was not bound by the bear or when confronted by a flesh eating lion, the word of God was not bound by the lion or when face to face with the more experienced warrior, Goliath, the word of God was not bound by Goliath:

- (1 Sam.17:33) “You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are but a youth while he has been a warrior from his youth.”

The word of God is bound only by the Lord:

- (1 Sam.17:37) “The Lord who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, he will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.”

5. The truth of the word of God frees the believer from internalizing the stress or pressure normally associated with undeserved suffering in the angelic conflict

- (2 Tim.2:9-10) “But the word of God is not imprisoned. For this reason I endure (hupomeno) [to abide under] all things.”
- (John 8:32) “And you shall know **the truth (aletheia)**, and the truth shall make you free.”
- (Phil.4:11) “For I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.”
- (1 Sam.17:47) “For the battle is the Lord’s.”
- (Ps.23:4) “**Even though** I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.”

6. Paul declared that he endured undeserved suffering in angelic conflict for preaching the truth of the gospel so that others might obtain eternal salvation.

- (2 Tim.2:10) “**For this reason** I endure all things, **that** (hina) [bigger picture of the plan of God] they also may obtain (tugchano / a.a.subj) the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with it eternal glory.” [The motivation of greater divine purpose]
- (1 John 2:2) “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.”