

The Old Paths

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“The Word Of God Is Not Bound!”

Jarrod Jacobs

In his second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul made it clear that even though he was bound (in prison) at that time, *“the word of God is not bound”* (II Tim. 2:9). As I thought about that statement, I realized that this fact is something that has always been true. Regardless of the circumstances in this world, whether it be the political climate, times of persecution, times of prosperity, indifference, etc., *“the word of God is not bound!”* It never has been. Satan has tried everything at his disposal to stop the spread of God’s word, and has failed miserably! Let us study the following and see how God’s word *“is not bound”*.

- ◆ Though the Old Testament prophets were killed for preaching the truth (Matt. 23:34-35, 37; Heb. 11:36-38); *“the word of God is not bound”*!
- ◆ Though Jehoiakim tried to destroy the scrolls containing God’s word when it didn’t suit him (Jer. 36:22-23); *“the word of God is not bound”* (Jer. 36:28-32)!
- ◆ Though John was imprisoned and beheaded for teaching the truth (Matt. 14:3-12); *“the word of God is not bound”*!
- ◆ Though Christ was nailed to a cross due to man’s envy and their hatred of His

preaching (Lk. 23:33); *“the word of God is not bound”* (Mk. 16:15-16)!

- ◆ Though the apostles were threatened for preaching Christ in Jerusalem (Acts 4:21, 5:40); *“the word of God is not bound”* (Acts 5:29-31)!
- ◆ Though the apostles were persecuted when they were not intimidated by men’s threats (Acts 5:42); *“the word of God is not bound”* (Col. 1:5-6, 23)!
- ◆ Though the Christians were scattered abroad for teaching God’s word (Acts 8:1); *“the word of God is not bound”* (Acts 8:4)!
- ◆ Though Paul was put in prison for preaching the truth (II Tim. 2:9; II Tim. 1:16); *“the word of God is not bound”* (II Tim. 2:2)!
- ◆ Though John was in exile for his faithfulness to the Lord (Rev. 1:9), *“the word of God is not bound”* (see: Rev. 2-3)!
- ◆ Though Catholic leaders and “religious” folks in years gone by would not allow the Bible to be printed; through God’s providence, the printing press was born. (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)
- ◆ Though many pilgrims in the past came to America’s shores to escape religious persecution; religious freedom perpetuated

and nourished people who wanted to simply go by the Bible (I Pet. 4:11), and worship according to God’s will (Jn. 4:24). (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)

- ◆ Though communism in Russia (during the 20th century) tried to prevent folks from having faith in God for some 75+ years; when communism fell there, preachers of the gospel went in openly and many Christians were born as a result of their new-found freedom. (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)
- ◆ Though communism still ravages such places as China right now, there are reports of Christians who are standing strong in those countries despite the hardship. (i.e., *“The word of God is not bound!”*)
- ◆ Though some parents in our country do not wish to have anything to do with Christ and His church today, *“the word of God is not bound!”* This is why many of the children of these people are learning the truth and living it today!
- ◆ Let us keep in mind that though efforts are made by Satan through men to squelch spiritual expression, to keep Bibles out of public places, and to otherwise encourage folks to sin in God’s presence, *“the word of God is not bound!”*

The Lord said, *“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”* (Matt. 24:35). Yes, *“...the word of the Lord endures for ever”* (I Pet. 1:25).

Woe to any man or nation who tries to bind what God says is not bound!!

Bible Authority And The Lord's Supper

Aric Russell

A subject that is often times misunderstood and often taken in the wrong manner is the Lord's Supper.

How often are we to partake of the Lord's Supper? When are we to partake of the communion? To answer these questions, let us turn to the scriptures.

As we begin, first notice how we establish authority from the Bible. The Bible establishes authority in three ways. These ways are by direct commands, by approved examples, and by necessary inference. A direct command is a command spoken directly by Jesus or an Apostle that we are to follow. An approved example is an example given by Jesus or an Apostle that teaches us how to live, act, worship, and treat others. A necessary inference speaks to things that are implied. There are no other conclusions that can be made but that which is inferred. With these things in mind, let us look closer at the Lord's Supper.

Christ gave His disciples a direct command to partake of the Lord's Supper. Notice what is said by Paul in I Corinthians 11:23-26. He said, *"For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, That the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. After the same*

manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." Through the teachings of Christ, we find that we are indeed commanded to partake of the Lord's Supper.

The time to partake of the Lord's Supper is taught to us through an approved example. In Acts 20:7 we read, *"And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."* This passage teaches that the disciples partook of the Lord's Supper on the first day of the week. We learn from this example that we are to assemble on the first day of the week and break bread.

From Acts 20:7, we also learn how often we are to partake of the Lord's Supper. We draw the necessary inference that we are to break bread every first day of the week. This is further inferred when we look at the events on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:42 tells us that those who were baptized that day were breaking bread together. We know that the day of Pente-

cost was the first day of the week. We know that because the feast of Pentecost was celebrated 50 days after the Passover, which was on the Sabbath, the last day of the week (Lev. 23:15-16).

We learn from direct commands, approved examples, and necessary inference that we are to partake of the Lord's Supper, when we are to partake, and how often we are to partake. Let us, with all Bible subjects, use this method to determine whether what we are doing is from God or men (Matt. 21:25).

"Why Some Are Not Asked"

R.L. Whiteside

"Happy is the person whose conduct does not raise a question in the minds of others as to where he stands. Some people never have to answer the question, "Will you have a drink with me?" There is a reason. Some young people are never subjected to certain temptations to which others are frequently subjected, and there is a reason. When your conduct raises a question as to where you stand or as to what you might do, the devil will make you answer that question. Every person who raises a question mark in the mind of people has to defend himself or surrender."

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