CAN'T BE CHAINED

Let me ask you this morning – just because things aren't working out like you thought, does it mean God doesn't keep His word or your situation is too difficult?

No!

But how many times do we confuse our wish list with the sovereignty and faithfulness and perfect will of God?

Church, we must stand on the Word because the Word works. Period

2 Tim 2:9-13 NKJV for which I suffer trouble as an evildoer, *even* to the point of chains; but the word of God is not chained. [10] Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the [c]elect, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

[11] *This is* a faithful saying:

For if we died with *Him,*
We shall also live with *Him.*
[12] If we endure,
We shall also reign with *Him.*
If we deny *Him,*
He also will deny us.
[13] If we are faithless,
He remains faithful;
He cannot deny Himself.

Paul is saying here I am suffering like an evildoer, even to the point of chains, but the Word of God is not chained

Here Paul is writing from a Roman prison cell for his second time shortly before his execution and he says you may chain me down, but you can't chain down His Word!

Come on church! This word is powerful! It may look like you're being chained but it won't affect the power of your witness to His Word!

Let's look at this passage:

1. WE WILL SUFFER FOR THE GOSPEL V.9

Here Paul is suffering for the gospel in prison, not like the first time under arrest, but this time literal iron chains and treated like a common criminal – just for preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ!

Illustrate** Dewayne interrupt and put me in handcuffs

Listen to me, child of God – persecution and opposition is normal for those who faithfully serve Christ but He has not abandoned you!

John 15:20 NKJV Remember the word that I said to you, 'A servant is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.

I've never preached in handcuffs but it won't stop me or His Word!

You think it's terrible – you stand up for Christ and people unfollow you on social media or post something nasty about you. Paul was labeled an evildoer and put in prison, physically locked up, restricted, and mistreated

Church – remember what Jesus said in

John 16:33 NKJV These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you [f]will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

2. THE UNCHAINED WORD OF GOD V.9

Paul contrasts his own imprisonment with the freedom and power God's Word carries – he was saying you can't imprison the Word of God

God said Kenny no matter what's going on around you, My word cannot and will not be chained and he led me to

Isaiah 55:6-11 Seek the Lord while He may be found,
Call upon Him while He is near.
7 Let the [b]wicked forsake his way,
And the unrighteous man his thoughts;
Let him return to the Lord,
And He will have mercy on him;

And to our God,
For He will abundantly pardon.

8 "For My thoughts *are* not your thoughts,
Nor *are* your ways My ways," says the Lord.
9 "For *as* the heavens are higher than the earth,
So are My ways higher than your ways,
And My thoughts than your thoughts.

10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven,
And do not return there,
But water the earth,
And make it bring forth and bud,
That it may give seed to the sower
And bread to the eater,
11 So shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth;
It shall not return to Me [c]void,
But it shall accomplish what I please,
And it shall prosper *in the thing* for which I sent it.

Hear me today – your hands may seem to be tied but His Word cannot be chained, it's a seed that's growing and multiplying in spite of your chains

Jesus described His Word like a seed that provides the source of all saving life and growth possibilities given to us by God!

The power in His Word will always fulfill the promise of His Word

Rom 10:17 So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Lord said My word cannot be barren or fruitless because it has My own life-giving power within it!

His word cannot be permanently suppressed or confined – no government, regime, obstacle or negative report can block, cancel or chain up God's Word. It will not return void but will accomplish what it's purposed to do!

Today it may seem like you're locked up in chains and not getting anywhere. Remember His Word cannot be barren or fruitless so refuse to allow your chains to chain God's Word. Instead, release it and watch it do what it was purposed to do!

Also check out v. 10 – Paul said I endured everything for your sake. In other words, my personal suffering is often the plowed ground which God delivers salvation to others!

God's Word cannot be chained!