

## Not Bound

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There were at least two times in the Apostle Paul's life that he was bound in prison. Paul writes about his "bonds" and his "chains" in the following verses: Ephesians 3:1, 13; 4:1; 6:20; Philippians 1:7, 13-14, 17, 30; Colossians 1:24; 4:3, 18; Philemon 1, 9-10, 13.

Even though Paul was at times physically bound with a chain, he was not bound in attitude. Let's consider a few things in which Paul would not allow himself to be bound.

Paul's defense was not bound (Philippians 1:7). Paul's gospel was not bound (Philippians 1:12-14). Paul's boldness was not bound (Ephesians 6:19; Philippians 1:20; Paul's joy & thanksgiving were not bound (Ephesians 1:3; 3:13; Philippians 1:3-4, 18; 2:2, 17-18; 4:1, 4, 10). Paul's positive attitude was not bound (Philippians 4:11-13, 18). Paul's influence (both on friends and enemies) was not bound (Philippians 1:14-18, 20). Paul's prayer for others was not bound (Ephesians 1:15ff; 3:14ff; Philippians 1:4; Colossians 1:3, 9ff; Philemon 4). Paul's hope was not bound (Philippians 1:19-20, 23-27; 2:24; Colossians 1:27; Philemon 21-22).

Each of us has his own "chain"; something that may hinder, hamper, or prevent us from doing something physically. Our chain, however, need not prevent our usefulness. Like Paul, let us use our "chain" for the service of Christ. - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- He who talks to you about others may talk to others about you.
- Sitting in a church house will no more make you a Christian than sitting in a hen house will make you a hen.
- Some people's minds are like concrete; all mixed up and thoroughly set.
- The devil's best work is done many times by those who claim to love the Lord.
- "Soft soap" in the pulpit will not cleanse sin in the pew.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# Jesus the Great Physician

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“And it came to pass, as he sat at meat in the house, behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with Jesus and his disciples. And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto his disciples, Why does your Teacher eat with the publicans and sinners? But when he heard it, he said, They that are whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what *this* means, I desire mercy, and not sacrifice: for I came not to call the righteous, but sinners.” Matthew 9:10-13

In the scripture above, Jesus likens himself to a physician or doctor. Sometimes we need a good doctor. We might have good health for the most part, but there are times when we need a doctor. Some illnesses, checkups, and physicals require a visit to the doctor whether we like it or not. We can't fix our own eyes. We can't fix our own teeth. We can't fix our own heart blockage.

When it comes to our own sin, we need Jesus the great physician. Sin is like the “plague of the heart” (1 King 8:38). The plague of sin is ugly, infectious, fatal and incurable through human agency. No one has ever solved his own sin problem. All must come to Jesus (Romans 3:23; 6:23).

Good news! There is a remedy and a cure for the disease of sin. There is a doctor who can help, Jesus Christ (Luke 4:18-19; Matthew 9:10-13). What do we know

about Jesus the great physician? Consider three things we know. Jesus is a physician who...

**Is Qualified in His Field.** Jesus is qualified to remove our sin. We typically try to place ourselves and our loved-ones in the care of a doctor who has knowledge and experience. We want to go to a doctor who “knows his stuff”. We want him to be skilled in what he does.

Jesus the great physician has all knowledge and experience to cure man's sin. First, he made mankind (John 1:1-3), and second, he died sinless for mankind (2 Corinthians 5:21; Galatians 3:13). Many today are not qualified to help (self, other men, Satan). People today go to everyone for their sin problem, but Jesus. They are like the woman in Jesus' day who had a flow of blood that no doctor could heal (Mark 5:26; Luke 8:43).

**Can Diagnose the Problem.** Jesus can diagnose our sin problem. Ignorance of a particular illness will not make it go away. Many doctors today simply cannot find the problem to every illness. However, Jesus the great physician can properly diagnose the problem of sin. He was tempted and did not sin and he defeated the devil (Hebrews 2:13-18; 4:14-16).

Other people want to ignore the sin problem (atheists, humanists, agnostics). They ignore their physician, Jesus, like Israel ignored her physician, God (Jeremiah 8:18-22).

## **Will Offer the Correct Remedy.**

Jesus offers the correct remedy for sin. Just like there is a specific remedy for each illness we know about (aspirin for a headache, chemo for cancer, etc.), there is a specific remedy for sin.

The great physician's remedy for sin is found in the New Testament gospel (1 Corinthians 1:21-23). What is the remedy? You must hear the gospel, believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, confess Jesus with your mouth, repent of your sins, be baptized for the remission of sins, and live faithfully each day.

Many want to change the remedy. Be careful that Jesus' orders have not been changed through addition, subtraction, misapplication, or misquotation. Examine the remedy closely that is offered by religious teachers today (Colossians 2:8).

Friend, you have to come to Jesus the great physician if you expect to be healed of your sin. You have to let him make an examination of your condition and diagnose your problem. You have to follow the prescription and “the doctor's orders”.

Jesus the great physician is available anytime, anywhere, and for everyone. He is “on call” 24/7. Anyone can “get in” to see him. He is a “specialist” in his field. Will you see him today before it's too late? Let Jesus heal you! - *Chris Reeves*