

Constrained by Christ

@2010 Andy Gleiser; Arranged by Greg Habegger

God gave me nine years to serve as the Youth Pastor under Dr. David Pennington at Burge Terrace Baptist Church. He remains one of my great heroes. *Outside of my dad, no one has impacted my preaching more than he.* Soon after he told me he had accepted God's call to move to another church, the Lord gave me the idea to write a song in honor of my pastor.

As a young man, Pastor Pennington chose 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 as his life and ministry passion. I had heard him preach those verses many times over the years and knew I wanted to craft a song based upon that passage. The song's chorus came to me very quickly, but the verses took a little bit longer.

Greg and I had a month and a half to write it, and God was gracious to give it to us before the Pennington family left. The final Sunday they were at Burge Terrace, Pastor Pennington asked me to preach. *What an honor!* I preached from 2 Corinthians 5:14-15 and then surprised him by singing the song we had written for him.

The love that moved Jesus to die for me must move me to live for Him. In addition to the 2 Corinthians passage, Acts 20:24 played a pivotal role in the writing of the text as well. Paul confessed how he was unmoved by difficulties and did not count his life dear to himself. His passion would be to *testify the gospel of the grace of God.* This is the testimony of Pastor Pennington and the testimony I long to have.