

## **Constrained by Christ**

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***"For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again."  
(2 Corinthians 5:14-15)***

God gave me nine years to serve in pastoral ministry with Dr. David Pennington at Burge Terrace Baptist Church in Indianapolis. I consider him to this day my mentor, discipling me in preaching, pastoring, and evangelizing. 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. I have heard him often say his life and ministry verses are 2 Corinthians 5:14-15. Having heard him preach those verses many times over the years, I knew I wanted to craft a song based upon that passage.

The song's chorus came to me 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 sang 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. 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.