***Psalm 40:9-10 I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness In the great assembly;  
Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know. 10I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation;  
I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.***

In the Kingdom of God, there’s no such thing as a conceal carry permit. Too many Christians today treat the Word of God as though they have a permit from Jesus to conceal the Word, the keys to very Kingdom of Heaven, to carry it around and never reveal it to others. One of the greatest weapons that we have against the wickedness we see all around us is the living Word of God. Yet many, once they’ve found this precious treasure called the Truth, conceal it as though it’s illegal to carry it in public and never share it with the world that so desperately needs it. Jeremiah 23:29 says *“Is not My word like a fire?” says the Lord, “And like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?* A conceal and carry permit for firearms is fine, but there is no such thing for the fire that is the Living Word of God. If you have it, you must not conceal it!

Today we celebrate Pastor Appreciation, but we know that we’re all ministers of Jesus Christ. As students of the Master, as copies of the Original, our greatest desire in life is to be like Jesus. 1 John 2:6 says *He who says he abides in Him ought himself also to walk just as He walked.* We want to Walk like Jesus. We want to Stand like Jesus. We want to Live like Jesus. And we want to Love like Jesus. But none of these things happen unless we are willing to speak the Truth like Jesus.

In verse 9 of our scripture today we read - *I have proclaimed the good news of righteousness. In the great assembly; Indeed, I do not restrain my lips, O Lord, You Yourself know.* Though David wrote these words about 1000 years before Jesus was born, they have been applied to the ministry of Jesus, a Messianic prophesy. I have proclaimed, having the idea of announcing the good news, bringing the Gospel to the world. The good news of righteousness – moral rightness – reconnection with God. In the Great Assembly – bringing the Gospel to all people, both Jew and Gentile. Indeed, I do not restrain my lips – I have not held back or restricted the Gospel in any way, but I’ve shared it at every opportunity.

This is our calling in a nutshell as Christians. Proclaim the Gospel at every opportunity. Do not restrict it to just those we think will listen, or those we think won’t reject, or those we find worthy of the message. We’re called to proclaim. Why? Because Jesus didn’t restrict Himself to heaven, but brought the news of Salvation. Jesus didn’t restrict Himself to Jews, but brought Salvation to the Gentiles. Jesus didn’t wait for me to get my act together, but He loved me enough to offer Salvation even when I was yet a sinner.

Verse 10 says - *I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.* I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart. Whoa, wait a minute – Psalm 119:11 says - *Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.* The Hebrew word for hidden in these verses is two different words. In Psalm 119, the word means to hide something esteemed in the heart – that it will keep me from sinning. Psalm 40 it’s a different word. Hidden here means to hide something away to conceal it and keep it secret so as not to be found. One is positive, the other negative. The scripture says I have not hidden, meaning He has not concealed the righteousness. Instead, He has declared God’s fidelity, God’s deliverance, God’s mercy, God’s beauty, and God’s truth to the great assembly – to all, to the whosoevers - *For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.*

So too is our charge as messengers of the Gospel of Jesus! We must never secret away what was meant to be shared. We must never leave for another the job we’re called to do today. The Truth that is in our hearts serves many purposes – one certainly is to remind us of our relationship to God and convict us in our sin. But the Truth is never diminished when we share it. We have no less treasure just because we speak it.

Hebrews 2:3 asks a question that must cut us to the bone every time we read it – *how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him.* Indeed, when we neglect to share the Gospel, we are in truth neglecting so great a salvation, spoken first by our Lord. Why then do we not speak? Are we ashamed? Romans 1:16-17 says *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.****17****For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by faith.”* The Word of God - We have every right to carry… we’ve no right to conceal. Let’s instead be bold in our faith – This week - *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.* It’s the pastor’s job to bring God’s children the Word. The children must choose to proclaim what they’ve learned.