

“GOSPEL Presents”

VIDEO: *“Lottie Moon – I Cannot Be Silent”*

Qt: *“Please say to the new Missionaries/Christians that they are coming to a life of hardship, responsibility, & constant self-denial.”*

*“The needs of these people press upon my soul...
and I CANNOT be silent.”*

*** Lottie links to meaning/message of Christmas!

*** Epitomizes application of this week’s reading...

--- Explain sermon series...

!!! Cultural Context:

- Week 51 of 52...
- 60-68 A.D....
- Nero is Emperor...
- Persecution rising...
- Deception spreading...
- Fading & Drifting...

!!! Textual Context:

- Warning is theme...
- Correct & Encourage...
- Stay the course of Christ!
- Key: Who is Jesus to you?
- Answer: LORD & Christ!
- Fight for/in truth in love

1&2 Peter, 2 Timothy, Jude, & Hebrews...

1 & 2 Peter = Beware outside attacks & inside espionage

1 Peter: “SUFFERING” (16X) outside persecution...

- A. **Salvation / Holiness: 1:1 - 2:12**
- B. **Submission / Harmony: 2:13 – 3:12**
- C. **Suffering / Humility: 3:13 – 5:14**

*** 1 Peter is the “Job” of the N.T.

2:5 = you are being built up as a spiritual house... to offer spiritual sacrifices...”

2:11 = Beloved, I URGE you... abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul...

2:16 = Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover up for evil, but living as servants of God.

2:19-21 = graciously suffer as Christ did... to this you have been called...

2:23-24 = Jesus did not retaliate... He took our punishment... by His stripes we are healed....

3:14 = But even if you should suffer for righteousness sake, you will be blessed.

3:18 = For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God...

4:10 = As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s grace...

4:12-13 = do not be surprised when the persecution comes to test you... **rejoice when you share in Christ’s sufferings...**

5:10 = ...after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you.

5:13 = ...this is the true grace of God. **Stand firm in it!**

2 Peter: “KNOWLEDGE” (16X) & 34 Imperatives...

- A. **Holiness**
- B. **Heresy**
- C. **Hope**

1:3 = “You have received everything you need for life and godliness.”

1:13 = “as long as I live I will stir you up by way of reminder...”

2:1-3 = “...false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies... many will follow them... and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed... they will exploit you...”

2:19 = “They promise them freedom, but they themselves are slaves of corruption. For whatever overcomes a person, to that he is enslaved.”

3:17 = “...beloved, knowing this beforehand, take care that you are not carried away with the error of lawless people & lose your own stability...”

1 & 2 Peter Summary

1 Peter
External Persecution

Hostility

Pain with a Purpose

2 Peter
Internal Persecution

Heresy

Poison in the Pew

2 Timothy = Paul’s last, loving, leadership “will & testament”

1:6-7 = “...I remind you, to fan into flames the gift of God which is in you... For God did not give us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, & self control.”

2 Timothy ch.2 = Missional Manifesto!

3:12 = “all who want to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted”

3:15-17 (Scripture makes you wise unto salvation through Christ...

ALL *Scripture* is **God breathed**... profitable for teaching, rebuking, correction, & training in righteousness – so that the man of God may be **equipped** for every good work.)

4:2-4 = **“preach the word; be ready** in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience & teaching. For the time is coming when people will put up with sound teaching, but will call unto themselves those who will tell them what their itching ears want to hear... they will turn away from the truth and wander off...”

4:5 = **“As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”**

4:7 = **“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.”**

Jude = Beware the wolves... Fight for & with truth-in-love!

*** Jude is the MOST ASSERTIVE book in the N.T...

*** “Contend for the faith” (a.k.a. FIGHT for THE faith!)

*** Call out & Counter attack the Cancerous Counterfeits

*** “Snatch others as from the flames...”

Hebrews: in a nutshell... **“Worship Christ & Warn Christians”**

“BETTER/SUPERIOR” (12X) & “WARNING” (5X)

See Christ:

1:1-3 = Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, **2 but in these last days** he has **spoken to us by his Son**, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom he also created the world. **3** He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat

down at the right hand of the Majesty on high

Get personal:

2:1 = Therefore we must pay much closer attention to what we have heard, lest we drift away from it.

God's Word:

4:12 = For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

More Warning:

5:11 = About this, we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, because you have become dull of hearing.

“Superiority of Christ”

4:14-16 = Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Sacrifice Under the Law
(10:1-4)

- Reminders of sin
- Perpetually done
- Shadows
- Blood of animals
- Involuntary

Sacrifice of Christ
(v.5-18)

- Remove Sin
- Permanently done
- Substance
- Blood of Christ
- Voluntary

Ministers of Christ = **He's worth it! NO MATTER WHAT!!!**

Christmas Context:

- 60-68A.D. mirrors today...
- Your perspective on Christmas = your perspective on Christianity = your perspective on Christ! (and vice versa)

VIDEO: “*Christmas Perspective*” (by Downhere & Abandon)

How you “see” Christ... is “how” you’ll see Christmas.

T/S: Contrast worldly vs. worship gifts... **(GET DIRTY!)**

NOTICE:

Worldly

Look appealing/attractive

All about the short term...

Happy

Popular

Moral Relativism

“Band-aides”

Earning Wealth

Prideful Strength

Selfishness

Control

Worship

Look ordinary / uninviting

All about the long term...

Holy

Persecuted

Bible (God’s absolute Truth)

Battle Scars

Embracing Poverty

Patient Weakness

Selflessness

Surrender

Being “Boss”

Being “Doulos”

Mayor

Martyr

Facts

Faith

Temporary

Eternal

Cradle of Christ...

Cross of Christ!

True Christian/Christmas Present...

Hebrews 2:14-17 = ...*He too (Jesus) shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death... 17 For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.*

T/S: *All Scripture is encouragement & correction = **CALL to ACTION!***

12:1-2 = *Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every encumbrance, and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 looking to Jesus, the founder and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.*

VIDEO: *“Lottie Moon personal invitation/application”*

Compare/Contrast “worldly v. worship gifts” again...

T/S: Take **personal** look at this through **Hebrew 11:24-27** (Moses)

11:24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, **refused to be known** as the son of Pharaoh's daughter. **25 He chose to be mistreated** along with the people of God **rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin** for a short time. **26 He regarded disgrace for the sake of Christ as of greater value than the treasures of Egypt**, because he was **looking ahead to his reward**. **27 By faith** he left Egypt, not fearing the king's anger; **he persevered because he saw Him** who is invisible.

Wake up call...

FAITH's FRUIT = blessings & burdens...

Contrast 11:33-38 with the prosperity messages of our day...

33 ...who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, **34 quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. **35 Women received back their dead, raised to life again....** **Others were tortured** and refused to be released, so that they might gain a better resurrection. **36 Some faced jeers and flogging**, while still others were chained and put in prison. **37 They were stoned**; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated— **38 the world was not worthy of them**. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.**

T/S: Offering is not to shrink your finances, but grow your faith!

VIDEO: "BE" (collect Lottie Moon offering)

13:8 = Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

5:9 ...he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

CLOSE:

Story of **Demas** (2 Tim. 4:10)... **Drummer** Boy... **Diamond**...

PRAY:

Worship Team.... "Little Drummer Boy"

Post Service VIDEO: "Send Amen" – our church in China!