



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC Perilous Times

SPEAKER DSP Chua Seng Lee

THEME Share the Gospel

DATE 2 & 3 December 2017

MESSAGE SUMMARY

SHARE THE GOSPEL BOLDLY

DSP Chua exhorts us to share the gospel boldly during this season as we are living in perilous times where there is corruption of truths being exchanged for myths and wrong teachings. The importance of sharing God's word is highlighted in 2 Timothy 3: 16-17 which says, "All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work."

BEING FREE FROM THE CORRUPTION OF THIS WORLD

We must be ever ready to proclaim the gospel at all times. 2 Timothy 4:1-5 says this:

"I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ²preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ³For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. ⁵But you, be sober in all things, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry."

Here are 4 ways to keep ourselves free from the corruption of this world:

1. BE SOBER – Clear-minded in our thinking

Being sober denotes not being drunk, to behave with restraint and moderation, thus not permitting excess. In our current day and age, we see a full spectrum of teachings from extreme grace (antinomianism) to extreme laws (legalism). In extreme grace, our actions don't matter – teachings revolve around being saved by grace through faith and we are not bound by moral laws. The outcome of this is lawlessness. The other extreme is legalism where teachings centre on being saved by good works and the meticulous keeping of God's laws, which promotes intellectualism.

The balance is, we have a covenantal relationship with God and are saved by grace through faith but we remain in the covenant by following God's laws. To develop a sober mind, we are encouraged to grow our Word life, develop a biblical worldview and cultivate a learning posture such as investigating opposing views objectively.

2. ENDURE HARDSHIP – Carry on despite challenges

In Paul's message to Timothy, Paul encourages him to remain faithful by preaching the word despite the challenges he faced. Enduring hardship is to continue doing what you are doing even though you are suffering or to remain firm even though people cause you suffering. We can expect hardship as Jesus faced great suffering and persecution. DSP Chua quoted, "If you want to make an impact, you must expect collision. No collision, no impact."

While it is not easy to endure hardship, there are some handles to help us: We need to embrace the challenges and view it from a different perspective, and form a like-minded community.

3. DO THE WORK OF AN EVANGELIST – Convince sinners of their need for a saviour

An evangelist is one who announces the gospel and goes from place to place to bring the Good News. Although it's only mentioned 3 times in the New Testament, the importance of evangelism cannot be over-emphasized. William Hendricksen once said, "In every period of history, there will be a season during which men refuse to listen to sound doctrine. As history continues onward toward the consummation, this situation grows worse, men will not endure to tolerate the truth."

We need to imitate Jesus Christ who is the greatest evangelist of all. Jesus encourages all of us to "Go into the world and preach the gospel to all creation." (Mark 16:15). Our BBTC mission is also aligned with the heart of evangelism which is to "share Christ as we mature in Him". Before we can be passionate in evangelism, we have to develop a burden for souls and a passion to share.

4. FULFIL YOUR MINISTRY – Complete the ministry well

To fulfil our ministry is to complete one's duty, to fully finish one's task. Our goal is knowing Christ and making Him known as we look forward to Christ's commendation when He says, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

Start with a personal mission statement, find people to keep us on track and hold us accountable then stay sensitive to the inward witness of the Holy Spirit – do these, and finish well.

CONCLUSION

DSP Chua summarised the message by stressing the importance of proclaiming God's Word boldly, at all times and regardless of the number of people we are reaching out too. God had one Son and He made Him a preacher. We live in perilous times and as children of God, we are tasked with the ministry of being an evangelist to proclaim God's word which is also useful to reprove, rebuke, and exhort. We are to do so with sobriety, endurance, great patience and instruction because people will not endure sound doctrine; they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn aside to myths. Do we allow ourselves to be affected by the responses of people and the number of people that we reach out to?

It is important for us to search our hearts so that sin is not entangled in our lives and to set our lives on the correct track so that we can fulfil our ministry.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it important to be ever ready to share the Gospel boldly especially during these perilous times?

2. What are some of the challenges you have faced when sharing God's word? In what ways can the 4 key approaches outlined be applied to these challenges?

3. Share who God has placed in your hearts to reach out to this Christmas and into next year. How you will go about reaching out to them?