



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC You are a Letter from Christ

SPEAKER DSP Edric Sng

THEME Knowing and Experiencing God

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MESSAGE SUMMARY

WHEN OTHERS LOOK AT YOU, WHAT DO THEY SEE?

In Paul's letter to the Corinthian church in 2 Corinthians 3, he referred to them as "a letter from Christ". To be a letter from Christ is to be an advertisement for Him. When people see us, what do they see? In his sermon, DSP Edric Sng exhorts us, as letters from Christ, to reflect His goodness and His power in our actions and words. This way, when people look at us, they should want to have that same Jesus they see reflected in our lives.

YOU ARE A LETTER FROM CHRIST

Like the Corinthian church, we are far from being perfect. The Bible says in John 16:33 that in this world, we will have trouble. The constant pressures of life, trials, temptations, storms, daily demands and circumstances are things that we struggle with from our external environment. The only way we can overcome our struggles is when we allow the God-Spirit-Jesus ministry in our inner being to dictate our external circumstances. When God is in control, who we are on the outside is a result of the God-Spirit-Jesus ministry in our inner lives.

Paul assures the Corinthians that they are a letter from Christ, by presenting five things they have through the Holy Spirit in 2 Corinthians 3. These are relevant even today, for us!

1) COMPETENCE AS MINISTERS

"He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant..." 2 Cor 3:6a

As ministers operating within the new covenant, God has given us the qualities and the competence to minister to others. We are good enough, as long as there is God in our lives.

2) LIFE

"... but the Spirit gives life" 2 Cor 3:6b

"He brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of the valley; and it was full of bones. Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones, "I will put My Spirit within you and you will come to life." Eze 37:1,14

We are all threading through life on earth. However, God has not only assured us of eternal life, but human life as well. Through the testimonies shared of sick, bed-ridden elderly coming to know the

Lord during the last moments of their lives, we learn that there are no bones too dry for the Spirit of life to breathe into.

3) THE BOLDNESS OF HOPE

"Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold." 2 Cor 3:12

The Spirit gives us the boldness of hope based on the firm foundation of the power of God, which is not easily shaken. Once again, as competent ministers, it is not about whether we are good enough, but it is about Christ. Jesus alone is the basis of our confidence and the anchor of our souls.

We grow in boldness to ask God as we form faith convictions in our lives. Hope is to trust in the goodness of God. It is God's job to prove that our hope in Him will not be in vain. Our job is only to trust.

4) FREEDOM

"... where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom." 2 Cor 3:17b

Surrender is the greatest freedom. It is only when we choose to let go of control over our circumstances that we may fall into the Lord's saving arms and experience His grace. True freedom can only happen when we fully surrender.

5) TRANSFORMATION

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." 2 Cor 3:18

The Spirit of God is the one who transforms our lives. Other than the fruits of the Spirit in Gal 5:22-23, the Spirit can transform our environment, character and our mind.

CONCLUSION

Every letter that is written from Christ demonstrates competence as ministers, experiences the fullness of life in every aspect, has the boldness of hope, freedom and transformation through the Holy Spirit. It is by our personal life testimonies (our life before Christ, our encounter with Christ and our subsequent transformed life with Christ) that we present ourselves as letters from Christ.

QUESTIONS

1. As believers, what are the five things we have through the Holy Spirit? How do these lead to transformation?

2. We are a letter from Christ, intended to be a testimony for Christ to others around us. Think about your life before Christ and after you accepted Christ. If you could choose one thing to share with others about how your life has been transformed, what would it be?

3. God is good and we can place our hope in Him that He will come through for us. Is there an area in your life that you struggle with and feel fearful that you are not good enough? Pray and submit and surrender your fears and insecurities to the Lord.