

MESSAGE

Occasion : Worship Service / Prayer Service
Date : September 5, 2010 / August 28, 2013 / December 8, 2016

TITLE : LIVING LETTERS

Text/s :

2 Cor 3:2-3

2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart. KJV

Bible reading :

Ps 40:1-3

1 I waited patiently for the Lord; and he inclined unto me, and heard my cry.

2 He brought me up also out of an horrible pit, out of the miry clay, and set my feet upon a rock, and established my goings.

3 And he hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God: many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the Lord.

KJV

Ps 40:8

8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

KJV

Ezek 36:24-28

24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land.

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be my people, and I will be your God.

KJV

Song/s :

INTRODUCTION

2 Cor 3:2-3

2 Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:

3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.

KJV

2 Cor 3:2-4

2 [No] you yourselves are our letter of recommendation (our credentials), written in your hearts, to be known (perceived, recognized) and read by everybody.

3 You show and make obvious that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, not written with ink but with [the] Spirit of [the] living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts. [Ex 24:12; 31:18; 32:15,16; Jer 31:33.]

4 Such is the reliance and confidence that we have through Christ toward and with reference to God.
AMP

2 Cor 3:1-3

2 You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all.

3 And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

ESV

Rom 1:8

8 First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for you all, that your faith is spoken of throughout the whole world.

KJV

1 Thess 1:8

8 For from you sounded out the word of the Lord not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith to God-ward is spread abroad; so that we need not to speak any thing.

KJV

A) As a letter is written on prepared material, so the Christian is God's prepared material upon which He writes His message – conformed to the image of His dear son

Rom 8:29

29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

KJV

2 Cor 3:18

18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

KJV

Eph 1:4

4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love:

KJV

B) As a letter must be legible to read, so the Christian must live (show) so others can see and read God's message

Luke 8:39

39 Return to thine own house, and shew how great things God hath done unto thee. And he went his way, and published throughout the whole city how great things Jesus had done unto him.

KJV

Ps 66:16

16 Come and hear, all ye that fear God, and I will declare what he hath done for my soul.

KJV

Ps 126:2-3

2 Then was our mouth filled with laughter, and our tongue with singing: then said they among the heathen, The LORD hath done great things for them.

3 The LORD hath done great things for us; whereof we are glad.
KJV

John 4:28-30

28 The woman then left her waterpot, and went her way into the city, and saith to the men,
29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?
30 Then they went out of the city, and came unto him.

KJV

C) As a letter must be free of blots, so the reader can get the full import of its message, so the Christian must not be spotted by the flesh if the message of salvation is to be understood

Jude 23

23 And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

KJV

1 Cor 5:9-10

9 I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators:
10 Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters;
for then must ye needs go out of the world.

KJV

1 Peter 3:1

3:1 Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may
without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;

KJV

Col 4:5-6

5 Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time.

6 Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every
man.

KJV

D) As the writer of a letter is recognized by the style of handwriting, so the sinner recognizes a Christian by his style of godly living

Titus 2:12

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in
this present world;

KJV

E) As a letter bears the expression of the writer, so the Christian must bear about in his body the life of Jesus Christ

2 Cor 4:10-13

10 Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made
manifest in our body.

11 For we which live are alway delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made
manifest in our mortal flesh.

12 So then death worketh in us, but life in you.

13 We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we
also believe, and therefore speak;

KJV

F) As a letter bears the signature of the writer, so the Christian puts his name on the line for God – “yet not I, but Christ in me.”

1 Cor 15:10

10 But by the grace of God I am what I am: and his grace which was bestowed upon me was not in vain; but I laboured more abundantly than they all: yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me.

KJV

Gal 2:20

20 I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

KJV

G) As a letter bears the time writing (date), so the Christian, in season and out of season sends forth the time of salvation – “now is the day.”

2 Tim 4:2

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

KJV

2 Cor 6:2

2(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

KJV

H) As a letter bears an address, so the Christian reveals a message of direction – the straight and narrow road that leads to life eternal

Matt 7:14

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

KJV

I) As a letter is sealed and bears a proper stamp to assure readiness for delivery, so the Christian, as a debtor to all men, is stamped with the responsibility of readiness to preach the Gospel to every creature

Rom 1:14-16

14 I am debtor both to the Greeks, and to the Barbarians; both to the wise, and to the unwise.

15 So, as much as in me is, I am ready to preach the gospel to you that are at Rome also.

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

KJV