

**SERMON TOPIC: LETTERS**

**SERMON OUTLINE**

In 2 Corinthians, Paul calls our lives “letters” that tell the world a story. We are the living letter of God, and we need to assess if we’re writing this season well. Our lives can preach a narrative of gladness or grief, faith or fear. More than ever, the world needs to read our letters and see the hope of Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 3 v 2 - 6 (MSG)** You yourselves are all the endorsement we need. Your very lives are a letter that anyone can read by just looking at you. Christ himself wrote it—not with ink, but with God’s living Spirit; not chiseled into stone, but carved into human lives—and we publish it. We couldn’t be more sure of ourselves in this—that you, written by Christ himself for God, are our letter of recommendation. We wouldn’t think of writing this kind of letter about ourselves. Only God can write such a letter. His letter authorizes us to help carry out this new plan of action. The plan wasn’t written out with ink on paper, with pages and pages of legal footnotes, killing your spirit. It’s written with Spirit on spirit, his life on our lives!

**KEY POINTS**

**Jonah’s journal.**

**A legacy letter of surrender that was the salvation of Nineveh.**

Jonah 2 v 1-2 (NIV) From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the Lord his God. He said: “In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me. From deep in the realm of the dead I called for help, and you listened to my cry.”

Jonah 2 v 5-7 (NIV) The engulfing waters threatened me, the deep surrounded me; seaweed was wrapped around my head. To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever. But you, Lord my God, brought my life up from the pit. “When my life was ebbing away, I remembered you, Lord and my prayer rose to you to your holy temple.”

Jonah 2 v 9-10 (NIV) “. . . with shouts of grateful praise, will sacrifice to you. What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’” And the Lord commanded the fish, and it vomited Jonah onto dry land.

**Paul’s pages.**

**A legacy letter of proclamation that became the words of hope for generations.**

Philippians 4 v 4 (NIV) Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!

Philippians 4 v 6 - 7 (NIV) Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4 v 11 - 13 (MSG)

**Caleb’s commentary.**

**A legacy letter of conviction that became the future he would take possession of.**

Numbers 13 v 26 (MSG) They presented themselves before Moses and Aaron and the whole congregation . . .

Numbers 13 v 27-29 (MSG) “We went to the land to which you sent us and, oh! It does flow with milk and honey! Just look at this fruit! The only thing is that the people who live there are fierce, their cities are huge and well fortified. Worse yet, we saw descendants of the giant Anak.”

Numbers 13 v 31 (MSG), Joshua 14 v 7 (NIV) & Joshua 14 v 8-12

**Daniel’s diary.**

**A legacy letter of God’s power that would make every other idol powerless.**

Daniel 6 v 25-27 (MSG) King Darius published this proclamation to every race, colour, and creed on earth: Peace to you! Abundant peace! I decree that Daniel’s God shall be worshiped and feared in all parts of my kingdom. He is the living God, world without end. His kingdom never falls. His rule continues eternally. He is a saviour and rescuer. He performs astonishing miracles in heaven and on earth. He saved Daniel from the power of the lions.

**SUMMARY:**

**What does your letter look like?**

