

**Two VC Culture Messages – Desire to operate | Culture of Invitation & Culture of Generosity**

Our aim is not = phony friendly (Ted) – Depth of relationship | Relationship w/ the Lord & each other  
**False-dichotomy killer** | Making multiple ideas mutually exclusive when they don't have to be  
I don't invite people to church...I invite people into a relationship with Jesus | Stop it  
Culture Invitation = Living on mission to bring others to the person of Christ & to the people of Christ  
**To accomplish this mission – Live in contrast to the ever-darkening world around us**

- First two word's in our text – 'But you' | Peter is contrasting us with someone else...who?
  - (7) 'The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone'
  - (8) 'They stumble because they disobey the word, as they were destined to do'

**In Contrast to the people who reject Christ - Anyone who rejects Christ is destined to fall**

Christians we have been given: New identity – New life – Comes with changed ambitions | **READ**

**BI – The Mission of God is Executed Through the People of God**

Imagine if God had a consultant...rolled out the strategic plan to expand His kingdom through people

- Consult - Jesus = Plan of salvation | How...message to everyone? Angels – Fire – Voice – Stars?
- God – I will commission people | Consult – Bad labor | God – You're fired | **COMMISSION = 2 Jobs**  
**God – I will in infinite power / love / justice / mercy save people (Job) | Commission heralds (Job)**

Unbelievable biblical reality = God will use you...you job...to bring the eternity message of the Gospel

**1. Because God has given me a mission: I Will Proclaim the Power of His Message (9-10)**

<sup>9</sup>But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, | **OT QUOTE**

Words...once reserved Israel...Now define Church – People saved...faith | **New Identify – Designation**

- *New Identity* – Chosen Race & Royal Priesthood | Not just Israel...all tribes, tongues, nations = Identity
- *New Designation* – Holy Nation – Possession | Purified & bought with a price | Now God's people  
**God did not only give us a new identity and a new designation...He gives us a new ambition**

that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy

The contrast – You were once, but now you are! | Not a people...God's people | No Mercy...mercy

- **There are many testimonies in this room with one Truth at the center – God moved toward you**  
Tons of different 'I did's' in here | Primary point = What God's done | Message of the Gospel

that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Everyone's got a different fit & feel to the darkness – but we've been called into ONE marvelous light

**'Made in'** | 'China' | Everything your life...stamped...'Made for Mission' | Proclaim power message

- Testimonies – Made for Mission | Workplace – Made for Mission | Home – Made for Mission  
Culture of Invitation – Everything in our lives...for the invitation = Person of Christ and People of Christ  
2 Sets 4 words spark invitation | Conversation – Church – 'Jesus in my Place' | 'Please Come with Me'  
We have been given not just an opportunity – command – Proclaim the excellencies of God...saved us

**2. Because God has given me a mission: I Will Protect the Power of My Witness (11-12)**

<sup>11</sup>Beloved, I urge you as sojourners and exiles to abstain from the passions of the flesh, which wage war against your soul.

- 'Sojourners and exiles' – Temporary & without citizenship | Not conform to the ways of world

- 'Abstain from the passions of the flesh'...why...it wages war against your soul

Our real spiritual lives are against a real spiritual battle

What is the best way for evil to keep you tied up and not in the fight to advance the Kingdom of God?

- Struggling with sin instead of putting it to death & moving on | Flee or Kill...those are your option  
**Strong** - 'Wage war against the soul' – **Presuming on God's grace is terrifying** | **Destroys witness**

<sup>12</sup>Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers

**Unafraid witness – Harder - Darker it gets...brighter shine – Stand out | Fire burning & arrows target**

**There are two reason people think we're evil:**

- a. Disagree with our worldview – Fine – We must not and do not need to clean up the gospel
- b. Christian Hypocrisy - TRUE – Live direct contradiction to the message they carry | Giving Bullets  
**What is the outcome of a powerful witness and proclamation of God's powerful message...?**

they may see your good deeds & glorify God on the day of visitation

'day of visitation' – The day of official inspection | Day when God will inspect souls and behaviors

Mission God's people = Obligation towards unbelievers – **Not war against people...at war for people**

**We must be ready to fight for people...how? Proclaim and Protect**

How many of us were invited into a home or invited people into your home for Thanksgiving?

Was the home ready to receive guests? Things were in order – Clean – Inviting – Intentional

**Our 'Home' – Our lives – Our church should always be ready to receive guests**

**BI – The Mission of God is Executed Through the People of God**

**Mission God Gave us: Win and influence people for the Kingdom of Christ**

**Because God has given me a mission: I Will Proclaim the Power of His Message (9-10)**

**Because God has given me a mission: I Will Protect the Power of My Witness (11-12)**