

We Are Called to Fly and not Just Run

I. Slide1 Announce:

A. Slide2 3 Investment Opportunities:

1. **Afghanistan:** Support for Afghanistan (Chad R +2 min)
2. **Haiti:** Food for the Hungry
3. **Belize:** Human Trafficking Institute (Chris L)
 - a) Our *website* calvarymurrieta.com or **Church App** and choose.

B. Thought/Prayer: One of the most dangerous symptoms is *the loss of appetite*. It's a dangerous signal warning that *evil lurks unseen within*. It is the same in the *spiritual realm* when we no longer hunger for the *living and abiding word of God* (1:23).

II. Slide3 Intro: We Are Called to Fly and not Just Run

A. Slide4a There was a little jingle that **John Bunyan** wrote in the 1600s. (Bunyan was a Pastor in **England**, was **imprisoned** for 12 years for preaching the gospel. While he was there he wrote *Pilgrims Progress*).

1. This jingle summarizes what we will be looking at in 1st Peter chapter 2. *That the church is the new covenant people of God, we have special privileges, & we have new power to do God's will.* John Bunyan wrote,
 - a) Slide4b *Run, John, run, the law commands, but gives us neither feet or hands. Far better news the gospel brings: it bids us fly and gives us wings.*
2. It's about this **new dynamic power** of the gospel. In a sense it is **raising the bar**, it **clarifies** and **deepens** God's expectations of us. **We are called to fly and not just run.**
3. We have new *want to's*. They are not *have to's*. We don't *have to* join a church, we don't *have to* read the Bible, we don't *have to* share our faith ... **we get to! We want to.**
 - a) It's like someone telling me *you have to kiss your wife*, **No, I get to!**

III. Slide5a **SPIRITUAL PROGRESS (1-3)**

A. We're going to look at 2 1/2 Imperatives in this section. Well, actually we'll take 1 from the last section, 1 from this section, and 1 that isn't an imperative, but carries the force of one. Let me explain:

1. Love one another (1:22) - see So ... in 2:1, it refers back to 1:22 *Love one another earnestly from a pure heart.*
2. Put Away (1:22) - Isn't an imperative, but carries the force of one.
 - a) Living the Christian life involves making choices, discharging responsibilities, & doing the work of the gospel.
 - b) Avoid those things that can undermine progress in your personal & spiritual growth. Rid from your own lives any *stumbling blocks*.
3. To be able to *love one another* you must put away these 5 things, otherwise they will destroy a healthy christian community.
4. Slide5b In Col.3:8-11 Paul said it this way, ***But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. 9 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices 10 and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator. 11 Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.***
 - a) Notice that *Christological climax* (Christ is all, and in all)? Meaning despite our differences, *and there are many* if you're a Greek believer vs a Jewish believer, circumcised vs uncircumcised, barbarian vs Scythian, slave vs free.
 - b) May I add 2021 christian differences? *vaccinated vs non-vac's, booster shot vs no booster shot, mask vs no mask, Democratic christian vs republican christian, etc.* (you know what's sad, is none of those debates/fights today, w/in the church, have anything to do with *the gospel*)
 - c) Note that these differences don't go away, but being *in Christ* takes precedence over all these differences.

d) Oneness in Christ does not mean *external sameness*. It is when we have **unity** amidst our **diversity**, **then the glory of Christ** is **magnified**.

(1) Which **won't** happen if these **sins** are in **our hearts**. So **put them away** today, and tomorrow, and the next day ...

5. **Long for pure spiritual milk** (1:22) - **crave** (nlt), **drink deep** of God's pure kindness (msg). **Crave spiritual nourishment**.

a) **Like newborn infants isn't** referring to *new believers*. **And** milk is seen here as a **positive not** in the *negative* like in Hebrews.

b) You remember the milk commercials from the 80's, *Milk does a body good*. **Slide5c Crave God's word in the same way**. (on Monday, my grandson **Julian**, 8 months now, just sees the bottle coming his way, **1 hands it** straight to the mouth, w/a firm grip, **&** doesn't let go till it's finished)

c) Just as **a baby** has an **appetite for** the mother's milk, **so the child of God** has an **appetite for** the Father's Word. [Example: baby goat in Haiti, ramming her so hard it lifted mom right off the ground]

(1) **May we be the same way when it comes to His Word**.

B. (3) **If indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good** - Have **you** tasted His goodness/graciousness?

1. When one is sick, he often loses his **taste** (Covid). **And** also spiritually. **Taste and see that the Lord is Good**. Ps.34:8

IV. Slide6a **SPIRITUAL PRIVILEGES (4-12)** **1st spiritual progress**

A. **Let's play a game**. I'll say a word, then you give an *honest and fast response*.

eg. I say a **car** (you might say a car you want, a car you've had, etc.)

1. **Ready? Dodgers. Benjamin. Tiger. Ok, temple, priest, stones** (rolling?).

a) See prior to the NT it would be **very rare** for people to respond to *temple, priest, stones* as God's people, **or** all believers.

2. Peter uses these OT images for **Israel**, **now** applies them to **all believers**.

3. What we find here is the **Identity** of **Jesus** and **His people**.

- a) Our identity *relates to* His identity. And it's both communal (not indiv) and missional (purpose). *So let's look at: who is Jesus? who are we? and what is our purpose?*

B. **Slide6b WHO IS JESUS?** (4-8)

C. **Living stone** - He draws on 2 OT passages to emphasize **Christ's worth** in **God's eyes** despite the world's rejection of Him.

D. **God is building a temple** (**spiritual house**/opp is a *worldly* one) out of **living stones** & we are privileged to be a part of it. We are **built on Jesus Christ**, so there is no way the temple can be destroyed.

E. (6) **Chief cornerstone** - We are not used to *old stone buildings that last*.

1. Of course that 1st stone that is laid is an important stone, in which the whole building rests upon it. *It's when you rest your marriage on Him, your singleness on Him, your work on Him, your ministry on Him, your finances on Him.*
2. So many people are **uncomfortable** with Jesus being their cornerstone **but** are perfectly comfortable with Him being *just another brick in the wall*.
 - a) As Pink Floyd sang, *All in all it's just another brick in the wall. All in all you're just another brick in the wall.*
3. Are you comfortable with **Jesus** being *just another brick* in your wall?
 - a) **He Can't be!** (like Hinduism, he's 1 of 330 mill. gods) **No**, He insists upon being your **Cornerstone**, your **Foundation stone**.

F. (7) **To you who believe He is precious** - *I wonder when someone is trying to figure out if they really have a relationship with Christ or not, if they simply answer this test ... Is He precious to you?* [precious, priceless, valuable]

1. **Story** - After Spurgeon was converted at age 16, he was walking to a village in *Teversham* w/a friend. He told him he'd be praying for him, that God would bless his sermon. *It was then that both boys discovered they each thought the other would be the preacher!* Neither had delivered a

sermon before or felt qualified to do so. But when the time came Spurgeon reluctantly stepped forward & choose this as his first text “*To you who believe He is precious*”. He later said about it, “*Christ was precious to my soul, & I was in the flush of my youthful love, and I could not be silent when a precious Jesus was the subject.*”¹

G. Slide6c WHO ARE WE? (9a)

H. We are *Living stones* (the Church) - We **do not** have to go to **Jerusalem**, not to a **Temple**, not to a **place**. We don't go to church, we **are** the church. (we go to a *building* we **are** the church)

I. Each believer is a **priest** before God. And your *royal priesthood* works itself out maybe as a ... *business owner or a banker, plumber or a secretary, a mom/dad*.

1. **It's a ministry calling**. Some think **Jesus** didn't start His calling till age 30. **No**, He had **the ministry of carpenter** for all those years before age 30.
2. He wasn't **less holy** as a carpenter, & **more holy** as a preacher!
3. See whatever you do you do as **unto the Lord** ethically, & honorably. **It becomes pleasing to God & profitable to people.**

J. Slide6d WHAT IS OUR PURPOSE? (9b-12)

K. We are not permanent residents, **but pilgrims on a journey** to a better land.

1. **We need to think like a backpacker**. There's a rule to live by in **backpacking**: *Ounces make pounds and pounds make pain*. While packing you constantly ask yourself, **do I need this?**
2. **It's our reminder to travel light**. Not burdening ourselves down with an undue attachment to the material things of life.

L. When you are visiting another country as missionaries **you are always being watched**, on both what we **say** & what we **do**. (CBI in Nepal)

¹ Spurgeon at His Best: #2243; pg.358.

1. As *strangers & pilgrims*, whose citizenship is in heaven, **we also** need to be careful of our walk & our works. We must live to glorify God.

M. *So, What is our Purpose? To Proclaim the excellencies* (9b).

1. We love talking about **Excellencies**. Like: *sports, restaurants, Netflix shows, exercise*.
 - a) I was just talking to Pastor Des about getting *Apple AirPods Pro* with noise cancellation (I think I need them). They are awesome.
 - b) *Slide6* Have you found **Michis Tacos** on Main St, L.E.? They have a *Queso Birria Taco* that you dip in *Consome* til it drips down your chin w/greasy goodness.
2. See we love talking about *excellencies*. **So** we'll end with that ... **Proclaim the excellencies of Him** who called you.
 - a) God is looking for someone to talk about his wonders and his excellence. The Psalmist said, *declare his glory among the nations*.

N. *How do we do this? Simply be around non-christians*. Lar, Jeff, & myself got to have lunch with **David and Dottie** that are working in Fr. David said, he has *the ministry of coffee and conversations*. [60+ diff ethnic groups/refugees in his city].

1. *Slide7* We can do the same here. **Proclaim the excellencies of Him!**
2. *We Are Called to Fly and not Just Run!*

O. Keywords: John Bunyan, spiritual progress, love one another, put away, spiritual milk, spiritual privileges, Jesus, precious, cornerstone, holy, priest, purpose, proclaim, excellencies, fly.