

Sermon Outline

November 30

“Why Did Christ Come? – Blessing!”

John 10:7-18

The first and greatest lie

The path to blessing

Life and life in abundance through Him

Points to Ponder to Prepare

December 7

“Why Did Christ Come? – Victory!”

Luke 11:14-28

The story of Gideon is Judges chapters 6 and 7 is a “before and after” picture. When the angel first finds Gideon, he is trying to thresh a little bit of wheat so he can store the kernels away for food. He is doing his threshing hidden down in a winepress, because if he is seen, the Midianites would come and steal all the wheat away. At the end of the story, the vast and innumerable Midianite army has been defeated and God’s people can live free and without fear once again.

It is a terrible thing to be under the thumb of a cruel occupying enemy. It is a glorious thing to be set free and live once again without fear. But freedom only comes through victory. Oppressors can’t be just be talked away. They must be overthrown! This is what happens when God’s Messiah shows up. He brings victory!

One Bible passage we hear a lot this time of year is the poetry and prophecy of Isaiah 9:6-7, “For to us a child is born...” But back up in that passage to how chapter 9 starts, especially in verse 4 where Isaiah reminds us of the story of Gideon,

“For as in the day of Midian’s defeat,
you have shattered
the yoke that burdens them,
the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor.”

This is a picture of who Jesus is and what he came to do. He came to overthrow the powers and darkness and set us free in liberty by winning a mighty conquest.

With this imagery in mind, consider the following Bible verses and passages.

- ✠ John 6:35-40
- ✠ Colossians 1:13
- ✠ I John 3:8

Scripture readings for the week

Sunday November 30	I Peter 3:8 – 4:6
Monday December 1	I Peter 4:7 – 5:14
Tuesday December 2	II Peter 1:1-21
Wed December 3	II Peter 1:1-22
Thursday December 4	II Peter 3:1-18
Friday December 5	I John 1:1-10
Saturday December 6	I John 2:1-17
Sunday December 7	I John 2:18 – 3:6

Prayer Focus

Our prayer focus this week is prayers for the lonely. Ask God to help us see those around us who could use a friend and would be blessed by coming into fellowship and community.

As they come to mind and you pray for them, offer yourself to God as part of the answer to this prayer.

One great gift that Vogel Center CRC has to offer our neighbors this Christmas is the gift of warm fellowship.