

Joy for the Week: Titus 2:11-14 11 “For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.”

Opening Hymn: UMH 554 All Praise to Our Redeeming Lord
Hymn of Prep: UMH 66 - Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven
Closing Hymn: UMH #347 Spirit Song

Call to Worship

Leader: Here we are, the young and old,

People: The believing and doubting,

Leader: The weak and strong.

People: Here God is, almighty and merciful.

Leader: God is here! Gracious and just,

People: Trustworthy and true.

Leader: Since we are here, and God is here, let us worship God.

Opening Prayer

Precious LORD, You have drawn us and healed us. We have come for rest and renewal, forgiveness and peace. Thank You for restoring us to wholeness. We wonder what will God accomplish among us? We are here to offer our praise, our hearts, and our hands. What will You accomplish among us? Please, oh LORD, help us to be confident of God’s work in us and through us at all times and in all places. In Jesus’ name we pray, AMEN.

1 Corinthians 1:1-9 (NIV)

1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be his holy people, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours:
3 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
4 I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. 5 For in him you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. 8 He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

James 1:1-9 (NIV)

James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes scattered among the nations:

Greetings.

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. 6 But when you ask, you must believe and not doubt, because the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, blown and tossed by the wind. 7 That person should not expect to receive anything from the Lord. 8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do. 9 Believers in humble circumstances ought to take pride in their high position. 10 But the rich should take pride in their humiliation—since they will pass away like a wild flower.

Non-Lethal Utilities that Batman has had in his utility belt.

Med Kit
Flexible Periscope
Ear Plugs
Epinephrine
Bat-Bolas
Saw
Finger Print Dusting Kit
Infrared/Regular Flash Light
Electromagnet
Freeze Grenades
EMP Gun
Gas Pellets
Cryptographer Sequencer
Rocket Boots
Cloaking Device
Audio Frequency Jammer
Line Launcher
Ear Microphone
Tranquilizers
Cell Phone Sonar Device
Kryptonite Ring
Bat-Tracer
Glider Wings
Rebreather
Batmobile Remote Control
Bat-Nets
Taser
Built-In Lie Detector
Cuffs
Shark Repellent
Smoke Pellets
Ultrasonic Bat Beacon
X-Ray Glasses
Memory Cloth Cape
Bat Computer
Grappling Gun
The Batarang

Sermon Title: “Your Christian Utility Belt”

SLIDE 1 Utility Belt...

How often did Batman have the right thing?

How often do we wish we had the right thing with us at the right moment?

SLIDE 2 “What about a Spiritual Gift Utility Belt?”

Support: Alms, Empathy/Compassion, Being able to find an unmet need it & fill it, Prayer,

Know where to find the right help and organize others to continue in that good work

SLIDE 3

Equip Others: Teach, Lead, Being ready to Share the Gospel, Have & Engender Trust in God - Faith,

Power & Knowledge: Discernment, Wisdom, Miracles

SLIDE 4

God provides our super abilities as Christians - love when others don't, truth when others lie, hope when others are hopeless, strength when we are weak, grace to give others when they hurt us, forgiveness when we hurt others.

SLIDE 5 1 Corinthians 1:5-7 (NIV)

5 For in [Christ Jesus] you have been enriched in every way—with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge— 6 God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. 7 Therefore you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed.

What Paul writes to the church in Corinth is just as true for us as it was for them: we are not lacking in any spiritual gift as we wait for the revealing of Jesus. We lack nothing.

And it gets better; if we just think for a moment about the gifts we have received from God, the gifts of faith and the means of grace, the possibility of reconciliation and the transforming power of love, it doesn't take long for us to realize that we among all people are truly rich.

So what we're waiting for isn't a gift of something we lack. We've received our gifts already—our best gifts. What we're waiting for is the moment at which we will offer to the giver of those gifts an account of what use we made of those gifts—the moment when, like apple trees, we will be able to show what fruit we have managed to bear with the gifts entrusted to us.

Slide 6 James 1:1-9 (NIV)

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. 4 Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. 5 If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.

James is reminding all of us who claim it's too hard – AND those of us who say we don't have the tools...

Slide 7 – Take time to find out what's in Your Christian Utility Belt!

Slide 8 - Your Christian Utility Belt - Don't leave home without it.