

## Why We Do What We Do

### **Why Paul Did What He Did:**

Romans 15:7-21

### **Living A Life That Matters:**

1 Corinthians 9:19-23 1 Peter 2:9-12 2 Peter 3:8-9 Philippians 2:14-16

- ✓ Our life is lived for **others**, just as much as it is for **God**.
  
- ✓ We are called to share our **experience**, not **win an argument**.

### **Three Questions Every Christian Should Answer:**

- (1) Where do I stand **with God**?
  
- (2) Who has God put into my life that **needs Jesus**?
  
- (3) What am I doing to get them **to him**?

## Food for Thought for the week of August 6, 2017

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. Chris encouraged us to live a life that matters by sharing with others what God has done in our lives. How does each of the following passages help shape the way you see and influence those who have not made a decision to follow him yet?

**Luke 15:1-7** *New International Version (NIV)*

### *The Parable of the Lost Sheep*

<sup>1</sup> Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. <sup>2</sup> But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

<sup>3</sup> Then Jesus told them this parable: <sup>4</sup> “Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and go after the lost sheep until he finds it? <sup>5</sup> And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders <sup>6</sup> and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, ‘Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.’ <sup>7</sup> I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

**Romans 10:14-15** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>14</sup> How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? <sup>15</sup> And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”

**Matthew 5:13-16** *New International Version (NIV)*

### *Salt and Light*

<sup>13</sup> “You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.

<sup>14</sup> “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. <sup>15</sup> Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. <sup>16</sup> In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

2. Living in such a way that our lives are different from those around us can be powerfully influential. In 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13 the Apostle Paul gives us a great picture of what spiritually influential can look like. Read the passage and answer the following questions.

**1 Thessalonians 2:1-13** *New International Version (NIV)*

### *Paul’s Ministry in Thessalonica*

<sup>1</sup> You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results. <sup>2</sup> We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. <sup>3</sup> For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. <sup>4</sup> On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. <sup>5</sup> You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. <sup>6</sup> We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. <sup>7</sup> Instead, we were like young children among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, <sup>8</sup> so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. <sup>9</sup> Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a

burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. <sup>10</sup> You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. <sup>11</sup> For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children, <sup>12</sup> encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

<sup>13</sup> And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.

What do you think Paul meant by sharing the Gospel?

What do you think he meant by sharing his life?

Why does it work best to share the Gospel and your life?

List a few of the character qualities that Paul modeled as a spiritually influential person.

**3.** When asked about our faith we all want to be able to get our point across and speak in such a way that our words have an impact. What advice do the following verses give to accomplish this?

**2 Timothy 2:23-25** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>23</sup> Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. <sup>24</sup> And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. <sup>25</sup> Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth,

**Titus 3:1-2** *New International Version (NIV)*

*Saved in Order to Do Good*

<sup>1</sup> Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good, <sup>2</sup> to slander no one, to be peaceable and considerate, and always to be gentle toward everyone.

**James 3:17** *New International Version (NIV)*

<sup>17</sup> But the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere.

**4.** Take some time to think about and then write down your answers to the three questions Chris asked in his sermon.