

Why do you do the things that you do?

Not the general stuff of life like shopping, caring for your family, and going to work. I'm talking about things that are unique to you. **What are those things and WHY do you do them?**

In today's text Paul identifies some of the "**Kingdom**" things he does, or wants to do, and the "**WHY**" behind doing them.

THE PATHWAY TO GOD – VS8

What is the PATHWAY to God? More importantly, **WHO** is the PATHWAY to God? Paul identifies Jesus, The Christ as the portal to God. This is NO SMALL truth.

Non-Christians need to understand this because they are seeking a way to connect with God and there are myriads of pathways claiming that access, but in reality are only **dead ends**. See John 14:6

Christians need to understand this because it is the righteousness of Christ alone that gives them direct access to God. See Ephesians 2:18

TRUTH POINT #1: Whether it is access to God for justification, _____ or sanctification, _____, Jesus Christ is the _____ **pathway** to Him.

DISCIPLESHIP: Mutual Spiritual Development & Encouragement. VS10-13

Paul has been thanking God for the saving and transforming grace poured out on sinners in Rome, but he is also asking God to allow him to go to Rome to meet these dynamic Christ-followers.

However, the BIGGER WHY for going to Rome is that he might invest spiritually in their growth, and in turn be encouraged in his own spiritual growth.

Dr. Kent Hughes writes: *...very few things will strengthen an older believer's faith more than the vibrant faith of a new believer. On the flipside, there is little that will benefit a new believer more than exposure to the mature faith of a more experienced brother or sister in Christ.*

TRUTH POINT #2: The Spiritual growth and satisfaction of a mature believer is tied to their _____ in less mature believers. Mature believers become _____, _____, and _____ when they choose not to invest in discipling others.

OBLIGATION: Gospel Debt – VS14-15

Paul had a deep seeded understanding that he had a life-time **Gospel Debt** to pay. He reminds us that there are **two debts** Christians have by virtue of who they are and where they reside.

TRUTH POINT #3: As Citizens of God's Kingdom, on earth in the midst of Satan's kingdom, we are **IN DEBT** to _____ others (Romans 13:8) and to _____ **The Gospel** with the spiritually lost. (Romans 1:14)

Paul speaks of the Greeks and Barbarians. It is a different way to say that NO ONE was OUTSIDE of his Gospel Debt.

TRUTH POINT #4: Paul's debt was actually to _____, but the payment of that debt was to _____.

Like Paul, there is NO WAY we can repay God for the Gospel Grace He poured out to save us from eternal condemnation. But we can demonstrate our understanding of the incalculable Grace Gift we've been given, by sharing with the lost the matchless love and tender mercy that is to be found in Christ.

Paul's point, one that should resonate with every Christ-follower, is this... *having freely received Grace we do not deserve, how can we not honor the One who saved us by telling others of His Good News?*

Believer: do you sense any OBLIGATION (debt) to the people in your sphere of influence, to be a portal through which The Gospel can reach them?

Are you equipped to meet that obligation?


Would you let us help you be equipped?

LIFE TRANSFORMATION: Confidence in the Power of The Gospel – VS 16-17

We have discovered Paul's BIG WHY for Ministry is founded in his desire to DISCIPLE others, encouraging his own spiritual growth as well. Also, in his deeply held belief that the grace God lavished upon him produced an OBLIGATION to proclaim The Gospel to others that they might receive that same grace.

Finally, we find Paul's BIG WHY influenced by a rock-solid CONFIDENCE in the power of the Gospel to change lives. **Romans 1:16-17**

16 For I am not **ashamed** of the gospel, for it is the **power** of God for **salvation** to everyone who **believes**, to the **Jew** first and also to the **Greek**. **17** For in it the **righteousness** of God is revealed from **faith** for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Ashamed: It is easy to boldly embrace The Gospel in this room each Sunday Morning. It is an altogether different thing out in "the world" The temptation is to water down the message to make it more palatable for the lost. Like Paul, we must resist that feeling because... 

Power – Salvation - Believes: ...it is the reality of the work of the **cross** and **resurrection** of **Jesus** that provides the power to be saved from sin's curse for those who believe. The only way a sinner can believe is if they hear the message of The Gospel of Christ Jesus. **Romans 10:10**

Jew – Greek: The Gospel is for everyone! Jews who have the Law, and Gentiles who do not. People whose visible life seems righteous, and those that are obviously not. No one is inherently excluded. **See Mark 16:15**

Righteousness – Faith: Some believe that righteousness comes in keeping the 10 Commandments. That is NOT true! Fact is, the Law was NOT given to kept, but to serve as a Divine mirror revealing how sinful we really are. **See Romans 3:20**

True righteousness comes through embracing the reality of Jesus crucified and risen from the dead as the full atonement for sin. That reality must be embraced by **FAITH**. **See Ephesians 2:8-9**

TRUTH POINT #5: The Apostle Paul was driven to _____ others, because of a deep seeded since of gospel _____, fueled by an unwavering _____ in the power of The Gospel to transform lives.

WRAP UP

This morning I urge my un-believing friends to turn from self & sin to embrace Christ Jesus, by faith, as your Savior and Lord.

Can we talk about that?

I ask my believing friends:

- Who are you pouring your life into?
- Do you sense the Gospel Debt that is upon you?
- Is your confidence in the power of the gospel strong and vibrant?
- Do you need to be equipped to effectively share the gospel and help others grow in their faith?
- Will you step up and receive that equipping?