

D3 – Ministry: Paul's Example (1 Thessalonians 1-2)

Wellspring Purpose and Disciplines:

Background:

- Acts 17:1-8

Five Ministry Truths to help us understand Discipline 3

How would the Lord have us minister to the people He has placed in our lives?

1. Ministry's Message (1Thes 1:5)

- a. Ministry's message must include _____.

Gospel Passage	Gospel Audience	Gospel Accomplishment
<p>Romans 1:15-17</p> <p>So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel to you who are in Rome. 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. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."</p>	Believers in Rome	Power of God for salvation. Reveals righteousness to us increasingly as our faith grows and matures. It is the righteousness of God that informs and fuels our faith.
<p>Romans 16:25</p> <p>Now to Him who is able to establish you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ</p>	Believers in Rome	Establishes believers
<p>1 Corinthians 1:18</p> <p>For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.</p>	Believers	Power of God to those who believe
<p>1 Corinthians 15:1-2a</p> <p>Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved</p>	Believers	Cross-centered preaching It was received by those that came to Christ. The gospel was the thing in which they stood (lived as Christians). It is that which believers are being saved.
<p>1 Corinthians 15:3-4</p> <p>For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,</p>	Believers	It is of primary importance to remember that Christ died for our sins, fulfilling the scriptures. He was buried and rose from the dead, the acceptable propitiation for all of our sins.
<p>Colossians 1:23</p> <p>If indeed you continue in the faith firmly established and steadfast, and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard, which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.</p>	Believers	The hope of the gospel firmly establishes us, provides steadfast faith and hearts unwavering from the hope of the truth of the gospel.

"The New Testament teaches that Christians ought to hear the gospel as much as non-Christians do. In fact, in the first chapter of Romans the Apostle Paul tells the believers in the church that he was anxious "to preach the gospel to you who are at Rome."¹ Of course he was anxious to preach the gospel to the non-Christians at Rome, yet he specifically states that he was eager to preach it to the believers as well.

To the Corinthian Christians who had already believed and been saved by the gospel, Paul says, "I make known to you the gospel, which you have believed. . ."² He then restates the historical facts of the gospel before showing them how those gospel facts apply to their beliefs about the afterlife. This is actually Paul's approach to various other issues throughout the book of 1 Corinthians.

In most of Paul's letters to churches, sizable portions of them are given over to rehearsing gospel truths. For example, Ephesians 1-3 is all gospel, Colossians 1-2 is gospel, and Romans 1-11 is gospel.

The remainder of such books shows specifically how to bring those gospel truths to bear on life. Re-preaching the gospel and then showing how it applied to life was Paul's choice method for ministering to believers thereby providing a divinely inspired pattern for me to follow when ministering to myself and to other believers."

¹ Romans 1:15

² 1 Corinthians 15:1-4

(Milton Vincent, A Gospel Primer for Christians, p13)

b. The gospel has a broad scope:

- It must be preached to _____ with the hope that they will believe.
- The gospel must be preached to those who are _____.

2. Ministry requires an _____. (1 Thes 1:5)

- a. The messenger also has the _____ working in him.
- b. The Holy Spirit _____ as he speaks and lives according to God's word.
- c. Full conviction characterizes _____ of the messenger.

Paul's Gospel Transformed Life of Ministry
1 Thessalonians Chapter 2

Fruit of the Spirit in Ministry	Flesh restrained in Ministry
Although he had previously suffered and been mistreated, boldly spoke the gospel amid much opposition (2:2)	No error in teaching, no impurity (thoughts, motives, words, deeds), no deceit attached to his exhortation (2:3)
Spoke so as to please God who examines the heart (2:4)	Does not speak to please men (2:4)
Proved to be as gentle as a nursing mother cares for her own children (2:7)	Did not come with flattering speech Did not come with a pretext for greed (2:5)
Fondly affectionate toward others, willing to impart own life to those he is ministering to (2:8)	Did not seek glory from any man— Withheld asserting his authority (2:6)
Labored. Endured hardships. Worked day and night to meet their own needs in order to proclaim the gospel (2:9)	Did not burden those they were ministering to as they proclaimed the gospel to them. (2:9)
Behaved devoutly, uprightly, blamelessly (2:10)	
Exhorted, encouraged, and implored, individually, just as a father does his own children (2:11)	
Focused on the goal that the people he ministered to would walk in a manner worthy of the God who calls them into His own kingdom and glory (2:12)	
Eager to be with them again (2:17)	
Strengthens and encourages in discipleship Warns, prays for, instructs in doctrine, comforts (Chapters 3-5)	

- 2 Corinthians 6:3-10 -
- 2 Timothy 3:11-12 -

