

Mercy with a Purpose

1. Jesus came into this world to save sinners.
 - A. Sin is the **problem**.
 - B. Jesus is the **solution**.
 - C. Repentance and faith in Jesus for forgiveness is your **decision**.
 2. We who know the Lord Jesus as Savior **tell others** about Him.
 - A. The gospel is a sacred trust.
 - “With which I have been entrusted” (1:11). God saved Paul and entrusted him with the awesome responsibility of proclaiming the gospel to others.
 - The solemn truth is that God does not save us so that we might live happily for ourselves and go to heaven.
 - B. God has saved us and left us on this earth to **proclaim** His message of reconciliation to others (2 Cor. 5:18-21).
 - C. God uses found (saved) sinners to take the message to lost sinners.
 3. We who tell others about the Lord Jesus find that some people will to believe in Him, while other people will not to believe in Him.
 - A. Some don't believe in the Lord Jesus because they do not know or do not understand the gospel, who Jesus is and what Jesus has done. These people just **don't know** yet.
 - B. Some don't believe in the Lord Jesus because they don't want to. These people are defiant and **don't want** to know yet.
 - Even though they do understand the gospel and what the Bible says about who Jesus is and what He has done, they still won't believe in Him because they don't want to.
 4. All who come to know the Lord Jesus as Savior live the rest of their lives responding to God's grace.
 - A. They live lives of gratitude and thanksgiving to the Lord. (vs 12)
 - B. They live lives of faithful service for the Lord. (vs 12)
 - C. They live lives of praise to the Lord. (vs. 17)
- Even if they were to understand the gospel and what the Bible says about who Jesus is and what He has done, they still wouldn't believe in Him because they don't want to.
- C. By “belief” God means the kind of belief that shapes behavior, not mere intellectual assent. The Bible means “saving faith”, the kind of faith that saves, the kind James speaks about in his letter, the Book of James.
- Those who won't follow Jesus will not to believe in Jesus for a handful of reasons:
- refuse to bow to His Lordship, to His moral **authority** over them (path, sidewalk)
 - refuse to root themselves in His Word such that they live out His values and priorities in everyday life and relationships (rocky soil)
 - choose the **distractions** of this world over devotion to Him (thorny soil)
- D. Prior to his conversion, Paul did not know who Jesus was and did not understand what Jesus had done.
- Paul's unbelief was the product of **ignorance**, not willful defiance.
 - Paul thought that he was violently and aggressively persecuting the church because of his devotion to God, but later realized that his devotion was not at all to God, but to Pharisaic Judaism.
 - Paul was saved to demonstrate God's **plan to save** sinners.
 - God's grace and mercy proved **greater than** Paul's sin.

Message

We are saved to say so and to serve so.

So What? Now What? Action Points:

Have you responded to Jesus with repentance and faith yet?

Start an evangelism prayer list.

Represent Jesus accurately and leave the results up to Him.

Thank Him constantly, serve Him faithfully and praise Him daily.

Any others? _____