

Setting Direction.

Vision & Mission studies

ARPC Mission Reach

Key verse: 1 Cor. 9:22b,23.

I have become all things to all men so that by all possible means I might save some. 23I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.



Big Idea: The joy of our freedom in Christ drives us into willing and voluntary gospel service with the set purpose of seeing more people saved.

Kick Off

Share your conversion story. How were you saved?

Who invested of their time and energy into your spiritual growth?

What is your view on street evangelism and door knocking? Positive, negative, useful, useless.

STUDY

Read 1 Cor. 9:19-27

*The forth aspect of our Mission statement as a church is, **We want to Reach others with Christ.** I don't think any Christian would disagree with this as a need and a desire. Where we struggle is with the "how to"!... In this study we look at how Paul did outreach.*

1. What do we learn from v 19 about Paul's status as a believer? Is this true for you?
2. Paul's burden to win as many people as possible for Christ is one motivation which drives him into voluntary service for others v19... but what other motivations does he mention in v23 and what do you think he means by them?
3. Consider the groups Paul mentions in vv20-22. What does Paul mean by saying he strove to become *like* these non Christians? And how do you think he went about becoming: like a Jew... like a person under the Law... like a lawless person... weak... all things to all people...

How much effort would this understanding of others have taken on Paul's part?

4. If we want to follow Paul's model of evangelism what do we have to work hard at first before getting to the place of sharing the gospel?

5. Write a list of all the different places in your life where you have contact with non Christians.

How intentional have you been in striving to become **like** them in order to bring them the gospel?

How dangerous would it be to be striving to become **like** unbelievers without having their need to know the gospel as our primary end goal in mind?

6. Paul uses an athlete illustration to help us stay on track regarding our purpose in life. We are to be reaching others with Christ. In thinking about outreach how would you describe the life style of a disqualified Christian v26?

THINK AND APPLY

We've seen in this study it is the unchanging gospel that we are to be working hard to package in ever changing ways to reach the lost in their situation. We are living purposeful Christian lives when we have a clear grasp of the gospel message and are intentionally befriending non Christians in order to share this message with them. This means two things.

a. Are you prepared adequately to share simply and clearly the gospel message with a non Christian? If not what can you do to stop yourself running aimlessly and beating the air?

b. Think of some ways you could actually get to know some of your non Christian contacts better, pray about it and commit to challenging each other to start doing it.

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



For next week
Read
1 John 1:1-4