



# LIVING IT OUT

## THE MINISTER OF CHRIST'S CHURCH PART 2

LIVING IT OUT THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: IF PEOPLE CANNOT “SEE JESUS” IN AND THROUGH OUR LIVES, PEOPLE WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND AND KNOW JESUS CHRIST IN THE WAY GOD INTENDED.

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### HEAD QUESTIONS:

- **Having the Right Focus.** If we are to accomplish our mission in helping people see and know Jesus Christ, **we must have the right focus.** Discuss the following verse: **(v.28a)** “Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom.”
- What does Paul mean by the word “we?” Who is involved in proclaiming Christ?
- How did a singular focus to proclaim Christ impact the early church? (Mission, direction, resources) What is the scope of this verse? (Who, what, why and how)
- Discuss the following verse: **(v.29)** “For this I toil, struggling with all His energy.”
  - The word **“toil”** is to labor...to labor to the point of being tired and weary.
  - The word **“struggle”** gives the idea of exerting much effort or energy in something to the point of exhaustion.
- How do you see this lived out in the life of Paul and the early church?

### HEART QUESTIONS:

- **(v.28a)** “Him we proclaim.” Do you spend energy laboring to proclaim Christ?
  - What does this look like in your life?
- **(v.28b)** “Warning everyone.” Do you spend energy warning people about Christ?
  - Do you struggle with a man-fearing spirit in your attempt to warn people about Jesus Christ and the gospel of God?
  - Do you struggle with a man-pleasing spirit. (Sharing just the easy things about following Christ instead of the difficult things in following Christ?
  - How do the following verses encourage you in your proclamation of Christ? **(Matthew 28:18-20)(2 Tim. 3:16-17)**
- **(v.28c)** “Teaching everyone with all wisdom.” Do you spend energy teaching others about Christ? Why is this important?
- **(v.28d)** “That we may present everyone mature in Christ.” What does it look like to be mature in Christ? How are you helping others become mature in Christ?
- How do these things help you and our church accomplish God’s purpose and mission?
- How do you know if a church or you as an individual have the right focus?

**HEAD QUESTIONS:**

- **Reaching the Right Outcome.** Read and discuss the following verse: **(v.28b)** “That we may present everyone mature in Christ.” The word **“present”** gives the idea of presenting something or someone to a superior. Who is the superior we are presenting people mature in Christ to?
- Read and discuss the following passage: **(1 Cor. 4:1-2)** “This is how one should regard us, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”
  - How should we regard ourselves?
  - What are we stewards of?
  - What is required of stewards?

**HEART QUESTIONS:**

- How do you know if you have reached the right outcome?
- How do you know if you have been found faithful presenting believers mature in Christ?
- What are the characteristics of a mature believer? Do you have the characteristic of a mature believer?
- Are you engaged in the labor of proclaiming, warning and teaching others about Jesus Christ?
- How is your focus? Are you focused on these things?

**HEAD QUESTIONS:**

- **We Must Expend the Right Energy.** Read and discuss the following verse: (v.29) “For this I toil, **struggling with all His energy that He powerfully works within me.**”
- How should believers toil and struggle?
- Where does energy come from in our toil and struggle? **(Act 1:8)** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea.”
- **(1 Cor. 2:2-5)** “For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified. And I was with you in **weakness** and in **fear** and much **trembling**, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, **but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**”
- Why do we toil and struggle? Read the following verses to identify why we should toil and struggle? **(v.2a)** “That their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God’s mystery, which is Christ, **in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.**”

**HEART QUESTIONS:**

- Do you find yourself using your strength more often than Christ's strength? Why?
- How can we leverage our weakness, fear and trembling to proclaim Christ?
- Do you find yourself spending energy in wrong places and the wrong things?
- The word "reach" in **(v.2)** means to extend into an area. Are you helping others reach the "area" or "place" of fully understanding and knowing Christ?
- Read and discuss the following verse: **(v.5)** "For though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit, **rejoicing to see your good order and the firmness of your faith.**"
- Do you rejoice in your toil and struggle? Why or why not?
- Take time to rejoice and encourage others around your table from what you have learned today.
- Pray for one another to receive a fresh anointing of power to labor with Christ so that everyone might know Him and grow in maturity with Him.

**HAND QUESTIONS:**

Action Steps: List three things I can begin today that will help me to live this out.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

What does God want me to know?

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