

▼ **The Gospel Takes Root - Part 3**

Rocklyn Clarke Sr. - Sunday October 22, 2017

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- **Read the Passage: 1Thessalonians 1:1-10**

▼ **What happened?**

- ▼ Paul, Silas, and Timothy thank God for the Thessalonians and pray for them.

- They remember their work (faith), labor (love), endurance (hope).

- ▼ They know God loves them and has chosen them.

- ▶ The way the gospel went out to them

- ▶ The impact the gospel had on them

- ▶ They turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God and wait for his Son.

▼ **Why did it happen?**

- ▶ Paul and his team shared good news (i.e. the gospel) NOT good advice.

▼ **The Gospel**

- ▼ The Kingdom of God is here! - Mark 1:14-15

- Repent - change your mind, turn

- ▶ Believe

- How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news. - Isaiah 52:1-15

- For Romans, “good news” was the announcement of a new emperor or of the emperor’s birthday. It was the good news of Caesar’s having established peace and security for the world.

- ▶ **How do you prepare to share the gospel effectively? - Acts 16:6 - 17:15**

▼ **Prepare yourself to share the gospel effectively! - Acts 16:6 - 17:15**

- Let God set the agenda; He makes the “waves”. - Acts 16:6-10

- Look for an opening. - Acts 16:11-15

▼ **How Do You Share It?**

- Know the good news.

- Know the back story.

- ▶ Understand the implications for your audience.

▼ **Discussion / Reflection Questions:**

- Choose a partner - preferably someone you can meet with this coming week.
- Pair up and pray for God to reveal to each of you whom he's calling you to reach. Try to be as specific as possible.
- Take a chance and share with your partner what you think God said to you. Don't hide your mind (Luke 19:11-27)!
- Pray with your partner for your respective target audiences. Ask God to refine your understanding of your targets if necessary.
- Review with your partner the homework assignment for this coming week.
- Get together with another pair of partners and practice asking questions and taking notes.
- Make plans to meet this week and carry out the homework assignment.

▼ **Homework for this week:**

- Set aside some 3x5 index cards and a notebook (purchase them if necessary).
- Contact your partner and make plans to meet and interview 3 - 7 people who do not currently attend church.

▼ Here are the questions:

- What do you think is the greatest need in this area?
This question simply got people talking to me.
- Are you actively attending any church?
If they said yes, I thanked them and moved on to the next home. I didn't bother asking the other three questions because I didn't want to color the survey with believers' opinions. Notice that I didn't ask, "Are you a member?" Many people who haven't been inside a church for twenty years still claim membership in some church.
- Why do you think most people don't attend church?
This seemed to be a less threatening and offensive wording than "Why don't you attend church?" Today many people would answer that question with "It's none of your business why I don't go!" But when asked why they thought other people didn't attend, they usually gave me their personal reasons anyway.
- What questions do you have about God, Jesus, church, spiritual things, etc. that you would want someone to answer for you?
- What could a church do to be helpful to you?
This is the most basic question the church must ask its community. Study the gospels and notice how many times Jesus asked someone, "What do you want me to do for you?" He began with people's needs.
- Go for it!