

BECOMING A CONTAGIOUS CHRISTIAN - 2

Contagious Christianity

"And now the Word of the Lord has spread out from you to others everywhere...for wherever we go we find people telling us about your remarkable faith in God."
- 1 Thessalonians 1:8

"People need a demonstration as well as an explanation of the gospel. The only way some people will see Jesus is by first seeing Him in your own life."

Looking for a doctor? Buying a new car? Selecting a college? Where do you go for advice? Do you look in the paper? Watch TV? Or "let your fingers do the walking?" If you are like most people, you ask a family member, associate, or friend. Advertisers call this "word-of-mouth." It is the most effective way of advertising any organization--even a church! The Thessalonian church had become the talk of the street, known as a "turned-around" people. As a result, they became examples of what the gospel can do in someone's life.

Welcome

What is the best news you've heard this week? The worst?

Worship

You have been called out of darkness for the express purpose of becoming a worshipper of God (1 Peter 2:9-10). As you begin, pray, "Lord, we pray that in your search for worshippers, you will not be disappointed in what you find in our group. Instead, let there be hearty, honest, and bountiful praise that delights your heart."

Word

Read 1 Thessalonians 1:5-10

1. What characteristics of this church made it such a joy to Paul's heart, and a church worth emulating?
2. Share a time recently when the word of God really impacted your life--coming with power and deep conviction. What made you so receptive to its message?
3. Have you ever stopped to consider your "life message?" In a nutshell, what is it? Are you most known by the outsiders around you for the "good" you do, or the "bad" you don't do? If you can, share some specific details.
4. When you think about the difference that Jesus is making in your life, which of the following areas offer you more to share with others: forgiveness of the past, purpose for the present, hope for the future? Explain.
5. In light of what we've read and discussed in this passage, how do you think the Lord wants to use this in your life?

Works

People need a demonstration as well as an explanation of the gospel. The only way some people will see Jesus is by first seeing Him in your own life. Wow! What "good" can you be in the lives of the outsiders around you? Watch for ways you can serve them this week.