

Who Might Be Listening?

-Ryan Parsons-

I was reading the book of Titus this week and was struck by something that I had not seen before. It sent me on a journey of memories, which I believe, proves Paul's point.

An old friend named Ralph was a Bible class teacher of mine at church camp just months after my baptism. His teaching was powerful, and the friendship he offered was encouraging. In that same year, he published a small booklet named "Sarah May Be Listening" which became an inspiration for the very first sermon I ever preached. More than that, Ralph was the first person who ever took me to the mission field. After I became a full time minister, he would offer advice, ask challenging questions, and share his experience. Years later, I would go on to follow his example and lead teams of missionaries, taking several people on their very first mission trip.

Much more could be said about Ralph and his influence over me. While I haven't seen him in many years, his positive influence still blesses my life. Why? Because he took Paul's words seriously. Ralph was a preacher and did a great deal of proclaiming what God's word said. However, he believed his job wasn't just about knowing, speaking, and pontificating about the Bible. It was about knowing and living it.

Titus 3:8

The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.

I would encourage you all to spend a little time this week reading through Titus. Notice and underline how frequently Paul told Titus to exhort the Christians there to not only profess that they knew God's will and way, but to LIVE IT!

Titus 1:16

They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.

Choosing to live opposite of the Gospel, of which Christ followers have become benefactors, is very harmful to the world around us because it causes the word of God to be reviled (Titus 2:5b). However, dedicating our entire existence to Him who saved us manifests itself in: reverence, teaching, training, love, work, kindness, submission, good works, integrity, dignity, godliness, self control, purity, obedience and courtesy to all.

Who might be listening to your life?