



I'm supposed to "testify" to Jesus, but what does that mean?

This question came up in our Tuesday Bible Study after we read in the book of Acts that the apostle Paul said,

...if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me--the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace. Acts 20:24

And we read what Paul tells his friend Timothy (and us) in 2 Timothy 1:8

So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord, 2 Tim. 1:8

Those passages remind us that one of our purposes in life - the most important purpose after we come to faith in Jesus - is to "testify." The above passages tell us what we are to "testify about: Jesus and the Good News (Gospel) that God offers eternal life as a gift (grace) to everyone who trusts in Jesus.

So, since testifying isn't optional for a Christian, we need to know what it means to "testify" about Jesus and the Gospel.

What *does* it mean to "testify"? "Testify" is a "courtroom term." In court, when people are called to "testify" what are they called upon to tell? Only what they have seen or heard and what they know to be true. It's the same for us. We are called on to tell people what we have seen Jesus do in our lives and what we have heard and know to be true about him. We are not called on to tell about stuff we really don't know about. You may not know anything about, for example, how the book of Habakkuk points to the coming Messiah. But you *do* know other things about Jesus. You *have* seen His work in your life. You *can* testify to what you already do know and have seen.

This reminder from the apostle Peter is helpful when it comes to testifying:

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect, 1 Peter 3:15

You never know when God may bring you the opportunity to tell someone what you know about Jesus or have seen Him do for you. So, you should always be prepared to give your testimony. **Take a moment now to write down the things you know about Jesus and what you have seen Him do in your life.** (This may take more than a moment, but that's ok). The simple exercise of writing down what you know and have seen will help you be prepared to testify.

This is what I know about what Jesus -

Who Jesus is:

What Jesus has done:

What Jesus has said and promised:

This is what I have seen Jesus do in my life:

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net