



The reason Paul is a servant and an apostle, the goal of his living under the mastery of God, is for the **faith** of God's elect and for their knowledge of the truth that leads to **godliness**.

The first purpose – the first goal – is to bring the elect to the point of **saving** faith.

The elect are not redeemed (saved) until hearing God's truth **activates** their faith.

*2 Timothy 2:10*

By referring to Christians as "God's elect," Paul uses a descriptive term that draws attention to **God's** activity in our salvation.

*Romans 8:33 Colossians 3:12 John 15:16*

*Acts 13:46-48 Rom. 9:13-16 Eph. 1:3-4*

*2 Thess. 2:13 Ephesians 2:8-9*

The knowledge of the gospel elicits **faith** in the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of those chosen by God. That's the goal of any **Christian** and that's the first part of the goal in God's blueprint for His **church**.

Sanctification is the part of salvation that we **live** in, that we are partners with God in, that we grow in to be like Jesus. The knowledge that leads to salvation leads to the knowledge that produces **godliness**.

Everything else that we do as His church either has this "knowledge of truth that leads to godliness" as its **goal** or is the **result** of it.

*Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:10*

There is more to the Christian life than knowledge, but there is no **growth** in the Christian life without it.

If there is no spiritual growth – no practical application – in us, then there is no spiritual **life** in us.

There is an intimate connection between **truth** and godliness.

You can tell the truth or its absence by what it **produces**.

## Application

### Through "us"

If we are going to be the local church here at Fairway that God wants us to be, we must hold up and hold out **Jesus** and His Word in **everything**.

### Through you

We are the church. So the goal of the church is the goal of **our lives**.

*1 Corinthians 2:1-7*

Is that one of the primary ways in which you view **your** life? That you might bring Jesus Christ and then the truth of God that brings godliness into **your** world?

### In you

*Ephesians 2:8-9*

Do you understand and believe that the **only** way for anyone to be right with the holy God, to be forgiven, to be given life now and in heaven forever is by placing all your hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and then living based on that **faith**?

*2 Peter 1:3*

Is your life **progressing** in godliness? Are you becoming more and more in line with what you know of His Word?

If the Holy Spirit is truly in us, Sunday morning will never be **enough**. We will **pursue** the knowledge of God's truth that makes us more like Jesus every way we can.