



The first steps of worshipping Jesus, learning truth, and building community only make sense and continue to be the realities of our lives when they are connected to the **mission** of Jesus, when we live missionally.

Matthew 28:19

The last command from Jesus is that **as we go** about our lives, we are to be disciple makers.

Matthew 9:37

Most believers **never** cross that line into becoming what Jesus commanded.

What are the names, the faces, the lives of the people that are growing in Christ, maturing in Christ, coming to Christ by the Holy Spirit's influence through **your life**?

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

Verse 24 – The prize he is talking about is the salvation of **others**, the winning of the **lost**.

The Scripture is saying that though lots of Christians are running the race of life, not many are running to be winners of **souls**.

There ought never to be a believer that is running the race of life and does it apart from a passionate **pursuit** of those who are far from God.

Verse 25 – “*strict training*” – literally is that they exercise **self control** in everything; self rule, self direction.

The analogy is to the guys in the Olympic-like games who take **everything** in their lives every day, how they spend every second of their days, and harness it for a single moment, a single **purpose**.

God is showing us the **single-mindedness** with which we are to pursue those who are far from God.

We run that race with that level of effort for a prize that is **forever**, the eternal soul of man, and for which Jesus died.

Verse 26 – The first thing we need to do when we realize we are not there is to start running as not **without aim**; reorient priorities, redirect aim toward the goal of winning the lost.

Verse 27 – “beat my body” literally means to give yourself a **black eye**. For the sake of the gospel, I **sacrifice**, I suffer, I risk till it hurts for the proclamation of the good news of Jesus.

2 Corinthians 11:24-27

For the sake of the gospel I redirect the **aim** of my life, for the sake of the gospel I beat my body to make it my slave, for the sake of the gospel I run to **win**.

1 Corinthians 15:16-19

Christians are to live and labor and risk and sacrifice in such a way that we should be able to say that if the resurrection were shown to be not true, we've lived our lives in a way that we are to be **pitied** among all men.

But Jesus **did** rise from the grave. Jesus **is** alive. So when are our lives going to begin to reflect it?

To move people to life in Christ one step at a time together, you must **reach your world** for the gospel.

To **reach** your world means for the sake of the gospel you make yourself a slave to those in your life, you seek to understand, to live with them in a way that earns as many chances as you can to **speak Jesus** into their lives.

It is **your** world because it is **you**. If Jesus has called you to Himself, He has called you to His mission and there is **no part** of where you do life every day that He doesn't want you to be there for the mission.

It is your **world** because that covers **everyone**. You must live with an eye to what you see every day but with a heart that knows not only **your** world needs Jesus, but **the** world needs Jesus.

There is **nothing** we could ever give or ever do in the name of Jesus that is not for an imperishable reward.