

Why I Am So Thankful to Be Doing What I'm Doing.

Paul Tripp

I wake up every day with a great sense of privilege. It amazes me that I have been chosen to do what I daily do. And it even amazes me more that I get paid to do it! There is nothing that I could have done to earn or achieve this gift. I am very aware of the undeserved privilege of the life that I lead.

Now, what exactly is it that excites me so? What exactly is it that fills me with such a sense of honor and privilege? Well, it's not that I get to be on the radio, or that I have been able to write books, or that God has allowed me to travel the world because of the ministry he has called me to. All of these things are nice, but they aren't what get me up in the morning. What fills me with new excitement and new motivation every day is that I have been chosen by God to communicate to people the most essential, important, practical, and encouraging message that human ears could ever hear. What is that message? It is the message of the heart and life transforming grace of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now, here's what motivates me. I am deeply persuaded that masses and masses of people do not understand this essential message, even though they say that they believe it and think that they understand it. Here is my experience as I have talked to believers all over the world. Many, many believers have a huge gap, smack dab in the middle of their Gospel. Now, maybe you're thinking, "Paul, I don't have a clue what you are talking about." Well, permit me to explain.

We Christians tend to have a pretty clear understanding of salvation past. We know our sins have been forgiven by the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we tend to have a fairly clear understanding of salvation future. We know that God's grace has guaranteed us a place in eternity with him. But we have a huge gap in our understanding of the Gospel when it comes to the here and now. We are confused about what God is doing in the here and now and we are confused about what he has given us so that we can face the harsh realities of life in a fallen world, right here, right now. And in our

confusion, we look elsewhere for explanations for why we do what we do and we look elsewhere for solutions to the problems of daily life.

When I talk about this gap, I say again and again that it is not enough for us to believe in life *after* death; we had better start believing in life *before* death. That is, a quality of life that would not be possible if it weren't for the present work of Christ in our lives.

Why am I thankful for what I do? I get to help people fill in the gap. How do I do this? I do it by placing the transforming power of Jesus Christ right in the middle of the kind of situations and relationships that people daily face. And I am committed to doing it again and again and again. Why? Because the gap is deadly and the truth that is meant to fill the gap is absolutely life transforming!

So, I love to get up in the morning and I love to search for brand new ways of connecting ancient truths to the messiness of people's daily situations and relationships.