

# Message Extras

a little something extra to keep you connected to Jesus this week

*Message Extras accompany the [weekly message](#).*

Live highly questionable lives. Our speaker used a play on words to challenge each of us to think about how the lives we live invite questions from the people we connect with. As followers of Jesus, the mission He gave us was to go and make disciples of all people. At White River Christian Church we live this mission out by connecting every life to Jesus. There are many strategies to deploy to live our God-given mission, but perhaps the best strategy is to live a highly questionable life.

This challenge – to live a highly questionable life– made me think, when I go out into the world, physically or digitally, does my life cause people to stop and say, “What does he have? I want it!” OR does my life look like everyone else? Am I living in such a way that looks different than the world’s way of living? Are people asking questions? Is my life a highly questionable life?

The Apostle Paul is a great example of a highly questionable life. The book of Acts provides us this example when Paul visited Athens.

*“Now while Paul was waiting for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him as he saw that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the devout persons, and in the marketplace every day with those who happened to be there. Some of the Epicurean and Stoic philosophers also conversed with him. And some said, “What does this babbler wish to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a preacher of foreign divinities”—because he was preaching Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting? For you bring some strange things to our ears. We wish to know therefore what these things mean.” (Romans 17:16-20)*

As we learned today, living a highly questionable life starts with our connection to Jesus. In Athens, because of his connection to Jesus, Paul was provoked in his spirit when we observed the many idols. So what did Paul do? He engaged the people he met, those who happened to be there, every day. Living a highly questionable life is an intentional life.

People began to question Paul, “What does this babbler wish to say?” And “May we know what this new teaching is that you are presenting?” When you live a highly questionable

life, you will offend some people, and they may even openly call you names. While others, will be curious and ask more about why you are who you are.

In Athens, Paul was invited to speak on “this new teaching.” And Paul – well, being Paul – took it as an opportunity to preach. As we learned today, we must pray for our preachers. They are called by God to teach and preach the Good News of our Lord and Savior, Jesus. In one hour, every week, Preachers will share the truth of God’s word with more people than any one person can in an entire week, maybe an entire year. I would also add that we need to encourage people to come with us to hear our preachers preach. When you live a highly questionable life, and people ask, “what are you babbling about?” Be ready to share the reason for your hope and invite them to join you at church on Sunday.

Being ready to share your hope can be a scary proposition, especially in post-Christian, cancel-culture America. This requires wisdom and discernment. Let’s look at Paul’s example in Athens. When he was invited to preach, he said, “I perceive that in every way you are very religious. For as I passed along and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription: ‘To the unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you...” (Romans 17:22-23) Paul went on to teach them about our great God, and about Jesus and His resurrection from the dead, which of course is the reason for our hope, isn’t it?

When Paul finished speaking, some mocked him, some said they wanted to hear more, and others believed and became followers of Jesus. As you live a highly questionable life, your experience will be the same. But if we don’t live highly questionable lives, the people around us won’t stop and ask, “What do you have that I don’t? I want it!” Let us live in a way that exemplifies a life of worship to the Lord and always be ready to share the hope we have in Jesus.

- Think about a time or share with your small group a time when you observed someone do something that was highly questionable that opened doors for the Good News of Jesus to be preached. What was the result? What can you learn from this about living a highly questionable life?
- In Athens, Paul used the many idols of the culture as an opportunity to share about our hope in Jesus. What idols are present in post-Christian America? How can you live a highly questionable life amid these idols?
- The uncertainty of the world around us is full of uncertainty. How does your hope in Jesus help you to live a highly questionable life? How can your hope in Jesus help others who face uncertainty?

