

New Testament Survey Class



Part 2 – Message and Messengers

September 28, 2008 Sunday Night – FBC Dawsonville
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New Testament Survey Part One

Basic Facts and timelines of the NT

Style, Type and Groups of books

How God Moves

Last Week

Last week we took an initial look at the basic characteristics of the New Testament, some of the facts about it, including the timelines, history, and living conditions of the time. In addition, we looked at the basic types of books included, and some of the styles of them.

We talked about the intended audiences, purposes, and authors of the books. We also touched in the question part about some of the books that were NOT included in the 27 books we view as the New Testament Canon in our Bible.

Finally, we discussed Gods 3 part nature and how these 3 parts have been active in the Biblical record.

We saw God the Father active in the OT scripture, and appearing as a cloud, pillar of fire, and performing miraculous works for the Children of Israel. We looked a little at the OT references to the new covenant and the Messiah. We then looked at the NT views we have of God. In the NT accounts we see the Messiah, or Jesus, coming to earth through miraculous action and being born of Mary, as a full human. In the OT we never really saw God except as a symbol of him, but in the NT He comes to dwell among us in flesh and blood. He is born under the old covenant, and dies under the old covenant. This action, because He was perfect and lived a sinless life, permitted him to be the Lamb of God who died for our sins...past...present...and future. When He arose as a resurrected Lord, he became the hope for all who believe and have faith in Him.

But not only did he redeem us from our sin and allow us to be blameless before God the Father through His sacrifice for us, He also left us with another Counselor at Pentecost, the Holy Spirit. Now we have God the Spirit, that not only comes on occasion to intervene for His purpose, not only lives with and around us, but now lives IN us.

In this way, God has moved from Outside Spirit, to Fellow Human but still fully God, to living within us and creating in us a new creature.

The final stage of God moving happens at the end of time, when we are all with Him in a new Earth, a New Heaven, and a New Jerusalem as real participants in Gods Kingdom. Truly it will be Gods will on Earth as it is in Heaven,

New Testament Survey Part Two

Today

- Message and messengers
- Links to the past and future
- Key messages w emphasis on 2 examples
 - What does it take to be a Christian?
 - What are the marks of a Christian?
 - What are the marks of a Successful Church?

This week we are looking at the Message of the NT, the key messengers, How this message links to the past and the future, and the Marks of both a Christian and a NT Church.

New Testament Book Types

Gospels	History	Letters to Churches	Pastoral Letters	General Letters	Apocalyptic
Matthew		Romans	1 Timothy	Hebrews	Revelation
Mark		1 Corinthians	2 Timothy	James	
Luke	Acts	2 Corinthians	Titus	1 Peter	
John		Galatians	Philemon	2 Peter	
		Ephesians		1 John	
		Colossians		2 John	
		1 Thess		3 John	
		2 Thess		Jude	
		Philippians			

Lets look at the message and then some of these messengers.

Message of the NT

- Many messages, but the central theme of both the OT and the NT is *Redemption*
- *Other related messages...*
 - *Salvation*
 - *Sanctification*
 - *Knowing God*
 - *Following God*

In our paper money there is a “thread” that is in each bill to authenticate it and provide some security and machine readability. In the old times, the British Navy had all their special ropes intertwined with a crimson thread so that it could be identified with a mark that would prove genuineness. Similarly today, we see water marks, logos, and other authenticators in products so we can be assured we are getting the genuine article. In the Bible, the thread that runs through all of the books is redemption. It is the key message of both Testaments. There are many related messages as well, like salvation / deliverance, sanctification, knowing God, following God, and others. Today in this overview we will focus on Redemption primarily.

The OT and NT are linked together by many things. The theme of the two covenants are the same, even though the method and tools in each are different. In the OT the methods and tools were the Law and the Prophets and one was to attain Faith and therefore Redemption by having Faith in God, and keeping his commandments. As we discussed in the OT Survey, this was impossible for any Human but was intended to show them that they could not keep the laws within their own power and commitment. Out of the frustration of being unable to keep the laws was the desire internally within the Jews to have the Messiah come and solve their problems on Earth.

When the Lord came and was born under the Old Covenant, and died under the old covenant, He did what no one else had been able to do before or since...He lived a perfect life under the Law. Now the Jews did not understand that (still don't) because they were trying to keep the externals of the law and did not understand the true meaning of it. When Christ rose again, the Old Covenant was supplanted for those that believe, by a covenant of Grace and not the Law. In the story of the Transfiguration of Christ, He appears with Elijah and Moses, representing the Prophets and the Law, but they disappear and it is Christ alone on the mountain, indicating that He is sufficient and the Law of Grace replaced the Law and the Prophets.

Obviously there are other themes and messages in the NT...among them Salvation, Sanctification, Knowing God, and Following God. These are all important but not available unless the path to Redemption is in place.

The OT and NT are the story of God's redemptive work among us, with the climax of the story the coming of the Lord. In Him, the prophecy had been fulfilled and the stage is set for the completion of the Redemption plan being played out. We call it the Church Age.

Redemption

- What does it mean ?
- How do we see it ?
- Where do we see it most clearly ?

Genesis...Revelation God's Bookends

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Genesis began with paradise - Gen. paradise lost - • Gen. is Satan's first rebellion - • Gen. introduces Satan - • Gen. is where Satan tells first lie - • Gen. predicts Satan's doom - • Gen. the earth is prepared for man - • Gen. reveals the beginning of time - • Gen. shows creation of heaven and earth - • Gen. Man driven from God's face - • Gen. Night and Sea created - • Gen. Tree of life lost - • Gen. Reveals sorrow resulting from sin - • Gen. Present's the curse - • Gen. Records first death - • First Adam reigning - • Bride is brought to Adam - • Believers looking for a city by faith - • Where is the Lamb - • Construction of Babylon - • First murder committed - • The gates are shut - • The first rest - • Culture and art begin to replace God - • Cherubim separated God and man - • Genesis ends with sorrow and a coffin - (Josephs Father Israel) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rev. paradise is regained. Rev. is Satan's final rebellion. Rev. shows Satan's doom Rev. shows that nothing that tells a lie enters the city. Rev. performs Satan's doom Rev. the earth is perfected for man. Rev. reveals the end of time. Rev. shows creation of New Heaven and earth. Rev. Man sees his face in glory. Rev. No more night, no more sea. Rev. Tree of life gained. Rev. No more tears. Rev. the curse is removed. Rev. No more death. Last Adam in glory Bride is prepared for Christ Holy city presented in glory The Lamb reigns Destruction of Babylon Murderers cast into lake of fire. The gates are opened The final rest Culture and arts are destroyed and replaced by God. Cherubim in company with God and Man. Revelation ends with rejoicing in Heaven (all believers reunited) |
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I making Links between the OT and NT, it is an interesting exercise to just take the beginning and ending books of the Bible and look at them. In Genesis we have the "Beginnings" and in Revelation, we have the "Endings". These two books serve as the bookends of the Biblical record and what Genesis sets up, Revelation takes down.

I will not go over many of these now, due to the time constraints, but as an exercise for the learner, read the list a little at a time and look at the two books to see how God has the whole thing planned out

What does Redemption mean?

- Main Entry: **re•deem**
- Function: *transitive verb*
- Etymology: Middle English *redemen*, from Anglo-French *redemer*, modification of Latin *redimere*, from *re-*, *red-* *re-* + *emere* to take, buy
- Date: 15th century
- **1 a: to buy back : repurchase b: to get or win back**
- **2: to free from what distresses or harms: as**
 - **a: to free from captivity by payment of ransom**
 - **b: to extricate from or help to overcome something detrimental**
 - **c: to release from blame or debt : clear**
 - **d: to free from the consequences of sin**
- **3: to change for the better**
 - **Synonym: rescue**

Back to Redemption, what does it mean ?? The act of Redeeming

To buy back, to free from captivity, to free from the consequences of sin, to rescue.

How do we see it ?

- In the Bible – 3 pivotal affirmations
 - The universe exists because **God is** and **wills** the universe to exist
 - **Man is unique in the creation**, having been made with the capacity to communicate with his maker
 - **All that God made is good, and it is His purpose to redeem it and us from the evil brought by man's rebellion**
- In our world
 - We see history shaped by the hand of God moving to His purpose
 - We see churches and believers following Christ's commands to tell others, minister in His name, risk their very lives to be obedient to His word
- In our lives
 - What God began at creation and completed at Calvary, our redemption, is repeated in every life where the miracle of redemption in Christ is allowed to happen
 - The story we have of what God is doing and has done in our own lives.
 - **The miracles we see, the forgiveness we experience, the change in our very lives that happens when we believe and yield to the Spirit**
 - **Our children and grandchildren**

We see Redemption in many ways and in many places –

In the Bible, we see it clearly in the Biblical record in both the OT and the NT. In the OT we see Abraham being redeemed by God as he follows the plan that God has called him to. His miraculous conception with Sarah of Isaac despite their old age and barrenness. This continues with the selection of Isaac as the Child of the Promise, and the red thread of redemption is woven through out the story of Moses, Joshua, and all the prophets proclaiming God's willingness to save them and protect them.

In the NT, we see a very clear identification of Jesus' mission here on earth to save, redeem, protect from sin, make lives better, free from the penalty of sin or to pay the ransom to purchase us from the sins we have committed.

Within our world, we see countries responding to rescue people from natural disasters, wars, famines and diseases that are ravaging especially the 3rd world countries. God uses people to act to help other people or situations. We see it in Hurricanes, Tsunami's, Earthquakes, Disease outbreaks, famines and just about any need, there are people that will practice forms of redemption.

Where do we see it most clearly?

- I believe we see it most clearly through the **Eyes of Faith**
 - We see it everyday in our families, we see it in our country, we see it in our politics. We see it in the other countries in the world, and in the beauty of the world itself.
 - *But, it is not always what we want to see as God moves us toward the final judgment and Heavenly Kingdom.*

I think we all see it in different ways. In my own case, I believe that without the eyes of Faith, I would not see it at all, but with the eyes of Faith, we see in nature, in our families, our countries, in kind acts that are done by others. We also see the negative parts of Gods overall plan playing out in the world and in our country and other countries. We see things that frighten us and make us nervous about what is going on. We are witnessing this as we speak in the events going on in our own country in the financial crisis and the political process we see. We are afraid of our future and what is happening.

Redemptive History

1. Old Covenant – Promise of Redemption was given embodied in the hope of a Messiah, but veiled by the future.
2. When Christ came, the veil is removed and the nature of God’s righteous love is fully revealed.
3. In the future, the 3rd stage of this history awaits us – the consummation of Redemption

The promise of redemptions is played out across the scriptures in both covenants. In the OT, the promise was in the hope of a coming Messiah. This hope has been clouded by the future and the time interval for the Jews that has made them doubt a Messiah and the covenant promises. They were anguished, even in OT times and if you look at Isa 64:1 it says –

Isaiah 64

1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down,
that the mountains would tremble before you!

This verse and chapter are a lament by Isaiah that the Lord has stopped showing Himself to them because of their sin and disbelief and a prayer for His coming.

Of course, the 2nd stage of history was the coming of the Messiah was at hand in the NT times but the Jews did not see it because they were looking through the eyes of their religion and not the eyes of faith. Christ’s harshest words were to the religious leaders of the time and not the “sinners” in the world because the Jewish leaders were supposed to know Him. Caution for us today in the belief system we hold personally, that we never let our religion and tradition hinder us from seeing and believing Christ.

In the future, the end times are coming and God’s redemptive history will close with His final victory and re-establishment of His Kingdom and His restoration of His people to their place of Redemption and Presence.

Remnant

- We think of “leftovers” and do not want to be a leftover in God’s sight
 - He views Remnant *differently*
 - Sifted and are true believers
 - Elected and Selected
 - Choose to be covenant people
 - Part of the community of Faith
 - *We are the Remnant of God for these times...*

One other term is appropriate here. All through the OT and NT the term “remnant” is used. We think of it differently than God intends. Our general thought is “leftovers”...the remnant of our dinner, the residue of what is left. This makes the term negative for us, but God did not intend that to be the meaning.

All through the OT the Jews are spoken of as the “chosen” people, because God chose to Bless Abraham and his offspring. But even then, the chosen instrument of the promise was Isaac and not Ishmael. We see this in Jacob, David and all through the OT. We see the Exodus followers of Moses and Joshua fall away until only a few go to the promised land. Likewise we know that even though the promise of redemption is open to all people, not all will accept and follow Jesus.

Gods always views the Remnant as the true believer, that has been sifted (like the wheat and tares), and through our own selection have chosen to follow Him and thereby become a part of the Community of Faith. We are the Remnant of God for these times.

As part of the community of Faith in this world, we are not bound by a particular organization, or by a geography, or a country but because we are part of God’s Kingdom, we are pilgrims bound together by our commitments to a covenant of Faith.

Messengers

- Christ / Holy Spirit are primary messengers
 - Christ as message and messenger through His own life and statements as revealed in scripture
 - The Holy Spirit as counselor for us
- Beyond Christ, I believe John and Paul are the clearest of the messengers
 - John speaks about the Deity of Christ and is the highest plane of thought in the NT
 - Paul speaks of the Gospel message, its practical application, and how to avoid the traps of Satan for churches and believers
- All the other writers books are profitable as well but are more specific and narrower in scope
 - Matthew on how Christ fulfills the OT promises of Messiah

If Redemption is the key message of the NT (and OT), then its primary messengers are the Lord himself and the HS who lives within us and instructs us. Christ's own life speaks to us through the Gospels in a way that no other can, His HS takes these ideas and plants them deep in our hearts and then comes to live within us to be our guide and counselor. The HS helps us interpret scripture and make application in our lives. He also provides us with the strength and vision to carry on the Lord's work far beyond our capability.

Of the human messengers in the NT, I think it is no coincidence that Paul and John are the most prolific writers. John speaks with high plane of thought

To both the life of Christ in his Gospel of John and the future for The Lord's redeemed in the Revelation of Christ. These two books are spiritual books that soar in thought and the majesty, worthiness, and deity of Christ.

Paul has his high thought also but his message is the gospel message, its applicability, its focus on grace, its practical application, and of course avoiding the traps of Satan for believers and the churches. Paul's writings are the basics of our theology and are the underpinnings on the NT church.

All the other writers are messengers as well and each has their own God annointed reason for writing the book(s) we have but clearly John and Paul are the most prolific writers and the ones that stretch or views of the world and the church.

Marks of a NT Church

- Need to separate this into 2 discussion items
 - What makes up a NT Church
 - What makes the NT Church Alive and do the work of the Kingdom

What does the Bible tell us are the marks of a NT church. There are many we could list and my list is not exhaustive, but I believe these are the key ones we should understand. There are also 2 areas that define the NT church. The first is the makeup of the church and the second is the work of the church. I believe both are important to this understanding.

What makes up a NT Church ?

I. Faith in Christ is the foundational element

– John 3:14-17

14 Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,

15 that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him

– We know that Paul's entire ministry had Faith (Grace) and not works as the NT Gospel he taught and lived out

As we explore what makes up the NT church, we see that Faith in Christ is foundational. You can have no NT church without this Faith. You may have a building and people in it, but it is not a real church of the Lord Jesus Christ without a common faith in Him.

What makes up a NT Church ?

II. Visible expression of Christ's life in the world

- The plan needs to make HIM known, not our particular tradition or our own ideas. “come and see”
- Paul refers to “in Christ” approx 164 times in his letters.
- Is our church the visible expression of Christ's life in this area of the world? Are we?

The church is much more than a community of Faith, it is the visible expression of Christ's life in the World today. Becoming a believer is not to remain an isolationist but to be “with Him”. Jesus chose his disciples to be “with Him” as His ministry and plan unfolded. The church needs to stand firm for Christ and His word and His work in the world today, in a visible form, not hidden but actively part of what is happening.

What makes up a NT Church ?

III. A community of the Holy Spirit

- Where the Holy Spirit is alive and present with power
 - Services: Preaching / teaching / youth / children's
 - Encouragement
 - Prayer Ministry with answered prayers

The church also has the characteristic of having the Holy Spirit alive and well within the church. If we are a true NT church, we need to have the HS present in our midst with power. We see that through our prayers, our pastors sermons, the appointments with God that happen each week in the SS classes and the worship services. We also see it in the children's ministries and youth ministries. We see it in the lives changed, and the hearts renewed and encouraged by members of this fellowship

What makes up a NT Church ?

IV. Where there is a true “fellowship” community in Christ

- Koinonia → family
 - Sharing / love / respect / loyalty / acceptance / freedom / forgiveness
 - responsibility
- Do we show these aspects of our faith in the church?

Fellowship is the Greek word “Koinonia”. Our pastor has talked and preached at length about this fellowship and what it meant in the NT. If we think about

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Our pastor has spoken at length about the Greek word “Koinonia” as a fellowship. You can really think about the Church as a Family. And if you think of the marks of a great family: Sharing / love / respect / loyalty / acceptance / freedom / forgiveness and responsibility, you can change Family to Fellowship and the list remains the same.

Our church fellowship should show these enduring qualities if we are going to be a NT style church

How does the NT church live?

- Sustains its life through the worship of God in Christ by:
 - Being a Community of Learning
 - Being a Community of Forgiveness
 - Being a Community of Sharing
 - Being a Community of Witnesses
- Participating in God's Purposes

Remember we said there were 2 aspects of a NT church ? Now we want to focus on ***What makes the NT Church Alive and do the work of the Kingdom.***

How can we be saved?

- Many methods are used to witness to new believers
 - Roman Road, EE, CWT, ET
 - Any of these will work if they contain the ABCs of salvation
 - Admit
 - Believe
 - Confess

Of course, before one can become a real member of a community of faith, one needs to acquire that faith. We call it being saved.

There are several methods used to outline the faith steps to an unbeliever, but the most common is the Roman Road. The steps that Paul laid out to the Romans are essentially all that we need to be saved and receive Christ and the Holy Spirit, These steps are in the verses:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 5:8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 10:9 if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

Romans 10:13 Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved

The simplest method is the ABC method. This method is simple for believers to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

A – **Admit** that you are a sinner, that means that you are doing things you know to be wrong and against Gods plan. The Holy Spirit must bring you to this point in your life where you want to change and find the better way. Admitting you cannot do it on your own is critical to understanding God's grace and forgiveness.

B- **Believe** in your heart that Jesus is the Christ and he came to redeem you and save you from your sins and restore you to a place where you are viewed by Him to be blameless and righteous before God

C- **confess** to him through a prayer that you are admitting your are a sinner in need of a savior, and you believe that He will come live in your heart and save you from your sins, and by his grace, he will accept you as a child of God, and a brother or sister of your fellow believers. This also means publically in a church, that you will acknowledge your acceptance of Him and your willingness to follow His word and commands.

Marks of a Christian

- Believes Jesus is Lord
- Accepts the Bible as the full and final counsel of God
- Holds the essential doctrines of an evangelical faith
- Distressed by sin and false teaching in the church
- Tests ideas by the Word of the Lord
- Practices love for others, especially believers
- Desires to follow God
- Has a Christian world view of our times

A true Christian:

1. Believes that Jesus is Lord: This is the pre-eminent characteristic of a true Christian because salvation hinges on it ([Romans 10:9](#); [Philippians 2:11](#)). Marked by:

The public confession of faith ([Matthew 10:32](#)).

A willingness to accept that God is the creator, not the 'evolver' of all ([Romans 1:18-20](#)).

A desire to disciple and be discipled.

A love for and determination to live according to the commands of God ([1 John 5:2](#)).

Concerned about outreach - taking the gospel to the unsaved.

2. Accepts that the Bible is the full and final counsel of God: The true Christian acknowledges that the Bible is the means used by God to reveal his character and counsel for faith and life. The Bible is used to test everything, including experience, emotions, thoughts, prophecy and teaching. The Bible is accepted as infallible and accurate. Marked by:

Regular critical reflection, based on the Bible, of any teaching or prophecy ([Jeremiah 23:28](#); [Acts 17:11](#)).

The regular habit of Bible study ([John 8:31](#); [2 Timothy 3:16](#)).

The ability/willingness to defend the accuracy/reliability and infallibility of the Bible ([Jude 3](#); [2 Corinthians 10:5](#)).

3. Holds to all of the essential doctrines of an evangelical faith: The true Christian knows and understands these essentials of the faith. Salvation is by faith alone, in Christ alone, understood through Scripture alone ([Romans 10:14](#)), by God's grace alone to the glory of God alone ([Ephesians 1:1-14](#)). Marked by:

A maturity in understanding that is not swayed or confused by unbiblical teaching or prophecy ([Ephesians 4:14-16](#)).

An ability to teach others with gentleness and respect ([Titus 1:11](#), [2:1](#); [2 Timothy 2:24](#)).

A willingness to admonish those who deviate from the essentials of the faith ([Colossians 1:28](#), [3:16](#), [1 Timothy 1:3](#)).

A drive to demonstrate faith in works that build the Kingdom of God ([Matthew 24:14](#)).

4. Is distressed by sin in the Church: In [Hebrews 1:9](#), referring to Jesus Christ our Lord it is said that he '*loved righteousness and hated wickedness*'. The true Christian actively avoids sin in his own life and opposes it in the Church because it undermines our Christian witness before the unsaved ([1 Peter 2:12](#)). Marked by:

A deep concern about unrighteousness in the World ([2 Peter 2:8](#)).

An active interest in opposing sin in the World ([Proverbs 25:26](#); [Ezekiel 9:4](#); [Psalm 119:158](#)).

A willingness to confront sin in the Church ([Matthew 18:15-17](#)).

Personal honesty and reflection followed by the open confession of any known personal sin ([1 John 1:9](#); [James 5:16](#)).

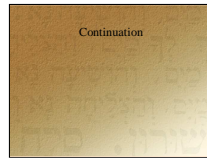
5. Is distressed by false teaching and prophecy in the Church: The prophets, our Lord Jesus Christ and the apostles all warned us that false teachers, apostles and prophets would be present in the Church ([Matthew 24:11](#); [Acts 20:29-30](#); [John 10:12](#); [2 Corinthians 11:13](#)). The true Christian is always on his guard. Marked by:

The diligent study of the Bible ([2 Timothy 2:15](#)).

Guarding the truth against error ([1 Timothy 6:20](#); [2 Timothy 4:15](#); [2 Peter 3:14-17](#)) *.

Active opposition to false doctrine and prophecy ([Jude 3](#); [Colossians 3:16](#)).

* This is especially true for those Christians appointed as elders ([Acts 20:31](#)).



6. Always tests what they hear and do, against the Word of God: The Lord requires the Christian to test both themselves and what they see and hear against the Word of God (**1 Thessalonians 5:21; 2 Corinthians 8:8**). True Christians measure their own thoughts words and actions against Scripture (**Romans 12:2; Proverbs 3:21**). They do the same in relation to others. Marked by:

Regularly appraises their own behavior against the character traits known as the 'fruit of the spirit' (**Galatians 5:22; Ephesians 5:9; 2 Corinthians 13:5**).

Does not automatically accept any teaching or prophecy just because it comes from a pastor or well known Christian (**Isaiah 8:20; Matthew 7:15; Philippians 1:9-11**).

Applies the 'Berean principle' to any teaching they hear (**Acts 17:11; 1 John 4:1**).

Tests the actions of others against God's commands and judges the person accordingly (**1 Corinthians 5:12; Revelation 2:2**).

7. Consciously models agape love: Love is the most important characteristic of any Christian (**1 John 4:8**) because the exercise of love as defined in **1 Corinthians 13** mirrors the character of God. Without love a Christian is no more than a 'clanging cymbal' (**1 Corinthians 13:1; 1 John 3:14**). Love is not an emotion. It is an act of will made more possible by the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the true Christian (**John 14:21**). Marked by:

A love of God reflected in a sanctified life free of immorality, complacency and deceit. The love of God is reflected in the willingness to obey his commands for holy living (**Matthew 22:37; 1 John 5:2-3**).

Love and forgiveness for those who hate and abuse the Christian (**Matthew 5:44**).

A love of the truth and active opposition to what is evil (**Romans 12:9; 1 John 3:18**).

A willingness to be patient, kind, forgiving, unselfish, persevering, trusting [in God], protective [of others and the truth] and hopeful [in our eventual glorification] (**1 Corinthians 13:4-7**).

An acceptance of Gods correction (**Revelation 3:19**).

The conscious separation of the holy from the secular (**Luke 16:33; 1 John 2:15**).

A loving concern for brothers and sisters in Christ, family and others [our 'neighbors'] (**Matthew 19:19; 22:39; 1 John 3:17**).

A reduced fear of what might happen in this world and no fear about the certainty of salvation (**1 John 4:18**).

8. Fears God, holding Him in reverential awe: Unlike worldly fear, the fear of God is not a destructive emotion but a life giving, strengthening knowledge based on holding a perfect, holy God in reverential awe. The true Christian knows that God will hold us to account for everything we do, judging our actions, thoughts and motives. Scripture teaches us that fearing God is essential if we are to gain the wisdom and knowledge we need to live according to God's principles and mirror His character (**Psalms 111:10; Proverbs 1:7**). Marked by:

Actively searching the word of God for the Lord's commands because to love God is to obey His commands (**1 John 5:2-3**).

The living of an increasingly sanctified life [free of sin - **Proverbs 14:27**], through the knowledge of God (**2 Peter 1:3; Titus 1:1**).

Freedom from anxiety, living at peace and seeing church growth (**Proverbs 1:33, Acts 9:31**).

Is willing to examine and change habits (**Psalms 55:19**).

Knows the protection and provision of God (**Proverbs 2:1-8**).

Accepts any testing times as godly growing and learning experiences (**Exodus 20:20**).

9. Is concerned to spread the 'Gospel of the Kingdom': The true Christian recognizes that our chief concern must be the proclamation of the 'good news' (**Matthew 28:19; Acts 1:8; Revelation 14:6; Colossians 1:23**). Any church that does not put the gospel first has lost sight of its calling. There are various aspects to what Jesus called 'the gospel of the kingdom' (**Matthew 24:14; Mark 1:14; Matthew 9:35**). Marked by:

The ability to present the gospel of Jesus Christ [His death and resurrection for the forgiveness of sins] in different circumstances (**Luke 4:18; Romans 10:5**).

Apologetic skills - the ability to show how the Bible proves itself [e.g. prophetic fulfillment, archaeological proof, scientific evidence] (**1 Peter 3:15; Jude 3; 2 Corinthians 10:5**).

An emphasis on a gospel of repentance, not a cheap grace gospel - 'Jesus loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life' (**Isaiah 59:20; Jeremiah 15:19; Mark 6:12; Luke 13:3-5; Acts 3:19; 20:21; 26:20**).

A concern to be a witness to their immediate family (**1 Timothy 5:8; Exodus 20:12; Proverbs 30:17; Isaiah 58:7**).

A desire to witness by helping the poor and needy (**Psalms 41:1; 72:4; Luke 7:22; Mark 10:21; Galatians 2:10; James 2:5**).

10. Applies a Christian world view to our times: A world view is a consistent understanding of the times in which we live. The true Christian is so grounded in biblical and spiritual understanding that they can apply it to the whole of life and the times in which we live (**1 Chronicles 12:32; Matthew 16:3**). Marked by:

Recognizes that the Bible is the whole counsel of God. There is no segregation of 'church life' and secular life. The whole of life and all that is happening in society and the world is examined in the light of scripture (**2 Timothy 3:16**).

An ability to discern and shun false ideas (**Colossians 2:8; 2 Peter 3:17; Ephesians 5:6**).

A concern for righteous government (**Romans 13:1-5; 1 Timothy 2:1-2**).

These are 10 marks (there are many others), which demonstrate that a person has truly been '**born again**'. A true Christian will love God with all of his heart, soul, mind and strength, and will love his neighbor as he loves himself (**Mark 12:30-31**). Please take the time to examine the **10 Marks** mentioned here, and make sure of your faith... (**2 Corinthians 13:5**)

Any Questions ?

- I know this was quick and by necessity was abbreviated.