



Ancient Landmarks

Sunday October 28, 2007

Wish to share a message with you that I have been carrying in my heart for some time. I had planned to share it with you this particular Sunday, before we transition next month into a season focusing on the Supernatural.

This message is probably 30 years ahead of its time. This is the kind of message that I would probably preach as one of my final messages when passing on the baton to the next generation that would continue the race from where we leave.

I am sharing this message mainly to the Urban church in a cosmopolitan city like Bangalore. Obviously I would not be sharing this message if I were preaching to a different audience say in a small town or village in India.

Key Text

Proverbs 22:28 Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set.

Today's message is titled: Ancient Landmarks

THE WORLD AROUND US IS CHANGING

Changes in the way we live

Compare our (Adults 25+) upbringing with the millennial generation (born between 1984-2001)

- We had one black and white TV channel 'Doordarshan'. The millennials are growing up with pogo, NBC, MTV, Star World, etc. The world of media has changed. The millennials are thrive on media.
- We grew up with spools and records. They are growing up with DVDs, MP4s, iPODs. Most of them have never seen a record. They do not understand the phrase "you sound like a broken record".
- We grew up with Ambassadors, Premier Padminis, Marutis, Tata, Birla, etc. They are growing up with Honda, Toyota, BMW, Microsoft, IBM, Google, etc.
- We grew up with Thumbs up, Bajal and Fanta. They are growing up with Coke, Diet Coke, Pepsi, etc.
- We had coffee at the local "Meals Ready" Kamat restaurant. They have coffee at Café Coffee Day, etc.
- If we had one dial phone at home, that was a big thing. Neighbours visited us to make a phone call. They are growing up with PDAs, SMS, etc. Most of them have never dialed a phone and may never do!
- I never worked on a computer until college, and made my first Powerpoint presentation with great difficulty when I was in my 20's. Today Joshua, my 10 year old does animated presentations in Powerpoint, downloads music onto his MP4, searches on Google, does research on Wikipedia, etc! and Ruth my 7 yr old is not too far behind, learning from her brother!
- When we played, our friends were the kids on our street. Today's teens live in a global community connected by Instant Messaging, blogs, online communities like Orkut, MySpace, Facebook, and other social networking sites, etc. They could be playing games or chatting with friends half way across the world!



The world our Teenagers and Kids are growing up in – the world in which we are in now – is vastly different from the world we grew up in. The Teenagers and kids are the **natives** – they grew up/are growing up in this new world! We are **immigrants** in a new world.

Changes in our city

- Wages : After 5 and ½ year of intense study and possibly a few more years of specialization, a doctor got a starting salary of a couple of thousands, perhaps 3000 Rs. Today a college drop out working in a call center could make 5 or 6 times that, say Rs. 15,000!
- Supermarkets to Shopping malls
- Lifestyles
- Congestion and pollution

Changes in World view : Modernism and Post-Modernism

Sociologists tell us that in the last 40 years, more so in the recent decade, the culture or worldview globally is steadily shifting/or has shifted from a “modern” to a “postmodern” thought. Most of us grew in a “modern” world. Our teens and kids are growing up in a “postmodern” world view.

Modernism

- Began with enlightenment
- Scientific method was the norm. Through science and intellectual integrity world problems could be solved.
- Truth was objective. Truth was self-evident. Things were black and white.
- Cons: Individualism. Self centered.

Post Modernism

- Relativity not reason, is the norm. “There are no facts, only interpretations” (Friedrich Nietzsche). Morality is a relative thing. You make up your own moral standards you wish to live by.
- Freedom to express, don’t tell me I am wrong.
- Power of story, narrative or personal experience overrides power of empirical evidence and objective truth.
- Tolerance is the way, even when truth is compromised.
- God is whoever you want him to be.
- Pros: Global community. Flat world. We are “All Peoples Church”

Our teens and kids are growing up in a challenging world. Their world is like a big shopping mall. They have so many things to choose from, even for the most important things in life: beliefs, values and lifestyle.

THERE ARE WINDS OF CHANGE BLOWING ACROSS CHRISTENDOM

Changes in the way we do church :

from stained glass, steeple buildings to A/C auditoriums, fancy buildings and beyond.

Hymns to choruses to contemporary worship

Hymn books to chorus sheets to OHP to LCD projectors



Dramas/skits/musicals to videos

Changes in the message being preached :

On the positive side we have seen an increasing understanding of the Word of God. Starting from the Reformation of the 1400's with Martin Luther, we've come a long way, especially in the last 50 years. The Word of God is being made relevant to all walks of life. And yet there are dangerous things happening in pulpits around the world where pastors and preachers in an effort to attract and keep large crowds have gone from preaching the uncompromised word of God to a post-modern philosophy, feel-good messages, motivational pump-you-up speeches, etc. The Word in such pulpits is no longer a double-edged sword, or a hammer or a fire, but a relaxing massage to the soul, a comfortable couch to lay on!

A solemn warning from the apostle Paul

Ephesians 4:11-14

11 And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,

12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ,

13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;

14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,

Changes in the delivery of the message :

Two things characterizes the millennial generation and people in general in the information age we are in: (a)they no longer want to only listen, they want to have all their senses involved. They don't want a sermon, they want an experience that transforms. (b)ironically, with increasing information we are seeing a shortening attention span!

On the positive side we are seeing an increasing number of churches and preachers delivering timeless truths in a way that engages all the senses and creates an experience that transforms. Technology and creativity play a big role in this. All of this is good. And yet, on the other hand, the focus seems to have shifted so much on doing and presenting things creatively, that we have lost some of the ancient landmarks of Holy Spirit power and the God-ordained approach of miracles, signs and wonders – the demonstration of the supernatural. We end up with services that entertain the soul, which thousands come to enjoy – but deprive them of the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit that transforms, heals and delivers. Our pulpits end up occupied by event managers, entertainers, orators, dramatists and performers instead of anointed apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers and evangelists.

ANCIENT LANDMARKS

Proverbs 22:28 Do not remove the ancient landmark (*boundary lines*) which your fathers have set.

Proverbs 23:10 Do not remove the ancient landmark, Nor enter the fields of the fatherless;

John Gill's Exposition of the Entire Bible:

Proverbs 22:28 - Remove not the ancient landmark which thy fathers have set. Or, "the ancient border" or "boundary" (n); by which lands, estates, and inheritances, were marked, bounded, and distinguished; set by ancestors in agreement with their neighbours; which to remove was contrary to a law, and a curse is denounced upon those that did it, and was always reckoned a



very heinous crime in early times; This was so sacred a thing among the Romans, that they had a deity which presided over those bounds, and had its name from them.

Deuteronomy 19:14 "You shall not remove your neighbor's landmark, which the men of old have set, in your inheritance which you will inherit in the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.

Deuteronomy 27:17 'Cursed is the one who moves his neighbor's landmark.' "And all the people shall say, 'Amen!'

Hosea 5:10 "The princes of Judah are like those who remove a landmark; I will pour out my wrath on them like water.

The leaders themselves were guilty of moving the ancient landmarks, and they earned the judgment of God.

While we know that the term ancient landmarks and the Scriptures just quoted deal with literal boundaries on property – I would like to translate this to spiritual things and use this as a back drop for this message.

Ancient landmarks, indicate boundaries set by previous generations:

- Indicates safe areas to walk in and forbidden areas not to walk in
- Indicates possible deception that would take you into forbidden areas.

Key phrase: There are ancient landmarks we must not move. There are sacred boundaries we must not cross. There are godly traditions we must not loose.

Sacred boundaries we must not cross

Jeremiah 31:21 "Set up signposts, Make landmarks; Set your heart toward the highway, The way in which you went. Turn back, O virgin of Israel, Turn back to these your cities.

Godly traditions we must not loose

While it is true that there are man made traditions that are useless and must be broken, there are godly, biblical traditions that must be maintained. These are timeless.

Man-made traditions

We are free to discard man-made traditions which bring no benefit to our walk with God. Instead, they nullify the word of God in our lives.

Mark 7:13 making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

Colossians 2:8 Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.

Godly Traditions

1 Corinthians 11:2 Now I praise you, brethren, that you remember me in all things and keep the traditions just as I delivered them to you.



2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 3:6 But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.

Understanding that are ancient landmarks that must be maintained, that is sacred boundaries that we must not cross, godly traditions that we must not loose, we now arrive at a very interesting issue. That of relevance.

BEING RELEVANT

How can we be relevant in a changing culture, in a new world, while maintaining ancient landmarks?

As adults and as Christians we struggle with the culture of the new world we find ourselves in. Added to the fact that we grew up in a world with a drastically different world view and culture, we do not know how to apply Scriptures such as:

John 17:14-18

14 I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

15 I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one.

16 They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world.

17 Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

18 As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world.

Romans 12:1-2

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 John 2:15-17

15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world.

17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

What does it mean to be in the world and yet be “not of the world”, to “not be conformed to the world”, to not have friendship with the world, to not love the world?

We know we cannot stay out of the world because we have been sent into the world.

What do we do with the culture of the new world we find ourselves in? How do we respond to the world? What do we teach our teens and kids as they grow up in a new world whose culture is changing and whose culture we are not so familiar with?



- If we **disconnect** from the culture of the new world, we will not be able to influence, improve or transform it.
- If we **fully adapt** to the culture of the new world, we will not be able to change what is wrong in it.
- We must **explore, understand and employ** the changing culture of the new world to explain and establish timeless truths and principles.

Any culture is neither good nor bad in itself. Every culture contains good and bad elements that must be discerned and wisely dealt with.

Here is what Paul said as he communicated the heart of God:

1 Corinthians 9:19-23

**19 For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more;
20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law;
21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law;
22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.
23 Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you.**

1 Corinthians 10:32-33

**32 Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God,
33 just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved.**

1 Corinthians 10:32-33 must be understood in the light of what he was discussing earlier in 1 Corinthians 9:19-23. Paul's reason to please all men in all things was not for personal gain – not to draw people to himself, but he did so to lead them to faith in Christ.

"Relevance is using what is cultural to say what is timeless. We must use what is cultural to say what is timeless." (Reggie Joiner, Founder of FamilyWise)

The world is changing. What worked yesterday, may not work today!

And yet there are dangers in doing so, that we must be aware of. We cannot take things randomly from the culture and use them to communicate timeless truths. We cannot compromise on ancient landmarks in our effort to use engage and employ the new world culture.

WHAT ARE OUR ANCIENT LANDMARKS?

I want to address some of the winds of change that are blowing through our lives in several areas, that of (a)personal life and character (b)marriage and family (c)the workplace (d)church life and (e)ministry.

As I have been indicating, all winds of change are not wrong. There are some winds that are blowing, which we need to **adjust and adapt** our sails to and go where the wind is blowing, lest we get left behind and are disconnected from the present new world. And then, there are some winds of change that are blowing in a direction that are contrary and would get us to cross sacred boundaries and lose godly traditions. We must learn to **navigate through** these winds of change, using the ancient landmarks to anchor us through the storms.



Obviously, we cannot address all areas of change and all areas of life in a single message. My intention is to **transmit enough wisdom and understanding so that you will know how to respond to the winds of change** that are blowing or that may come upon us in the years ahead. I want you to be able to stay within the ancient landmarks, not cross sacred boundaries and not lose godly traditions.

Not only do I desire for us to have the ability to properly respond to change, but I also wish to challenge us to **carry these ancient landmarks into our world** – so that we can change those areas of our world that are disintegrating because of the winds of change. Imagine a people who live by ancient landmarks, sacred boundaries and godly traditions, in the realm of business, government, education, sports, media, entertainment, fashion, and every where else. We will truly be **salt and light** in our world!

My call here is simply this: STAY WITH THE BIBLE. The Bible is our Ancient Landmark!

1. Ancient landmarks for personal life and character

Holiness

1 Peter 1:14-16

**14 as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance;
15 but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct,
16 because it is written, "BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."**

Hebrews 12:14

Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord:

To be holy is to be "set apart for God". It means I belong to God. So everything I say and do must represent God, must be godly and manifest godliness.

We must judge things we say, do, wear, etc., by this standard. And yet, our standards of holiness are not intended to isolate us from people who do not have that same standard. We need to be able to relate to them, without being influenced by them.

Remember that Jesus was very comfortable sitting and eating with "tax collectors and sinners" (Matthew 9:11). I can wear what they wear to some extent, smell like them, look like them – and yet not loose out on personal standards of holiness before God.

Holiness is an ancient landmark regardless of which part of the world we live in and regardless of which culture we adhere to!

God's standards for holiness are absolute. They are the same for all of His children regardless of which part of the world we live in and which culture we operate in. As believers we cannot define our own moral standards. They have been defined for us in the word of God. We must beware of the post-modern philosophy of moral relativism that has crept into the church, to the point where some preach and teach that we define our own moral standards and standards of holiness differ from culture to culture. This cannot be! The Bible reads the same in any part of the world and God says the same thing to all His children!



Women especially, please remember that the way you dress must demonstrate two important things: modesty and godliness.

1 Timothy 2:9-10

**9 in like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing,
10 but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works.**

Integrity

Proverbs 10:9

He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

We cannot compromise on integrity and honesty in our lives.

Hard work

Proverbs 10:4

He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

We sometimes get enamored by the instant success that people have. 23-year old, Mark Zuckerberg, Harvard drop out, founder of FaceBook.com, known as the star of the second web-boom, is worth over 15 million. With just one good idea and in just about 2 years he has experienced almost instant success!

Hearing and seeing stories of instant success some time sways us into a position where we go looking for an easy way out. Hard work does not seem relevant any more. But the ancient landmark says that you become poor if you have a slack hand. It is the diligent that see success.

Do you know that Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro, works an average of 80 hours a week? When considering any one to part of his team, one of his questions is "how many hours a week do you put in?" Any one desiring to work directly with the chairman must be willing to work 60-70 hours a week! I am not encouraging all of us to go overboard on work – but I want us to understand that success is not cheap!

Priorities

Our priorities are constantly challenged in a world where the view is that everything is relative and subject to interpretation.

Mark 12: 29-31 and Matthew 6:33 still read the same and are the ancient landmark for priorities we must maintain in life.

Who you are is more important than the things you have (Luke 12:15)

Testimony

We need to maintain our testimony.

The way we live must show the praises of the one whom we follow (1 Peter 2:9)

2. Ancient landmarks for marriage and family

Marriage



- an institution ordained by God, a life-long covenant.
- For those dating remember that you are not married until you are married.
- For those married, maintain the inner circle.

Hebrews 13:4

Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.

Family

- Invest in your family

Family versus community

Young singles relating to those married

3. Ancient landmarks for the workplace

The same ancient landmarks that we discussed for personal life and character also apply to the workplace. Carry these ancient landmarks in to your professional world. Do not allow the culture of the new world cause you to compromise these ancient landmarks.

Freedom

Today, we use all kinds of methods and nomenclature in the workplace to make employees feel part of the organization – not just “workers”. We want people to be free and still perform. And many times employees misunderstand freedom to mean lack of discipline.

Freedom is not lack of discipline. Freedom is not lack of accountability. It is not about deciding when you should come and go from the office, how much you pay yourself, how much you spend on personal expenses and bill it to the company, it is not about you deciding on which hotel you want to stay,.....none of these represent freedom in the workplace. Any good organization needs boundaries and guidelines for all of these areas otherwise it ends up in chaos. True freedom in the workplace is about having enough room for you to use all your capabilities to create greater value for your organization, without unnecessary constraints or interference. It is about having the privilege to share creative ideas, to set goals, to determine ways of meeting those goals.

Ephesians 6:7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,

Moral relativism and situational ethics

Business and personal values are being challenged in the workplace, by a post modern world view that believes in Moral relativism and situational ethics. Right and wrong, black and white have disintegrated into shades of grey. Values, ethics and integrity are compromised for profit, right connections, and quick success.

The ancient landmark still reads:

Proverbs 10:9

He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

Professionals, we must influence our world, not merely be influenced by it.

Professionals, I wish to challenge you: **make a difference, don't merely making a living!**

4. Ancient landmarks for church life



Music

- Contemporary music is not wrong. It is great to have godly songs with music that connects with the new generation. This is great. And yet we must be careful of songs that elevates the music above experiencing God.

Deuteronomy 31:19

Now therefore, write down this song for yourselves, and teach it to the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for Me against the children of Israel.

One of the reasons God wanted songs to be written is to teach His people and put His Word in their mouths as a constant reminder of Him and what He had done. We need to evaluate contemporary songs from this ancient landmark. Does a song help achieve God's intent?

- And let us not neglect the grand old Hymns of the faith. These are hymns full of theology, expressing the faith.

Ephesians 5:19

speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord,

We need everything – psalms, hymns, spiritual songs - as expressions of our making melody to the Lord!

Discipline

- Most pastors today are afraid to use the shepherd's rod. Every shepherd not only leads his sheep to green pastures and beside quiet waters, but also needs a rod and staff to guide and protect his sheep.
- In the medical world we have what is called "Palliative Care" for those who are terminally ill. The idea is to make their final days as comfortable as possible. This is great for those who are physically suffering. However, the Church cannot provide palliative care for those in sin and on the verge of falling short of the grace of God (Hebrews 12:15). There is no use if we make them comfortable here on earth only to help them spend eternity in hell. I'd rather that we take out the knife and help them go through the uncomfortable process of cutting of the right eye or the right hand that is causing them to sin (Matthew 5:29,30).
- Church, allow your pastor to be a real shepherd. All him to use his rod and staff, for without that he will not be able to guide, correct and protect the sheep.

1 Corinthians 4:21

What do you want? Shall I come to you with a rod, or in love and a spirit of gentleness?

We believe in abundance of grace and we also believe in godly discipline. Let us not sacrifice adherence to godly living in the name of grace. Neither should we go overboard on discipline and forget that without the grace of God, none of us would ever make it!

Submission to leadership



In the post modern world “respect”, “honour”, “submission” and “obedience” are treated as bad words. And this has crept into the church.

Here is the ancient landmark:

Hebrews 13:17

Obey those who rule over you, and be submissive, for they watch out for your souls, as those who must give account. Let them do so with joy and not with grief, for that would be unprofitable for you.

5. Ancient landmarks for ministry

Clothing

- We’ve gone a long way from preachers with priestly robes, to wearing suits, to casual clothes behind the pulpit. Don’t judge a preacher just by their clothing. They could be sheep in wolves clothing. What is important is their life, character, the integrity of their message and the anointing they release. Nothing wrong in casual clothing so long as we maintain ancient landmarks in ministry!

Manners

I am concerned with what I see in certain areas of Christendom today. In an effort to be cool and casual, preachers and ministers actually belittle the moral standards in ministry. Can you imagine a preacher standing in pulpit and talking about how many times he has sex with his wife each week – just to look cool before his congregation! In an effort to be cool, we have lost the sacredness of the pulpit to loose language, cheap jokes and a lot of other weak things.

A man who has divorced 4 times from the time he first began his ministry and is in his 5th marriage continues as a pastor and preacher with a television ministry. Why do we tolerate this?

The ancient landmark for those in ministry and spiritual leadership is this

1 Timothy 3:1-5

1 This is a faithful saying: If a man desires the position of a bishop (*spiritual leader*), he desires a good work.

2 A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, temperate, sober-minded, of good behavior, hospitable, able to teach;

3 not given to wine, not violent, not greedy for money, but gentle, not quarrelsome, not covetous;

4 one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence

5 (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);

It seems that in Christendom we have become negligent of these standards which are God-given pre-requisites to those in ministry. It is true that ministers are mere mortals and yet God has set the standards which He expects of us. These are ancient landmarks that we cannot violate!

Message

Paul said

2 Corinthians 2:17

For we are not, as so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in the sight of God in Christ.



What does it mean to peddle the word of God? It means to mix the word, to adulterate it with moral relativism (i.e. no absolutes), post modern philosophy, humanism, and other feel-good ideas in order to make it palatable to our audience! And this seems to be happening in pulpits around the world. It is not that they are not using the Bible and quoting Scripture. But in an effort to be relevant to the new world, we end up peddling the Word to an audience that wants to hear us tell them the things they want to hear!

2 Timothy 4:2-4

2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers;

4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

We cannot evaluate the validity of a message by the number of people who subscribe to it. Any good orator can draw a crowd. The only way to judge a message is to evaluate it in the light of the uncompromised Word of God.

Jesus did not soft pedal the Kingdom message. His altar call was "pick up your cross daily and follow me",

In John 6 people left until he had only the 12 and He asked them will you also go away.

John 6:66-67

66 From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more.

67 Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?"

You would have thought Jesus failed in the message He preached, because His audience deserted Him after He preached. (You cannot judge a message by the negative reactions of people either – what if they just don't like to be told the truth!). And yet we know that crowds came after Him. Because His Word was the pure word of the Father and He did the works of the Father!

In our message, we must maintain the ancient landmark of preaching the uncompromised, unadulterated word of God!

Methods

The ancient landmark for method in ministry is to preach the gospel with signs, wonders and miracles in the power of the Holy Spirit.

This is what Jesus did and this is what He taught us to do.

The Gospels contains more accounts of Jesus working miracles than speaking parables.

In fact Jesus said:

John 10:37-38

37 If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me;

38 but if I do, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and believe that the Father is in Me, and I in Him."

Paul said:

1 Corinthians 2:4-5



**4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power,
5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.**

This is our ancient landmark and this is what we need to measure contemporary preaching by. Don't allow the skillful oratory and grand multi-media presentation fool you into thinking that this is all there is to ministering God's Word. Jesus is our standard. He said that preaching of the Word must be accompanied by miracles and supernatural signs ! This is the best "transformational experience" we can give to people when they come to church – to encounter the supernatural in demonstration!

This is the direction that we as a church must move into. This is where we must go!

While it is not wrong to employ technology and creative ways of communicating timeless truth, my concern is that some where along the way we are losing focus on the Kingdom, on depth in God, and moving into frivolous marketing, sleazy salesmanship to attract and keep the crowds. We are becoming persona-centric rather being focused on the author and finisher of our faith.

We must be rigidly righteous in our motives and methods in ministry.

2 Corinthians 6:3-4

3 We give no offense in anything, that our ministry may not be blamed.

4 But in all things we commend ourselves as ministers of God:

As ministers of God, let us remain true to our calling which is to preach the Word in the power of God's Holy Spirit with supernatural demonstrations. Any thing else we employ is only to help us build a bridge to peoples hearts and must not supplant ancient landmarks.

APC Pastors & Ministry Leaders are committed to presenting the complete, uncompromised Word of God in the anointing and demonstration of His Holy Spirit. We believe that good music, creative presentations, brilliant apologetics, contemporary ministry techniques or the latest technology can never substitute the God-ordained approach of proclaiming the Word in the power of the Holy Spirit with signs, wonders, miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:4,5; Hebrews 2:3,4).

Our theme is **Jesus**, our content is the **Word**, our method is **Holy Spirit power**, our passion is **people** and our goal is **Christ-like maturity**.

CALL FOR COMMITMENT

1. Commit yourself to living by the ancient landmarks.
Commit yourself to having your foundations deep in God and His Word. God and His Word are timeless. God's Word must be **the scale** by which you weigh everything out to see if something is really worth investing your life in; **the ruler** by which you work out your metrics to see if some thing really measures up to godly standards; **the lens** through which you see to discern what is right and wrong. Don't allow the winds of change that are blowing cause you to compromise ancient landmarks.

Remember there are sacred boundaries that must not be crossed. There are godly traditions that must be continued.



2. Commit yourself to carrying these ancient landmarks into your world. Adapt and adjust to winds of change that are useful. In all other areas, live by the ancient landmark!
3. Accurately transmit the ancient landmarks
To the present generation I urge you, commit yourself to living, speaking and behaving in such a way that we accurately represent what Christian life is all about. **The life we live is the message we transmit to the succeeding generation.** This present generation must ensure that the succeeding generation continues to build within the ancient landmarks. The law of Genesis states that **we reproduce after our own kind, we reproduce what we are.**

I wish I could speak to the next generation and teach them how to sift through all the information that is bombarding their minds to discern right from wrong. I wish I could speak to the next generation and teach them how to stay with the ancient landmarks. I wish I could speak to the next generation and teach them how to receive the torch correctly – without the voice of rebellion (not making the same mistake that Absalom made), and without the voice of immaturity (not making the same mistake that Rehoboam made). But then **their response is something we can shape through our example, if we, this present generation, will live within the ancient landmarks!**

Go higher and deeper in God, but do not violate the ancient landmarks that have been set.



WE RESPECT YOUR INTERNET TIME AND EMAIL PRIVACY. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO RECEIVE FURTHER EMAILS FROM ALL PEOPLES CHURCH, PLEASE REPLY WITH THE SUBJECT "UNSUBSCRIBE" AND YOUR EMAIL ID WILL BE DELETED FROM OUR DISTRIBUTION LIST. THANK YOU.



USEFUL RESOURCES



Watch our online Sunday Church service live stream every Sunday at 10:30am (Indian Time, GMT+5:30). Spirit filled, anointed worship, Word and ministry for healing, miracles, and deliverance.

YOUTUBE: <https://youtube.com/allpeopleschurchbangalore>

WEBSITE: <https://apcwo.org/live>

Our other websites and free resources:

CHURCH: <https://apcwo.org>

FREE SERMONS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/sermons>

FREE BOOKS: <https://apcwo.org/books/english>

DAILY DEVOTIONALS: <https://apcwo.org/resources/daily-devotional>

JESUS CHRIST: <https://examiningjesus.com>

BIBLE COLLEGE: <https://apcbiblecollege.org>

E-LEARNING: <https://apcbiblecollege.org/elearn>

WEEKEND SCHOOLS: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/weekend-schools>

COUNSELING: <https://chrysalislife.org>

MUSIC: <https://apcmusic.org>

MINISTERS FELLOWSHIP: <https://pamfi.org>

CHURCH APP: <https://apcwo.org/app>

CHURCHES: <https://apcwo.org/ministries/churches>

WORLD MISSIONS: <https://apcworldmissions.org>