

Ancient Landmarks

- The Landmark of Distinctive Bible Preaching
- The Landmark of Authoritative Practice
- The Landmark of Militant Faithfulness
- The Landmark of Pure Worship
- The Landmark of God's Moral Standards

The wise man wrote:

- “Remove NOT, the **Ancient Landmark**, which thy fathers have SET.” ([Prov.22:28](#)).

In ancient Israel, landmarks were boundary stones, marking inheritance.

- To move them, was theft and a curse ([Deut.27:17](#)).

Today, God has placed **Spiritual Landmarks**:

- boundaries of truth, righteousness, and authority—that must **NOT** be moved.

If we are to remain faithful and inherit eternal life, we must honor them.

Let us consider these divine spiritual landmarks, one by one, beginning with...

I. **The Landmark of Distinctive Bible Preaching**

God chose preaching to save souls ([1Cor.1:21](#))

True preaching must be plain, and distinctive.

A. **Preach the Word without Compromise**

Paul charged Timothy to stay true, regardless of popularity or opposition.

- He said, “Preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come, when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts, shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.” ([2Tim.4:2-3](#))

Paul himself gave the full counsel of God.

- “For I have not shunned to **Declare** unto you, **ALL the counsel of God.**” ([Acts 20:27](#))

Jeremiah could not hold back God’s Word, even when opposed.

- He said, “I will not make mention of Him, nor speak any more in His Name. But His Word was in mine heart, as a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I was weary with forbearing, and I could not stay.” ([Jer.20:9](#))

God warned Ezekiel of his duty to speak truth.

- “When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning... his blood will I require at thine hand.” ([Ezek.3:18](#))

Jesus Himself preached repentance clearly.

- “saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” ([Mk.1:15](#))

Distinctive preaching, may not always please hearers, but it saves souls.

To silence truth, removes God’s landmark.

Secondly, preaching must be marked by...

B. Clarity in the Message of Truth

...not confusion.

Without clarity, no one can prepare for spiritual battle.

- “For if the trumpet, give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle? So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue, **words easy to be understood**, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.” ([1Cor.14:8-9](#))

Stephen preached boldly, though he was rejected.

- He said, “Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Spirit: as your fathers did, so do ye.” ([Acts 7:51](#))

Jesus spoke as one with authority.

- “And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at His doctrine: For He taught them, as one having authority, and not as the scribes.” ([Matt.7:28-29](#))

Paul used great plainness of speech.

- “Seeing then that we have such hope, we use **great plainness of speech.**” ([2Cor.3:12](#))

Nathan spoke plainly to David’s sin.

- He said, “...Thou art the man.” ([2Sam.12:7](#))

Truth must be spoken plainly.

But clarity must not be cruelty—faithful preaching, speaks truth in love ([Eph.4:15](#)).

- “For the wrath of man, worketh not the righteousness of God.” ([Jas.1:20](#))

Finally, under this landmark, preaching must expose falsehood.

C. Warning Against False Teachers

Jesus warned of false prophets.

- “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.” ([Matt.7:15-16](#))

Paul warned against perverted gospels.

- He said, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from Him, that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel... But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.” ([Gal.1:6-8](#))

Peter foretold of false teachers.

- “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them...” ([2Pet.2:1](#))

Titus was told to silence deceivers.

- “For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers... whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre’s sake.” ([Titus 1:10-11](#))

Preaching must not only declare truth, but also refute error.

Silence against error, is moving God’s landmark.

Distinctive Bible preaching, is a landmark that preserves the church in truth and clarity.

The next landmark, is that God Himself, sets the pattern.

II. The Landmark of Authoritative Practice

God's Word—not human wisdom—sets the standard for worship and life.

A. God has Given Patterns of Authority

The apostles resolved disputes by revelation.

From [Acts 15:7-15](#), we learn that the apostles spoke, showing how God had accepted Gentiles by the faith of the gospel (or the system of faith).

Love is walking in His commands.

- “And this is **Love**, that we **WALK** after His commandments.” ([2Jn.vs.6](#))

The love of God is keeping His commands.

- “For this is the **Love of God**, that we **KEEP** His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.” ([1Jn.5:3](#))

Departing from the teachings of Christ, severs fellowship.

- “Whosoever **Transgresseth**, and **Abideth NOT** in the doctrine of Christ, **hath NOT God**.” ([2Jn.vs.9](#))

Morality is bounded by authority.

- “Now the **works of the flesh** are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, ²⁰ idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, ²¹ envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and **SUCH LIKE**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which **DO** such things, shall **NOT inherit** the kingdom of God.” (read [Gal.5:19-21](#))

Authority is God's fence line—His landmark.

Secondly, all service must be under His name.

B. Acting in the Name of Christ

The Bible says,

- “And whatsoever ye do in **Word** (that's Teaching) or **Deed** (that's Practice), do all in the **Name** of (or Authority of) the Lord Jesus...” ([Col.3:17](#))

Scripture equips us fully.

- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God (which means, God breathed)... That the man of God may be perfect (that is, complete), throughly furnished unto all good works.” ([2Tim.3:16-17](#))

We must not add or diminish.

- “What thing soever I command you, observe to **Do** it: thou shalt **NOT Add** thereto, **NOR Diminish** from it.” ([Deut.12:32](#))

Jesus warned of vain worship.

- He said, “But in vain, they do worship Me, teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men.” ([Matt.15:9](#))

To act without authority, is to rebel against the landmarks of Christ.

Finally...

C. The Silence of Scripture

...must be respected.

God gave no authority for priests, from the tribe of Judah.

- "...For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses **Spake NOTHING** concerning priesthood." ([Heb.7:13-14](#))

Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron...

- "took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered **STRANGE Fire** before the Lord, which he **Commanded them NOT**.² And there went out fire from the Lord, and **Devoured** them, and they **DIED** before the Lord." ([Lev.10:1-2](#))

The Bible says,

- "...ye might **LEARN** in us, **NOT** to think of men, **ABOVE** that which is written." ([1Cor.4:6](#))

Nothing may be added or taken away.

- "If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues, that are written in this book..." ([Rev.22:18-19](#))

Silence is not permission—it is prohibition.

Authoritative practice, keeps the church pure and faithful.

Ancient landmarks, include courageous faith.

III. The Landmark of Militant Faithfulness

Faith is active and bold.

But militancy, must NOT be in Error or in Cruelty.

Someone has paraphrased by saying,

- Tough hearted on Standards, but Tenderhearted with people.

True militancy is steadfast, loving, and uncompromising in truth.

A. Courageous Faith, in God's Word

It is this kind of Faith, which moves us to speak.

- "We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak." ([2Cor.4:13](#))

The Bible says,

- "...they that were scattered abroad, went every where preaching the word." ([Acts 8:4](#))

Paul was unashamed of the gospel of Christ...

- "for it is the power of God unto salvation..." ([Rom.1:16](#))

Joshua was told...

- "Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage..." ([Josh.1:9](#))

Paul said,

- "...this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith." ([1Jn.5:4](#))

Courageous faith, refuses to retreat.

Faith means...

B. Obedience to God, Over Man

The apostles obeyed God above rulers, saying...

- "...We ought to obey God, rather than men." ([Acts 5:29](#))

The Bible says,

- "Let Love be, without dissimulation (or without hypocrisy).
Abhor that which is evil; Cleave to that which is good." ([Rom.12:9](#))

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego refused idolatry.

- They said, "...our God, Whom we serve, is able to deliver us...
But if not, be it known... we will not serve thy gods." ([Dan.3:16-18](#))

Jesus promised salvation to the steadfast.

- "...he that endureth to the end, shall be saved." ([Matt.10:22](#))

The Bible says,

- "Seek ye **FIRST**, the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness..." ([Matt.6:33](#))
- "Thou shalt **LOVE** the Lord thy God with **ALL** thy heart, and with **ALL** thy soul, and with **ALL** thy mind.
³⁸ This is the **FIRST** and great commandment." ([Matt.22:37-38](#))

True militancy, obeys God above all.

But militancy must be guarded,

C. Avoiding Militancy in Error

—many fight with partial truth or with harshness.

Some have zeal, but not according to knowledge.

- "For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God,
but not according to knowledge." ([Rom.10:2](#))

The Jews opposed Stephen when they rejected truth.

- The Bible says, "When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart,
and they gnashed on him with their teeth." ([Acts 7:54](#)) ...that is, they resisted truth.

The servant of the Lord, must not strive with cruelty.

As the Bible says,

- "the servant of the Lord must not strive,
(that is, must not be quarrelsome, argumentative, or contentious);
but be gentle unto all men..." ([2Tim.2:24-25](#))

We must be...

- "speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things,
which is the head, even Christ." ([Eph.4:15](#))

Militancy in error, is sin ([Rom.10:2-3](#); [Acts 26:9-11](#)).

Militancy in truth, is love in action ([Jude vs.3](#); [Eph.4:15](#); [2Tim.2:24-25](#)).

True militancy, defends the faith with courage, but always with love and knowledge.

Next, God requires worship in the right spirit.

IV. The Landmark of Pure Worship

God has always defined worship; man must not move its boundaries.

A. Worship in Spirit and in Truth

It was Jesus, Who set the standard.

- He said, "...**God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him, Must worship Him, in Spirit** (that is, from the inner being, with the right attitude, and sincerity of heart) **and in Truth** (that is, according to Biblical facts, and Biblical authority)." ([Jn.4:23-24](#))

Worship must...

- "Give unto the LORD, the glory due unto His Name (that is, His Majesty, Character, Authority and Honor); worship the LORD, in the beauty of Holiness." ([Psa.29:2](#))

Worship must be offered with reverence.

As the Bible says,

- "...let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably, with reverence and godly fear." ([Heb.12:28](#))

Worship is a landmark, where God sets the pattern.

We have examples through the...

B. Apostolic Pattern of Worship

Early disciples continued in worship.

- They "continued stedfastly in the **apostles' doctrine and fellowship** (that is, spiritual worship, not a potluck dinner), **and in breaking of bread** (that is, the Lord's Supper), **and in prayers.**" ([Acts 2:42](#))

Paul delivered what he had received, about the Lord's Supper.

He passed on, what the Lord Himself instituted.

[1Cor.11:23-26](#) shows:

- Its **Authority** – is from the Lord.
- Its **Purpose** – is remembrance of His death.
- Its **Proclamation** – is declaring His death "till He come."
- And [Acts 20:7](#) shows the **Time**: disciples came together on the first day of the week to break bread.

Thus, the Lord's Supper is the apostolic pattern of worship

—its authority, purpose, proclamation, and time, are all divinely set.

Singing must be directed to God.

- "Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, **SINGING** and making melody in your heart, To the Lord." ([Eph.5:19](#))

Worship landmarks, keep us in God's order.

Worship in spirit and in truth, must not be altered or neglected.

Holiness is God's landmark for His people.

V. The Landmark of God's Moral Standards

He has set boundaries, for purity and...

A. God's Holiness is the Standard

God called Israel to be holy.

- "Ye shall **be holy**: for I the LORD your God, am Holy." ([Lev.19:2](#))

Peter repeats this call for Christians.

- "as He which hath called you is Holy, so **be ye holy** in all manner of conversation (or conduct);
¹⁶ because it is written, **Be ye holy**; for I am Holy." ([1Pet.1:15-16](#))

The Bible says,

- "Follow peace with all men, and **Holiness**, without which, no man shall see the Lord." ([Heb.12:14](#))

Holiness is not optional—it is the moral landmark.

B. Marriage and Purity

...is God's boundary, in morality.

It wasn't man, but God Who established marriage.

- "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh." ([Gen.2:24](#))

Jesus reaffirmed its permanence.

- "Wherefore they are no more twain (or two), but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder (or separate)." ([Matt.19:6](#))
- "Whosoever shall put away his wife (or divorce), except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her, which is put away, doth commit adultery." ([Matt.19:9](#))

The Bible confirms that, fornication defiles the body.

- Therefore, "Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth, is without the body; but he that committeth fornication, sinneth against his own body.
¹⁹ What? know ye not that your body, is the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? ²⁰ For **ye are bought with a price**: therefore **GLORIFY God in your body**, and **in your spirit, which are God's**." ([1Cor.6:18-20](#))
- "Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." ([Heb.13:4](#))

Moral landmarks, protect purity in marriage and life.

God's moral landmarks, keep His people holy and undefiled.

VI. Closing Thoughts

Long ago, God warned:

- “Cursed be he that removeth his neighbour’s landmark.” ([Deut.27:17](#)).

Moving God’s spiritual landmarks brings judgment.

May God help us, to honor the landmarks of Preaching, Authority, Faithfulness, Worship, and Morality.

The Lord invites, and we await to assist.

Won’t you **Come**...

Hearing ([Rom.10:17](#)), [Believing \(\[Heb.11:6\]\(#\)\)](#), [Repenting \(\[Lk.13:3\]\(#\)\)](#), [Confessing \(\[Acts 8:37\]\(#\)\)](#) , and [Be Baptized INTO Christ \(\[Gal.3:26-27\]\(#\)\)](#)

...while together, we stand and sing.