**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | Birthmarks of the Believer |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 1 John 2:3-10 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2103 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. When we were Heaven-born, we became Heaven-bound.
   2. When we were Heaven-born and Heaven-bound, God put some indelible marks upon us.
      1. These are the traits of the twice-born.
      2. These are the birthmarks of the believer.
         1. If we do not find these birthmarks or traits, then we need to ask ourselves if we have ever really been saved.
         2. It is one thing to talk religion; it is another thing to have it.
   3. 1 John 2:4
   4. 1 John 2:6
   5. 1 John 2:9
      1. Each of the above verses begin with “He that saith…”
         1. It is one thing to talk the talk; it is another thing to walk the walk.
      2. Each of these phrases also introduces a trait of the twice-born, a birthmark of the believer.
   6. Today’s message will look at these traits and see what a true believer is.
2. A true believer submits to the lordship of jesus christ
   1. 1 John 2:3-4
   2. No one can be saved without receiving Christ as Lord.
      1. Acts 16:31
      2. Romans 10:9
      3. We don’t receive Christ as Savior and then later make Him Lord.
         1. We receive Him as Lord and Savior at the same time.
   3. It is a contradiction to say that Christ is your Lord, yet you don’t keep His word.
      1. Luke 6:46
      2. “Lord” means “Master.”
         1. He has every right to give His commandments.
   4. If a person claims to be a Christian but doesn’t keep Christ’s commandments, then the apostle John says that that person is a liar.
      1. 1 John 2:4
      2. This does not mean that we have to be perfect in order to go to Heaven.
      3. “Keep” in 1 John 2:4 means “to guard,” as someone would guard a treasure.
         1. When we treasure the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ, when they are precious to us, we set value in those commandments.
      4. The word “keep” was also used by sailors in ancient times.
         1. At night, the sailors would steer by the stars.
            1. This was called “keeping the stars.”
            2. They would set their course by keeping the stars.
      5. As Christians, we should set our course in life by keeping the commandments.
         1. We should treasure those commandments and steer by those commandments.
         2. This doesn’t mean that we will never be blown off course or take our eyes from the stars in a time of carelessness.
      6. A person who has no desire to live by the Word of God and who can sin carelessly and flippantly without any conviction needs to be saved.
   5. We are not saved by keeping the commandments.
      1. 1 John 2:4 does not teach salvation by works.
         1. “*He that saith, ‘I know Him*,’” is in the perfect tense, which speaks of something done in the past.
            1. It is done and settled.
         2. He “keepeth” commandments because he is now keeping; this is in the present tense.
         3. John is saying, “Because I have known Him, I am now keeping the commandments.”
            1. Verse 4 does not say, “Because I’m keeping the commandment, I know Him.”
      2. The only way to keep the commandments is to know Him.
      3. If we have Jesus in our heart and we have known Him (perfect tense), then we will be keeping His commandments (present tense).
   6. Do you have a desire in your heart to live by the Word of God?
      1. If not, then you should re-evaluate whether or not you are saved.
      2. If Jesus Christ is not Lord of your life, then you are not on the road to Heaven.
   7. This is not legalism, it is love.
      1. We keep the commandments of Jesus because we love Him.
      2. John 14:15
      3. John 14:21
      4. If we don’t keep His commandments, then we don’t really love Him.
         1. If we don’t love Him, then we’re not saved.
         2. We don’t keep the commandments in order to be saved.
   8. A person who is twice-born submits to the Lordship of Christ and keeps His Word.
      1. Luke 6:46
3. A true believer seeks the lifestyle of jesus christ (1 John 2:5-6)
   1. This passage is not talking about Jesus’ Lordship but His lifestyle.
      1. We are to walk as Jesus walked.
   2. If what we call “being saved” doesn’t make us more like Jesus, then we haven’t been saved.
      1. Being saved makes us like Jesus.
   3. 1 John 2:6
      1. “Even as He,” means our life is to be even as His life was.
   4. 1 John 4:17
   5. What is the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus?
      1. A life of honesty
         1. 1 John 1:7
            1. “*To walk in the light*” means to be honest.
         2. 1 John 1:6
         3. The lifestyle of Jesus is a life of honesty.
            1. Honest with God.
            2. Honest with self.
            3. Honest with others.
         4. A person who has a life built upon dishonesty is not walking as Jesus walked and is not walking in the light.
            1. Someone who is not walking in the light has no right to call himself or herself a child of God.
      2. A life of purity
         1. 1 John 3:3
         2. A person who feeds on filth and debauchery and is a lover of pornography should not call himself or herself a child of God.
            1. This does not mean that we cannot slip into sin.
            2. But if this is your lifestyle, then you’re not walking as Jesus walked.
      3. A life of righteousness
         1. 1 John 3:7
         2. Righteousness is not merely the abstaining from doing what is wrong.
         3. The Lord Jesus went about doing good.
            1. Acts 10:38
   6. How can we have the lifestyle of Jesus?
      1. The key is in 1 John 2:6.
         1. We are to abide in Him.
      2. John 15:5
         1. “To abide” means to have the relationship with Jesus Christ that a branch in a grapevine has to the main stem in that vine.
   7. How do we abide in Jesus?
      1. A life of reliance upon Jesus
         1. The branch (representing us) completely and totally relies upon the vine (Jesus).
         2. The branch can do nothing of itself.
         3. All that the branch needs is in the vine.
         4. The branch clings to the vine, grows out from the vine and receives whatever it needs from the vine.
            1. In the summertime when the branch needs moisture, the vine gives moisture.
            2. In the spring when it’s time to produce the grapes, the branch doesn’t worry about how many grapes, what size, what color or how sweet the grapes should be.

All the branch does is just abide in the vine.

* + - * 1. The branch does not produce the grapes; it only bears the grapes.
    1. A life of relinquishment upon Jesus.
       1. The branch relinquishes everything to the vine.
       2. Jesus came to the Earth as a man to live before us as a man, and so He set the example of abiding.
          1. John 5:19
          2. Jesus was abiding in the Father, and the life of God was reproduced in the human Jesus here upon this Earth.
    2. Abiding is a life of absolute dependence and complete relinquishment.
       1. The branch has no other side issues.
          1. It clings completely to the vine.
          2. It rests in the vine.
          3. The life of the vine comes into the branch.
  1. If we are going to have the lifestyle of the Lord Jesus Christ, then we must abide in Him.
     1. When we abide in Him and we are to Jesus what Jesus was to the Father, then Jesus will be to us what the Father was to Jesus.
     2. 1 John 2:4, 6
  2. Abiding in Jesus is not the same as simply asking ourselves what would Jesus do if He were here.
     1. First of all, when we ask ourselves “What would Jesus do?” in any situation, that presumes that we know what Jesus would do.
        1. Jesus will often do what we would not think He would do.
        2. We cannot put Jesus in a box and run Him through the grid of our own rationalism.
     2. It also presumes that if we knew what Jesus would do, we could do it.
     3. When we ask ourselves “What would Jesus do?” if He were here, the fact is that He is here!
        1. He is alive in us.
        2. We need to let the Jesus in us be Jesus.
           1. He is the one who knows what He would do, and He’s the one who can do it.
  3. Living the Christian life is a life of supernatural reliance upon the Lord Jesus Christ.
     1. We walk as He walked because we abide in Him.

1. a true believer shows the love of jesus christ (1 john 2:9-10)
   1. We share His love.
   2. This love is both old and new.
      1. It is old because Jesus said that love is the first and great commandment.
         1. Matthew 22:36-38
            1. It goes all the way back to the Old Testament.
      2. It is new because Jesus gave a new commandment to love one another.
         1. John 13:34
         2. At the time Jesus gave this new commandment in John 13, He had been washing the disciple’s feet in the upper room.
            1. John 13:4-5
            2. Peter, a crude and arrogant braggart, was in this room.
            3. James and John, who were called “Sons of Thunder” and had hair-trigger tempers, were in this room.

Mark 3:17

Luke 9:54

* + - * 1. Simon the Zealot, who knew nothing but hatred for the Romans before He met Jesus, was in that room.
        2. Andrew, who was quiet and sensitive, was in that room.
        3. Phillip, who was calculating, was in that room.
        4. Thomas, who was very cynical, in that room.
        5. Jesus loved them all.
  1. Jesus doesn’t love us because we’re lovely; He just loves us.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. If a person is saved, it will show in his life.
      1. We are not saved by keeping the commandments.
      2. We are not saved by walking as Jesus walked.
      3. We are not saved by loving our brother.
      4. But if we are saved, we will do these things.
         1. They will come out of the life that has met the Lord Jesus.
         2. If your religion hasn’t changed your life, then you had better change your religion because you don’t have the New Testament kind.
   2. How do you know the Lord?
      1. You know Him by faith.
         1. You trust Him as your Lord and Savior by faith.
   3. If you would like to trust the Lord Jesus today, you can do so right now.
   4. Pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   5. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16