

## THE MESSAGE FROM GOD'S LIFE-BUILDING WORD

### **Maximum Joy: Something Old, Something New**

April 18-19, 2015

INTRODUCTION: "Signs" are all around us

- 1 John 2:7 *Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard.*

#### **Context**

A young church...

False teachers...Gnostics...it's all about knowledge.

#### **Our Foundation: Jesus' Sacrifice**

- 1 John 2:1-2 *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous. <sup>2</sup> He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*

#### **Signs of Faith**

First Sign – Obedience to God's Word

- 1 John 2:4-5a *If someone claims, "I know God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth. <sup>5</sup> But those who obey God's word truly show how completely they love him.*

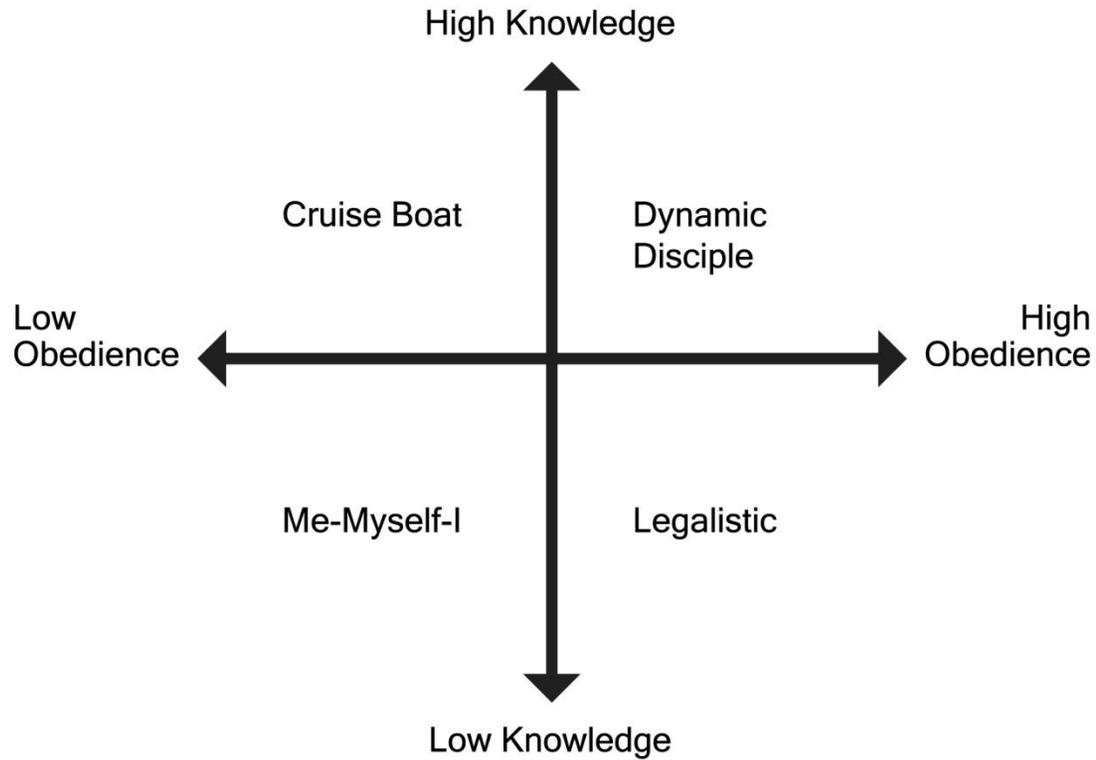
Second Sign – A Christ-like life

- 1 John 2:5b-6 *That is how we know we are living in him. <sup>6</sup> Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.*

Third Sign – Love of Others

- 1 John 2:9-10 *Anyone who claims to be in the light but hates a brother or sister is still in the darkness.* <sup>10</sup> *Anyone who loves their brother and sister lives in the light...*

**Signs of Faith in Our World**



## Our Pathway to Engagement



Conclusion: Grace alone saves, but grace is never alone.

# G.P.S. Grow. Pray. Study.



Things I'd like to remember from today's message:

Get each day's GPS downloaded to your computer/phone/etc. by going to this link <http://www.clcm-gps.com/> or subscribing through Feedly.com (or other RSS Reader) to receive daily updates.

**Monday: KNOWLEDGE** - Read *Proverbs 4:5* and *Jeremiah 9:24*. What do these two passages tell us about our pursuit of knowledge? What kind of knowledge does the Jeremiah passage say we can boast of? Name all the avenues that you weekly use to gain this "boost-worthy" knowledge?

**Tuesday: OBEDIENCE** - Read *John 7:16-19*. What does this passage say is the key to grasping spiritual knowledge? What would you assess that needs to be done differently in your life to better understand Jesus' teaching?

**Wednesday: WORSHIP** - Read *Psalms 27:4-6*. This is a beautiful passage that speaks of worshipping God. How does it describe worship? How does it describe the blessings of worship? Identify how (or if) these blessings come to you through your worship experience.

**Thursday: CONNECT** - Read *1 John 1:3*. This short passage from 1 John gives great nuggets of insight about Christian fellowship. Name at least three insights or truths about Christian fellowship from this passage. Where does your fellowship occur?

**Friday: LEARN** - Read *Acts 3:42-47*. This passage gives us a short, but rich glimpse into the life of the early church. What role did "learning" play in the lives of the early Christians? In verse 42, what does the word "devoted" tell us about their pursuit of spiritual learning? Where does this happen in your life?

**Saturday: SERVE** - Read *Matthew 5:14-16*. Our service allows others to see the light of Jesus and it is a praise of the Father in heaven. Does this passage recommend or command acts of service? Pray that God would bless you with a heart that desires to serve.