

Jesus is coming
Look busy

**Doing
What?**



Mark 13

33 Take heed, **keep on the alert**; for you do not know when the appointed time is. 34 It is like a man, away on a journey, who upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, **assigning to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert.**"

Matthew 24-25 insert

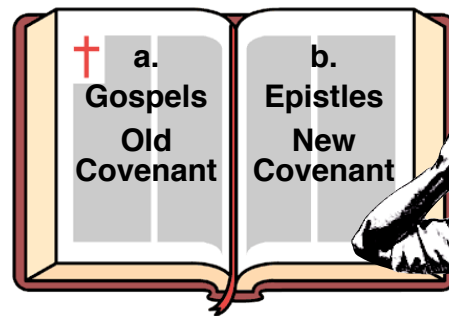
The Faithful Slave	24:45-51
The Wise Virgins	25:1-13
The Talents	25:14-30

35 Therefore, **be on the alert** - for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning - 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all, **'Be on the alert!'**"

"Be alert"

- **watching** - knowing the signs.
- **waiting** - fixing our hope.
- **working** - completing our task.

Where do we find a model for the Christian life?



Matthew 28:19-20

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe **all that I commanded you**; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

Mark 1:1

"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ,"

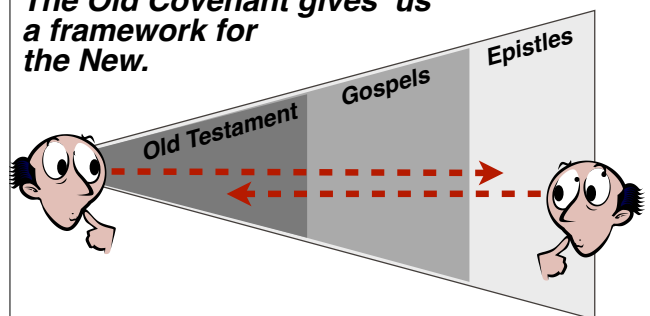
John 14:26

"the Helper, the Holy Spirit, . . . will teach you all things"

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

"taught by the Spirit,"

The Old Covenant gives us a framework for the New.



The Epistles give us insight into the meaning of the rest of the Bible.

The great commission according to Paul

Ephesians 4

"¹¹ And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ; ¹³ until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ. . . ¹⁵ . . . speaking the truth in love, we are to grow up in all aspects into Him, who is the head, even Christ, ¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by that which every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love."

What is the focus of the Christian life in the Epistles?



What is the core mission of the church?



1. **Not Soul savers** - "world evangelism"?
2. **Not Body savers** - "peace and justice"?
3. **Not Dominion** - "bring in the Kingdom"?
4. **?**

Form follows function.



A connected responder

- ☐ How do you handle anger?
- ☐ How do you respond when you are treated like a servant?
- ☐ How do you respond when you are blessed in this life and when you are not?
- ☐ How do you respond when God takes your baptism seriously?

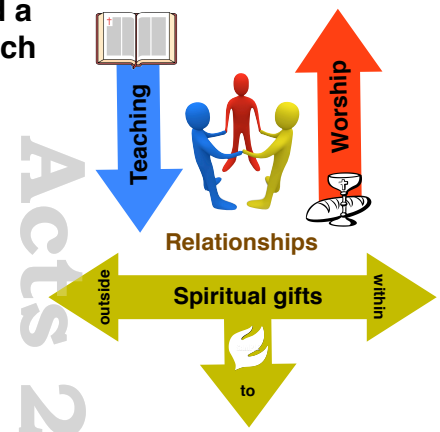
What should a healthy church provide?

Vital **relational** experiences

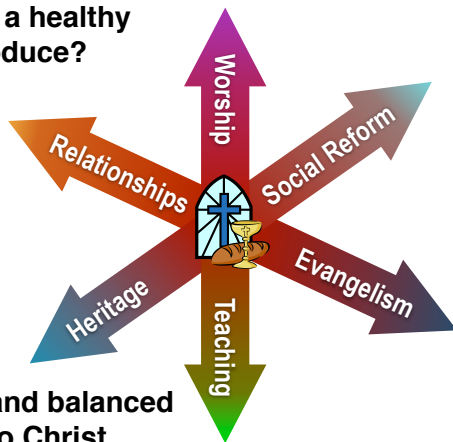
Vital **learning** experiences

Vital **worship** experiences

Vital **ministry** experiences



What does a healthy church produce?



A diverse and balanced response to Christ

A healthy church connection

- ☐ Are you connected at a personal/spiritual level with people other than your immediate family?
- ☐ Are you learning and growing from what you learn?
- ☐ Are you motivated and encouraged to worship in spirit and truth?
- ☐ Are you actively using your gifts in ministering to others and receiving ministry from others?

The Gospel is about PEACE with God, self, and others.

2 Corinthians 13:14

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.”

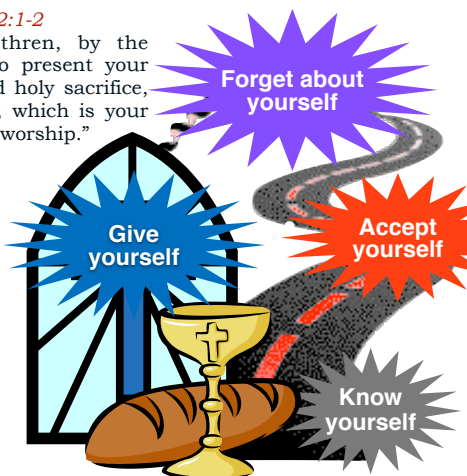
Peace with God is the first step to being a peacemaker with others.



Romans 12:1-2

“I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.”

The Gospel path starts and ends with the cross



A spiritually developed disciple

- ☐ Do you know your core strengths, weaknesses, fears, & motivations?
- ☐ Have you experienced God’s love through the grace of Christ at a level that frees and empowers you?
- ☐ Are you free from self-serving, self-protective, & self-promoting habits?
- ☐ Do you freely give yourself in service of others as an expression of worship to God?

So what are we to be doing?

“Be alert”

- ➡ **watching** - knowing the signs.
- ➡ **waiting** - fixing our hope.
- ➡ **working** - completing our task.
 - functioning as ambassadors for Christ in, through, and for the building up of the Body of Christ.
 - prepared to persevere as hard times come.

**Example
of Jesus being IN but not OF
the world.**

**Disciples are distinct in
that they know where they
are going, what to expect,
what is expected of them.**