**True Character Made Manifest,** *What is your true character?*

**Introduction**

1. Our character may seem commendable without any testing.
2. When God’s word shines on our lives our true character is revealed.
3. Whether we obey God’s word or not shows our true desires and aspirations.
4. We must desire to live for Christ! Adhere to His word!
5. God’s Word Reveals Our Character.
6. The Litmus test for our soul.

* Dip litmus paper in liquid to tell if it is an acid or base. This test is immediate and obvious.
* Hebrews 4:12-13 – The word pierces through any front and reveals our true person.
* Ephesians 5:8-17 – Christians are supposed to expose (reprove – convict; show people their error in effort to correct it) works of darkness. When this is done there is a call to the light. A person’s true desire (serve themselves or God) is seen when the truth of their actions are exposed. We must discover the will of the Lord and do it!
* Paul – Is he sincere? Is he doing it for God? – Acts 22:3-5 (Jerusalem Mob); 26:9-11 (King Agrippa)
  + Character made manifest – Acts 9:3-6, 20
    - His sincerity in serving God was seen in His repentance.
* King David – a man after God’s heart? – Adultery with Bathsheba/Killed Uriah (Rom. 3:23 – all have sinned)
  + How did he react to the accusation – 2 Samuel 12:7, 13; Psalm 51:3-4, 10-11

1. There is no in between.

* Indecisiveness reveals negative character – James 1:6-8 (Lord does not award a double minded man – doubting); Revelation 3:15-16 (lukewarm isn’t acceptable)
* The Lord expects commitment – Matthew 6:24; 19:16-22 (Rich young ruler truly didn’t love God.)
  + We must sacrifice for God – Luke 14:25-33 (leaving all to follow Christ)
    - Whether it be people, possessions, or anything.

1. The Choice is Ours.

* Philippians 2:12 – We work out our own salvation. God gives the gift, we must meet the conditions.
* 2 Corinthians 5:9-11 – Whatever is holding us back is not worth it.
* Philippians 3:3-14 – We must give up all for Christ and strive for the prize.
  + Paul had things that were gain to him in the law. Instead of holding on to those things he gave them up for Christ.
  + He left all he knew.
  + He continued in diligence recognizing that he had not yet finished the race.