

# PASTOR'S PERSPECTIVE

April 2008

## Jesus, our Map to Life

*"Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking on the very nature of a servant."* Philippians 2:5-7

I got really lost in Pennsylvania. I was following a map, but the map was old. It did not have any of the changes of the roads on it nor the new route numbers. Weird, here I was, following the map in my car, but I was as lost as one could be! There is something imperative about what we are doing as a church. We are changing. Change is not just happening in our fellowship, but it is happening everywhere. Even our political nominees are crying out for change and the more the change, the more the challenges. The greater the challenges, the more the need to walk in sound spiritual truths. We must follow a tried and proven model. That model is Christ Jesus.

The word model or paradigm comes from a Greek word. It was originally a scientific term but it came to mean the frame of reference (model, theory) by which we see, perceive or interpret the world. It's exactly like a good updated map. It provides true direction so that we don't get lost. There are many old maps in our heads and old paradigms that we live by. We need to seriously update for the day and time we live in. We can have a good attitude and still get lost. Someone once said that you can tell where a person stands by where they sit. Sometimes we are sitting down on the inside and resisting the changes that will lead to life. The whole idea of the scripture that we have been looking at is that our model is not just a principle but a person. When we follow Jesus, we will not get lost. When we change our attitude, it can't be to just any good, old attitude, it must be like the attitude of Jesus who left his heavenly realm and came to our world to model servanthood.

Albert Einstein once said, "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." So, we must change our thinking in order to address the world today. Our world has major problems. Folks are calling out for change but the only true answer to change is the kind of change Jesus came to bring: a new life. Only a new life can see to remove the bondages in the lives of others. Jesus came to bring us liberation from the old lifestyle. But liberation is not so that we can do our own thing. It's so that we can do the Father's thing. Our new map leads us to love and serve the Father and to be obedient to his word, which carries in it the solutions to every difficulty we or others face.

Someone said that the way we see a problem is the problem. How do you view the world? How do you see the trial that you are in right now? How do you perceive your role on earth? What map are you going by? Change your attitude to that of Christ Jesus and you will change your life to be a powerful influence that will bring direction to your life and healing to the lost.

*Blessings,  
Pastor Gene*