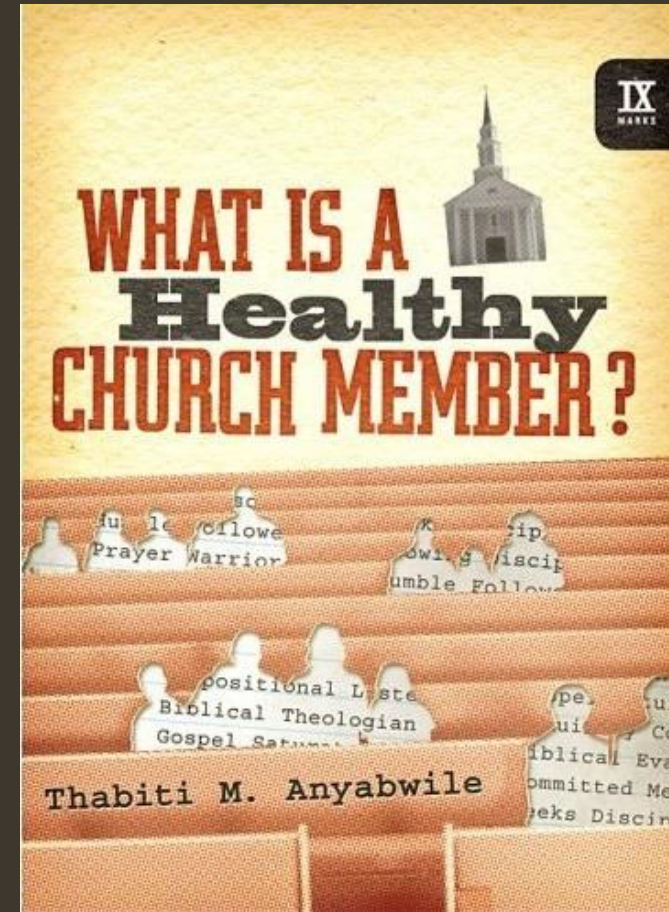
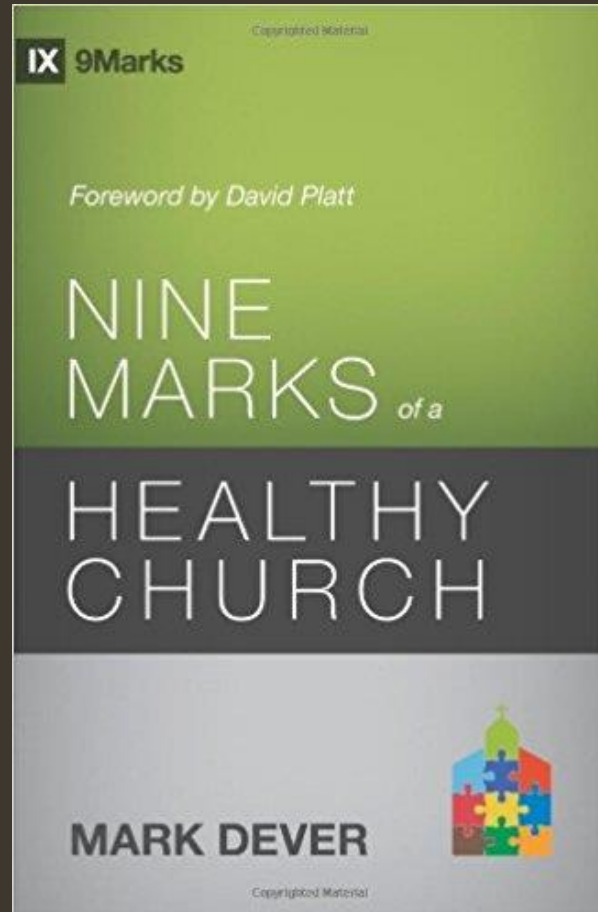


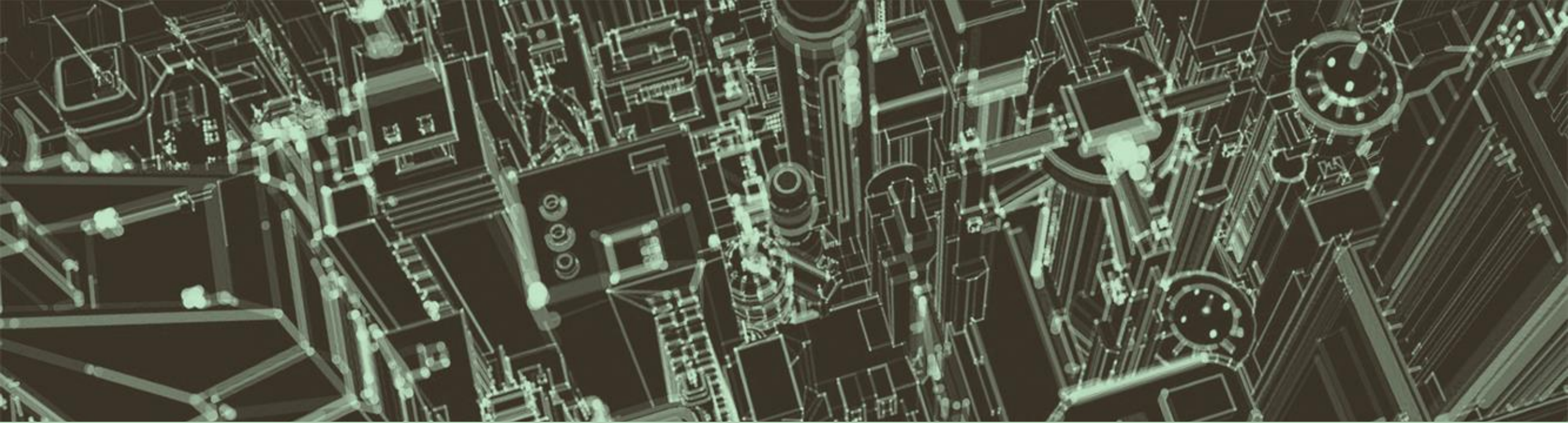
What Is A Healthy Church? Part 3

CITY SESSIONS



SOURCE MATERIAL





5. Biblical Understanding of Evangelism



Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- What is Evangelism?
 - It is not imposition.
 - Our Christian beliefs are not mere opinions. They are not *your* truths. They are God's.
 - Evangelism is simply telling the good news. You are not responsible for someone responding correctly.
 - “Christian evangelism by its very nature involves no coercion, only proclamation and love.”
 - It is not your personal testimony.
 - In telling people how much Jesus means to you, you may not have necessarily told them the gospel message.

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- What is evangelism?
 - It is not social action or political involvement.
 - The person transformed by the gospel will act in society and politically, but this action is not evangelism. We must actually share the message.
 - It is not apologetics.
 - Answering people's questions may lead to evangelism but is not in and of itself evangelism.
 - It is not the results of evangelism!
 - “According to the Bible, evangelism may not be defined in terms of results or methods, but only in terms of faithfulness to the message preached.”

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

“...with the contemporary church’s fascination with pragmatic (“if it works, do it”) methods and techniques, it is easy for members to be led in unhealthy directions if they don’t understand conversion and evangelism.”

When we do understand conversion biblically, “we realize that evangelism does not depend on eloquence, using the correct mood lighting, emotionally sappy stories and songs, or high-pressure sales pitches. We are free to simply and deeply trust God and the power of the gospel to produce the fruit he desires. (Romans 1:17)”

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- Who should evangelize?
 - When we look at Acts and the epistles, we find it obvious that Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28 was meant to be followed by ALL believers.
 - Though we may not all have the spiritual gift of the evangelist, we are all called to evangelize those God has put in our lives.

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- Why should we evangelize?
 - “According to the Bible, good motives for evangelism include a desire to be obedient to the Great Commission (see Matt. 28:18-20; 1 Cor. 9:16-17); a love for the lost (e.g., Matt. 9:36; John 3:16; Rom. 10:1); and preeminently, a love for God.”
 - “Ultimately, this love for God leads to a desire to see him glorified... The call to evangelism is a call to turn our lives outward – from focusing on ourselves and our needs to focusing on God and the world he has made.”

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- How should we evangelize?
 - Simply put: share the message! Spread the good news of Jesus!
 - 7 Biblical guidelines:
 - 1. Tell people with honesty that if they repent and believe they will be saved – but it will be costly.
 - 2. Tell people with urgency that if they repent and believe they will be saved – but they must decide now.
 - 3. Tell people with joy that if they repent and believe the good news they will be saved. However difficult it may be, it is all worth it!

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

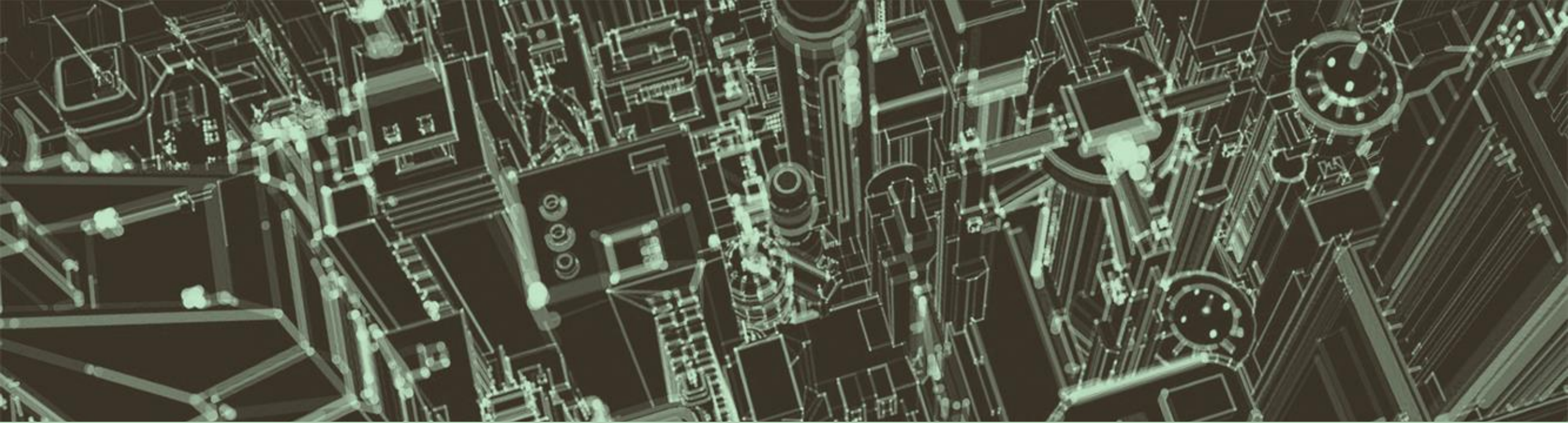
- 8 Biblical guidelines (cont.)
 - 4. Use the Bible.
 - 5. Realize that the lives of the individual Christian and of the church as a whole are a central part of evangelism. Both should give credibility to the gospel we proclaim.
 - 6. Remember to pray.
 - 7. Build relationships with non-Christians.
 - 8. Work together with other Christians to take the gospel to those who don't live around any Christians.

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- Faithful evangelism must:
 - 1. be content specific, presenting the truth about who God is, who men are, what sin is, who Jesus is, what Jesus has done about sin, and what we must do about what Jesus has done.
 - 2. include the notion that Jesus is the exclusive way to salvation.
 - 3. call the hearer to repentance and faith in Christ.

Biblical Understanding of Evangelism

- Some final tips:
 - “Counsel seekers in a way that focuses on deeds, not words; a change of life, not just a change of beliefs. The last thing we should communicate is that by merely saying yes to a proposition, they can be assured of eternal life.
 - “Focus on a biblical, serious view of sin and guilt.
 - “Teach the Bible and Christian doctrine so that potential converts grasp that the plan of salvation is God’s counsel not human wisdom.
 - “Abandon the facile language of *decisionism* (“just believe,” “pray to receive,” “invite Jesus into your heart”) in favor of the more rigorous language of conversion (“surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ,” or “turn from sin, accept the forgiveness purchased by Jesus through his death, and live a life of obedience to him”).”



6. Biblical Understanding of Prayer



Biblical Understanding of Prayer

- Isaiah prophesied: “These I will bring to my holy mountain, and make them joyful in my house of prayer; their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be accepted on my altar; For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” (Isa. 56:7)
- From the very beginning, we see that one of the central acts of the church was prayer. (Acts 1:14, 2:42)
- So, we must be prayer warriors as healthy members of a healthy church.

Biblical Understanding of Prayer

- The gospel must inform our prayer life!

“The gospel is primarily the work of the Son. How we know the Son will determine how we view our relationship with the Father who speaks to us through his word. How we view that relationship will determine, in turn, how we come to God in prayer and with what confidence. Prayer will never again be a sentimental excursion or an instinctive hitting of the panic button. Nor will it be the presumption of an innate right to demand God’s attention. Rather it will be the expression of our entry into God’s heavenly sanctuary, which has been procured for us by our Great High Priest.” - Graeme Goldsworthy

Biblical Understanding of Prayer

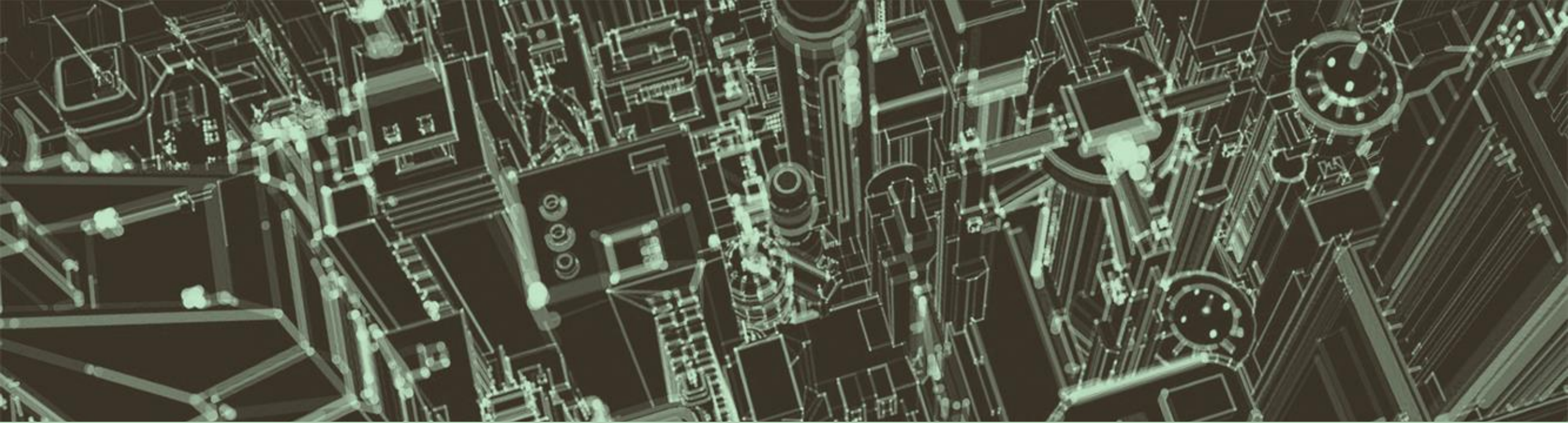
- How/When should we pray?
 - Constantly! (1 Thess. 5:17, Rom. 12:12, Col. 3:1-2, 4:2,12)
 - In the Spirit!
 - Romans 8:26-27
 - “Prayer in the Spirit is prayer *controlled* by the Spirit. And prayer controlled by the Spirit is prayer according to the will of God.”

Biblical Understanding of Prayer

- For whom/what shall we pray?
 - Laborers and Shepherds (Matt. 9:36-38)
 - All the saints (Eph. 6:18)
 - Pray for their sanctification (1 Thess. 4:3), against temptation and for watchfulness (Matt. 26:41), that they would be filled with the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-25), and nearly anything the Bibles commends for Christians.
 - Those in authority (1 Tim. 2:1-3, Rom. 13:1-2, Eph. 6:1-3)
 - Those who abuse and persecute them (Luke 6:28, Matt. 5:46-47)

Biblical Understanding of Prayer

“If we would be expositional-listening, gospel saturated, biblical theologians, we should pray with the confident knowledge of what God is doing in the world through Christ his Son and pray for the worldwide advancement of his gospel and will.”



QUESTIONS?

