Title: Marks of a Church That Matters: Surrendered, Purposeful, and Spirit-Filled

Sermon Summary: Drawing from Ephesians 1, this sermon calls the church back to its foundational identity in Christ, emphasizing that every plan, provision, purpose, and promise of God for the church is found exclusively in Him. Tyrone challenges believers to resist the subtle drift toward religious activity, cultural imitation, and self-sufficiency, and instead return to unconditional surrender, unwavering faith, and the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Then he presents seven distinguishing marks of a church that truly matters, not as institutional ideals, but as personal, daily commitments required of every believer. Running throughout is the conviction that the church exists not for itself but as a gift to its surrounding region, called to reach all kinds of people with compassion rather than results-driven ministry.

Key Points:
- Everything God has planned, provided, purposed, and promised for the church is found in Christ alone, not alongside Him or separate from Him
- The church is not the center of God's plan but is central to it, with Jesus as the true center
- The devil does more damage through imitation of the church than through direct opposition to it
- A church that matters is marked by unconditional, daily surrender to Christ as Lord, not merely as Savior or therapist
- Unquestioning commitment to God's purpose means aligning human plans with divine will and moving from prophetic words to prophetic fulfillment
- God's promises are inseparable from God's purposes, and believers cannot claim promises while living outside His purposes
- Unwavering faith means believing God, not just believing in Him, and recognizing that obedience often looks ridiculous before it becomes miraculous
- Uncompromising conviction to biblical truth requires personal engagement with Scripture through the Holy Spirit rather than reliance on borrowed truth from others
- The pursuit of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is not optional but essential, as ministry accomplished through human effort alone is imitation, not the real church
- Unmistakable Christ-likeness and authenticity are what people outside the church are genuinely searching for
- The church is called to love all kinds of people without preference, functioning as a net rather than a fishing pole, moved by compassion rather than results
- A church that matters exists for its city and region, not as a church against or a church apart from, but a church for the people around it

Scripture References:

- Ephesians 1:3-14, which describes God's plan, provision, purpose, and promise for the church as being entirely in Christ
- Matthew 16:25, where Jesus teaches that losing one's life for Him is the path to finding it
- Proverbs 19:21, which contrasts human plans with the prevailing purpose of God
- Isaiah 46:10, where God declares that His purpose will stand and He will accomplish all He intends
- Zechariah 4:6, which declares that God's work is accomplished not by might or power but by His Spirit
- Ephesians 5, where Paul instructs believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit rather than given to fleshly indulgence
- John 16:13, where Jesus describes the Holy Spirit as the Spirit of truth who guides believers into all truth and brings glory to Christ

Stories:
- Tyrone recounts his own testimony of turning away from God after witnessing hypocrisy in the church, living a worldly life in Australia, and then repenting on his knees at 2 a.m. in his father's hotel room, afterward walking away from all his possessions and relationships to begin a new life in full surrender to Christ
- He describes friends who reveal the final score of a recorded game before he watches it, using this as an analogy for how believers already know the outcome of history and should live with greater freedom, risk, and joy because of that knowledge
- Tyrone references the story of Jim Bakker, who reflected in prison that he never stopped loving Jesus but stopped fearing Him, illustrating the difference between love and reverence toward Christ
- He references the Last Supper account where each disciple asked whether they would betray Jesus, noting that Judas called Him Rabbi rather than Lord, suggesting that a lack of reverence enabled his betrayal
- He shares a prophetic dream recounted by Ken Grenfell in November 2019 in Toronto, in which a vehicle full of people disappeared after dropping them at a prayer meeting, leaving only a Bible on the ground, which the speaker later understood as a foreshadowing of the COVID-19 shutdown and a call to return to Scripture and prayer
- He cites a Chinese Christian delegation that surveyed Western churches and returned home with the observation that Western Christians do many things that God is not involved in
- He tells the story of a man who, lacking real cheese for a mousetrap, cut out a picture of cheese from a magazine and the next morning found a picture of a mouse in the trap, using this as an illustration of how a counterfeit lifestyle produces only artificial results

- Tyrone shares an account of praying for a woman in a gym who declared herself anti-God, using it to illustrate the difference between result-driven ministry and compassion-driven ministry