

Dear fellow bookworm,

Our new book this month offers insight into how a church member can best participate in the local church. Through 10 chapters or marks, Pastor Thabiti shows how a healthy church must be under-girded by the church member. In the forward, Mark Dever states that “living the Christian life is not something that we’re supposed to do alone.” This would include each individual member of the church as well as the church staff and leadership. Unfortunately, many of us build invisible walls so that no one may help us (or know when to help us) when we need it.

Mark (chapter) one is expositional listening whereby the church member is encouraged to listen to God’s purpose in His word for that week. Mark two exhorts the reader to understand biblical theology and its importance in protecting them from heretical beliefs. The third mark is a challenge to live a life saturated with the gospel. Marks four and five deal with evangelism and true conversion as integral to our understanding of who is and who is not a true believer in Christ.

Mark six offers an apologetic for making membership in the local church a very serious concern for all believers-especially new believers. Corrective and formative discipline is the seventh mark while mark eight deals with the spiritual growth of all members. Mark nine offers ways that the church member can support the staff and leadership of his or her local church. Mark ten, as a bonus, is that every member should be prayerful. All of these marks assume that the reader and/or church member is a born-again, believer.

As you read you get the feeling as though you are in a church membership class or a theology of church membership class at a Bible College or seminary. Yet the book is simple and faithful to the Bible. Questions are anticipated and answers to objections are sprinkled about.

Pastor Thabiti is not turning over any new rocks in this little book but he is reminding us of the precious priorities that have long been understood but regrettably not always practiced.

A very profitable read indeed.

Growing through good reading,

Your fellow bookworm