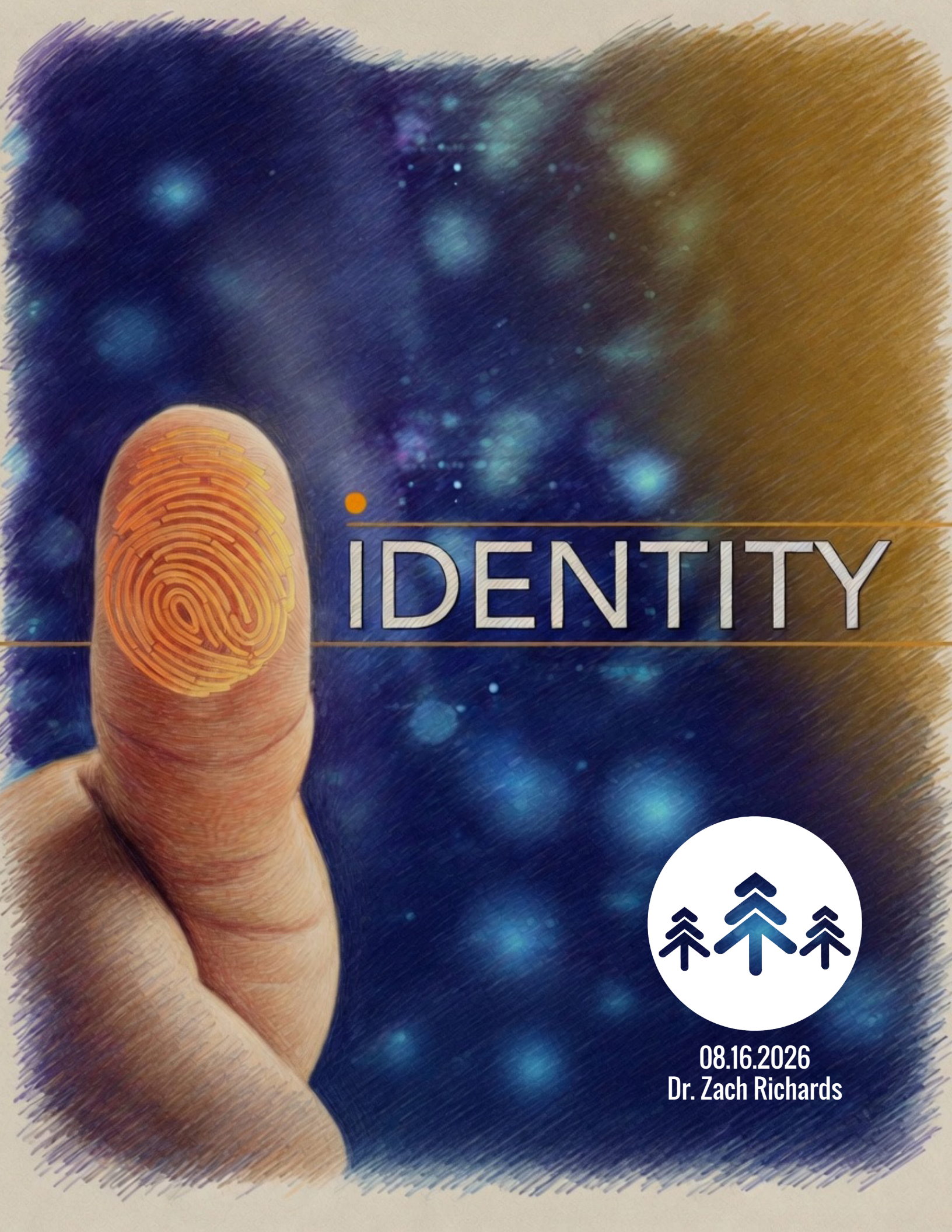


The background of the entire image is a textured, painterly representation of a cosmic scene, featuring a mix of deep blues, purples, and warm golden-browns, with numerous small, glowing blue and white specks resembling distant stars or nebulae. On the left side, a human hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger extended towards the center. The fingerprint on the tip of the finger is highlighted with a golden-yellow, concentric circular pattern. A thin, horizontal golden line runs across the middle of the image, passing behind the word 'IDENTITY'.

IDENTITY



08.16.2026
Dr. Zach Richards

What Keeps Us Going?

II Corinthians 5:1-10

Sermon in a Sentence

We are not motivated by what we gain on earth, but by what we gain in eternity.

Question

What is it that keeps a person going in the ministry?

I. We are motivated by a change of housing.

- A. Paul used the metaphor of a dwelling to compare life here on earth to life in eternity.
- B. We should be motivated to serve God by the reassurance of a glorified body in eternity.
- C. We should not fear losing that which was never made to last in the first place.

II. We are motivated by a change of clothing.

- A. Paul then switches metaphors to that of clothing.
- B. What do we learn about this heavenly wardrobe?
 - 1. It should be anticipated and not avoided.
 - 2. It is a new layer, and not a change of clothes.
 - a) ἐπενδύσασθαι = to put on over
 - b) ἐνδύσασθαι = to put on (1 Cor. 15:53)
 - c) 1 Corinthians 15:50-54- ***I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."***
 - 3. Without it, we will experience shame.

C. Matthew 22:1-14- **And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying,** ² *"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son,* ³ *and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come.* ⁴ *Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast."'* ⁵ *But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business,* ⁶ *while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them.* ⁷ *The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city.* ⁸ *Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy.* ⁹ *Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.'* ¹⁰ *And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests.* ¹¹ *"But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment.* ¹² *And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless.* ¹³ *Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'* ¹⁴ *For many are called, but few are chosen."*

III. We are motivated by a change of address.

- A. Paul goes on to state that given the choice, he would prefer to be with the Lord.
- B. The certainty of our permanent residence should embolden us to serve well.
 - 1. God is preparing us for eternity.
 - 2. God has given us His Spirit as a promise of eternity.
- C. If we are not seeking to serve God well, can we really say we have faith?

IV. We are motivated by a change of priority.

- A. Paul confessed that what motivated him was an aspiration to serve well.
- B. We should live to please God.
 - 1. Our eternal reward is not a heavenly participation trophy.
 - 2. Matthew 25:14-30- **"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.** ¹⁵ *To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.* ¹⁶ *He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.* ¹⁷ *So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.* ¹⁸ *But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.* ¹⁹ *Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.*

***20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.'* ²¹ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²² And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.' ²³ His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹ For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰ And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'**

3. We should live each day knowing two things:
- a) We will have to stand before Christ.
 - b) We want to see a smile on His face.