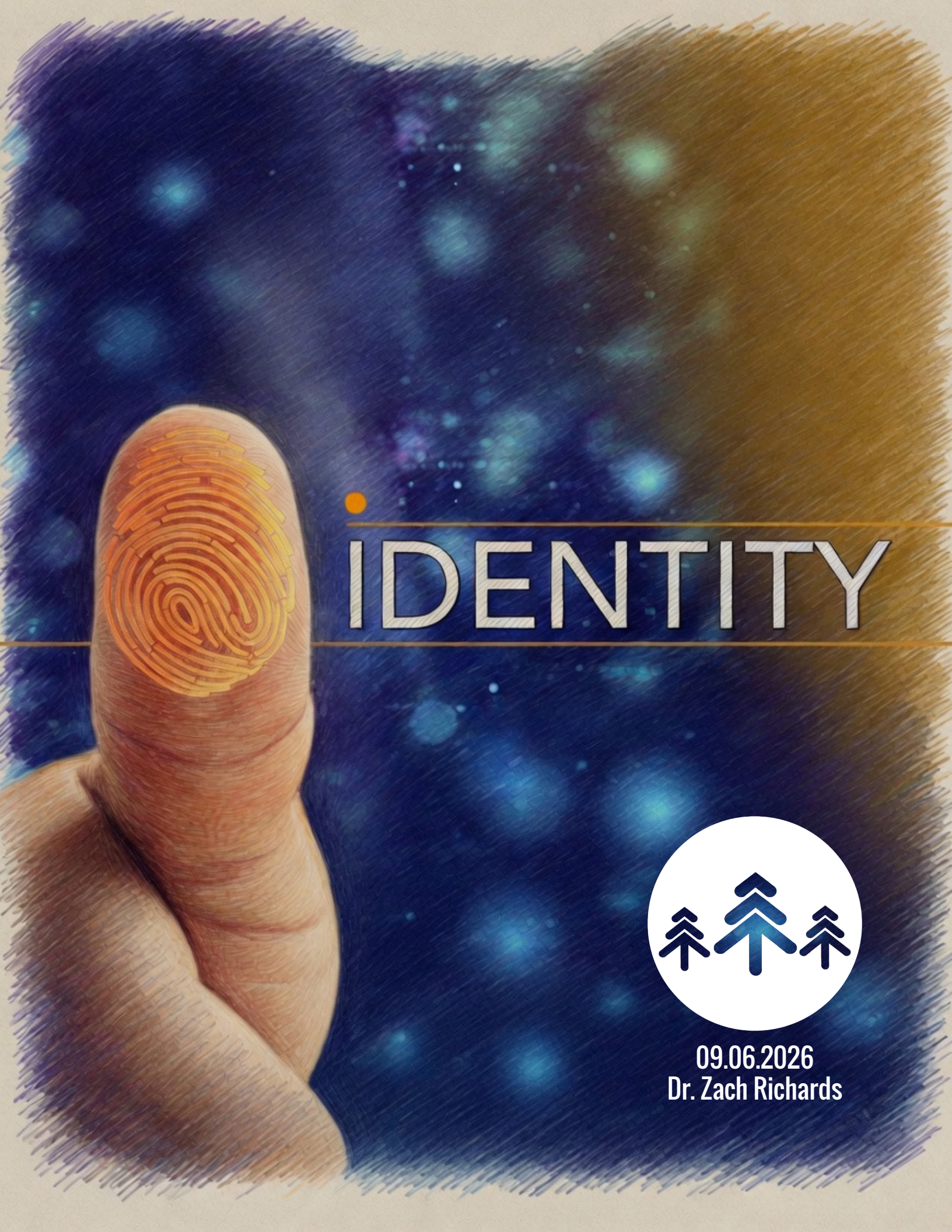


The background of the entire image is a textured, painterly representation of a cosmic scene, featuring a dark blue and purple nebula with scattered bright blue and white star-like points of light. On the left side, a human hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger extended towards the center. The fingerprint on the tip of the finger is highlighted with a golden-yellow, concentric circular pattern. A thin, horizontal orange line runs across the middle of the image, passing behind the word 'IDENTITY'.

IDENTITY



09.06.2026
Dr. Zach Richards

Life Through Forever Eyes

2 Corinthians 5.16-21

Sermon in a Sentence

When we begin looking at things through spiritual eyes,
it changes our perspective about people, life, and ministry.

Question

What happens when we begin to look at things through forever eyes?

I. It changes the way we look at people.

- A. Paul stated that the resurrection changed the way that he saw other people.
- B. In the flesh, we are tempted to categorize people in all sorts of ways.
- C. If we are looking at things through spiritual eyes, we will see people as either saved or lost.
 - 1. **Romans 1:16**
For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
 - 2. **Romans 10:12**
For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him.
 - 3. **Colossians 3:11**
Here there is not Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free; but Christ is all, and in all.
 - 4. No other categories matter.

II. It changes the way we look at Christ.

- A. Paul confessed that his encounter with the resurrected Christ changed the way he had looked at Jesus.
- B. When we encounter Christ, there is no way our perspective cannot be changed.
 - 1. *No one who ever encountered Jesus on earth was left unchanged.*
 - 2. *We have been changed by the reality that Jesus changed places with us.*
- C. If we have an encounter with Jesus and leave it unchanged, we have not truly met Jesus.

III. It changes the way we look at our purpose.

- A. Paul's encounter with Christ transformed his purpose in life.
- B. An authentic encounter with Christ should lead to an authentic change of purpose.
- C. But why should I change my plans for God?
 - 1. *He transformed us from an enemy into an heir.*
 - 2. *He has transformed us from rejects into representatives.*