

**Clarifying Our Niche**  
*A New Wine Skin*  
Matthew 9:9-17

1. It is first a problem of **short memories**
  - A. That treat **current** practices as **eternal** mandates (9:11, 14)  
Best expressed as “**we’ve never done it that way before.**”
  - B. That fail to recognize that practices should reflect **priorities** (9:12-13)
    - a. That is the product of no longer **asking the right question**
    - b. That requires periodic reviews of **driving principles**
2. It is resolved by dealing in eternal **realities** (9:15-17)
  - A. That are related to the **big picture** (15)
    - a. Nothing is **by chance** in God’s plans
    - b. The **future** does not belong to the **past**
  - B. That embrace the need for new **structures** (16)
    - a. Where the **important objectives** are achieved
    - b. Where the **greatest good** is accomplished

## Conclusions

1. Our **mission** is to extend grace to sinners.
2. Our **methods** are for extending grace to sinners.