



THE EPISTLE TO THE EPHESIANS



ABOUT THE BOOK

- WHERE DID IT GET ITS NAME:
Since the letter was addressed to the Ephesian church it was only fitting to name the books accordingly.
- LANGUAGE: It was written in Koine Greek.
- WHERE DOES IT FIT INTO THE BIBLE:
Ephesians is the tenth books of the New Testament canon and the fifth in the section of the Pauline Epistles.
- AUTHOR: The book was written by “Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God” (Eph 1:1, NIV)



AUDIENCE

- While most English translations indicate that the letter was addressed to “God’s holy people in Ephesus, the faithful in Christ Jesus” (Eph 1:1, NIV), the words “in Ephesus” do not appear in the earliest extant manuscripts of the letter. *
- Paul refers to a letter he wrote to the Laodiceans which he instructs the Colossians to read, while the Laodiceans are to read the epistle to the church in Colossae.
 - Col 4:16 (NIV) After this letter has been read to you, see that it is also read in the church of the Laodiceans and that you in turn read the letter from Laodicea.

* 46, * κ , B*, 1739, et al.

AUDIENCE

- This letter is generally regarded as being lost. However, some ancient sources, such as Hippolytus, and some modern scholars consider that the epistle "from Laodicea" was never a lost epistle, but simply Paul re-using one of his other letters (the most common candidate is the canonical Epistle to the Ephesians), just as he asks for the copying and forwarding of the Letter to Colossians to Laodicea. *
- Tertullian accuses Marcion's group of using an edited version of Ephesians which was referred to as the Epistle to the Laodiceans. *

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle_to_the_Laodiceans

AUDIENCE

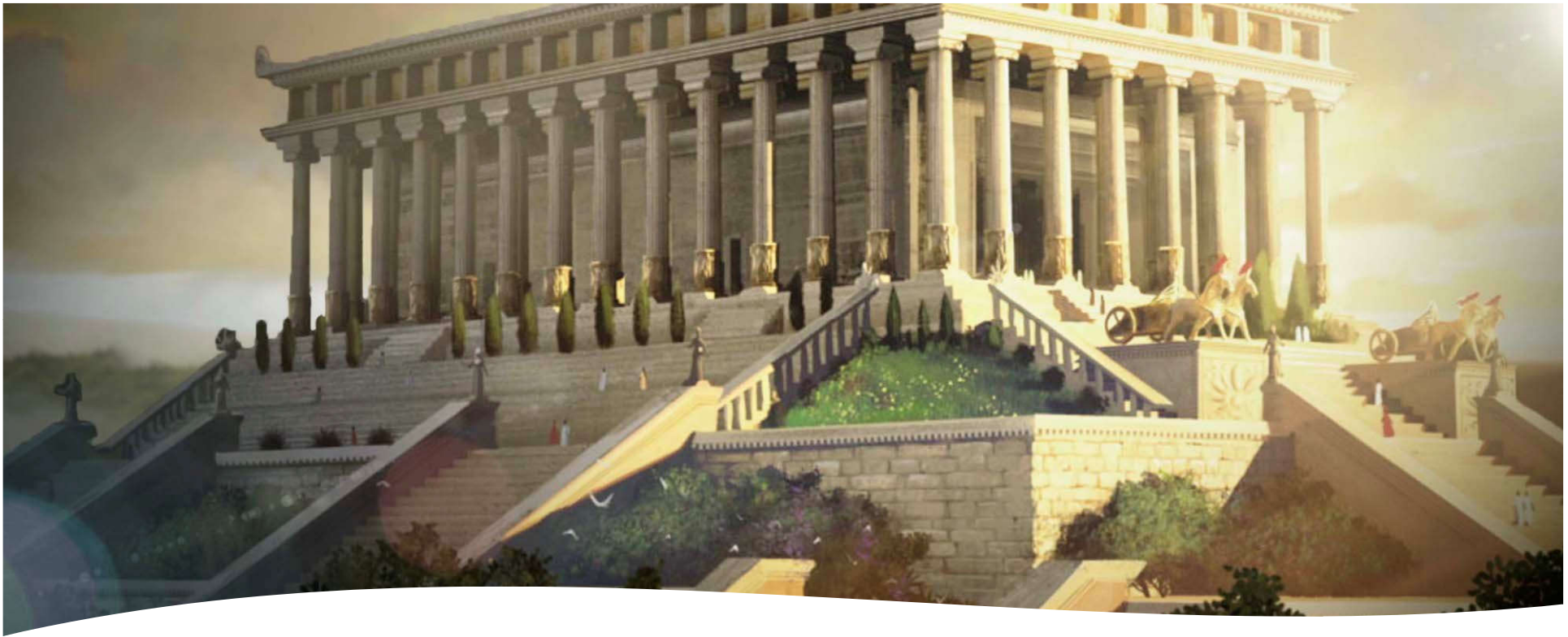
- Many regard Ephesians to be a circular letter intended for many churches because:
 - The term “in Ephesus” is missing from some early MSS.
 - The impersonal character of the letter, which lacks personal greetings or any indication that the author has personal knowledge of his recipients, is incongruous with the account in Acts of Paul staying more than two years in Ephesus. *
- Some critics think the words "who are..." would have been followed by a blank to be filled in with the name of "whichever church was being sent the letter". *

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle_to_the_Ephesians



AUDIENCE

- Ephesus was a major city in Asia, now modern Turkey, and a major seaport.



AUDIENCE

- It was a city where economic life was driven by flourishing religious tourism and banking industries, both associated with the temple of Artemis.
- The temple of Artemis (Diana) was one of the seven wonders of the world. Many came to the temple and many local merchants made their living from making idols and shrines related to the worship of this' goddess of fertility'.

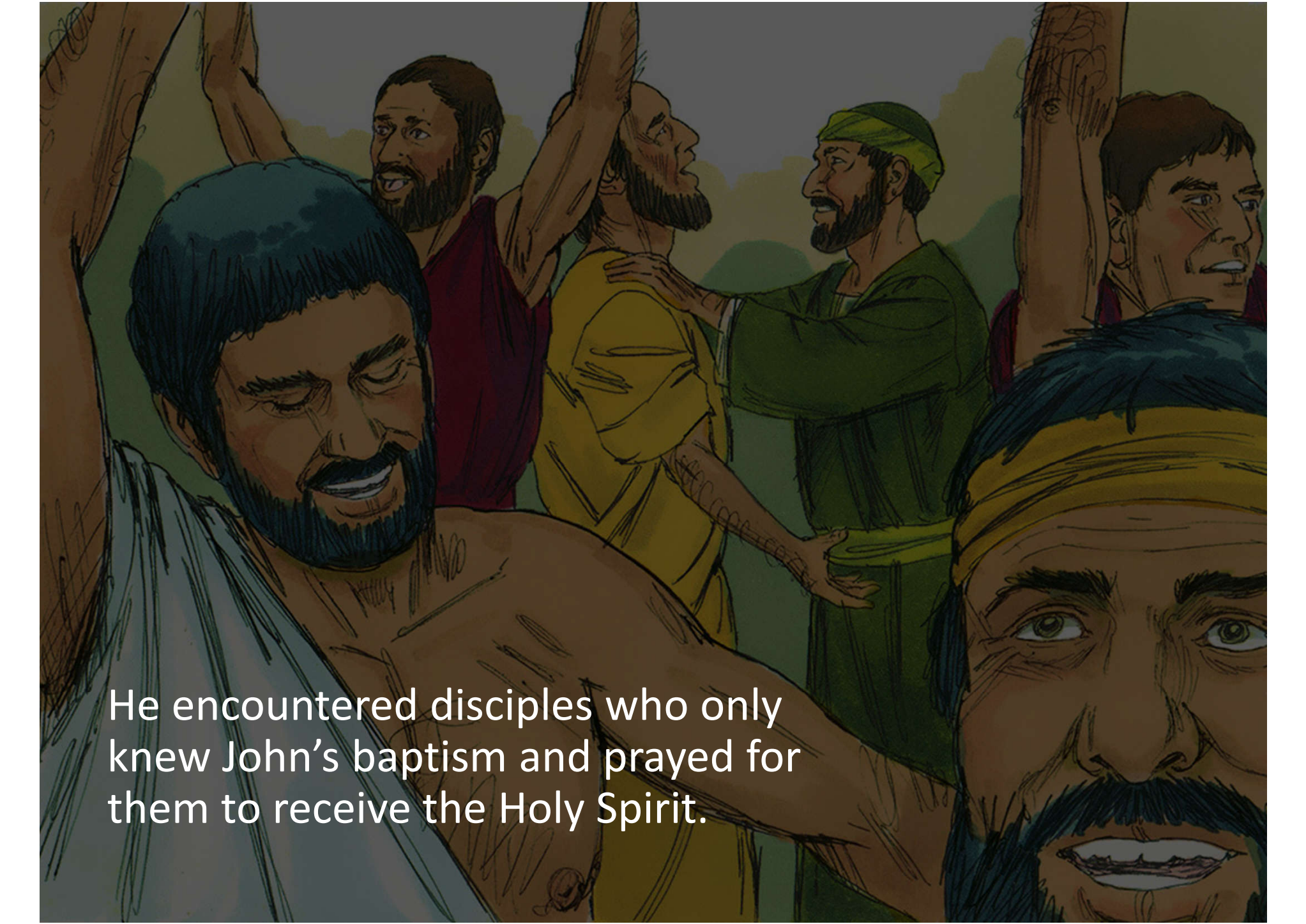


HOW THE CHURCH WAS PLANTED

- Planted by Paul during a brief visit at the end of his second missionary journey, this congregation was nurtured by Paul's co-workers Priscilla and Aquila, then by the eloquent preacher Apollos (Acts 18:19–28).



On his 3rd missionary journey, Paul subsequently returned to Ephesus for an extended (three-year) period of ministry (AD 52–54).

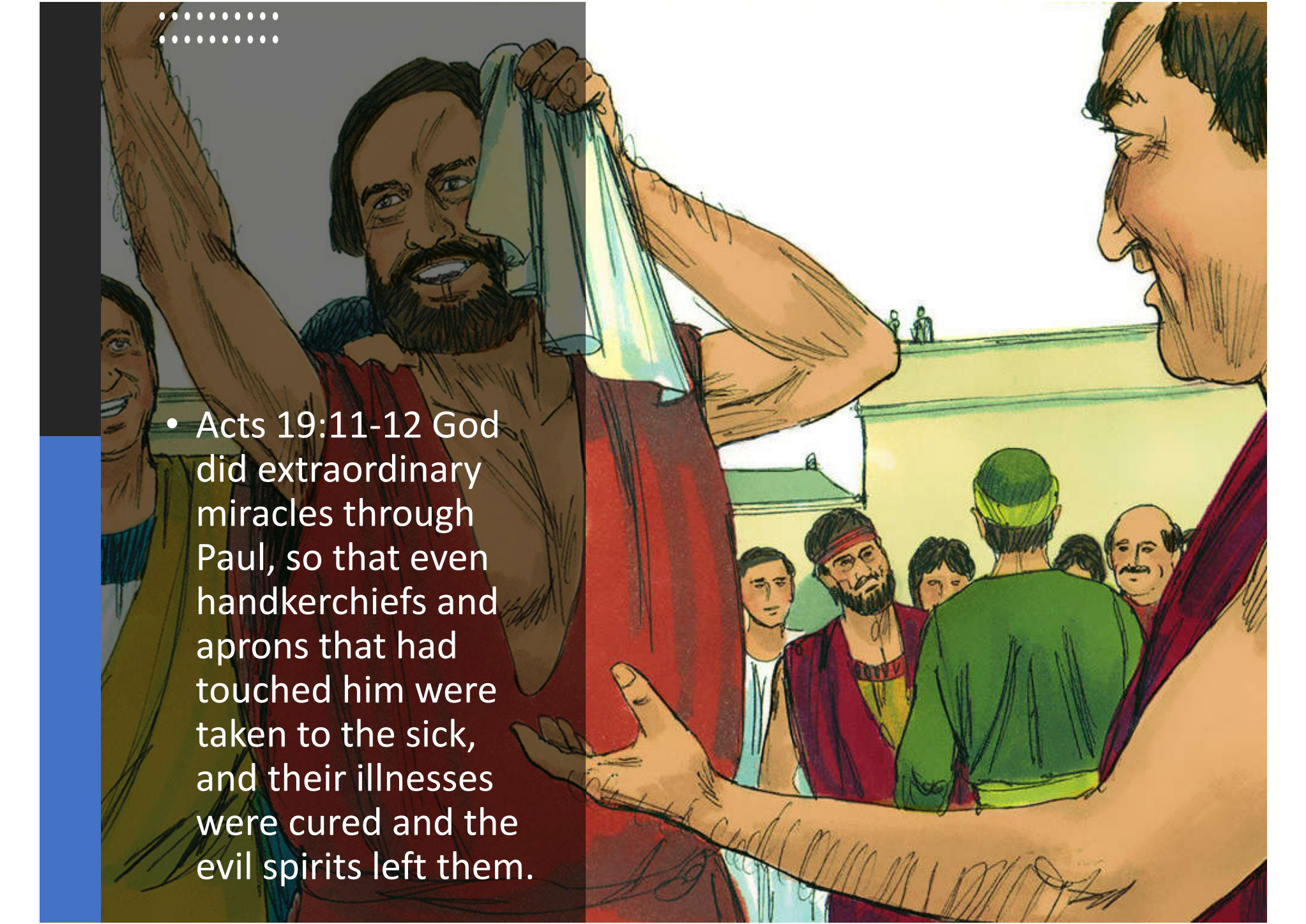


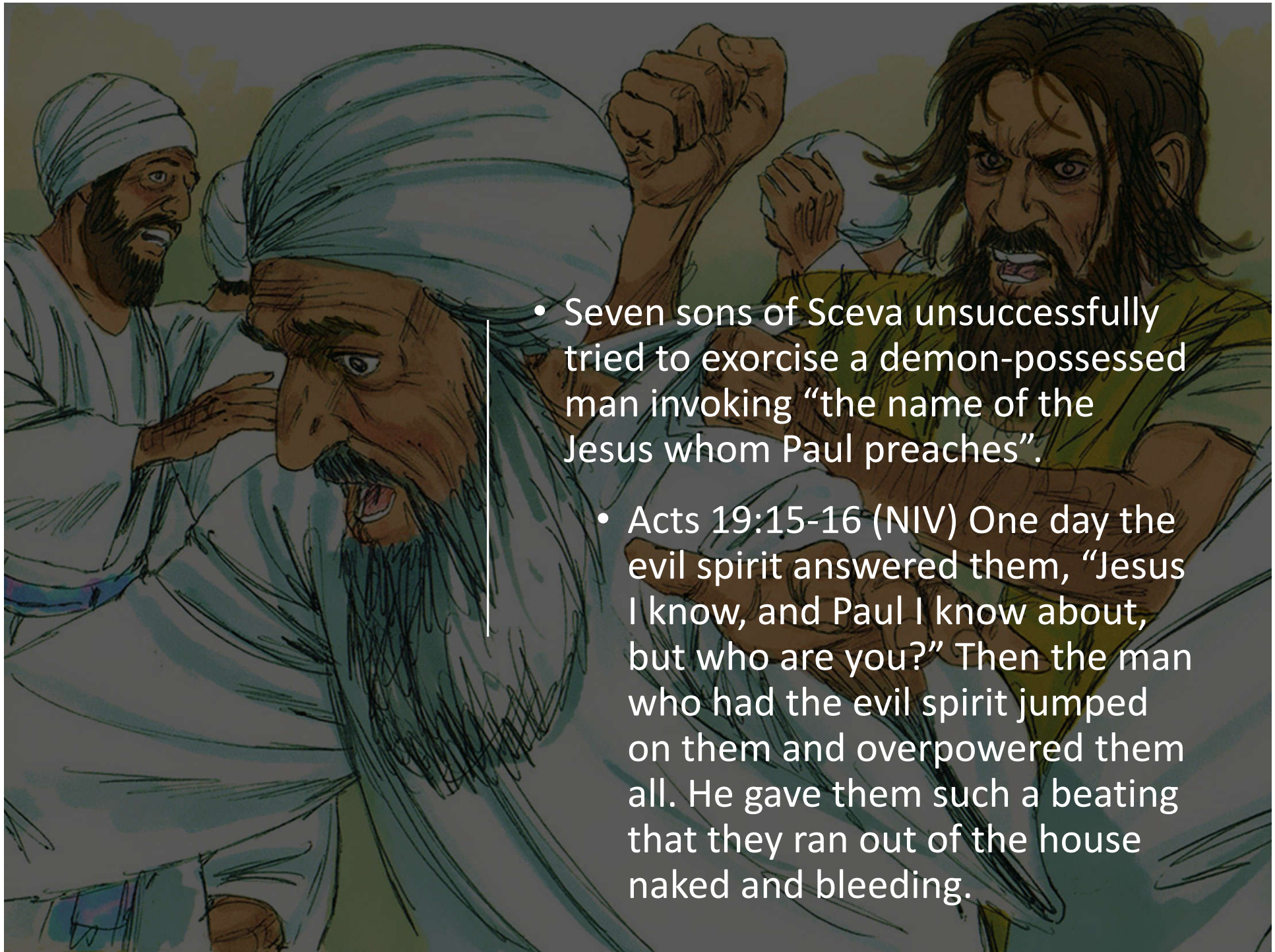
He encountered disciples who only knew John's baptism and prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.



HOW THE CHURCH WAS PLANTED

- Acts 19: 8-10 (NIV) Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months... But some of them ... refused to believe ... So Paul left them. He took the disciples with him and had discussions daily in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. This went on for two years, so that all the Jews and Greeks who lived in the province of Asia heard the word of the Lord.

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- A vibrant, hand-drawn style illustration depicting a biblical scene. In the foreground, a man with a dark beard and hair, wearing a red tunic, holds a translucent, glowing handkerchief high above his head with both arms. To his right, the profile of another man's face is visible, looking towards the first man. In the background, a crowd of people is gathered, including a man in a green tunic and a yellow headband, and another man with a beard and a red headband. The scene is set outdoors with a yellow wall and a green roof visible in the distance. The overall style is that of a religious poster or a children's book illustration.
- Acts 19:11-12 God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick, and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.

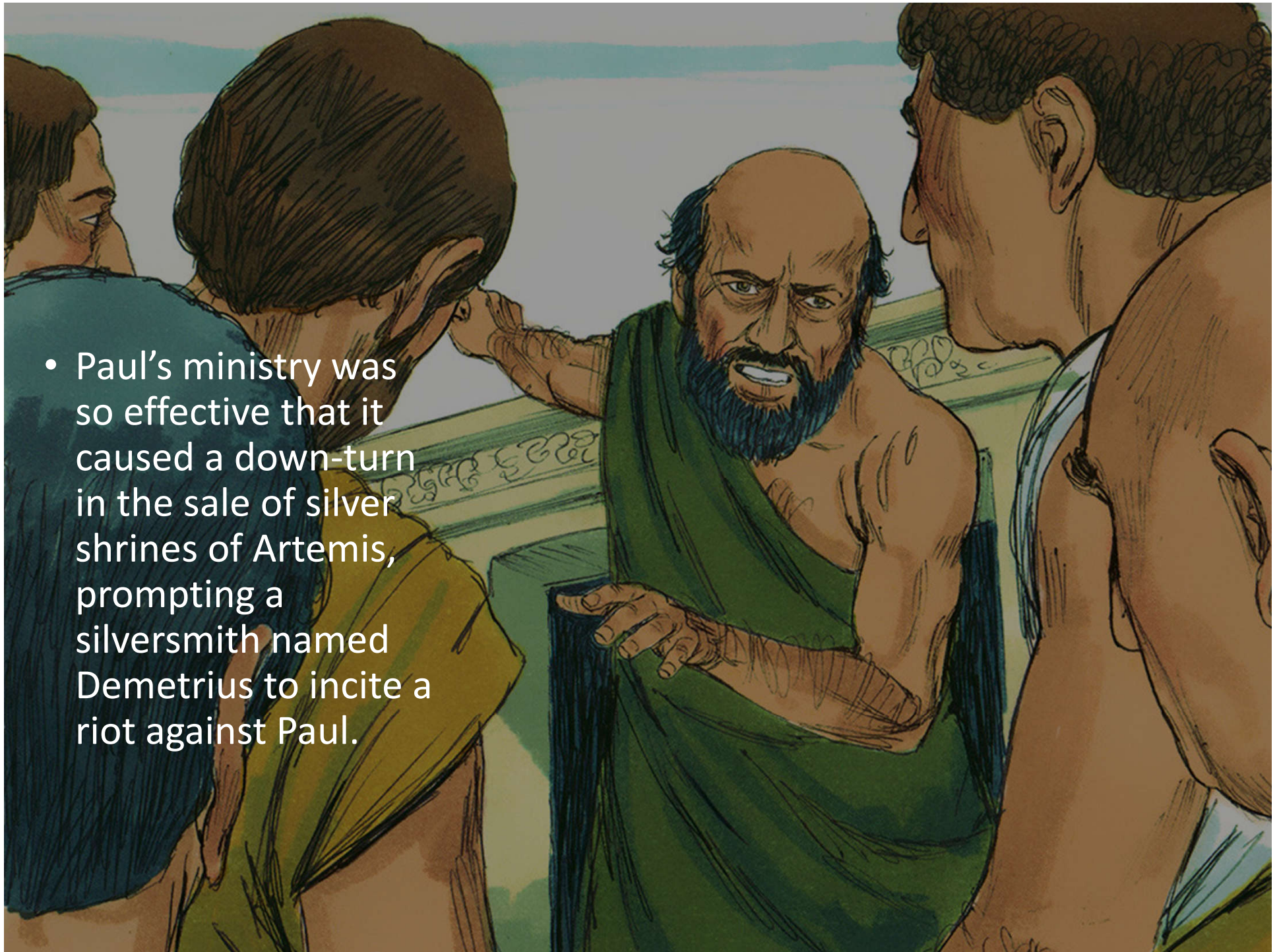


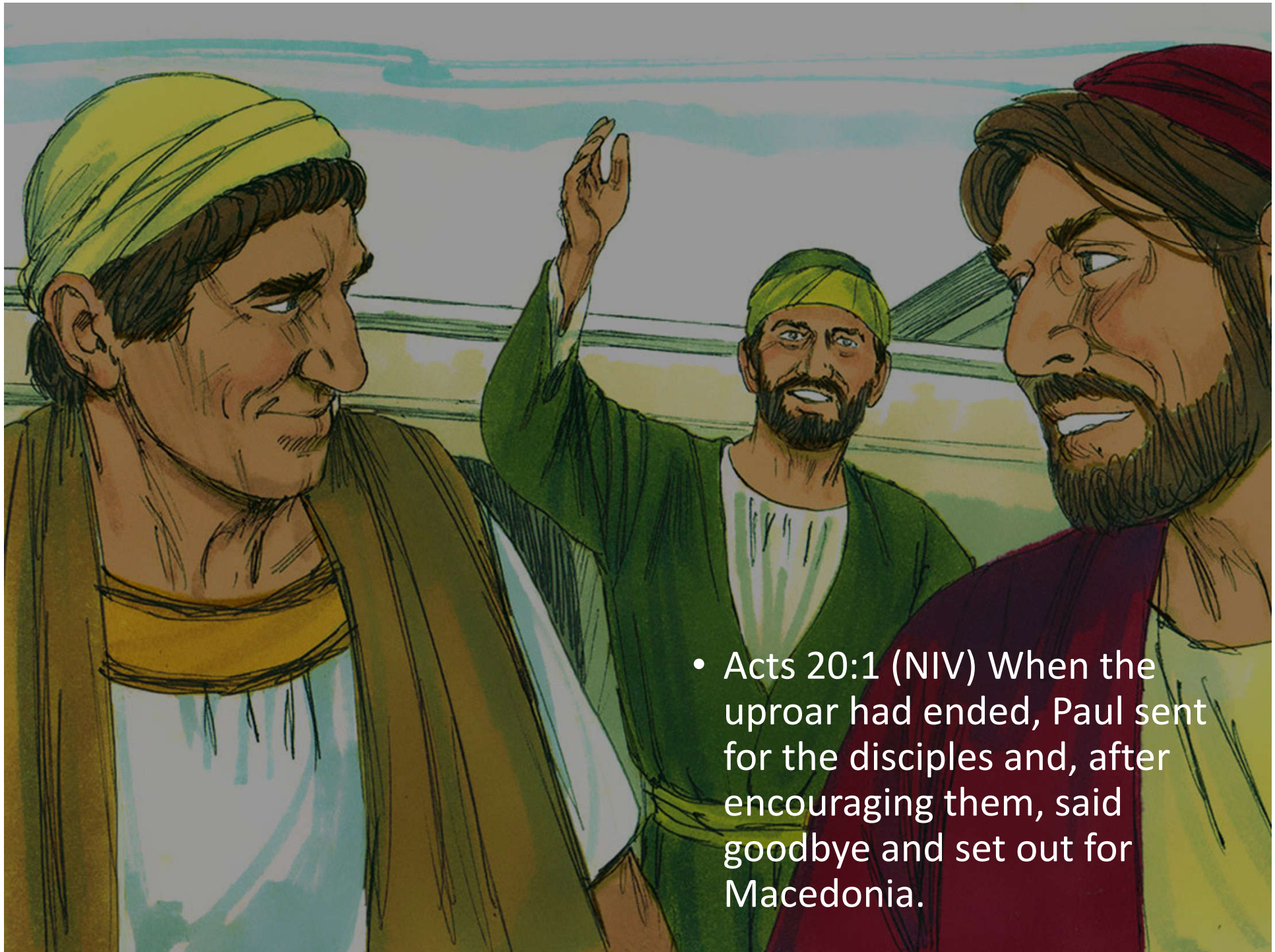
- Seven sons of Sceva unsuccessfully tried to exorcise a demon-possessed man invoking “the name of the Jesus whom Paul preaches”.
- Acts 19:15-16 (NIV) One day the evil spirit answered them, “Jesus I know, and Paul I know about, but who are you?” Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.



- After the incident with the sons of Sceva:
- Acts 19:17-18 (NIV) When this became known to the Jews and Greeks living in Ephesus, they were all seized with fear, and the name of the Lord Jesus was held in high honour. Many of those who believed now came and openly confessed what they had done.

- Paul's ministry was so effective that it caused a down-turn in the sale of silver shrines of Artemis, prompting a silversmith named Demetrius to incite a riot against Paul.





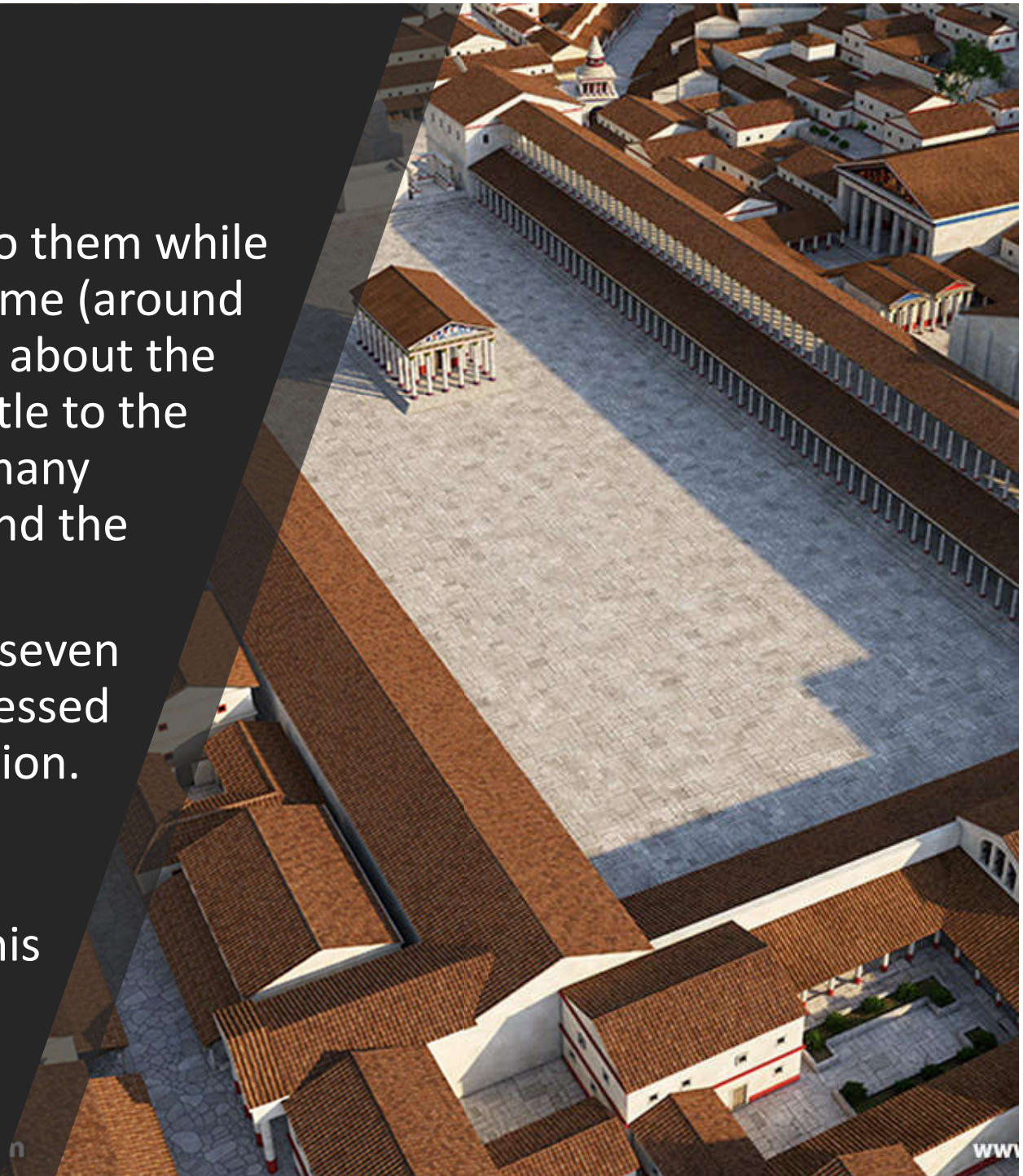
- Acts 20:1 (NIV) When the uproar had ended, Paul sent for the disciples and, after encouraging them, said goodbye and set out for Macedonia.



At the end of his 3rd missionary journey, enroute to Jerusalem, Paul landed at Miletus and summoned the elders of the church from Ephesus, delivering a farewell message.

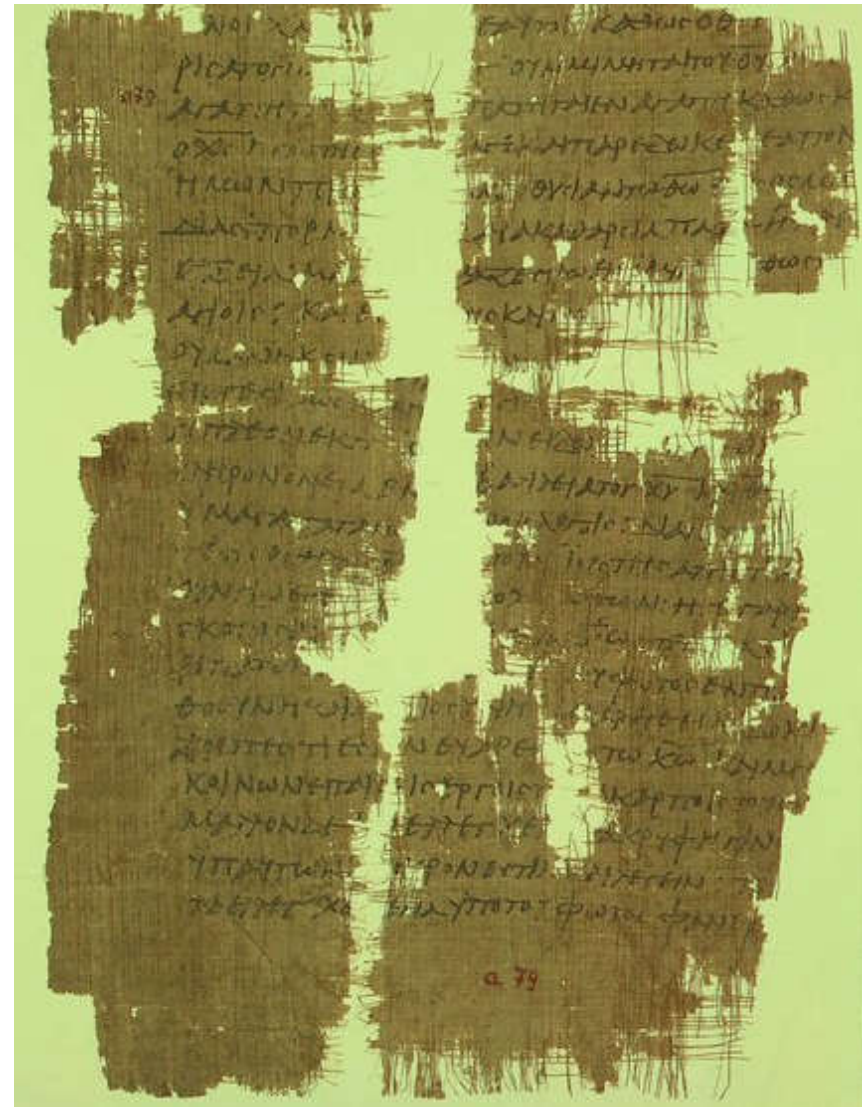
DATE

- Paul wrote his letter to them while he was in prison in Rome (around AD 62). This would be about the same time as the Epistle to the Colossians (which in many points it resembles) and the Epistle to Philemon.
- Ephesus is one of the seven churches of Asia addressed in the Book of Revelation.
- After his return from exile in Patmos, John spent the balance of his life in Ephesus, also writing his gospel there.



DATE

- ON THE RIGHT: Papyrus 49, a 3rd-century manuscript of the Epistle to the Ephesians



PURPOSE OF WRITING

- The purpose of this book was to reveal God's mystery of Jew and Gentile in one body, the church, called the 'ecclesia', the 'called out ones'.
- Enclosed within the Book of Ephesians is the discipline needed to develop into true children of God. Furthermore, a study in Ephesians will help to fortify and to establish the believer so he can fulfill the purpose and calling God has given. The aim of this epistle is to confirm and to equip a maturing church. It presents a balanced view of the body of Christ and its importance in God's economy. *

* <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Ephesians.html>

BRIEF SUMMARY

- Doctrine occupies the greatest portion of the book. Half of the teaching relates to our standing in Christ, and the remainder of it affects our condition. All too often those who teach from this book bypass all the foundational instruction and go directly to the closing chapter that emphasizes the warfare or the struggle of the saints. However, to benefit fully from the contents of this epistle, one must begin at the beginning of Paul's instruction in this letter. *
- First, as followers of Christ, we must fully understand who God declares us to be. We must also become grounded in the knowledge of God's accomplishment for all humanity. Next, our present existence and walk must become exercised and strengthened. This must continue until we no longer totter or stagger back and forth with every spirit of teaching and subtlety of men. *

* <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Ephesians.html>

BRIEF OVERVIEW

- Paul's writing breaks down into three main segments. *
 - Chapters 1-3: introduce principles with respect to God's accomplishment.
 - Chapters 4-5: put forth principles regarding our present existence.
 - Chapter 6: presents principles concerning our daily struggle.

* Ibid.

OVERVIEW

- 1:1,2. The greeting, from Paul to the church of Ephesus. *
- 1:3–2:10. A general account of the blessings that the gospel reveals. This includes the source of these blessings, the means by which they are attained, the reason why they are given, and their final result. The whole of the section Ephesians 1:3–23 consists in the original Greek of just two lengthy and complex sentences. It ends with a fervent prayer for the further spiritual enrichment of the Ephesians. *
- Eph 2:11-3:21 A description of the change in the spiritual position of Gentiles as a result of the work of Christ. It ends with an account of how Paul was selected and qualified to be an apostle to the Gentiles, in the hope that this will keep them from being dispirited and lead him to pray for them.*

* https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Epistle_to_the_Ephesians

OVERVIEW

- Eph 4:1-16. A chapter on unity in the midst of the diversity of gifts among believers. *
- Eph 4:17-6:9. Instructions about ordinary life and different relationships. *
- Eph 6:10-24. The imagery of spiritual warfare (including the metaphor of the Armour of God), the mission of Tychicus, and valedictory blessings. *

* Ibid.

KEY VERSES

- Eph 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.
- Eph 2:8-9 For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.
- Eph 4:4-6 There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called—one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.
- Eph 6:11 Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

A sepia-toned photograph showing the silhouettes of a group of people, including men, women, and children, standing in a line and raising their hands in prayer or worship. They are positioned in front of a large, simple wooden cross that dominates the background. The scene is set against a bright, hazy sky, possibly at sunrise or sunset, with rolling hills visible in the distance. The overall mood is spiritual and communal.

CHRISTIAN LIVING

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

A silhouette of a group of people, including adults and children, walking towards a large cross in the background. The scene is set against a warm, golden light, possibly a sunrise or sunset, creating a spiritual and hopeful atmosphere. The people are holding hands and some have their arms raised in praise.

- **At least half of this epistle is devoted to the daily walk of a Christian.**
 - **It is a book of sound doctrine and practical application.**
 - **To live out God's will as mature believers we must understand who we are in Christ.**
 - **Christ raised us up and we are now seated with Him in heavenly realms with Christ Jesus. (Eph 2:6)**
 - **We need to walk and stand firm and steadfast in Christ.**

THE CHRISTIAN WALK

- Perhaps more than any other book of the Bible, the Book of Ephesians emphasizes the connection between sound doctrine and right practice in the Christian life. Far too many people ignore "theology" and instead want to only discuss things that are "practical." In Ephesians, Paul argues that theology is practical. In order to live out God's will for us in our lives practically, we must first understand who we are in Christ doctrinally.
- <https://www.gotquestions.org/Book-of-Ephesians.html>

ALIVE IN CHRIST

- There is a major contrast in Ephesians 2:1-10 between their/our former life and life after salvation.

We were
dead and are
now alive.

We walked
according to the
devil, now in good
works.

We walked in the
lusts of the flesh
and of the mind.

We were
objects of
God's
wrath.

It was because of God's
great love and His mercy
that He made us alive
with Christ.



SAVED BY GRACE

- Eph 2:8-10 For it is **by grace** you have been saved, **through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the **gift** of God— **not by works**, so that no one can boast. For we are God's handiwork, **created in Christ Jesus to do good works**, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
 - We are saved by grace, through faith – which is a GIFT.
 - We are not saved by works, but a saved person then walks in good works.

HOLY LIVING

- Paul insists that they no longer walk as the Gentiles walked.
- In their former life they were separated from God because of their hard hearts and their sinful lives (Eph 4:19)
- They had lived just like everyone else around them. Now they must live a life worthy of the calling they have received.
- They are to be completely humble and gentle, patient and bearing with one another in love.
- They should preserve the unity of the Spirit, the bond of peace.



Eph 4:22-24 (NIV) You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to **put off your old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to **put on the new self**, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

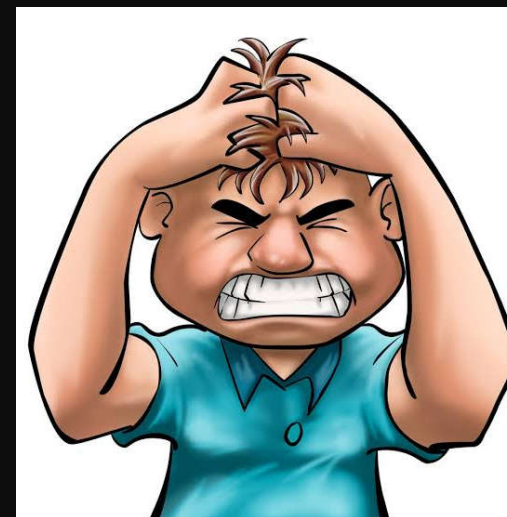
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THE OLD SELF VS
THE NEW SELF

THE OLD SELF VS THE NEW SELF

PUT OFF OLD SELF	PUT ON NEW SELF
²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood	and speak truthfully to your neighbour ...
²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer	but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.
²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths	but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.
³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice.	³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

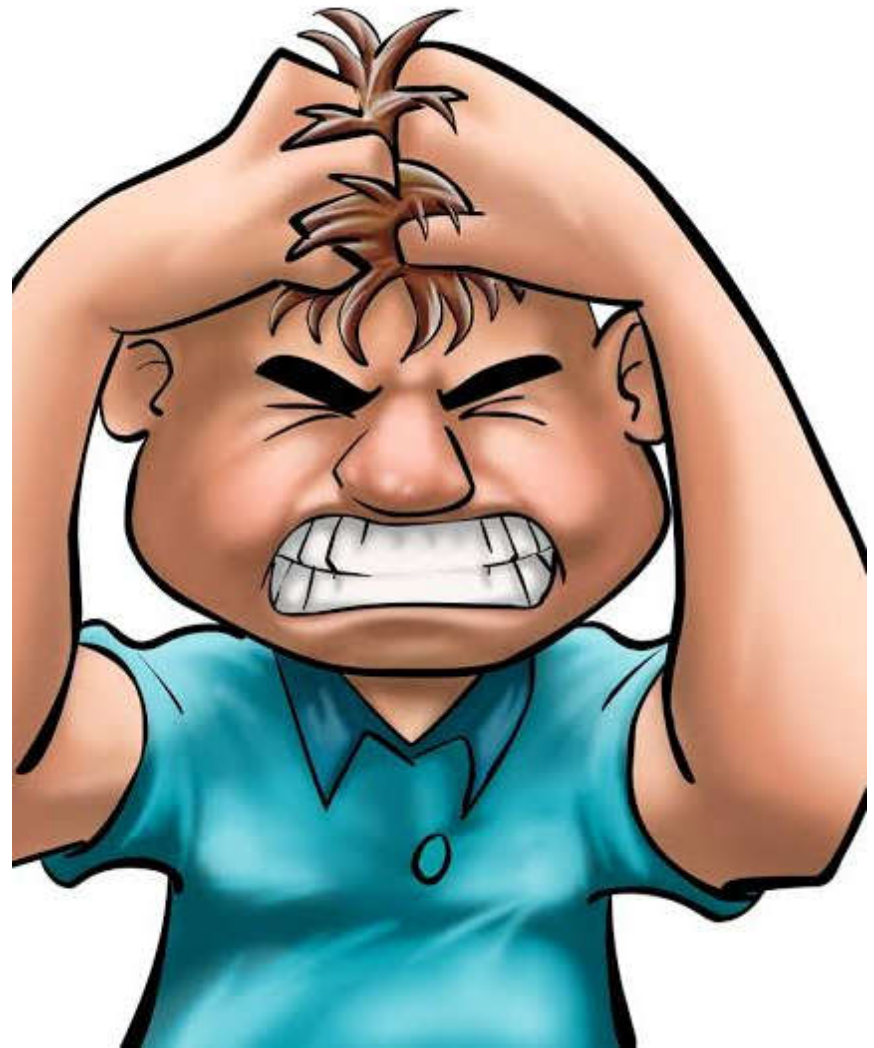
STRONGHOLDS



- Strongholds are not external as some teach (demons in charge of towns), but internal existing in our mind – that is where the battle takes place.
 - 2 Cor 10:3-5 (NIV) For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to **demolish strongholds**. We demolish **arguments and every pretension** that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take **captive every thought** to make it obedient to Christ.
- Eph 4:23 (NIV) ... **be made new in the attitude of your minds**

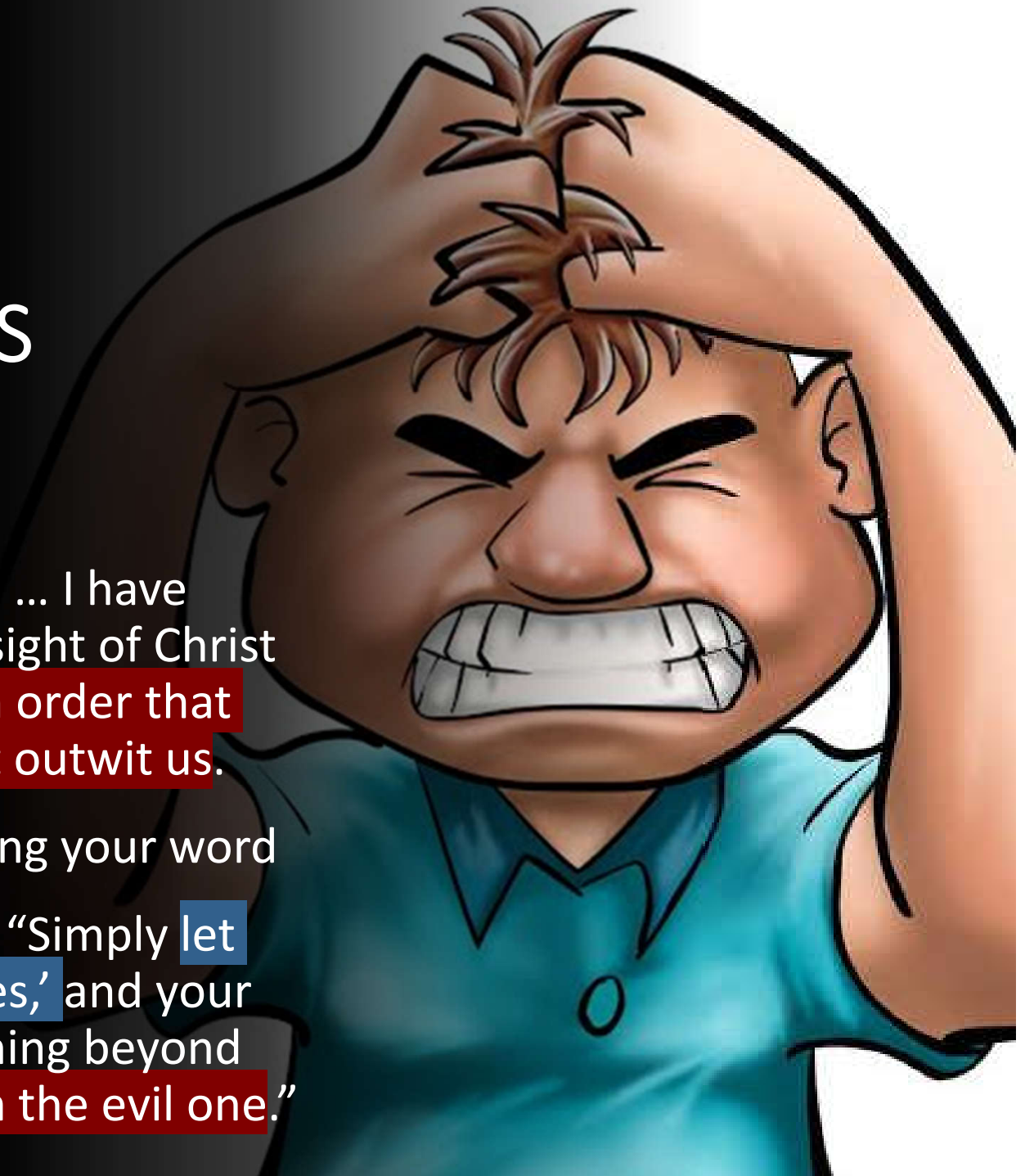
STRONGHOLDS

- We need to get rid of strongholds e.g.
- Anger
 - Eph 4:26-27 (NIV) “In your anger do not sin” : Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and **do not give the devil a foothold.**



OTHER STRONGHOLDS

- Unforgiveness
 - 2 Cor 2:11 (NIV) ... I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us.
- Lying and not keeping your word
 - Matt 5:37 (NIV) "Simply let your 'Yes' be 'Yes,' and your 'No,' 'No'; anything beyond this comes from the evil one."



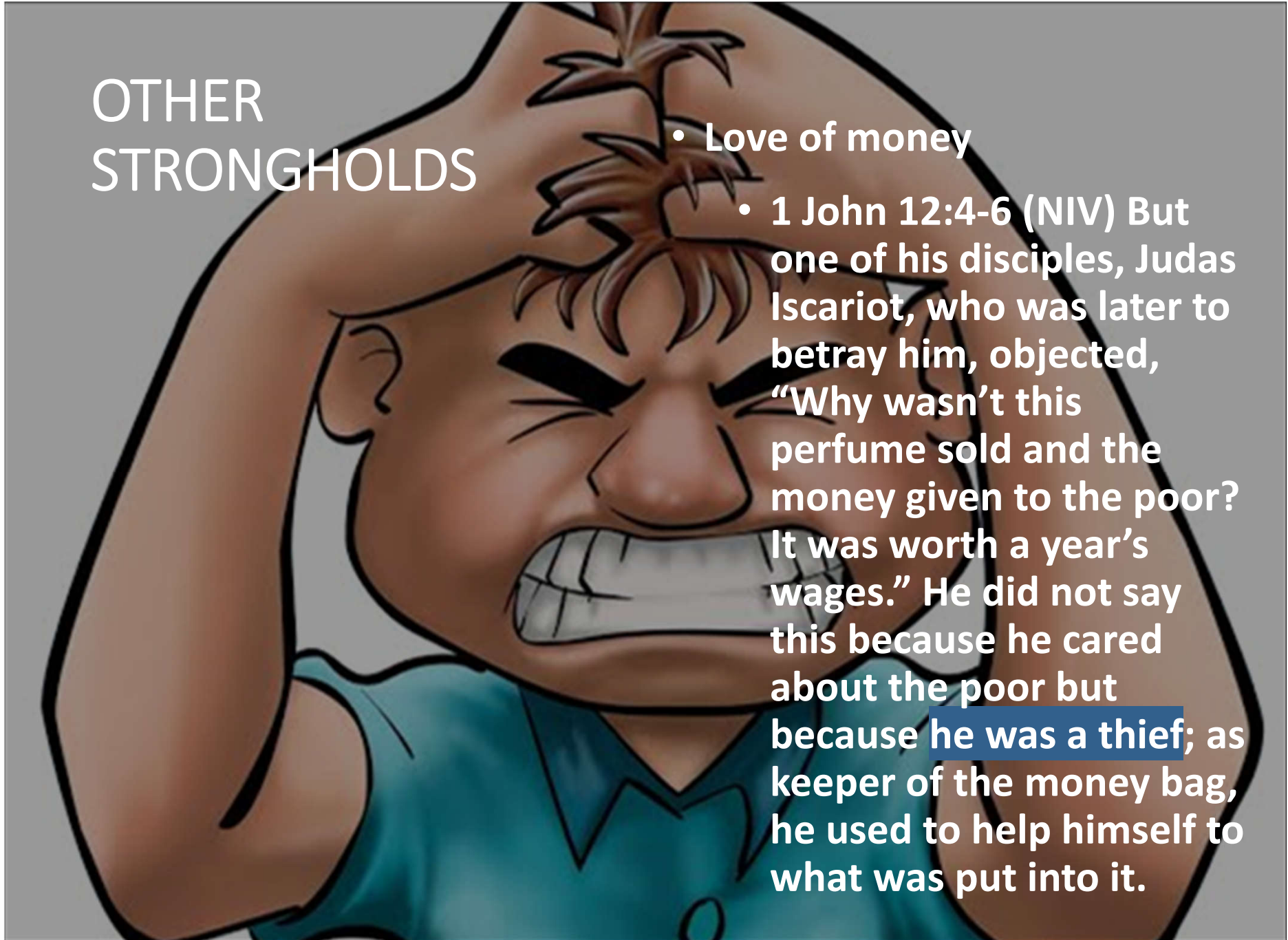


OTHER STRONGHOLDS

- Hatred
 - 1 John 3:11-12 (NIV) This is the message you heard from the beginning: We should love one another. Do not be like Cain, who belonged to the evil one and murdered his brother...
 - 1 John 3:8-10 (NIV) The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work ... This is how we know who the children of God are and who the children of the devil are: Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

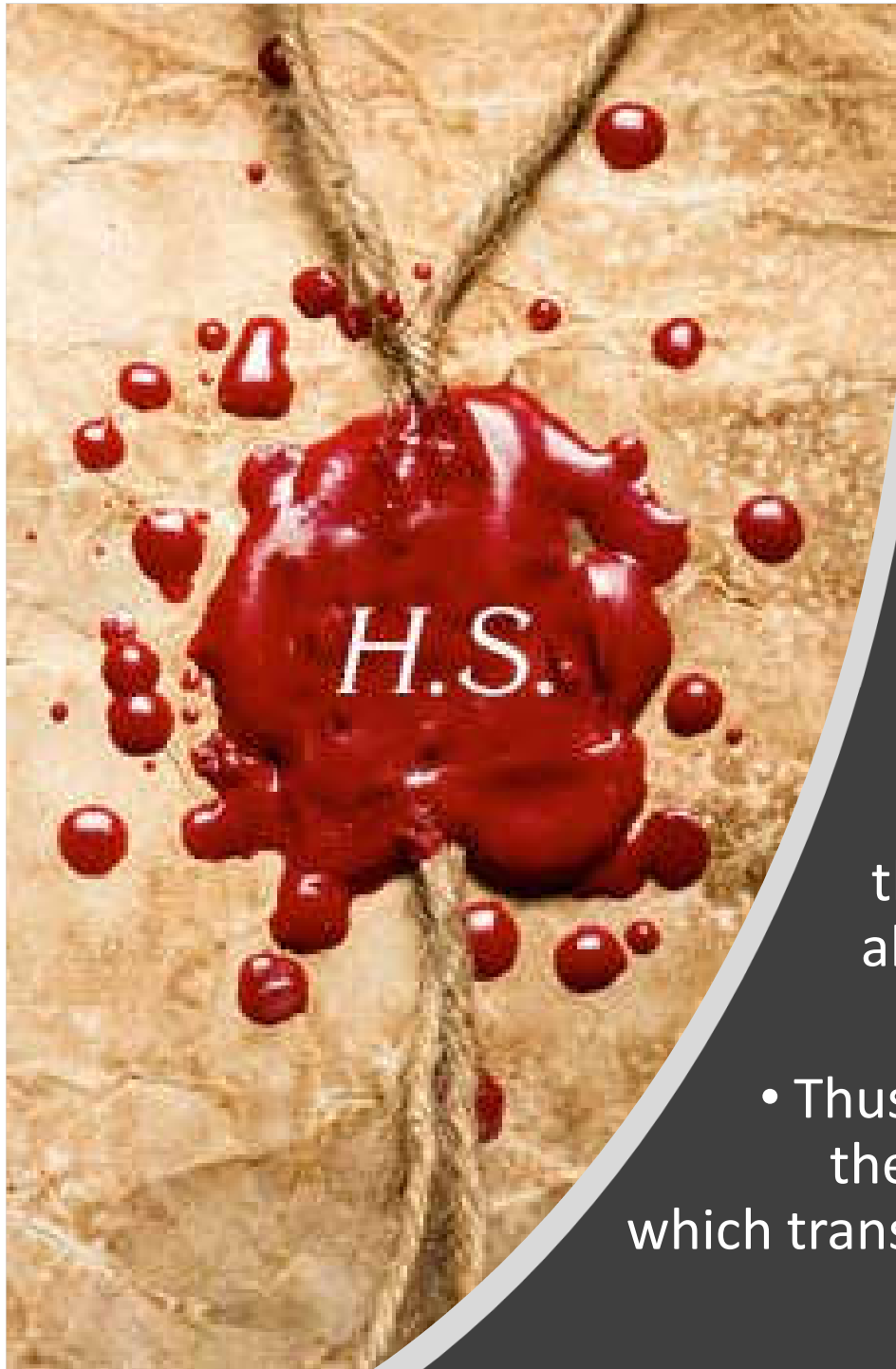
OTHER STRONGHOLDS

- Love of money
 - 1 John 12:4-6 (NIV) But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.





- Judas loved money and was a thief. Satan knew this and used this stronghold (love of money) to prompt him to betray Jesus.
- Luke 22:3-5 (NIV) Then **Satan entered Judas** ... And Judas went to the chief priests and the officers of the temple guard and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus. They were delighted and **agreed to give him money.**



THE HOLY SPIRIT

- Disobedience to these instructions grieves the Holy Spirit 'with whom we were sealed for the day of redemption'. (Eph 4:30, cf. 1:14)
- A seal in the ancient world referred to a mark (with a seal) as a means of identification so that the mark which denotes ownership also carries with it the protection of the owner (cf. Rev 7:3).
- Thus the sealing of the Spirit speaks to the divine ownership of the Christian which translates into security and protection.

IMITATE GOD

- Paul begins chapter 5 by telling believers that we are to imitate God.
 - We are his dearly loved children and are to walk in love just as Christ loved us. He gave himself up for us.
 - We are his holy people and must live lives separated from impurity or greed.
 - No such immoral person has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. All these things belong to the former life and are not even to be named among true believers.

WALK IN THE LIGHT:

- The former walk was one of disobedience and done in darkness and in secret. It was unfruitful and shameful.
- Eph 5:8-10 (NIV) For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.
- 1 John 1:5-7 (NIV) ...God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT



- We are to live as wise, making the most of every opportunity because the days are evil. (Eph 5:16)
- We are to understand what God's will is for us and to **be filled** with the Spirit of God. (5:18) *[Greek present imperative tense is used which has the connotation of a continuous replenishment, an ongoing state of being filled.]*
- We must speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, to sing and make music to the Lord and always give thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Eph 5:19-20)

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

- Eph 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
- Wives:
 - are to be subject to their own husbands as to the Lord.
 - are to respect their husbands, as he is the head.
- Husbands:
 - are to love their own wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her.
 - are to love her as their own bodies. In marriage two become one flesh.

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

- Eph 5:32 (NIV) This is a profound mystery – but I am talking about Christ and the church.
- Christ's relationship with the church is the example for marriage.
 - Christ is the head and Savior of the church and it is subject to Him.
 - Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her to sanctify her, to present her in glory, holy and blameless.

CHILDREN AND PARENTS

- After telling the children to obey their parents, Paul quotes one of the Ten Commandments.
 - Eph 6:2-3 “Honour your father and mother” – which is the first commandment with a promise – “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”
- Obedience is part of honouring parents.
- Paul tells fathers not to provoke their children to anger, to exasperate them.
- The father is to bring his children up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

SLAVES AND MASTERS



- Eph 6:5-8 (NIV) Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.
- Masters are not to threaten their slaves but to treat them kindly and with justice as their heavenly Master would treat them. There is no favoritism with the Lord.



WHY MUST WE WORK?

- The Christian work ethic:
- We work so that we can help those in need.
 - Eph 4:28 (NIV) He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, **that he may have something to share with those in need.**

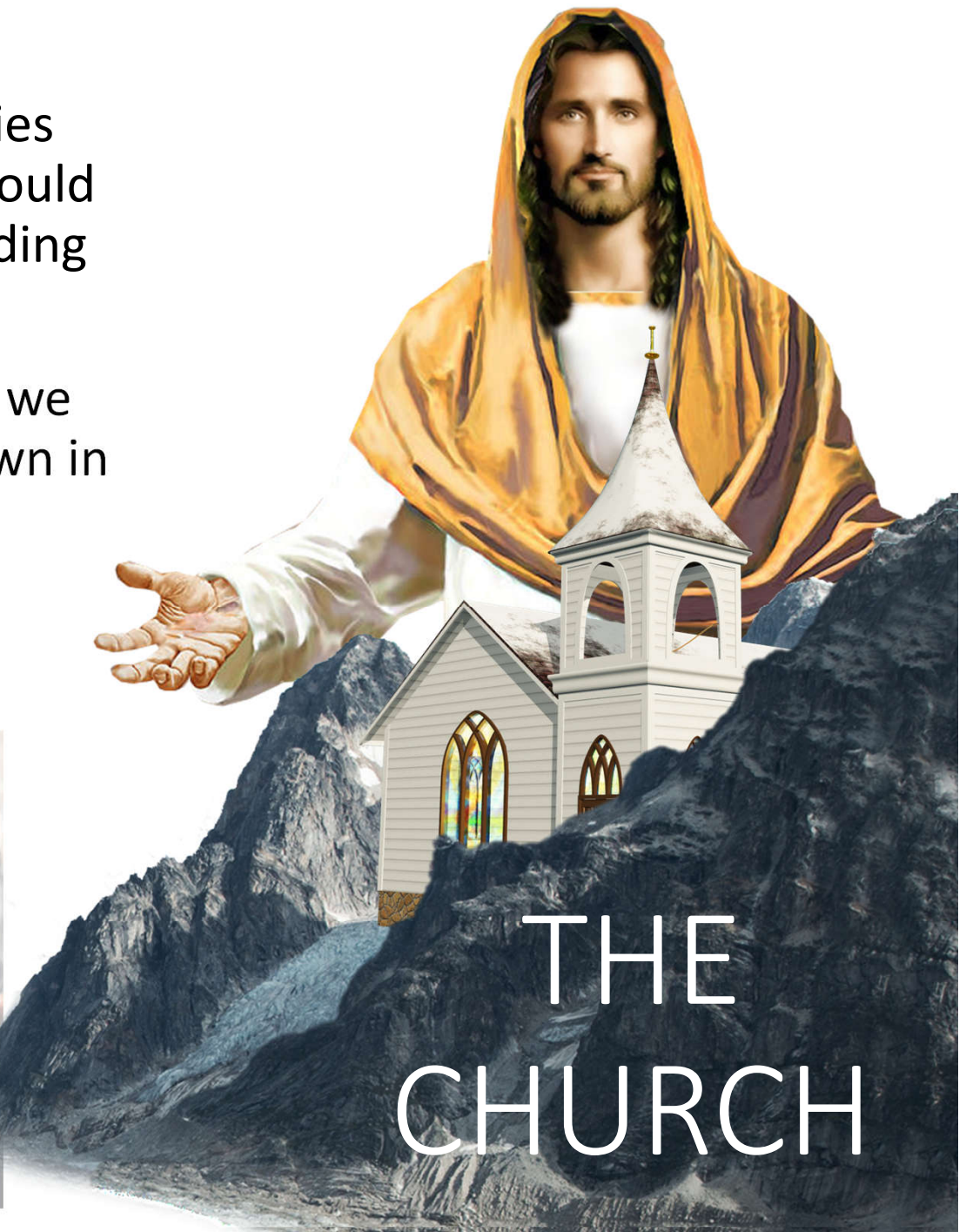


- We “serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord” (6:8)
- Eph 6:5-8 Servants, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don’t just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ’s servants doing what God wants you to do. And **work with a smile on your face**, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, **you’re really serving God** ... (The Message)

A photograph of a diverse group of people, likely a church congregation, smiling and looking towards the right. The image is slightly blurred, giving it a candid, warm feel. The text "THE CHURCH" is overlaid in the center in a white, sans-serif font.

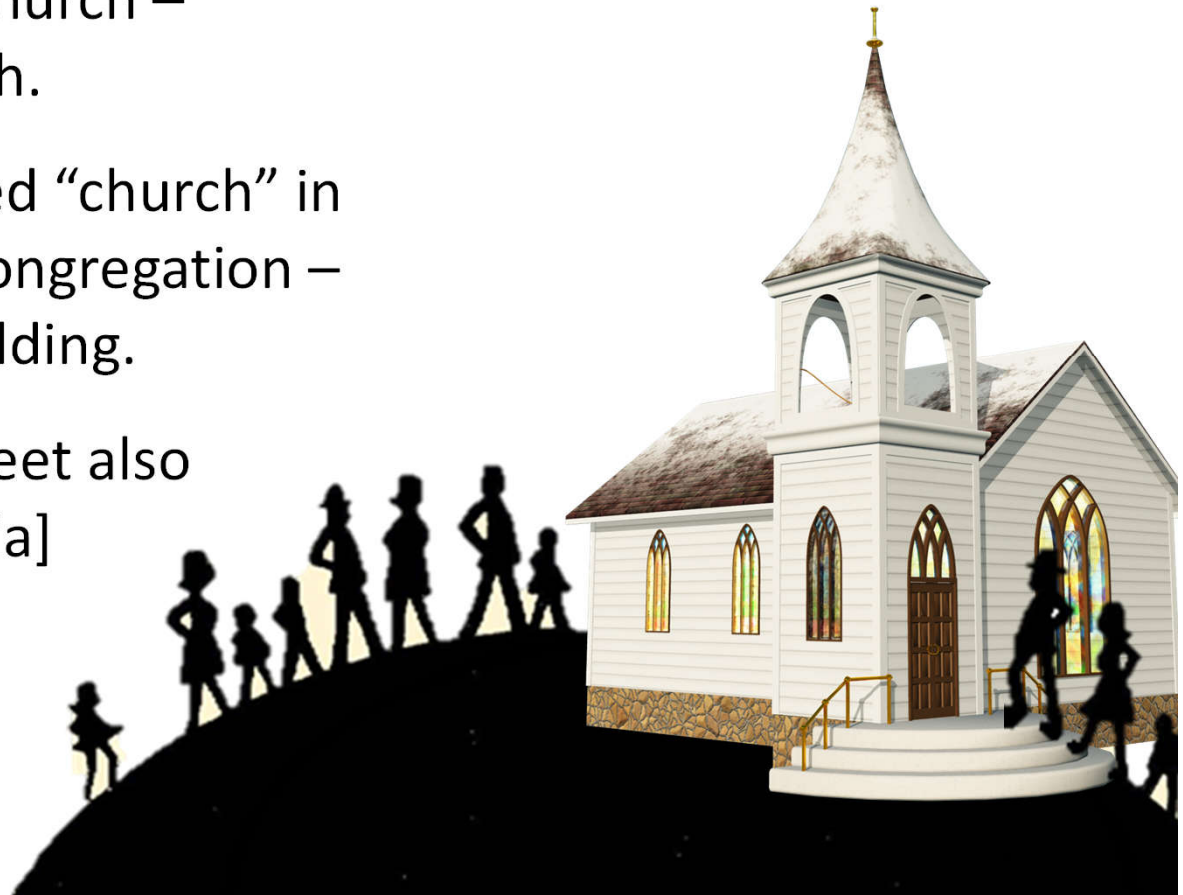
THE CHURCH

- Christian fellowship is something that (in countries with religious freedom) would typically be done in a building we call a church.
- But the term “church”, as we understand it, was unknown in Jesus’ time.

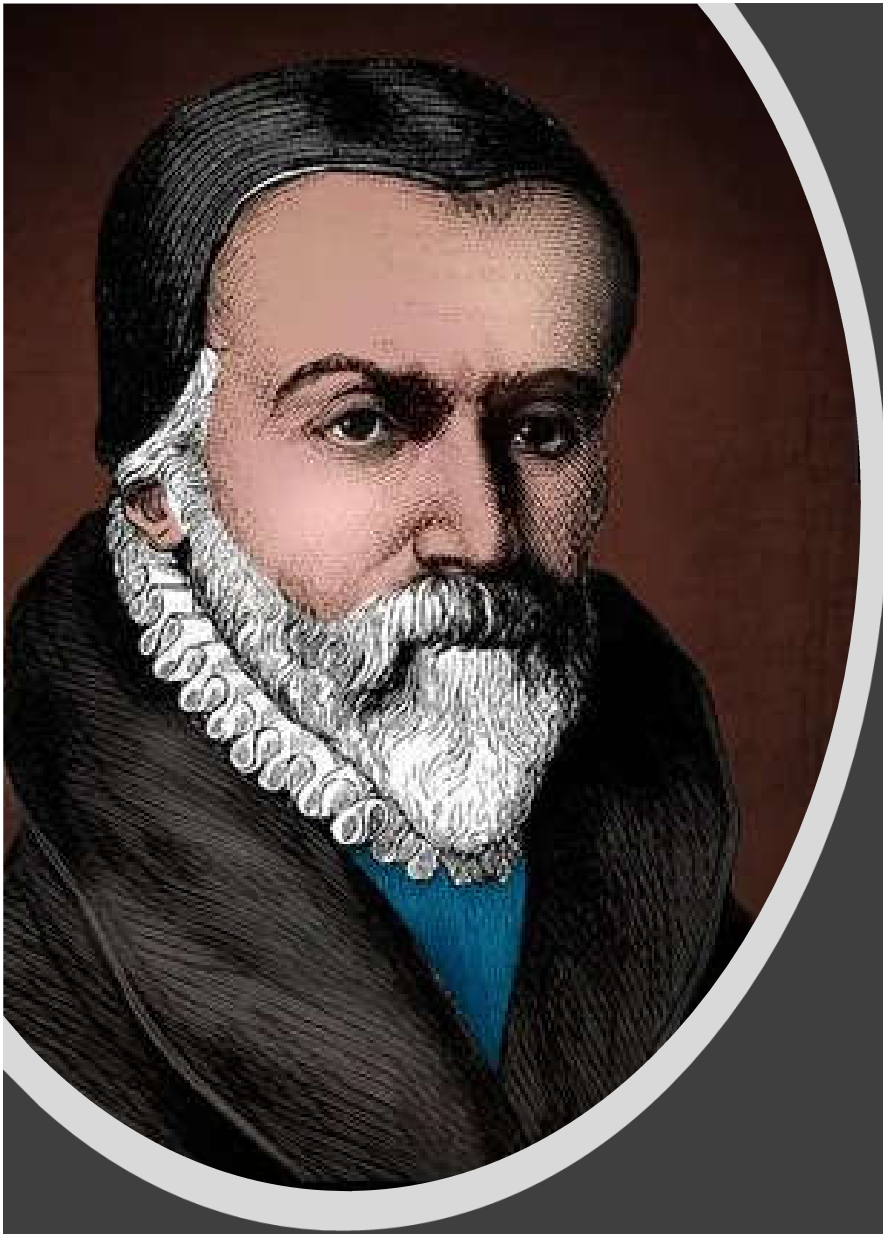


THE ECCLESSIA

- The Greek word “ecclesia” translated as “church” in the NT means “a called-out assembly or congregation”.
- In English, we go to church – and we are the church.
- But the word translated “church” in the NT is always the congregation – it never refers to a building.
 - Rom 16:5 (NIV) Greet also the church [ecclesia] that meets at their house.



CONGREGATION



- In William Tyndale's Bible (1526), the first English New Testament translated directly from Greek, he more correctly translated "ecclesia" as "congregation".
- Matt 16:18 (Tyndale) ... and apon this rock I wyll bylde my congregacion ...

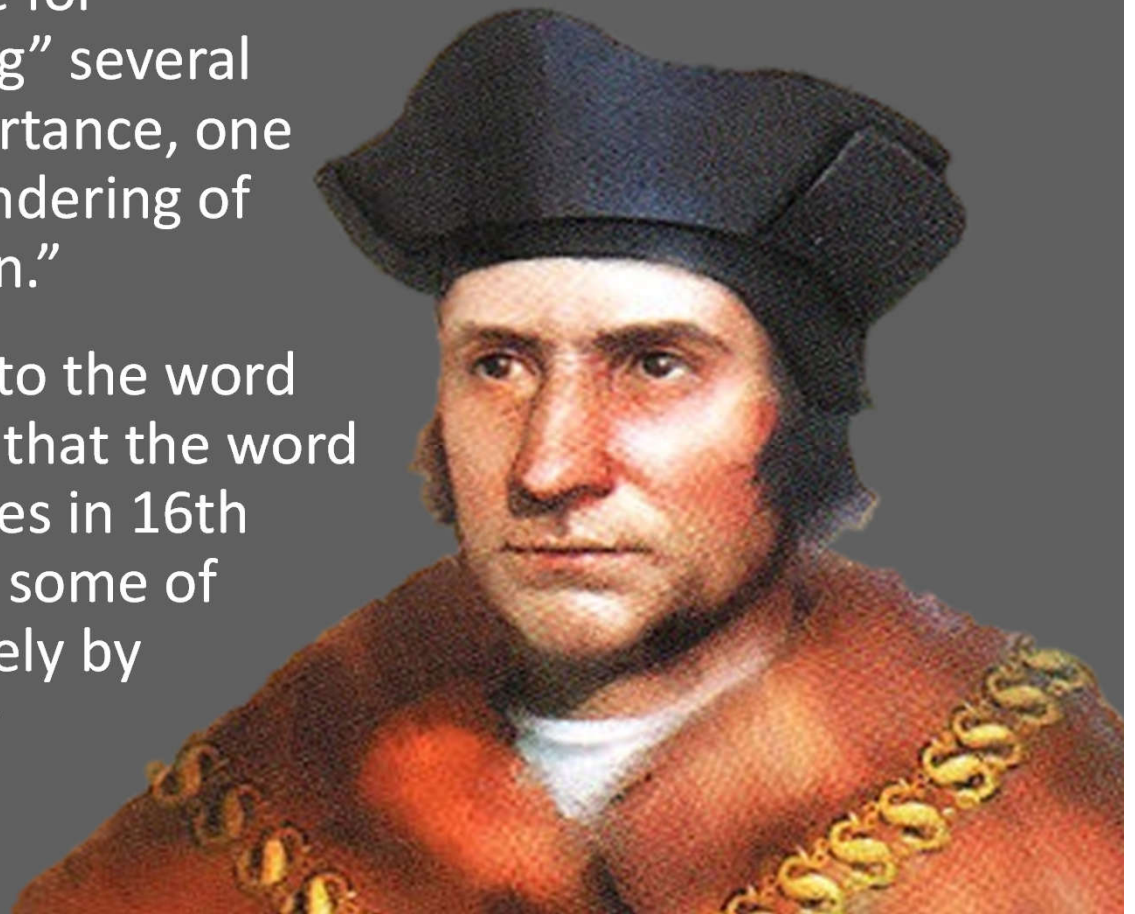
GEMEINDE



- Tyndale was following the lead of Luther in his translation of the Bible into German. Luther avoided the word Kirche, preferring instead **Gemeinde** [“community”, “town” or “parish”].
 - Matthaeus (LUTH1545) 16:18 ... und auf diesen Felsen will ich bauen meine **Gemeinde** ...
- Both reformers wished to avoid a word which in the popular mind referred to the Roman Catholic Church.

THE REACTION

- Tyndale's translation received much criticism from the Roman Catholic bishops especially Thomas More, who was the spokesman for English Roman Catholicism. In 1529 More wrote a treatise in which he attacked Tyndale for supposedly "mistranslating" several words of theological importance, one of which was Tyndale's rendering of "ecclesia" as "congregation."
- Tyndale had no objection to the word "church" but he observed that the word was used in different senses in 16th century England, and that some of these were promoted falsely by the Roman Catholic clergy to their own advantage.



ENGLISH BIBLES

- Since the word “church” might mislead readers, Tyndale did not use it in his English translation.
- Although the KJV generally follows Tyndale, when the translation project started in 1604, Archbishop Richard Bancroft was appointed the principal overseer and he issued a list of 15 instructions to the translators. Item 3 was as follows:
 - *The old ecclesiastical words to be kept, as **the word church, not to be translated congregation.*** *
- Most modern English Bibles have followed the lead of the KJV (rather than Tyndale) in translating ecclesia as “church” although in the Greek NT it is used of a congregation of people – not necessarily in a building.

* [http:// thekingsbible.com/ Library/ InstructionsToTranslators](http://thekingsbible.com/Library/InstructionsToTranslators)



THE ASSEMBLY

- The Greek “ecclesia” is the origin for our English words ecclesiastical (“pertaining to the church”) and ecclesiology (“the study of doctrine concerning the church”).
- But in the NT, the word refers to any assembly of people, Christians or not. E.g. In Acts 19, ekklesia refers to the convening of the pagan citizens of Ephesus gathered by Demetrius.
- Acts 19:32 (ESV) Now some cried out one thing, some another, for the assembly [*ekklesia*] was in confusion... [*cf. 19:39, 41*]

“CALLED-OUT” ASSEMBLY

- But in most places, the context indicates that ecclesia is referring to the people who are believers – whether in a gathering or not. E.g. In 1 Corinthians 15:9 Paul says that he had persecuted “the church [ecclesia] of God.”
 - Acts 11:26 (ESV) ... For a whole year they met with the church [ecclesia] and taught a great many people. And in Antioch the disciples were first called Christians.
- Regarding the etymology of the word “ekklesia”, it is a compound of two segments:
 - Ek: a preposition - “out of”
 - kaleo: a verb - “to call”

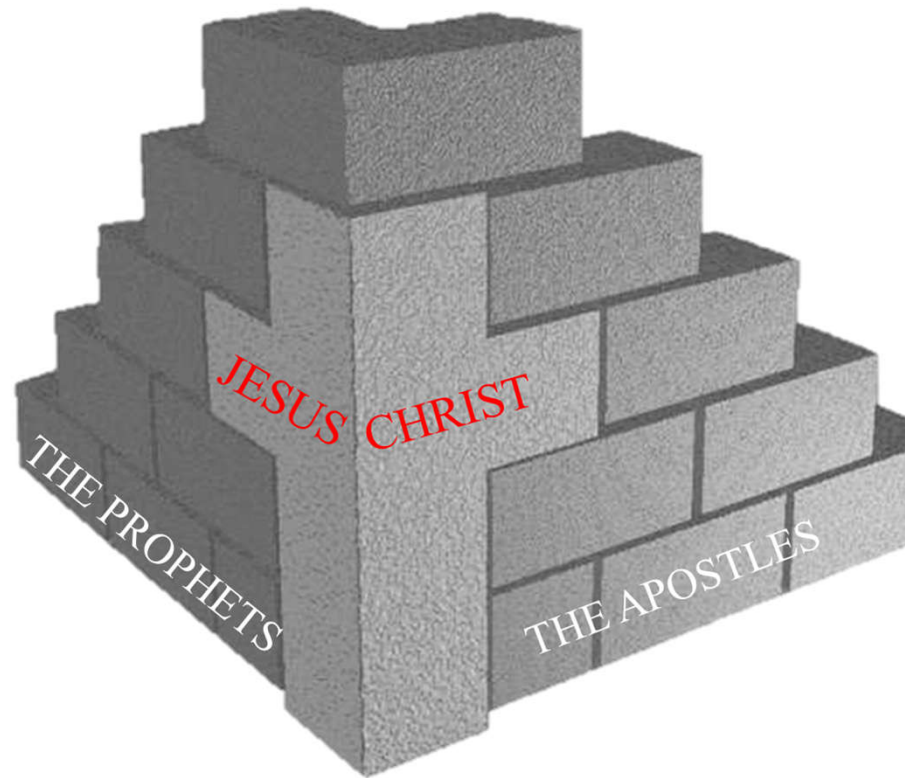
“CALLED-OUT” ASSEMBLY

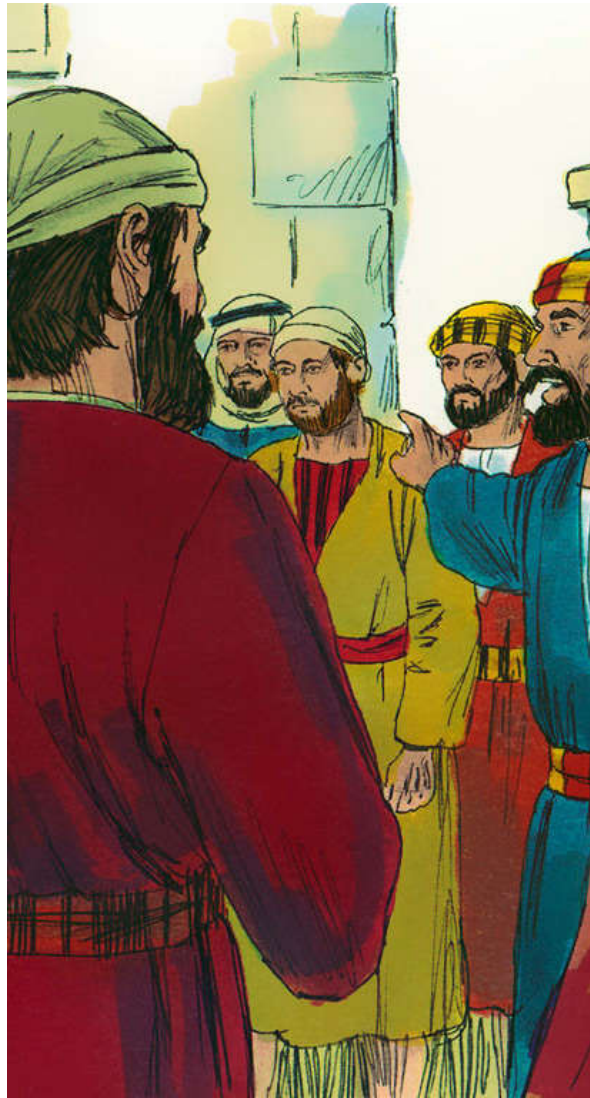
- Hence “ecclesia” is derived from the term: “to call out.”
- Throughout the Greek world and right down to NT times (cf. Acts 19:39), ekklesia was the designation of the regular assembly of the whole body of citizens in a free city-state, “called out” by the herald for the discussion and decision of public business. *
- J. H. Thayer: “a gathering of citizens called out from their homes into some public place; an assembly”.
- Theological Dictionary of the New Testament: The citizens [in Greek society] are the ekklesia, i.e., those who are summoned and called together by the herald. This teaches us something concerning the biblical and Christian usage, namely, that **God in Christ calls men out of the world.**

* [https:// www.christiancourier.com/ articles/ 1500-what-is-the-meaning-of-ekklesia](https://www.christiancourier.com/articles/1500-what-is-the-meaning-of-ekklesia)

THE CHURCH IS NOT: ISRAEL

- The church is “built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone” (Eph 2:20, ESV) so it is an entity that came into existence after the ministry of Christ.
- A cornerstone is laid first – not after the building is partially built.





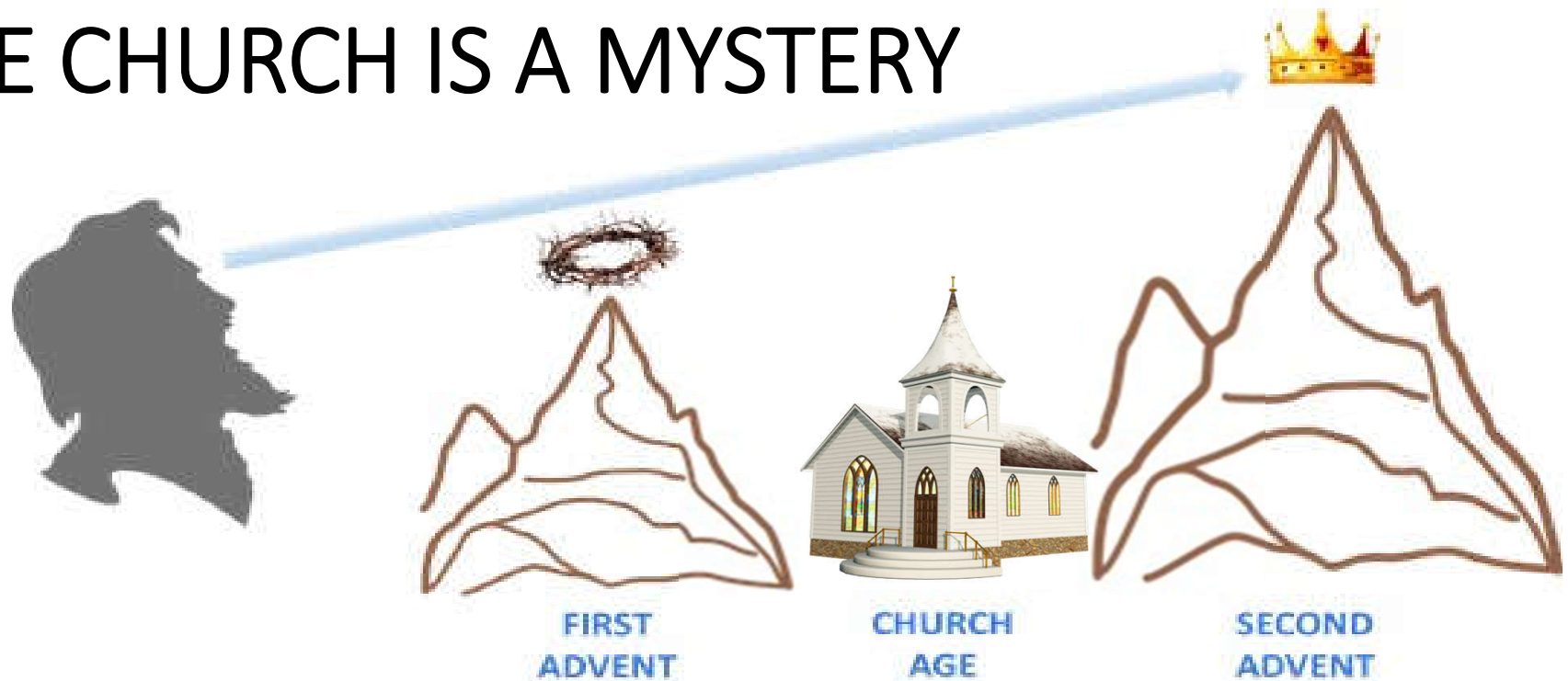
THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

The Day of Pentecost marked the birth of the Church. The OT saints are not part of the Church.

THE CHURCH IS A MYSTERY

- The church is a mystery that did not exist in the Old Covenant.
- Not only did the church not exist then – the church and the actual ministry of Christ were **not expected**.
 - Eph 3:7-10 (ESV) Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace... To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of **the mystery** *[mystēriou]* hidden for ages in God ... so that through **the church** the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known ...
- Mystēriou is “a mystery, secret ... once hidden but now revealed in the Gospel” (Strong's).

THE CHURCH IS A MYSTERY



- The interim kingdom, or 'Church Age' was not foreseen by the OT prophets. They sometimes refer to both the 1st and 2nd Coming in the same passage. In this figure, the 1st and 2nd Coming are depicted as mountains and both can be seen by the OT prophets, although they appear as one mountain. The Church Age is a valley that cannot be seen by the OT prophets. From their perspective, those in the valley can see the valley and both mountain peaks of the 1st and 2nd coming.



THE CHURCH – A MYSTERY

- Eph 3:1-5 (ESV) For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles— assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God’s grace that was given to me for you, how **the mystery was made known to me by revelation**, as I have written briefly. When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was **not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.**
-

THE CHURCH UNITES JEW AND GENTILE IN ONE BODY:

- Eph 3:6 (NIV) The mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.
- Before Jesus, the Gentiles were called 'uncircumcised by the Jewish believers. They were separate from Christ, separated from the covenants of God, without hope and without God.
 - Eph 3:13 (NIV) But now in Christ Jesus you who were once far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ.
- Jesus broke the dividing wall of hostility that divided the Jew and Gentile. Through Him both have access to God through the Holy Spirit.

THE CHURCH IS: A MEANS OF REVEALING GOD'S WISDOM

- God's ultimate plan is to bring "all things in heaven and on earth" under the authority of Christ:
 - Eph 1:9 (NIV) he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfilment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.
- God is using the church as his instrument in that regard:
 - Eph 3:10-11 (NIV) His intent was that now, **through the church**, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose which he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

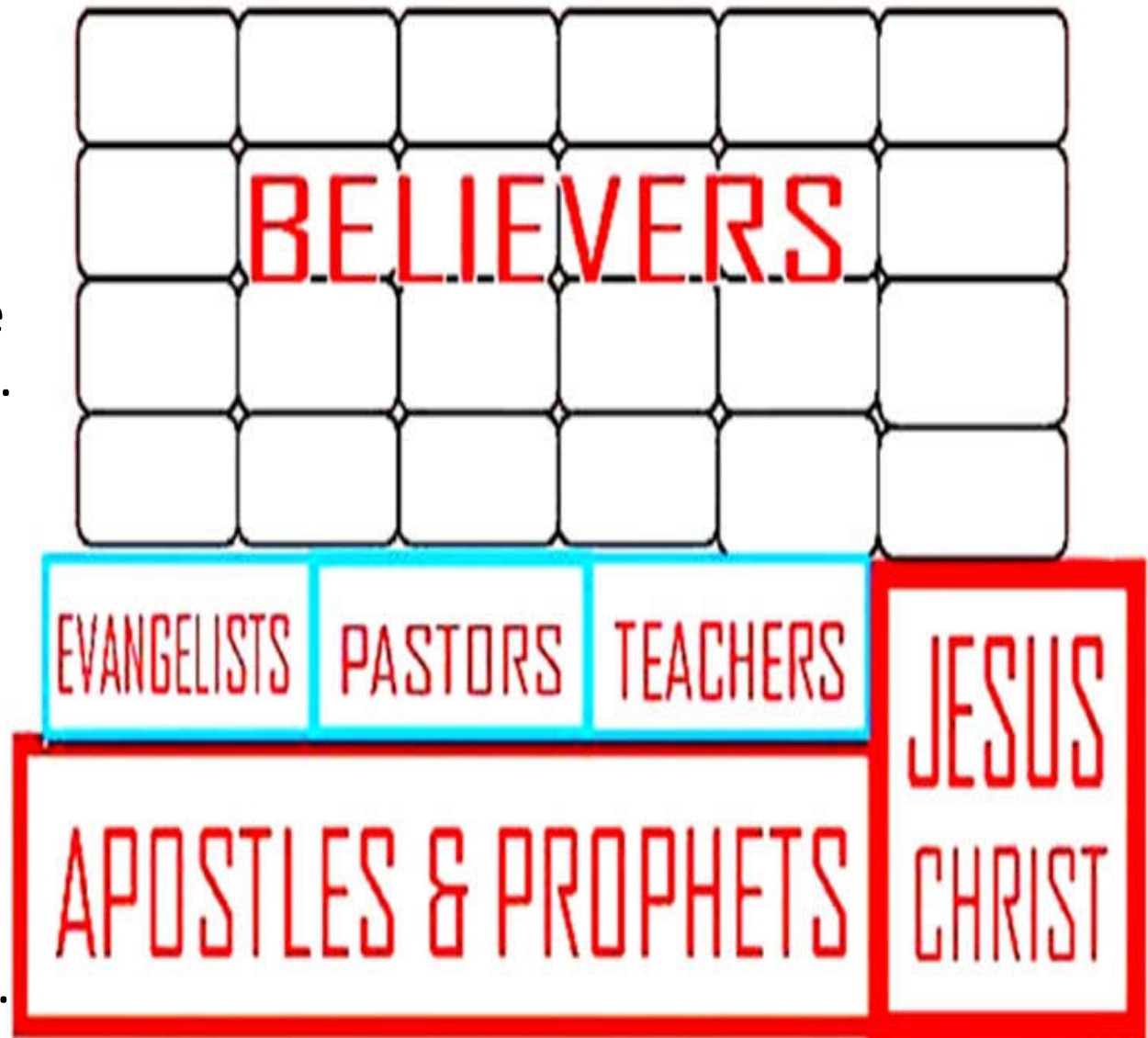
THE CHURCH IS A (SPIRITUAL) BUILDING

- Eph 2:19-21 (ESV) So then you are ... built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord.
- This is referring to the establishment of the church. Once the cornerstone and foundations are laid, we build on that – we do not put another foundation upon an existing one. Thus Jesus and the original apostles and prophets constitute the foundation which the church builds on.



THE CHURCH IS A (SPIRITUAL) BUILDING

- As a spiritual building – it is built out of living stones – you and me.
- Eph 2:21 (ESV) In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- 1 Pet 2:5 (NIV) you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.



Eph 5:23... Christ
also is the head of
the church...

JESUS

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP
(Elders, Pastors)

PHYSICAL LEADERSHIP (Deacons)

Phil 1:1 ...
together with the
overseers and
deacons ...

GROUP MINISTRIES

Youth

Children

Senior Citizens

Women

Men

Singles

Families-marriages

Foreign Language

AREA MINISTRIES

UP-REACH
(Worship, Prayer)

DOWN-REACH
(Bible Study, Teaching,
Preaching)

OUT-REACH
(Evangelism, Missions)

IN-REACH
(Gifts, Communion, Fellowship,
Visitation)



THE CHURCH IS: A FAMILY

- Eph 2:19 (ESV) So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God
 - Families spend time with one another (Acts 2:46)
 - We must uphold the family name (1 Tim 3:15)



THE CHURCH IS: THE BRIDE OF CHRIST



- The church is in submission to Christ:
 - Eph 5:24 (NIV) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.
- Christ loves the Church
 - Eph 5:25 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church...
- Christ provides for the Church
 - Eph 5:28-29 (ESV) In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church...



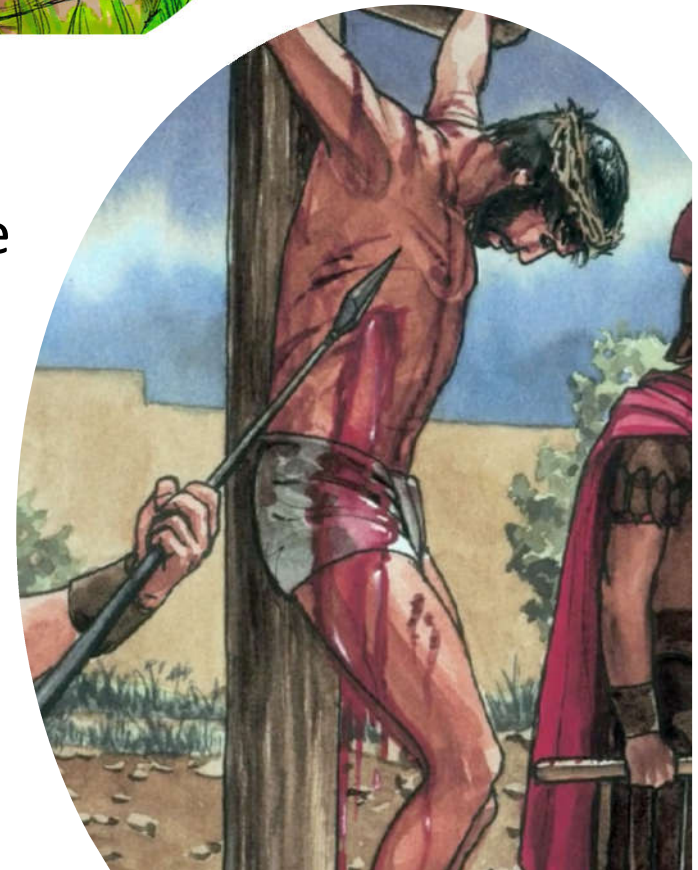
THE CHURCH IS: THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

- Christ redeems the Church
 - Eph 5:25-27 (NIV) Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.



THE CHURCH IS: THE BRIDE OF CHRIST

- Adam's bride came from his side. (Gen 2:21-24)
- Metaphorically, Jesus' bride came from his side.
 - John 19:34 (ESV) But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water.
- His blood that was shed would redeem his bride – the Church.
 - Rev 5:9 (NIV) ... because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation.



THE CHURCH IS: A BODY



- Just as we care for our physical body, so Christ cares for his body – the Church.
 - Eph 5:29 (NIV) After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church.
- The members care for other members of the body (1 Cor 12:24-25)
- We empathize and rejoice with other members (1 Cor 12:26).



HOW DOES THE CHURCH (THE BODY) BECOME MATURE?

- Through the operation of the fivefold ministry:
 - Eph 4:11-13 (NIV) So Christ himself gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the pastors and teachers, to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.
-



HOW DOES THE CHURCH (THE BODY) BECOME MATURE?

- Eph 4:14-16 (NIV) Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.
-

THE CHURCH IS: A PLACE WHERE JESUS HAS PREEMINENCE

- Jesus has preeminence in the church, not the super-hero pastor or God's man of power for the hour.
 - Col 1:18 (ESV) And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.

THE CHURCH	CHRIST
Body	Head
Bride	Groom
Branches	Vine
Building	Cornerstone



THE CHURCH IS: AN ARMY

- We're not at war with sinners, but with the spiritual powers of darkness.
 - Eph 6:12 (ESV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.



SPIRITUAL WARFARE



SPIRITUAL WARFARE

- So we need to remember that we are in a spiritual warfare against the rulers (arché), the authorities (exousia), the cosmic powers (kosmokratór) over this present darkness and the spiritual forces (pneumatikos) of evil in the heavenly places (Eph 6:12).

THE ARMOUR OF GOD

- We counteract this by putting on the armour of God:
- Eph 6:13 (NIV) Therefore put on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.





HELMET OF SALVATION

- We need to “take the helmet of salvation” (Eph 6:17) which is protection for the head – the most critical part of the body.

HELMET OF SALVATION

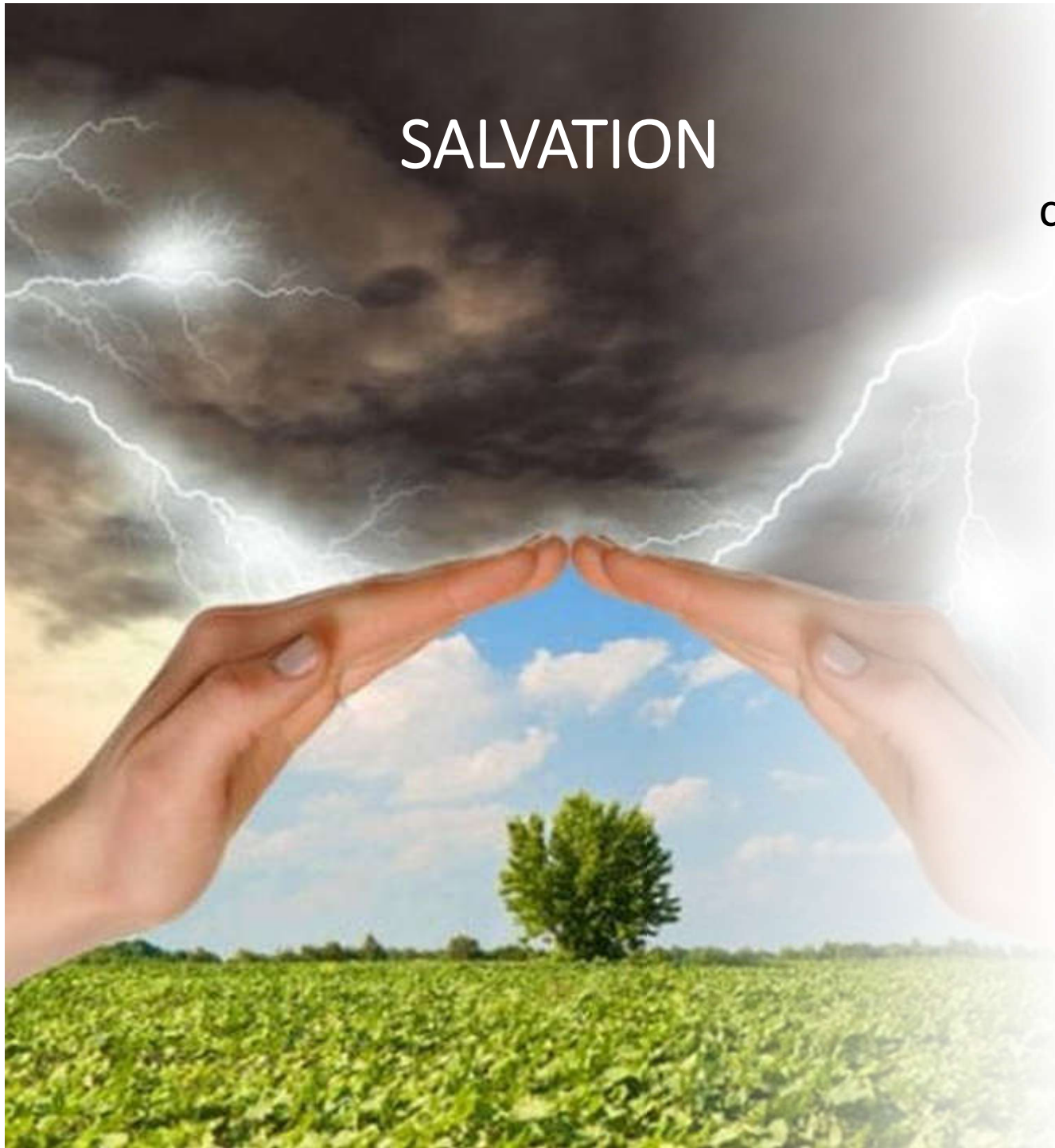
A thick yellow horizontal bar spans the width of the slide, with a thinner vertical yellow bar extending downwards from its right end.

- Our way of thinking needs preservation. The head is the seat of the mind, which, when it has laid hold of the sure gospel hope of eternal life, will not receive false doctrine or give way to Satan's temptations.
- The unsaved person has no hope of warding off the blows of false doctrine because he is without the helmet of salvation and his mind is incapable of discerning between spiritual truth and spiritual deception. *

* <https://www.gotquestions.org/full-armor-of-God.html>

SALVATION

- Due to God's protection of his children, believers are normally shielded against Satan.
- Job 1:9-10 (ESV)
"Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied. "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has?"
- God had to be requested to remove the "hedge" to allow Satan to test Job (Job 1:12).



SALVATION

- When we fall into a lifestyle of unconfessed sin, part of the disciplinary process is to remove that hedge of protection against Satan.
 - 1 Tim 1:20 (NIV) Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have **handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.**
- Practically, this involved excommunication from fellowship. As Satan is the ruler of this world, turning a person over to Satan places them back in the world on their own, without the benefit of Christian fellowship and God's protection.

BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

- We need to have “the breastplate of righteousness in place” (Eph 6:17).
- A breastplate shielded a warrior’s vital organs from blows that would otherwise be fatal.



RIGHTEOUSNESS

- This righteousness is not works of righteousness done by men. Rather, this is the righteousness of Christ, imputed by God and received by faith, which guards our hearts against the accusations and charges of Satan and secures our innermost being from his attacks. *

* <https://www.gotquestions.org/full-armor-of-God.html>





SHIELD OF FAITH

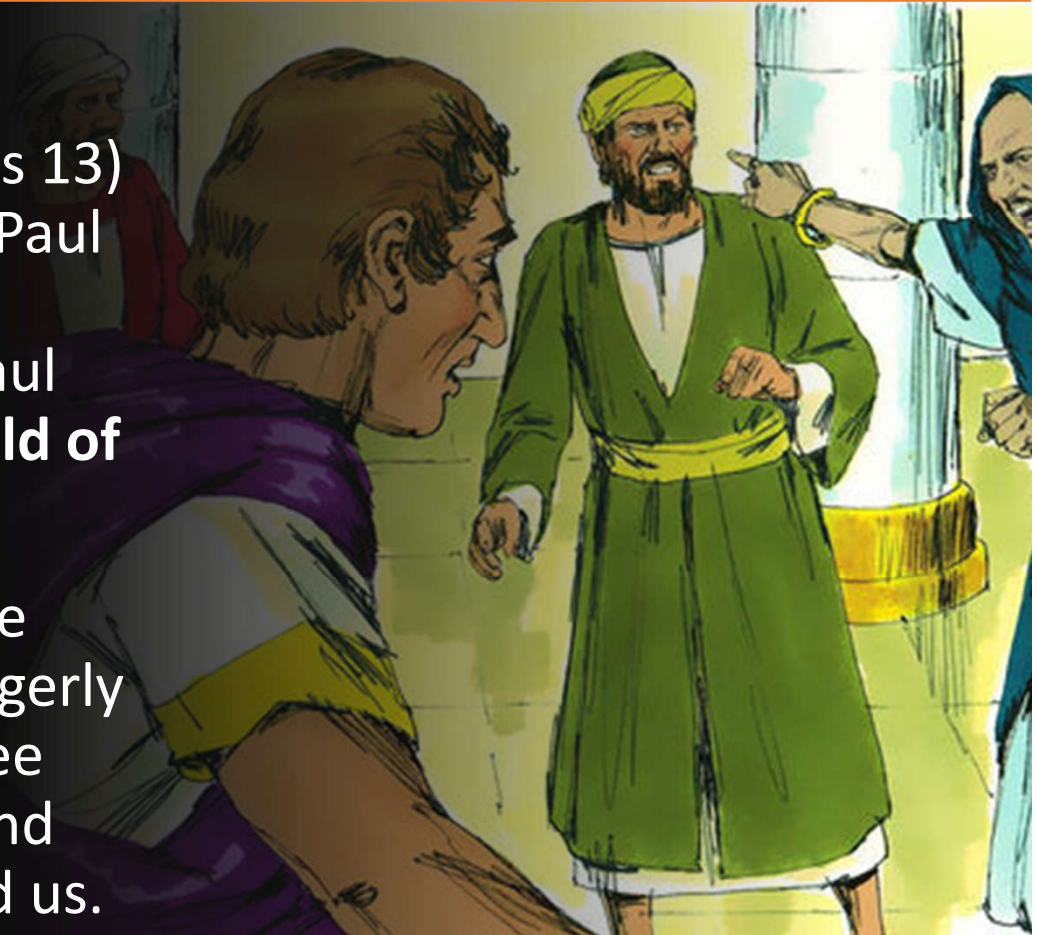
- The shield of faith renders the enemy's sowing of doubt about the faithfulness of God and his Word ineffective.
- Eph 6:16 (NIV) In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one.

FAITH

- Satan tries to get us to question God's Word and his character.
 - Gen 3:4-5 (ESV) "But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
- We are cautioned against unbelief.
 - Heb 3:12-14 (NIV) See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called "Today," so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness. We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end.

EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

- Satan hinders evangelism and mission efforts. In Cyprus (Acts 13) the sorcerer Elymas opposed Paul and Barnabas who were evangelizing the proconsul. Paul rebukes him calling him “a child of the devil”.
- 1 Thess 2:17-18 (ESV) ... we endeavoured the more eagerly and with great desire to see you face to face ... again and again—but Satan hindered us.





EVANGELISM & MISSIONS

- Satan actively hinders the spread of the gospel by targeting the evangelised.
 - Luke 8:12 (NIV) Those along the path are the ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved.





THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

- The armour of God enables us to take ground from the enemy using evangelism and missions - having our “feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace” (Eph 6:15, NIV).

THE GOSPEL OF PEACE

- Rom 10:15 (NIV) And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”
- Thus when Jesus sends out the 70 to evangelise, upon their return he says to them to them, “I was watching **Satan fall** from heaven like lightning” (Luke 10:18, NASB).
- Acts 26:17-18 (NIV) “... I am sending you to them to open their eyes and turn them from darkness to light, and **from the power of Satan to God**, so that they may receive forgiveness of sins and a place among those who are sanctified by faith in me.”

BELT OF TRUTH



- Our first piece of the armour of God is the “belt of truth”
- Eph 6:11-14 (ESV) Put on the whole armour of God, that you may be able to **stand against the schemes of the devil...** Stand therefore, **having fastened on the belt of truth...**

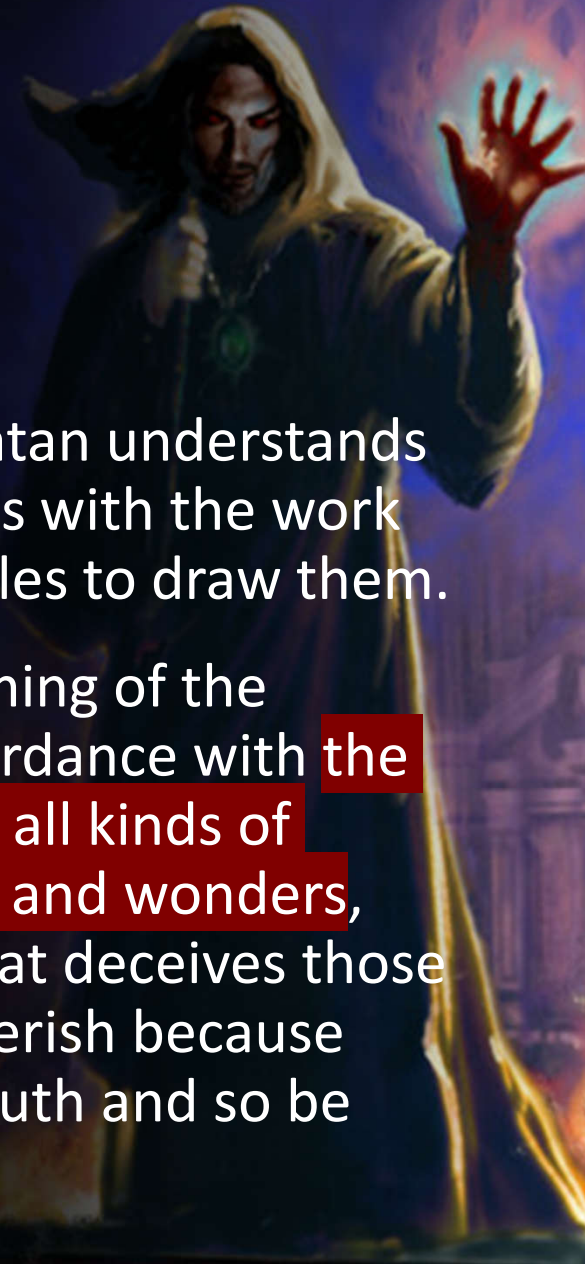


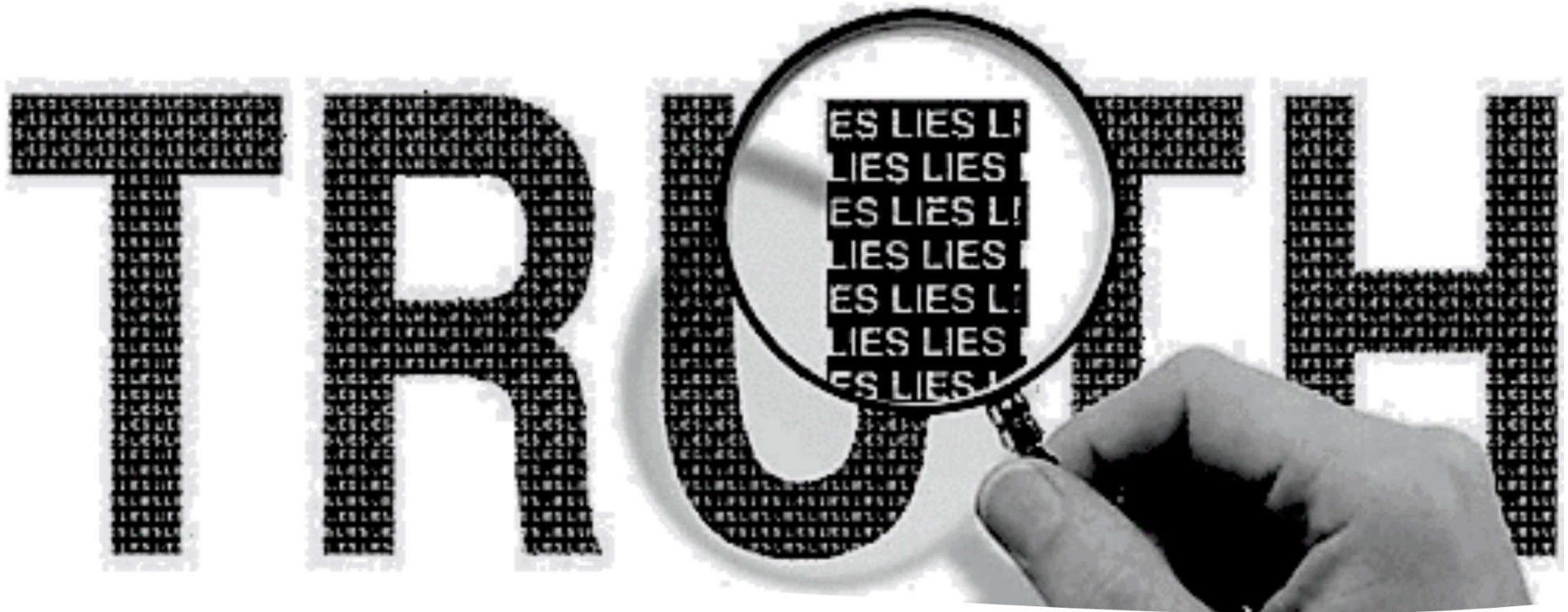
LIES VS TRUTH

- The magicians of Egypt through their dark arts were able to initially oppose Moses using miraculous signs. (2 Tim 3:8)

LIES VS TRUTH

- As he is a cunning deceiver, Satan understands that people equate all miracles with the work of God. So he uses false miracles to draw them.
- 2 Cor 2:9-10 (NIV) The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved.





BELT OF TRUTH

- So one of the means of taking your “stand against the schemes of the devil” is ensuring that you know the truth i.e. what the Bible teaches – not necessarily popular opinion, or what is taught from all pulpits.
- Satan is an accomplished liar. Jesus said that when the devil “lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies” (John 8:44, NIV).

BELT OF TRUTH

- He promotes false teaching and heresy in the church by sowing false seed.
- Matt 13:37-39 (NIV) ...The one who sowed the good seed is the Son of Man. The field is the world, and the good seed stands for the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil ...”



BELT OF TRUTH

- He imparts false wisdom which fosters selfish ambition and disorder.
 - James 3:14-16 (NIV) But if you harbour bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, of the devil. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.
- In this cause, he is assisted by demons.
 - 1 Tim 4:1 (ESV) Now the Spirit expressly says that in later times some will depart from the faith by devoting themselves to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons...

BELT OF TRUTH

- His false message includes legalism.
 - 1 Tim 4:1-4 (NIV) ... in later times some will abandon the faith and follow **deceiving spirits and things taught by demons**. Such teachings come through hypocritical liars, whose consciences have been seared as with a hot iron. They **forbid people to marry** and order them to **abstain from certain foods**, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by those who believe and who know the truth. For everything God created is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving...

FALSE PROPHETS

- At the other end of the spectrum (from legalism) he uses those who teach license to sin and cheap grace.
 - Rev 2:20 (NIV) ... By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols.
- He uses people professing to be God's prophets to spread his message (as in the case above).
 - Rev 2:20-24 (NIV) Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who **calls herself a prophetess. By her teaching she misleads my servants ...** Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not **learned Satan's so-called deep secrets ...**



FALSE APOSTLES

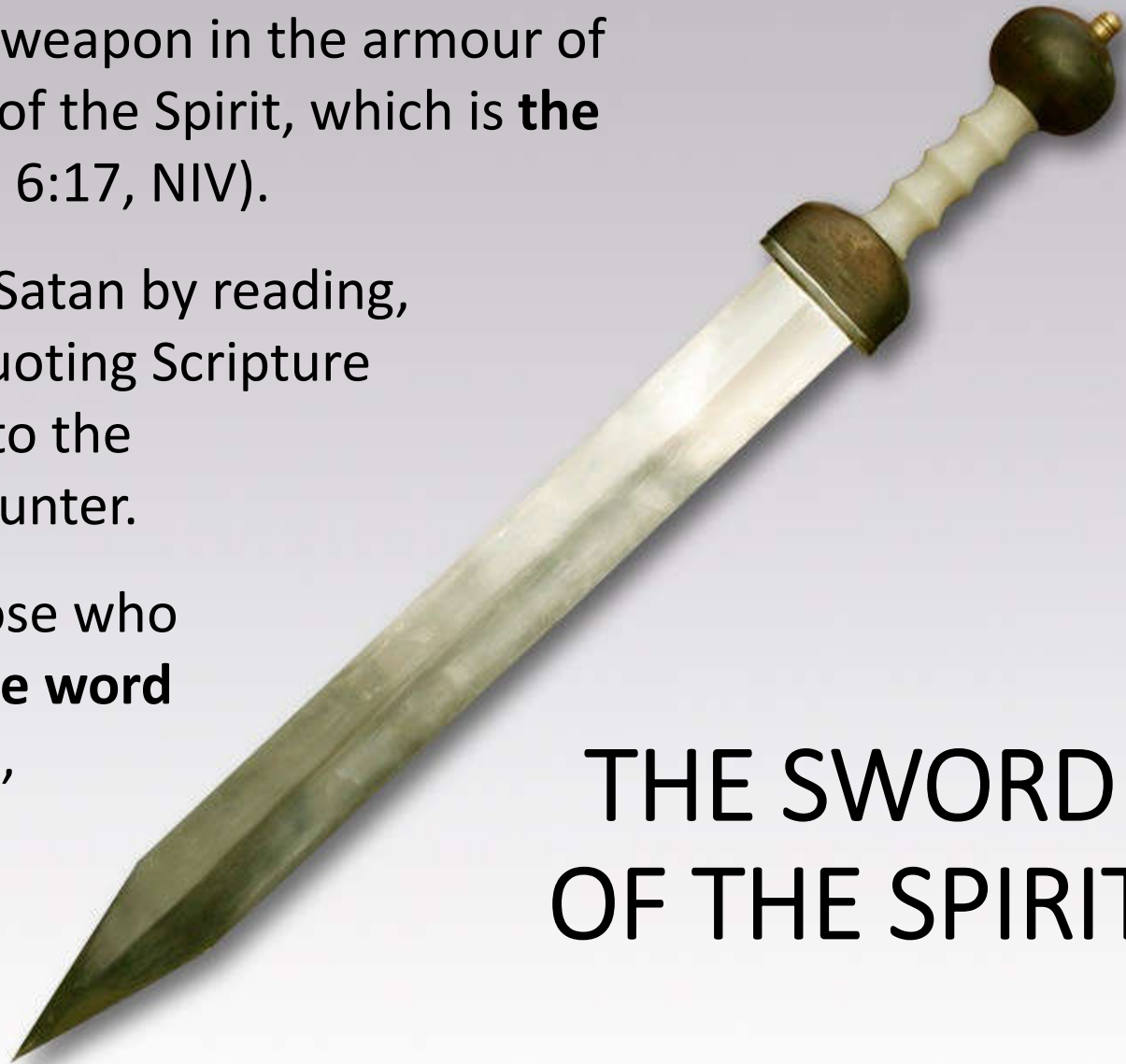
- Likewise he uses some who claim to be God's apostles.
 - 2 Cor 11:13-15 (NIV) For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.

BELT OF TRUTH



- Speaking the truth enables us to “stand firm” in our resistance.
 - Eph 6:14 (NIV) Stand firm then, with the **belt of truth** buckled around your waist...
- We need to focus on doctrinal accuracy and a life that matches our teaching (1 Tim 4:16)

- The only offensive weapon in the armour of God is “**the sword** of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**” (Eph 6:17, NIV).
- We can overcome Satan by reading, memorising and quoting Scripture and by applying it to the situations we encounter.
- ‘John speaks of those who “are strong, and **the word of God lives in you**, and **you have overcome the evil one**” (1 John 2:13).



THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

- This is how Jesus combatted Satan and overcame temptation – he quoted Scripture.



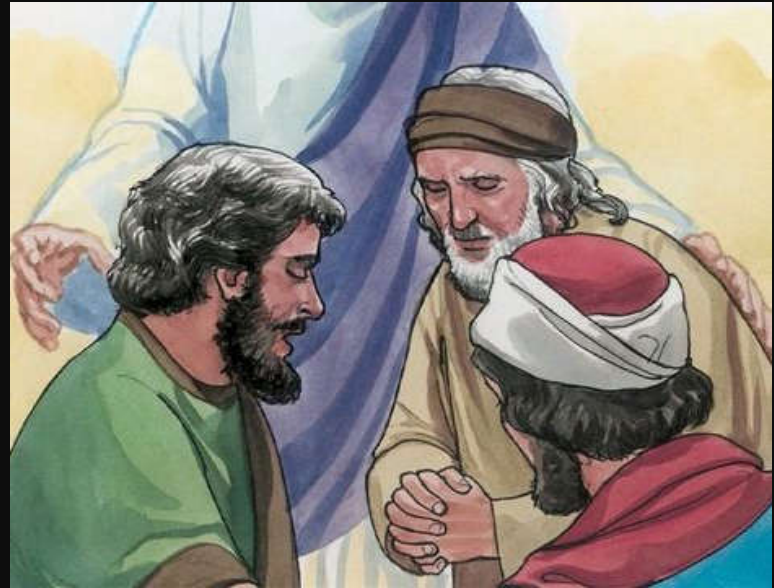
Be gone,
Satan! **For it is
written**, “You
shall worship
the Lord your
God and him
only shall you
serve.” [Matt
4:10, ESV]



PRAYER

- Pre-emptive prayer:
 - Matt 6:9,13 (NIV) “This, then, is how you should pray... lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”
- Intercessory prayer (again listed in “the armour of God”):
 - Eph 6:18 (NIV) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

PAUL'S FIRST PRAYER



Eph 1:15-19 (NIV) For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all God's people, I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers.

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better.

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.

PAUL'S SECOND PRAYER

Eph 3:14-19 (NIV) For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.

And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

AUTHOR:

Gavin Paynter

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