



## We are in Unity

Jeremy Mikeska

Life Change: That we live out our unity

Ephesians 3:1-6

November 19, 2023

### An unlikely sister?

Paul's unlikely ministry

v. 1

Acts 22:21

*And he said to me, 'Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.'*

The mystery- All who trust Jesus for life are unified in Him!

v. 6

Jesus unifies unlikely friends into the same family

Acts 10

Unity in Christ supersedes diversity

Galatians 3:26-29

### How am I living in unity with the body of Christ?

Am I holding any grudges against a brother or sister?

Is there a brother or sister from whom I need to ask their forgiveness for a wrong I've done?

Do I enjoy the unity in Christ so fully that I am willing to serve my brethren to the point hardship?

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Upcoming  
Events

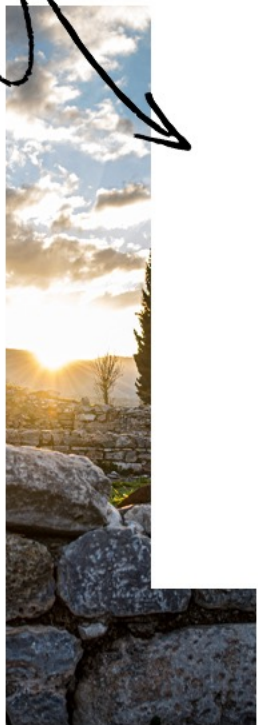


Give

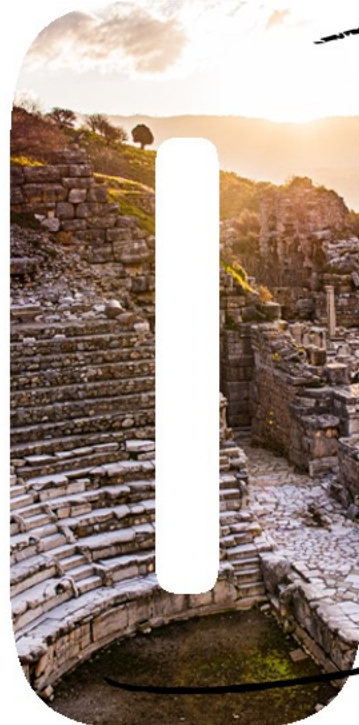


Connect Card  
&  
Prayer Request

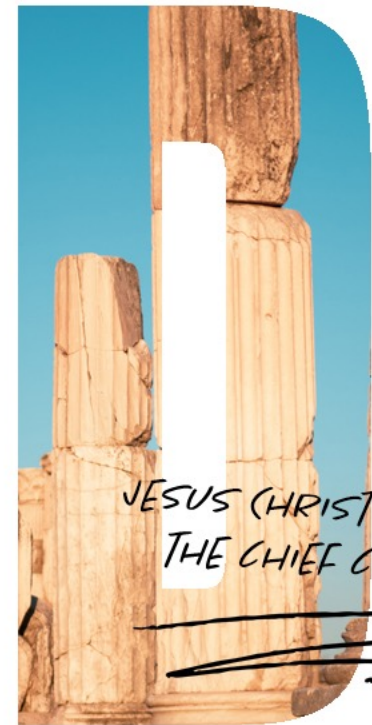
# IN HIM...WE ARE



FOR WE ARE HIS  
WORKMANSHIP



ROOTED AND GROUNDED  
IN LOVE



JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING  
THE CHIEF CORNER STONE

# EPHESIANS

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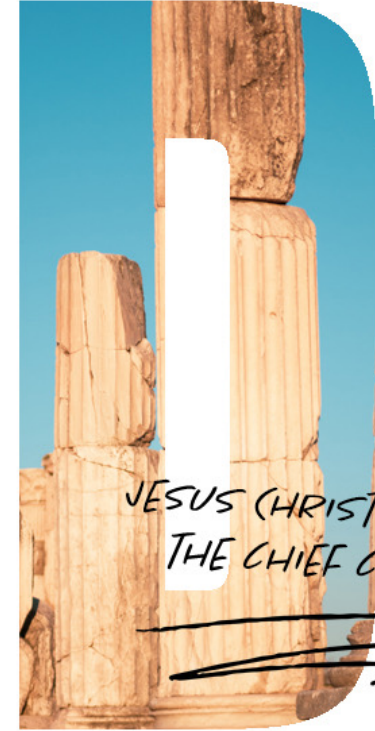
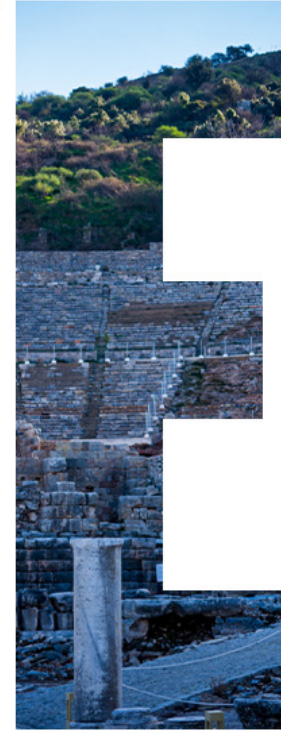
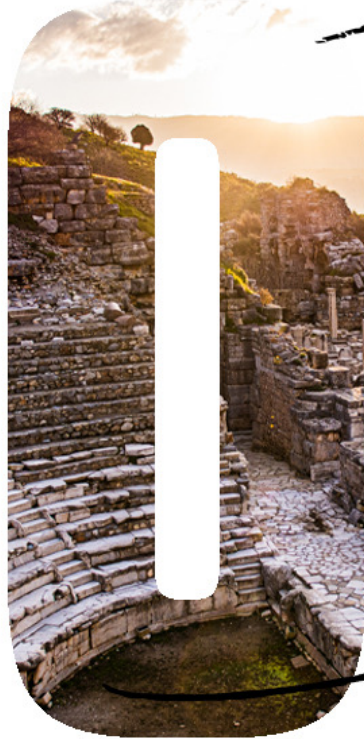
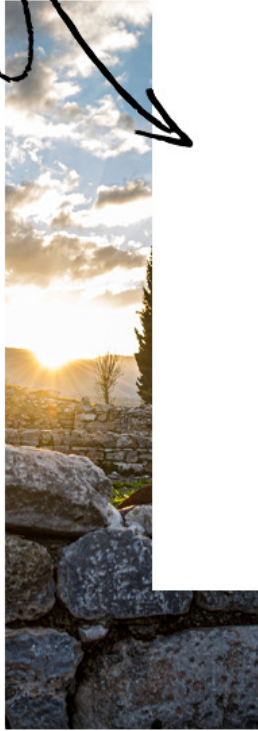
Photo courtesy: IMBb, Vod D wedding Loo Fotografia [bestofweddingphotography.com](http://bestofweddingphotography.com), gettyimages





Photo courtesy: [www.instagram.com/thekatvond/](https://www.instagram.com/thekatvond/)

# IN HIM...WE ARE



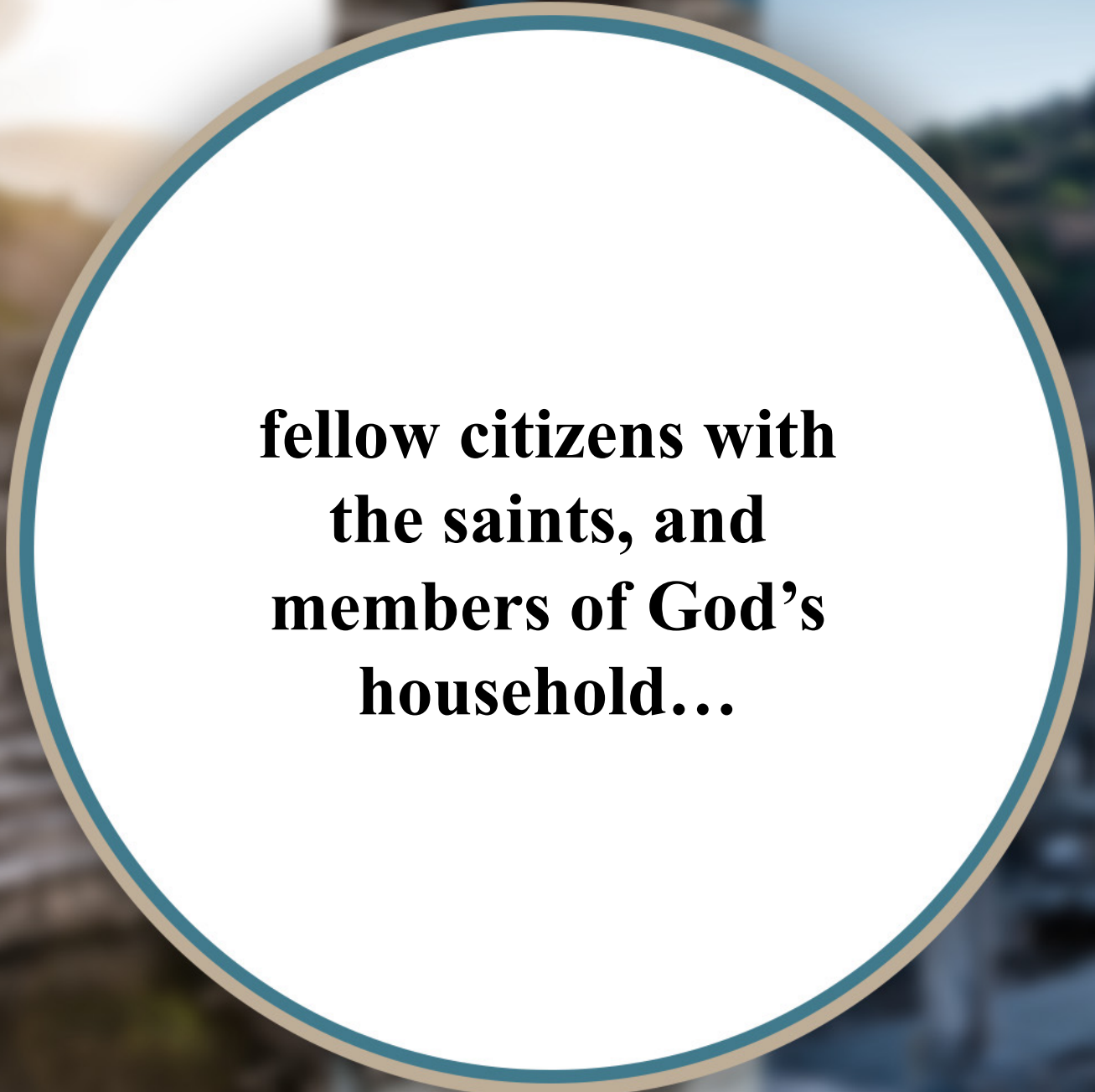
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# EPHESIANS



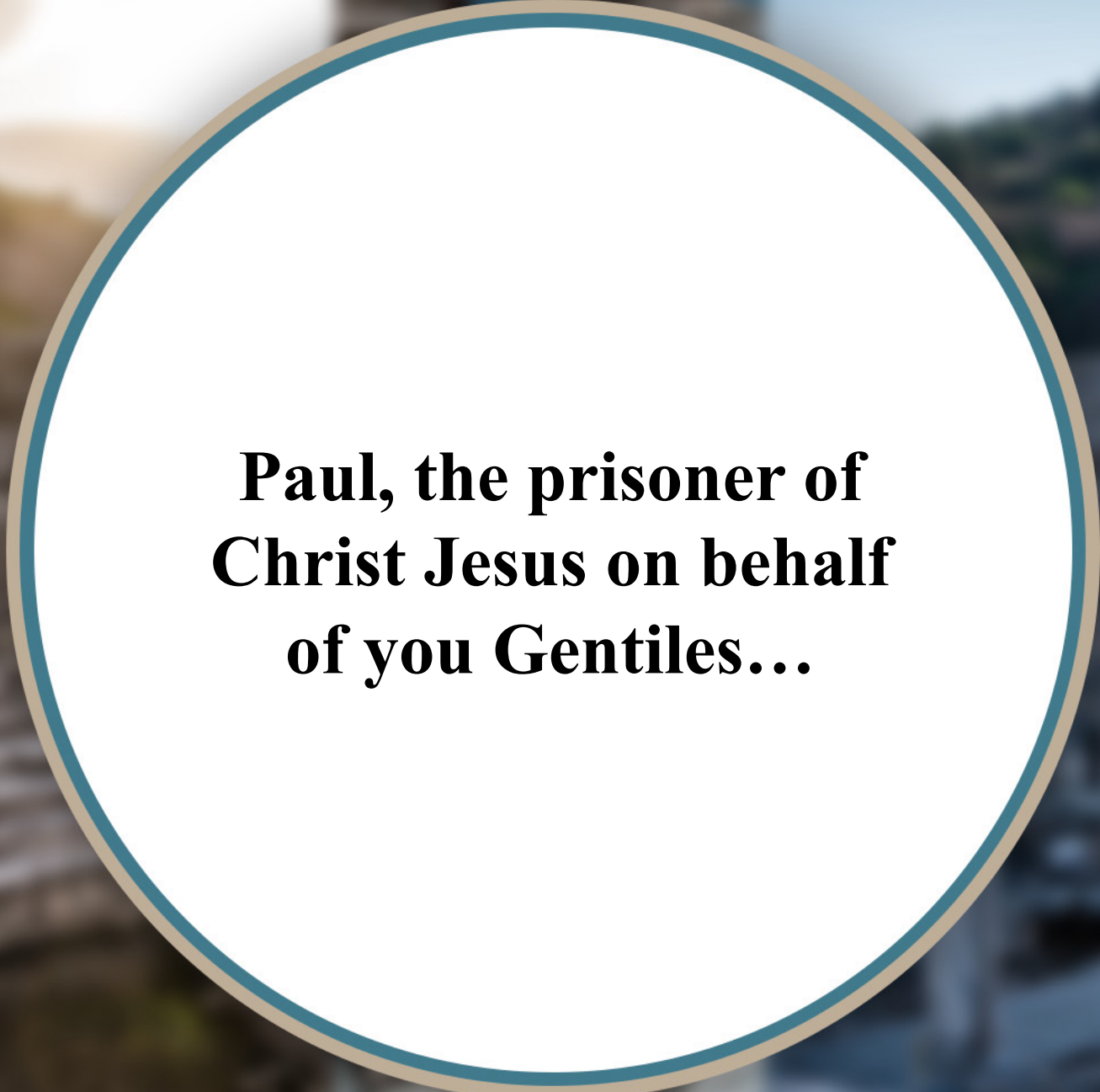


**fellow citizens with  
the saints, and  
members of God's  
household...**

**<sup>22</sup> In him you are also being built together for God's dwelling in the Spirit.**

**3 For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming you have heard about the administration of God's grace that he gave me for you. <sup>3</sup> The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have briefly written above. <sup>4</sup> By reading this you are able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> This was not made known to people in other generations as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: <sup>6</sup> The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.**





**Paul, the prisoner of  
Christ Jesus on behalf  
of you Gentiles...**

**“everyone everywhere against our people, our law, and this place. What’s more, he also brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”**



**<sup>6</sup> “As I was traveling and approaching Damascus, about noon an intense light from heaven suddenly flashed around me. <sup>7</sup> I fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to me, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?’**

**<sup>8</sup> “I answered, ‘Who are you, Lord?’**

**“He said to me, ‘I am Jesus of Nazareth, the one you are persecuting.’ <sup>9</sup> Now those who were with me saw the light, but they did not hear the voice of the one who was speaking to me.**

**<sup>10</sup> “I said, ‘What should I do, Lord?’**

**“The Lord told me, ‘Get up and go into Damascus, and there you will be told everything that you have been assigned to do.’**

**<sup>14</sup> And he (Ananias) said, ‘The God of our ancestors has appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One, and to hear the words from his mouth, <sup>15</sup> since you will be a witness for him to all people of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now, why are you delaying? Get up and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on his name.’**



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**3 For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming you have heard about the administration of God’s grace that he gave me for you.  
<sup>3</sup> The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have briefly written above.**



**οἰκονομία, ἡ,**

*management of a  
household or family,  
husbandry, thrift,*

**3 For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming you have heard about the **administration of God's grace** that he gave me for you. <sup>3</sup> The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have briefly written above.**



**3 For this reason, I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—<sup>2</sup> assuming you have heard about the **stewardship of God's grace** that he gave me for you. <sup>3</sup> The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have briefly written above.**



ἀποκάλυψις [κά], εως, ἡ,

***uncovering***, of the head, Phld.*Vit.*p.38 J.; ***disclosing***, of hidden springs, Plu.*Aem.*14: metaph., ἀμαρτίας Id.2.7 of; ***revelation***, esp. of divine mysteries, Ep.Rom.16.25, etc.; of persons, ***manifestation***, 2Ep.Thess.1.7, etc.; title of *the Apocalypse*.



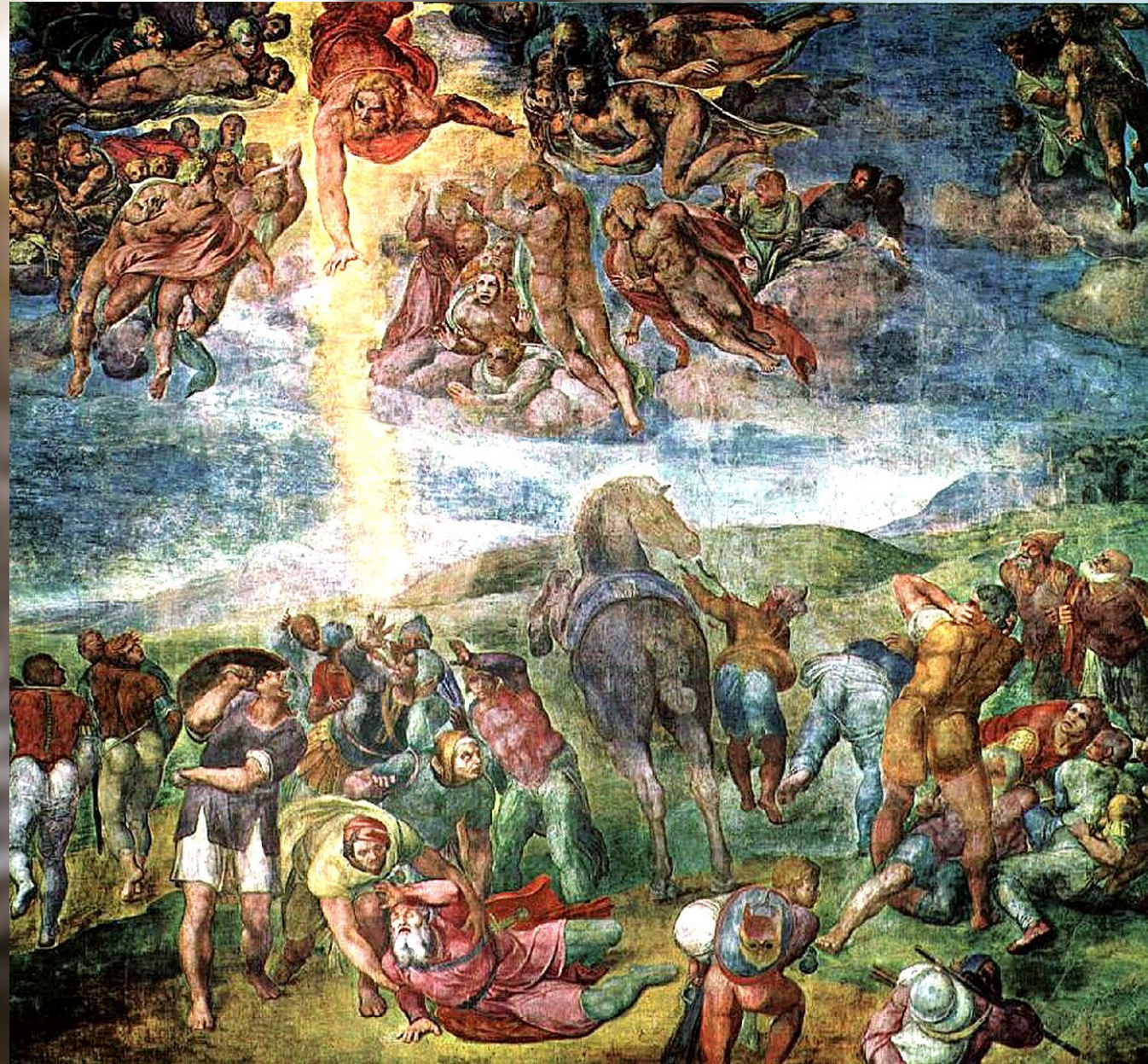


Photo courtesy: Michelangelo The Conversion of Paul, Wikipedia.com



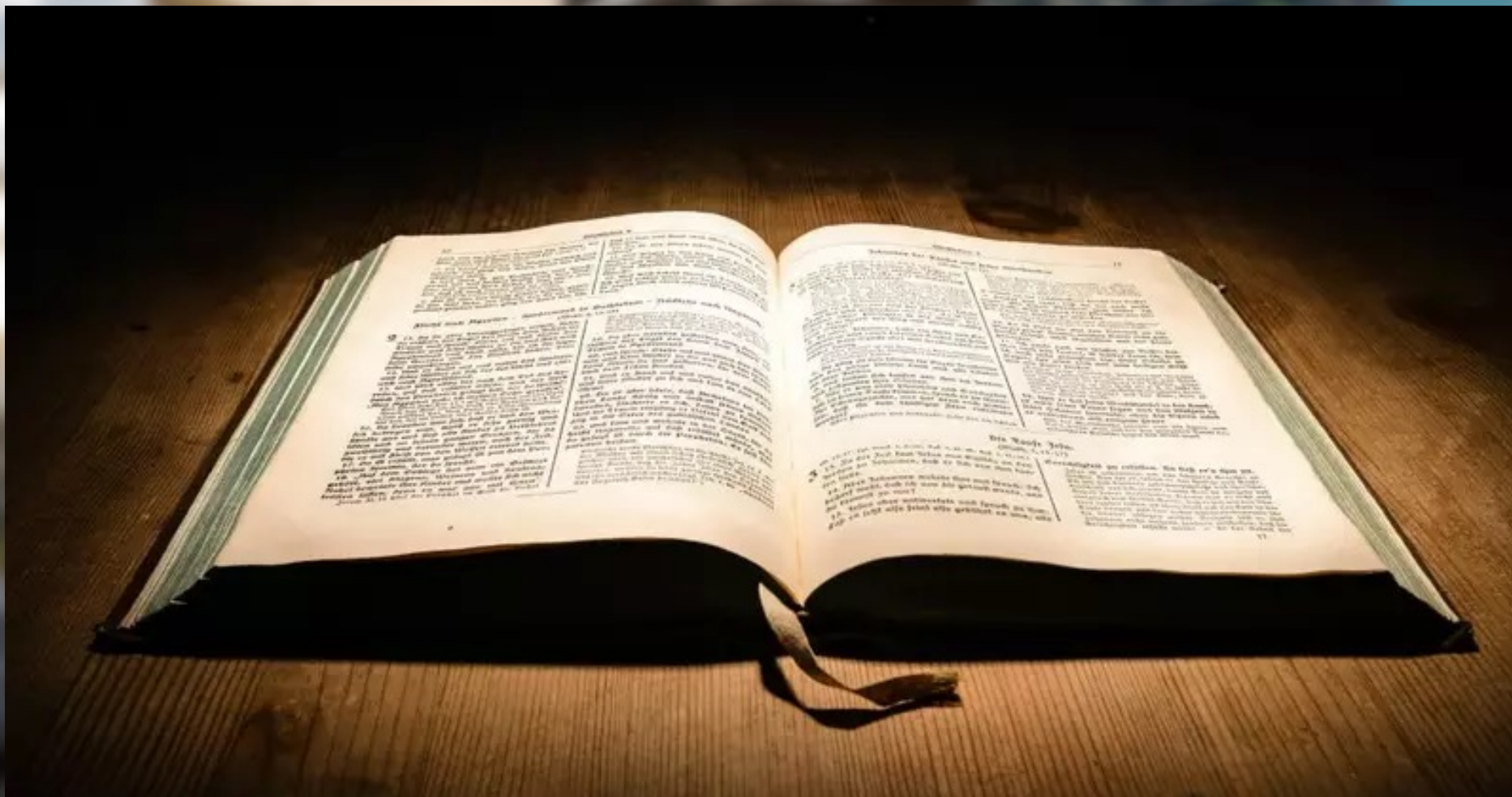


Photo courtesy: [crosswalk.com](https://www.crosswalk.com)



**<sup>17</sup> So faith comes from  
what is heard, and  
what is heard comes  
through the message  
about Christ.**

**21 And he (Jesus) said to me, ‘Go, for I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’**

**<sup>3</sup> The mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have briefly written above. <sup>4</sup> By reading this you are able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ. <sup>5</sup> This was not made known to people in other generations as it is now revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit:**



**<sup>7</sup> In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup> that he richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding. <sup>9</sup> He made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he purposed in Christ <sup>10</sup> as a plan for the right time—to bring everything together in Christ, both things in heaven and things on earth in him.**

**<sup>13</sup> But now in Christ Jesus, you who were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ. <sup>14</sup> For he is our peace, who made both groups one and tore down the dividing wall of hostility. In his flesh, <sup>15</sup> he made of no effect the law consisting of commands and expressed in regulations, so that he might create in himself one new man from the two, resulting in peace. <sup>16</sup> He did this so that he might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross by which he put the hostility to death.**

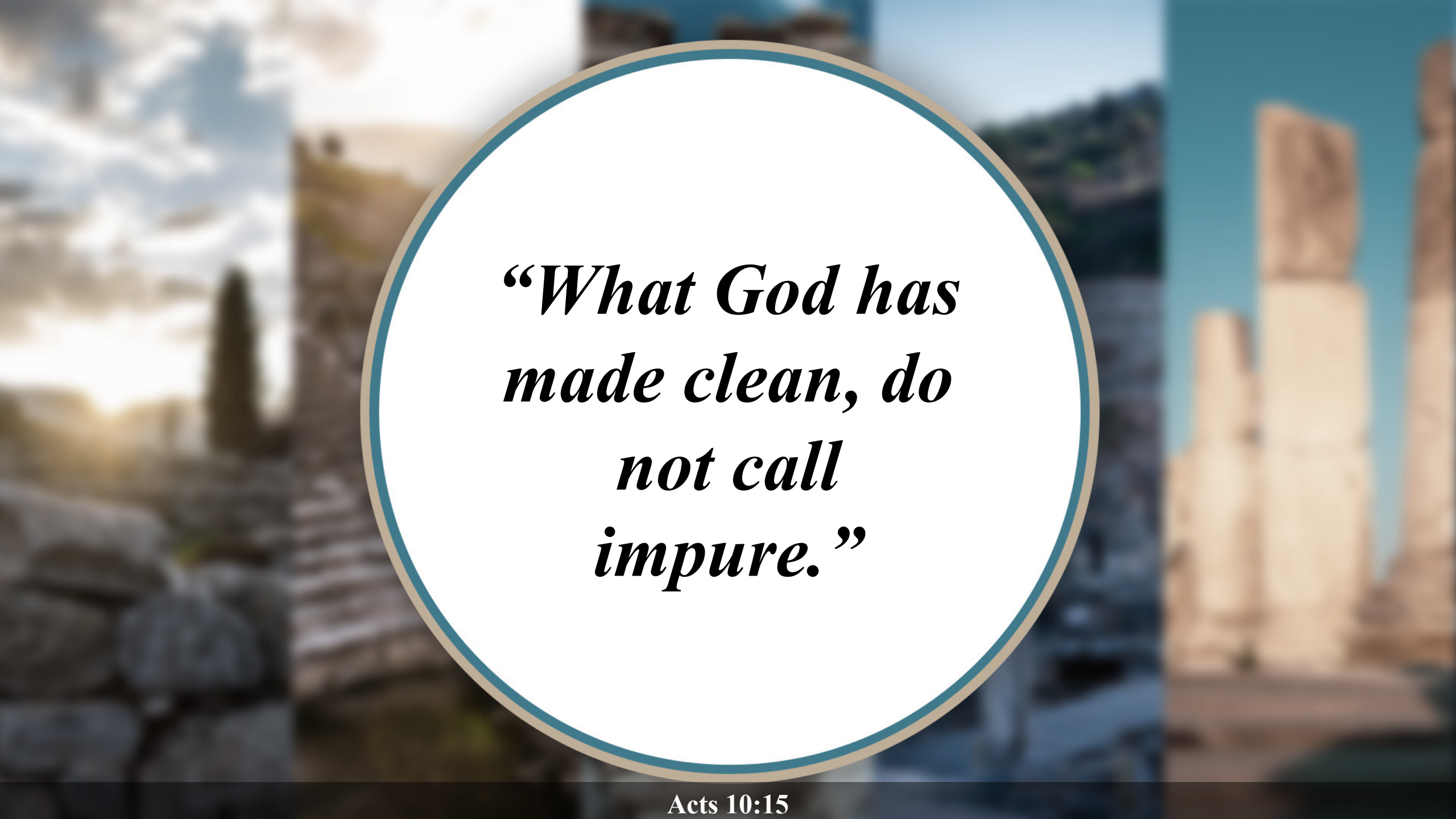


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**<sup>6</sup> The Gentiles are coheirs, members of the same body, and partners in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.**

**“Your prayers and your acts of charity have ascended as a memorial offering before God. <sup>5</sup> Now send men to Joppa and call for Simon, who is also named Peter. <sup>6</sup> He is lodging with Simon, a tanner, whose house is by the sea.”**



*“What God has  
made clean, do  
not call  
impure.”*

Acts 10:15

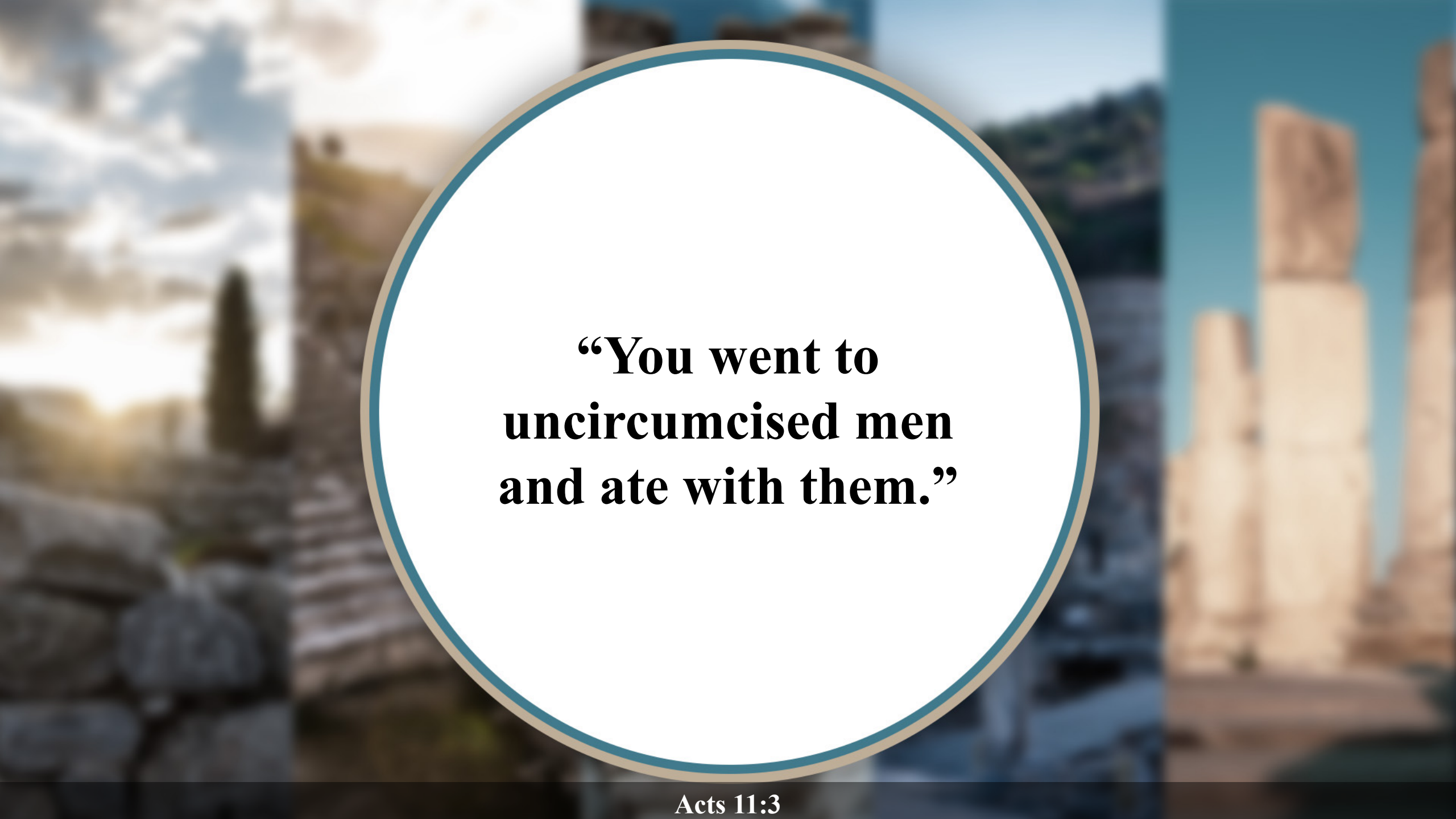


**“Now I truly understand that God doesn’t show favoritism,  
35 but in every nation the person who fears him and does  
what is right is acceptable to him. 36 He sent the message to  
the Israelites, proclaiming the good news of peace through  
Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all.**

**<sup>42</sup> He (Jesus) commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one appointed by God to be the judge of the living and the dead. <sup>43</sup> All the prophets testify about him that through his name everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins.”**

**Then Peter responded, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold water and prevent these people from being baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” <sup>48</sup> He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay for a few days.**





**“You went to  
uncircumcised men  
and ate with them.”**

**Acts 11:3**

**“It was really the Christians who were the worst,” she said. “It was really just sad to see this critical display of judgement from Christians, and I don’t understand what would inspire that, aside from something that’s more egoic, because that isn’t Christlike, to judge people or judge people’s journey. You would think that most Christians would be happy for you when you come to this point in your life, especially when you get baptized.”**

**“Baptism is so beautiful and it’s such a big landmark in time,” she continued. “For me, at least, it was one of the most important days of my life, so it’s strange that these handful of negative, critical Christians would come at me in such a public way.”**

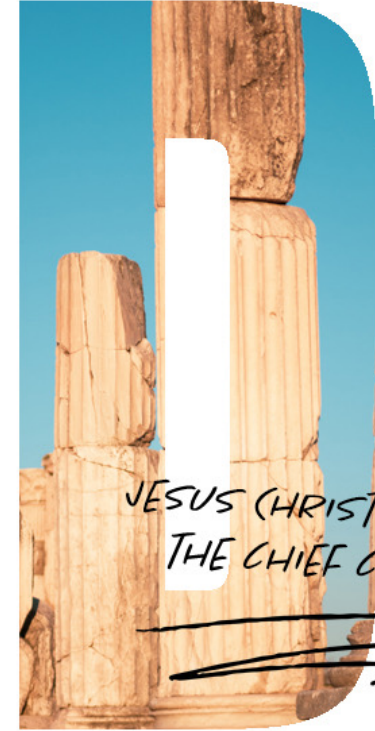
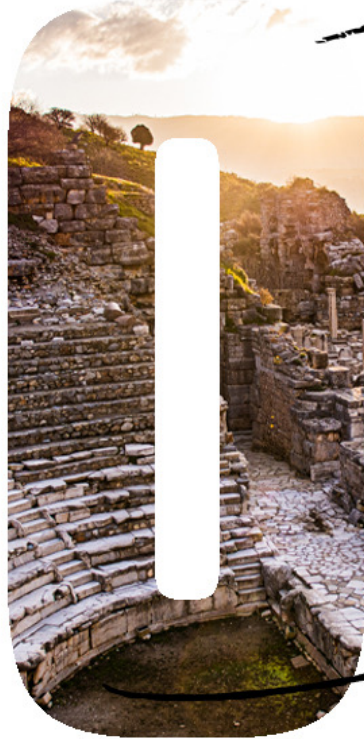
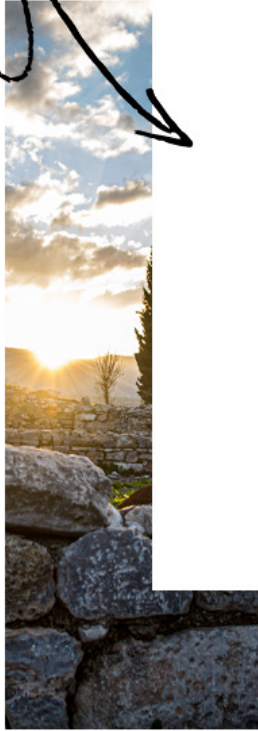
**-Kat Von D**



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## EPHESIANS



# LIVE JOY FULL

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2023-24 Annual Vision

JOHN 15:11



**<sup>26</sup> for through faith you are all sons of God in Christ Jesus.**

**<sup>27</sup> For those of you who were baptized into Christ have been clothed with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is no Jew or Greek, slave or free, male and female; since you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, heirs according to the promise.**



*I fear for churches that say “We are creating community.” That’s like saying, “We’re working to make sure the sun rises.” It’s already done. I also fear for the Christian desperately wanting to feel community. That’s understandable but tragic.*

*“Why were they doomed in their quest? Because they didn’t treat unity as a fact to be developed but as a feeling to be gauged. Thus, every example of lived-out unity was only useful until the next time they felt left out or unappreciated.”*

**“The Greco-Roman world’s religious views were open and seemingly tolerant-everyone had his or her own God. The practices of the culture were quite brutal, however. ...By contrast, Christians insisted that there was only one true god, the dying Savior Jesus Christ. Their lives and practices were, however, remarkably welcoming to those that the culture marginalized. The early Christians mixed people from different races and classes in ways that seemed scandalous to those around them.**

**-Tim Keller**





Photo courtesy: . Rita Harper for ChristianityToday.com

*Marshall marvels at this improbable story that has affected so many lives over so many years and has led to two friends sharing coffee on a quiet morning. “We could not have written this story,” she said. “It feels miraculous.”*





Photo: Rita Harper for  
ChristianityToday.com

*Sitting in Stacie Marshall’s kitchen, Betty Mosley reflects on the changes she has seen within her lifetime in Dirt Town Valley: “Even though my great-great-grandmother was born a slave, I was born free. Jesus said, If the Son sets you free, you are free indeed.”*

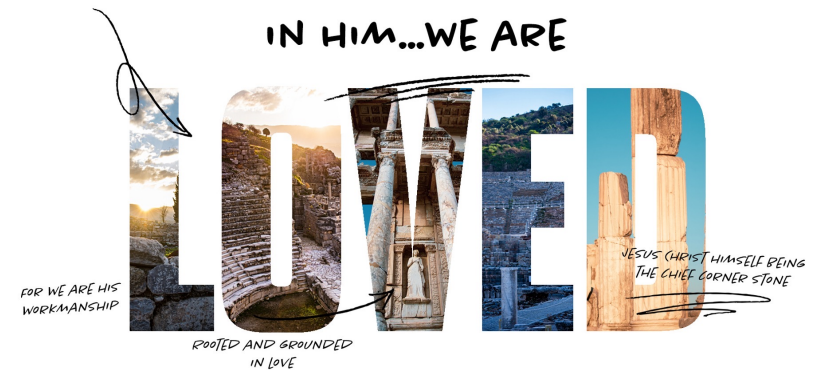
*She rests her elbows on the counter beside the bright daffodils, the first flowers to bloom at the end of winter.*

*“I am free indeed.”*



**Theme of the whole Epistle:**

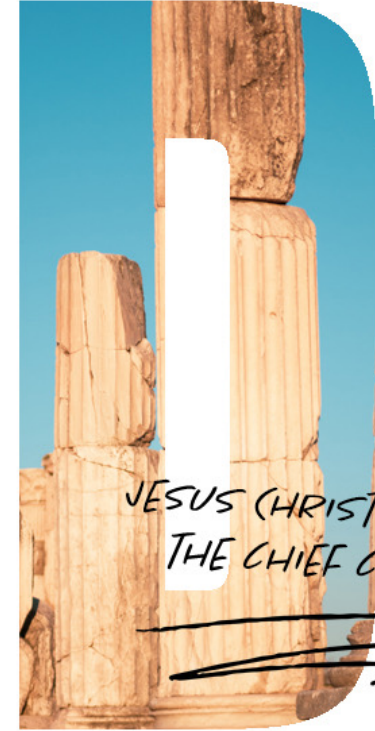
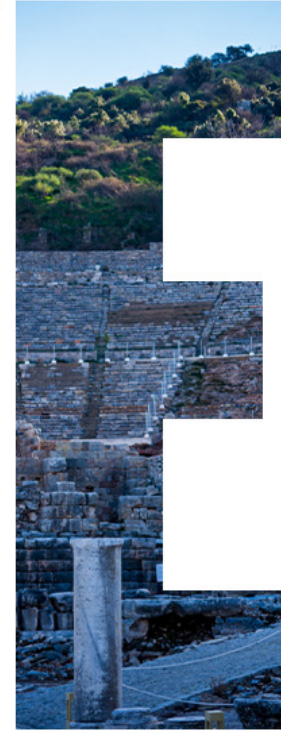
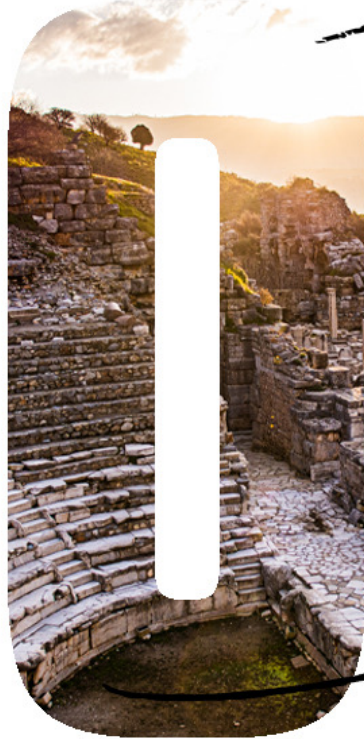
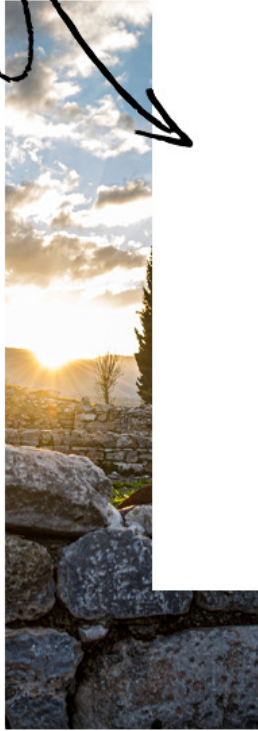
*God's great plan is to institute His body, the church of Jesus Christ.*



EPHESIANS

*Unlike the schemes of empires such as Rome, membership in the Church requires voluntary acceptance and comes with no loss – save the loss of slavery to sin. In fact, unimaginable blessings accompany this institution, facilitating lives of empowered productivity and joyful gratitude.*

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