



Joy in being a beloved servant

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We Develop Intensity for Service

Selected scriptures

April 28, 2024

“I am a servant of Christ in this work. Being the best servant-leader I can be at this company is one of the most important ways I serve God.”

- Kelly Starr

Christians are Servants

Rom 1:1

Doulos

Rev 1:1

All the time, everywhere

Col 3:22-24

Without age restrictions

1 Tim 4:12; Ps 92:12-14

“The biblical expectation of ripeness growing and service of others continuing as we age with God is the substance of the last-lap image of our closing years...so far as our bodily health allows, we should aim to be found running the last lap of our Christian life flat out.”

- J.I. Packer, *Finishing Our Course With Joy*

Christians are Called

1 Cor 1:9

Non-theistic systems believe that humans must do the calling

God’s calling leads to positive motivation

Titus 3:4-8

“All Christians are called to behave in a manner worthy of ones invited to God’s table. Our motivation for good deeds and deference to each other comes from our gratitude at being called.”

- John Chrysostom *Homily on 1 Corinthians* 11 ca. AD 400

Best Practices:

Foster gratitude in my soul

Develop zeal for service

Mortify my poor response to the calling

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Upcoming Events



Give

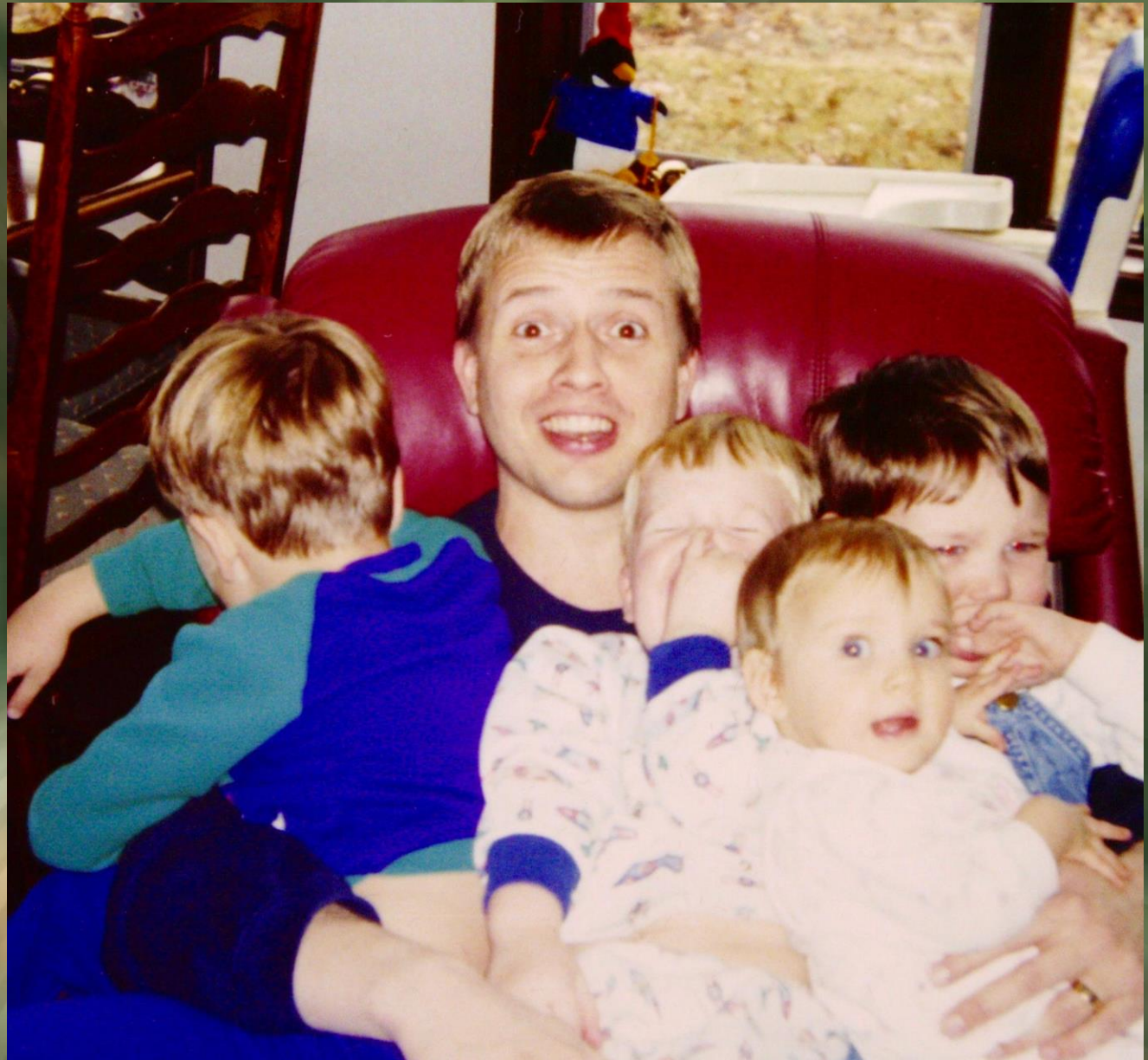


Connect Card & Prayer Request

FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE

**Kelly Starr in our
young fatherhood
days**



courtesy Amy Starr

I am a servant of Christ in this work. Being the best servant-leader I can be at this company is one of the most important ways I serve God. – Kelly Starr





FINDING JOY IN LOVING PEOPLE

Loving self as an adopted child, a saint, & a servant

Loving the neighbor, the stranger, & the antagonist

Loving the brethren

Loving through marital conflict, in the act of marriage, & in household rhythms

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God

Romans 1 CSB

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

ACTS

ROMANS

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPH

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God



Romans 1 CSB

Greek: δοῦλος *doulos* = one voluntarily dedicated to the service of another; a slave who willingly harnesses his freedom to an overlord

¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God

Romans 1 CSB



Greek: δοῦλος *doulos* = one voluntarily dedicated to the service of another; a slave who willingly harnesses his freedom to an overlord

²⁸ The commander replied, “I bought this citizenship for a large amount of money.”

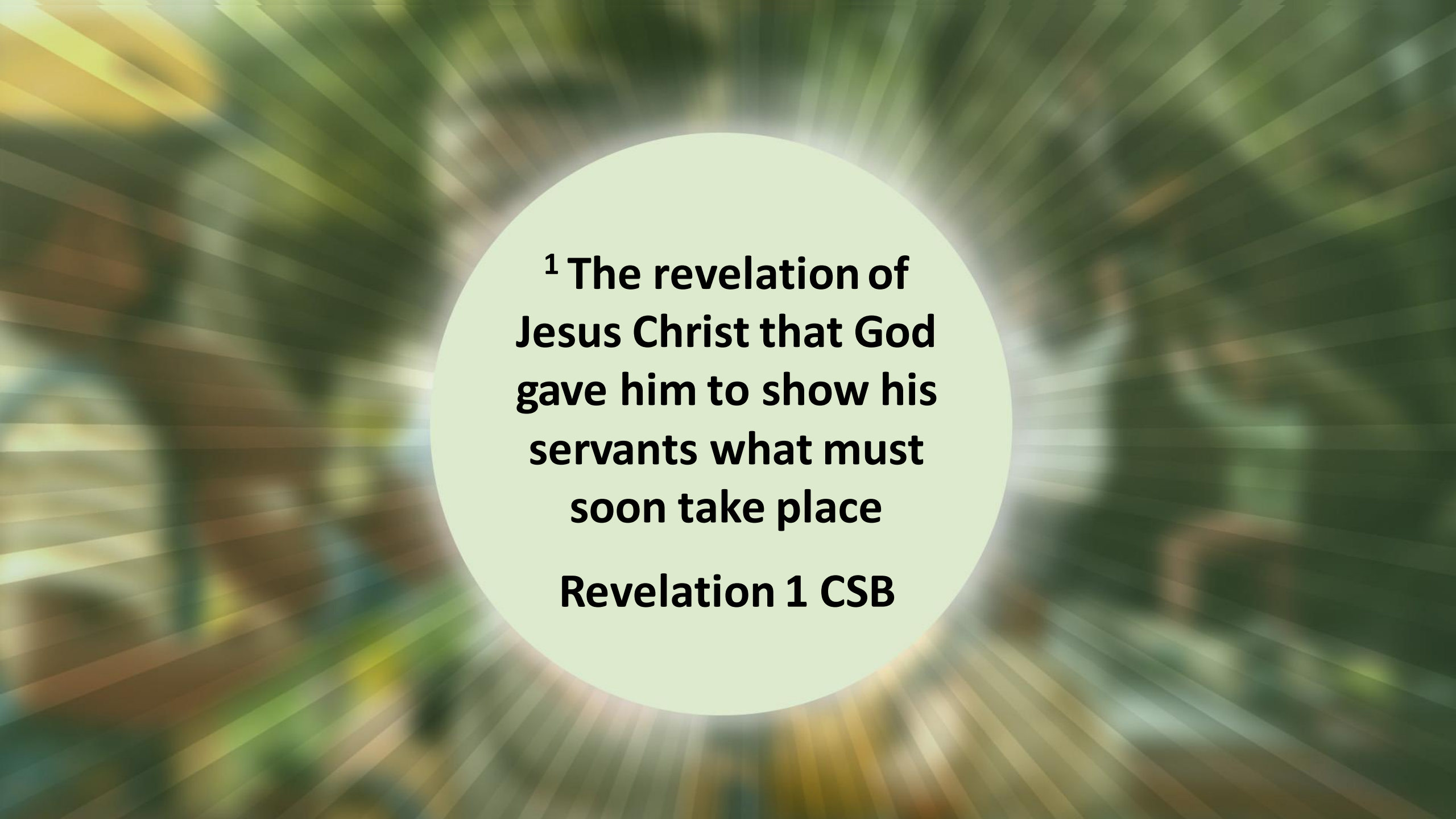
“But I was born a citizen,” Paul said.

Acts 22 CSB

Paul was a Roman citizen, meaning he was as free as anyone had ever been up to that point in human history. Yet Paul

chose to become *doulos* of Jesus.





**¹ The revelation of
Jesus Christ that God
gave him to show his
servants what must
soon take place**

Revelation 1 CSB

¹ The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place



Revelation 1 CSB

Greek: δοῦλος *doulos* = one voluntarily dedicated to the service of another; one who willingly harnesses his freedom to an overlord

Thank You!!



Loving self as an adopted child, a saint, & a servant

**23 Then he said to the crowd,
“If any of you wants to be my follower,
you must give up your own way,
take up your cross daily,
and follow me.”**

Luke 9 NLT

**Where or when
should we follow
Jesus? (You know, I
had a big hit with
“where or when.”)**



courtesy Capitol

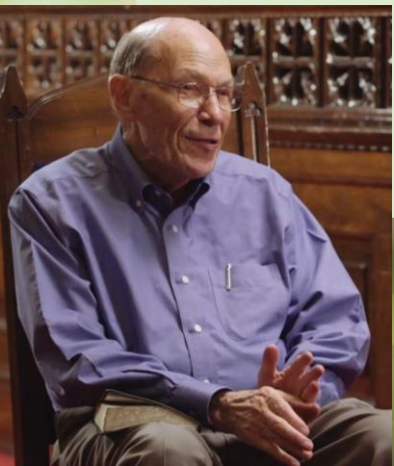
22 Slaves, obey your human masters in everything. Don't work only while being watched, as people-pleasers, but work wholeheartedly, fearing the Lord. 23 Whatever you do, do it from the heart, as something done for the Lord and not for people, 24 knowing that you will receive the reward of an inheritance from the Lord. You serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3 CSB

**You serve the Lord.
He sees everything always.
So, give your all.**

**You serve the Lord.
The boss sees only some things.
Give your all anyway because of your
true Boss.**

Just as every believer is a saint, so every believer is, like Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus...We serve Christ by serving employers, customers, clients, patients, or even co-workers. Whoever it may be that we have an opportunity to serve, whatever our job or profession might be, we should see ourselves first as servants of Christ...If you make part of your identity, “I am a servant of Christ,” then at the end of the week instead of saying, “Thank goodness it’s Friday,” you can say, “This week I had the privilege of serving Jesus by serving people.”
– Jerry Bridges, *Who Am I?*





courtesy fotografiinda

¹⁵ It is God's will that you silence the ignorance of foolish people by doing good. ¹⁶ Submit as free people, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil, but as God's slaves.

1 Peter 2 CSB





Jeffrey became an atheist following a childhood tragedy where he lost two brothers in a house fire. His deep pain fueled a vitriolic hatred against God and instability in his own life. During the next 20 years, he developed strong arguments to support his emotional resistance to belief. When his wife unexpectedly became a Christian, his anger against God only grew.

One evening his wife called and asked him to pick her up at the home of the Christians who had led her to Christ. Jeffrey was expecting a heated exchange, but instead received warm hospitality. Feeling valued, he was drawn back again and again toward meaningful conversation. Over time, his walls of resistance began to melt, friendship and trust developed, and intellectual questions were answered. Eventually, he lost his resistance to God and found the peace and joy that had long eluded him.

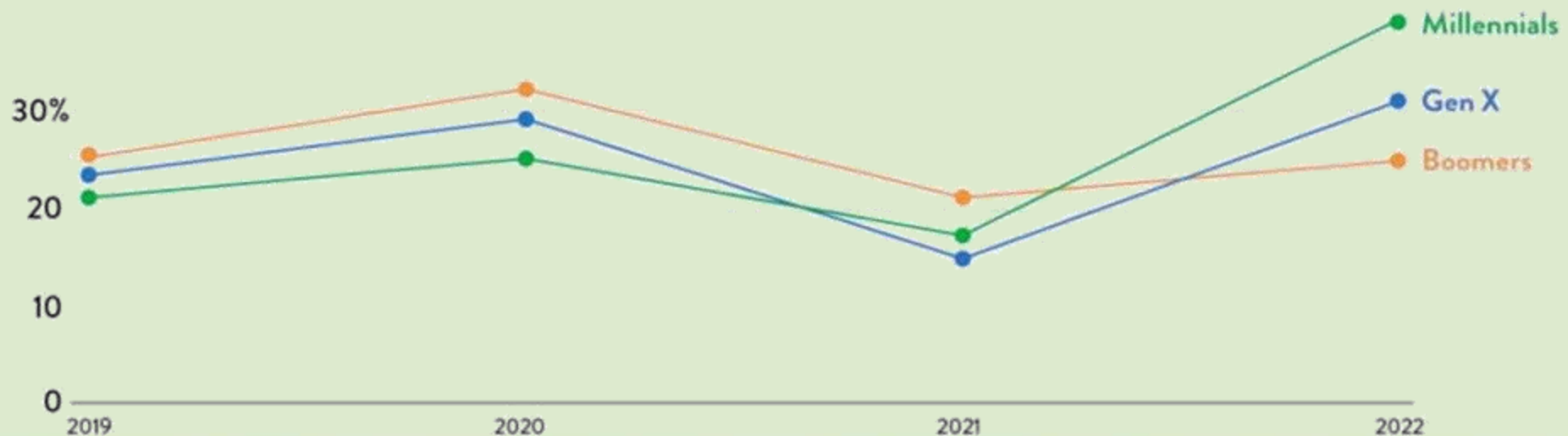
– Jana S. Harmon, *Atheists Finding God: Unlikely Stories of Conversions to Christianity in the Contemporary West*



12 Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, and in purity.

1 Timothy 4 CSB

Weekly Church Attendance, By Generation



**12 The righteous thrive like a palm tree
and grow like a cedar tree in Lebanon.**

**13 Planted in the house of the LORD,
they thrive in the courts of our God.**

**14 They will still bear fruit in old age,
healthy and green**

Psalm 92 CSB

The biblical expectation of ripeness growing and service of others continuing as we age with God is the substance of the last-lap image of our closing years...so far as our bodily health allows, we should aim to be found running the last lap of our Christian life flat out. – J.I. Packer, *Finishing Our Course With Joy*



¹ Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God

Romans 1 CSB

⁹ God is faithful; you were called by him into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

1 Corinthians 1 CSB



If the pagan rites were performed exactly correctly, then the gods might hear the humans calling. Gods never called people, but people might possibly get what they needed by rising up, performing sacrifices, and calling on the gods.



courtesy the trumpet; symbol approved by Sauron

Unless humans treat the environment more cautiously and less violently, the environment will take revenge on us and bring about the unpleasantly premature death of the human species. – Joel Schwartz, “A Call to Action”



⁴ But when the kindness of God our Savior and his love for mankind appeared, ⁵ he saved us—not by works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy—through the washing of regeneration and renewal by the Holy Spirit. ⁶ He poured out his Spirit on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior ⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we may become heirs with the hope of eternal life. ⁸ This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone.

Titus 3 CSB

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Titus 3 CSB

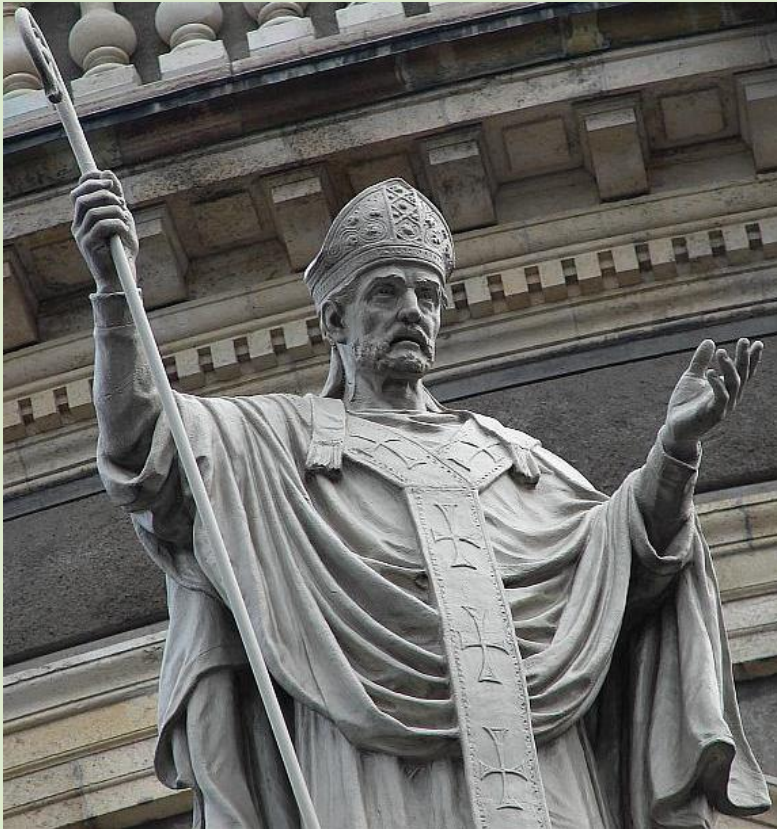
Unless humans treat the environment more cautiously and less violently, the environment will take revenge on us and bring about the unpleasantly premature death of the human species. – Joel Schwartz, “A Call to Action”

Titus 3

- **God kindly saved us by His grace alone.**
- **That should be insisted upon in our fellowships.**
- **Because it leads to good works.**

All Christians are called to behave in a manner worthy of ones invited to God's table. Our motivation for good deeds and deference to each other comes from our gratitude at being called.

– John Chrysostom, “Homily on 1 Corinthians 11” ca. AD 400



John Chrysostom
Carl Christian Peters
1885

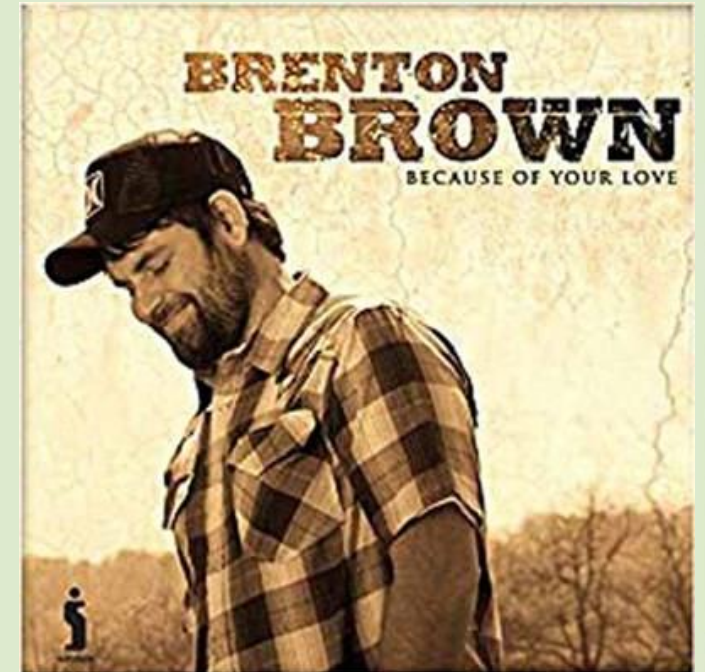
**¹ Sing a new song to the LORD;
let the whole earth sing to the LORD.**

**² Sing to the LORD, bless his name;
proclaim his salvation from day to day.**

**⁵ For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.**

Psalm 96 CSB

**Creator, sustainer
Our hearts were made for You
Our Abba, our Father
The home we're running to
Drawn by Your kindness
Held by Your grace
Your generous mercy inspires songs of praise
Wonderful, wonderful
You're the one thing that we need
How we long for Your house
For the healing that it brings**



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Psalm 96 CSB



courtesy shutterstock

This strategy [mental subtraction] can make you more aware of (and grateful for) the good things in your life.
– Dr. Ryan M. Niemiec



Christians are called servants of God! That should spark thankfulness in my heart – something that needs to be



developed. Best practice ideas:

- **Singing**
- **Mental subtraction**
- **Gratitude jar**

Christians are called servants of God! That should spark thankfulness in my heart – something that needs to be



developed. Best practice ideas:

- **Singing**
- **Mental subtraction**
- **Gratitude jar**
- **Thank you notes**

Christians are called servants of God! That should spark zeal for service.

⁸This saying is trustworthy. I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed God might be careful to devote themselves to good works. These are good and profitable for everyone.

Titus 3 CSB



MAP OF ACHAIA



**Messed up, the
Corinthians gave
God every
reason to
disown them.**



¹ Now concerning the ministry to the saints, it is unnecessary for me to write to you. ² For I know your eagerness, and I boast about you to the Macedonians, “Achaia has been ready since last year,” and your zeal has stirred up most of them.

2 Corinthians 9 CSB

Justin Metz
Connections Director
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Christians are called servants of God! Therefore, I must mortify my poor response to the calling.

Immovable
Franklin Bernard
1904



Christians are called servants of God! Therefore, I must mortify my poor response to the calling.

Wayne, I confess, my flesh screams “NO” when I am asked to serve where it is not convenient or for a cause or people I don’t like. Sadly, I don’t always respond as I should.

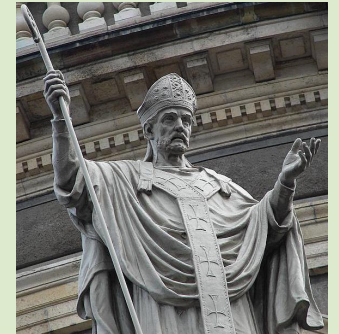


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All Christians are called to behave in a manner worthy of ones invited to God’s table. Our motivation for good deeds and deference to each other comes from our gratitude at being called.
– John Chrysostom



Christians are called servants of God! Therefore I:

- Foster gratitude.
- Develop zeal for service.
- Mortify my poor responses.



Put to death

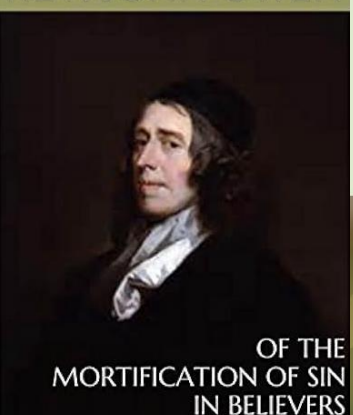
*Sin must be recognized as sin;
this first, then the desire of
the flesh can be
conquered. – John Owen*

⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵ Therefore, put to death what belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desire, and greed, which is idolatry.

Colossians 3 CSB

REV. JOHN OWEN



OF THE
MORTIFICATION OF SIN
IN BELIEVERS

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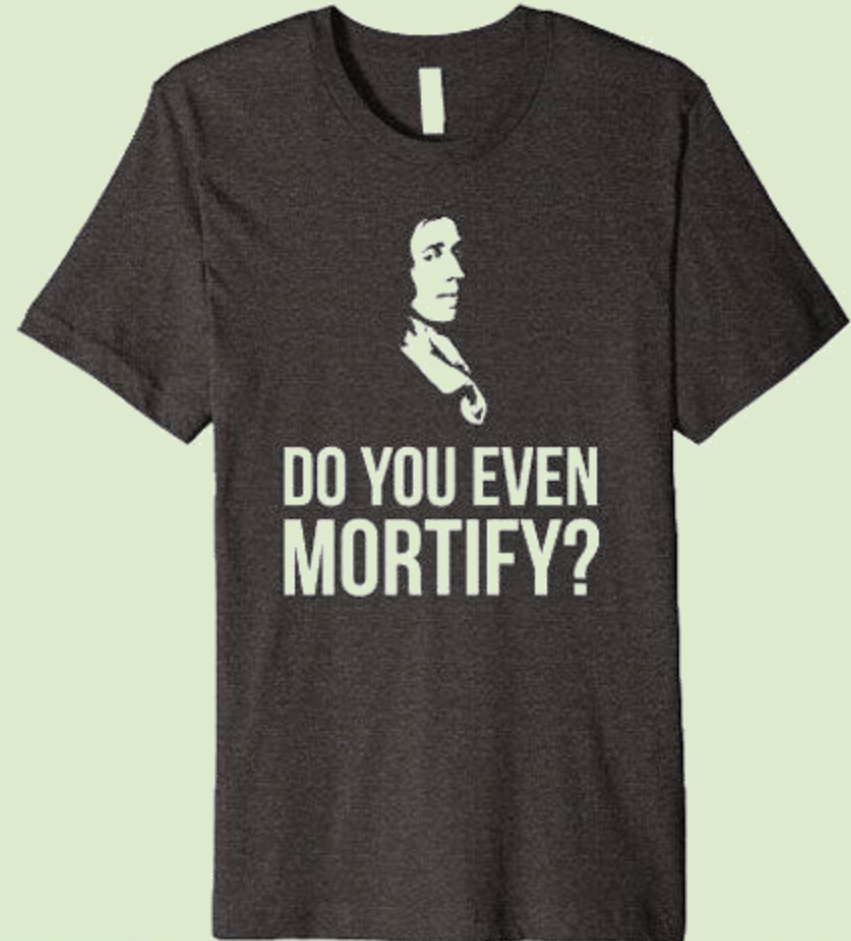
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Put to death

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**FINDING JOY
IN LOVING
PEOPLE**