



We Are Saints

Ephesians 1:1-2

Loved Series

Life Change: We live like the saints we are

October 1, 2023

A letter changed everything

Paul is:
Apostle

Submissive to God's will

Author of this letter...
An encyclical

All about transformation in love and unity

Based on grace

Grace extended to the Church	1:1-2
The Calling of the Church in Grace	1:3-3:21
The Conduct of the Church by Grace	4:1-6:24
Grace extended to the Church	6:21-24

Ephesus is:
The first stop for this letter

Where hardened anti-Christians drove Paul out Acts 19:8-10

A place where sorcery was part of life Acts 19:18-20

Site of the great riot Acts 19:23-29

The world situation is:
Philosophically, there was a deep & broad search for unity

Spiritually, many were influenced by Artemis worship

God is:
The determiner

The Father

The Christ

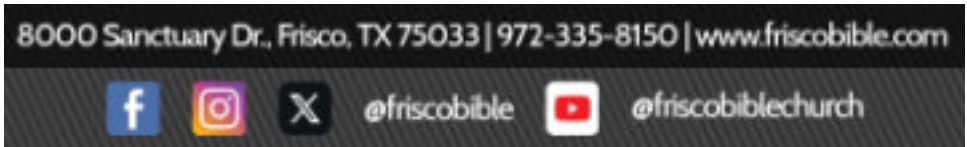
The giver of grace & granter of peace

Christians are:
Saints

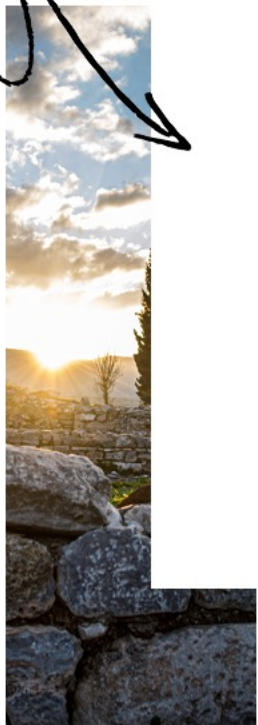
Believers in Jesus

Recipients of grace

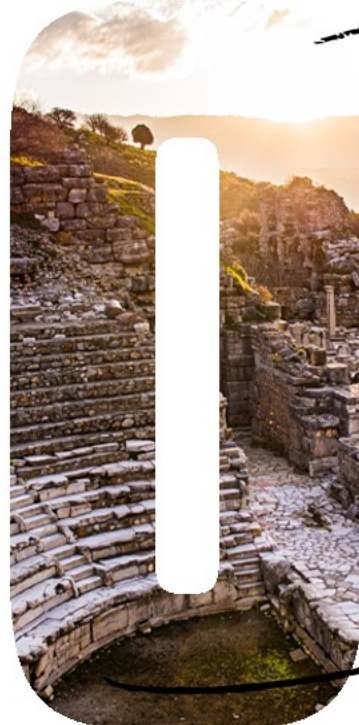
Beneficiaries of peace



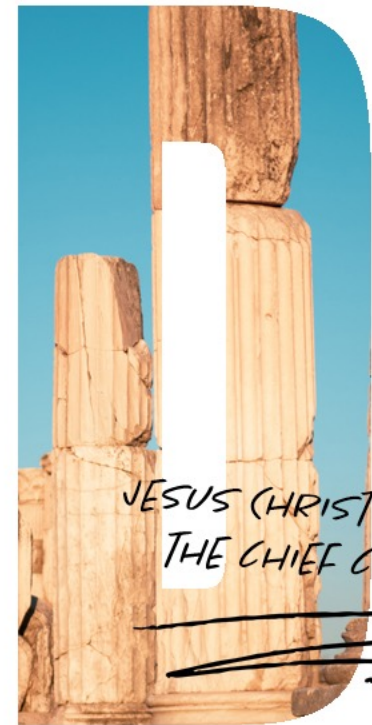
IN HIM...WE ARE



FOR WE ARE HIS
WORKMANSHIP



ROOTED AND GROUNDED
IN LOVE



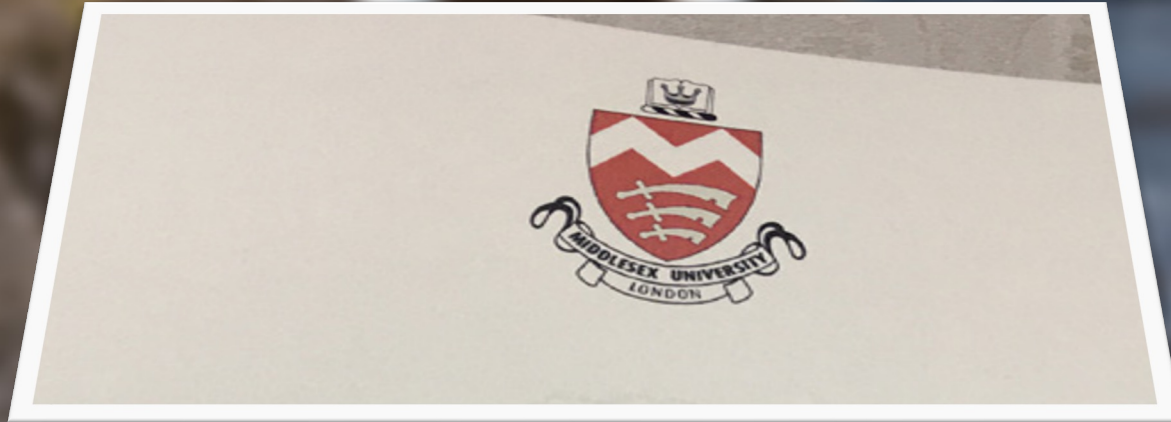
JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING
THE CHIEF CORNER STONE

EPHESIANS

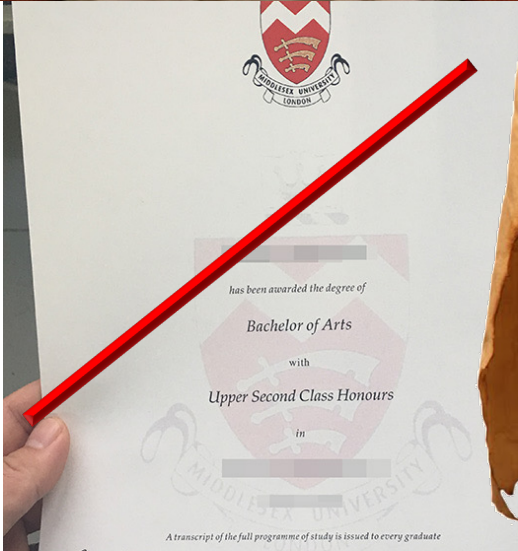
PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy istock



courtesy MU



Ephesians

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus: Grace be to you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ; According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, to the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved. In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace; Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and

**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.**

**² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPHESIANS

PHIL

COL

1 THESS

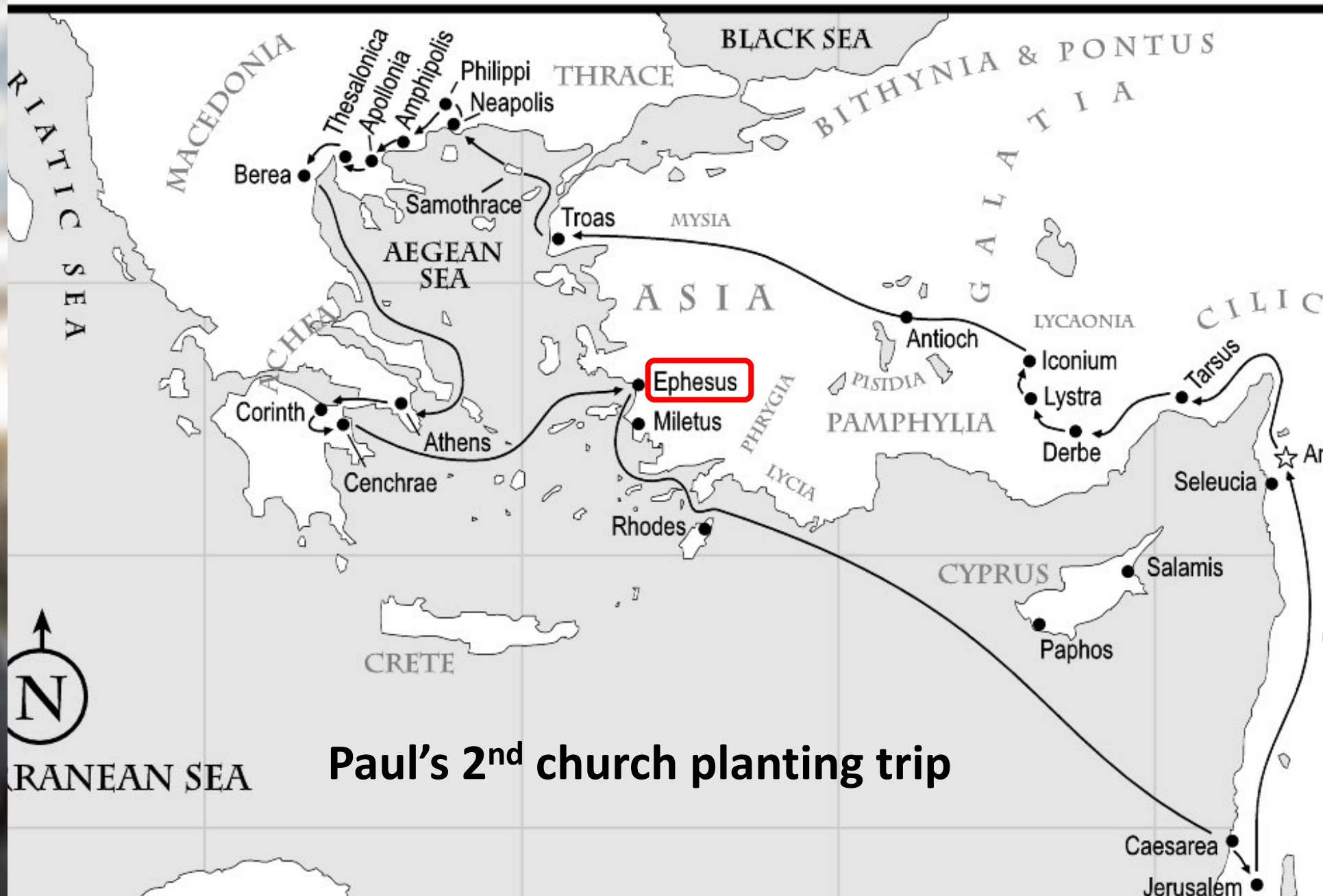
2 THESS

Apostolic office

- 1. Saw risen Christ & sent by Him.**
- 2. Accepted Jesus' commission.**
- 3. Had signs & seals of Apostle.**

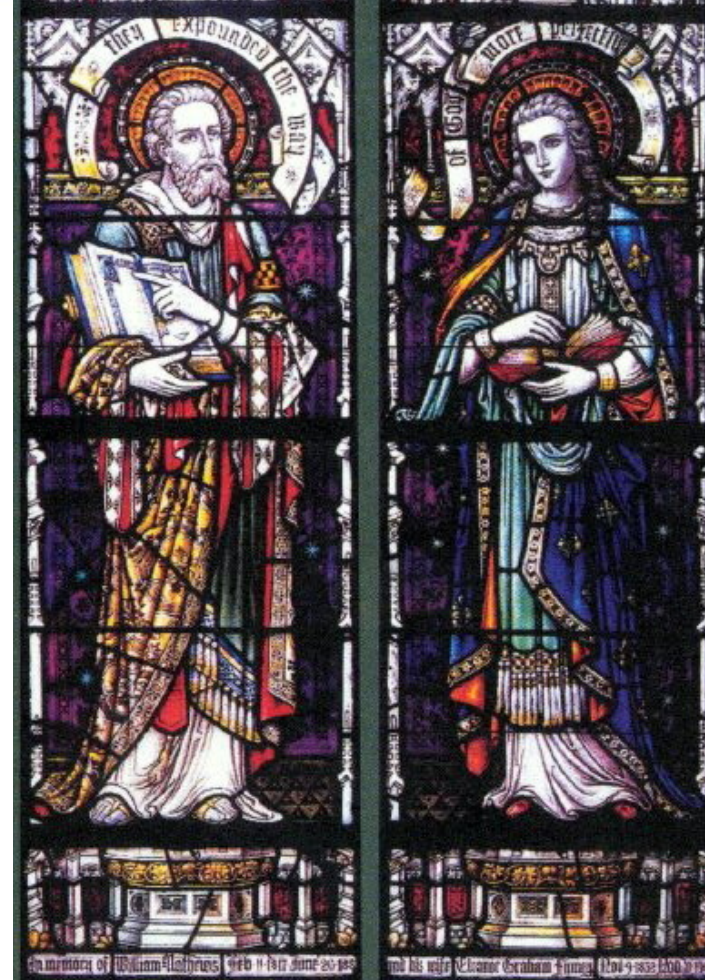
Apostolic mission

- 1. Sent by churches, not God directly.**
- 2. Accepted Jesus' commission.**
- 3. Had capacity to start new works.**





Apollos, supposedly based on a fresco in Constantinople that was burned by Crusaders



Aquila & Prisca

All Asia
heard the
gospel.
Acts 19:10



**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.**

**² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPHESIANS

PHIL

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

**Temple to the
divine Domitian**



**Temple to the
divine Hadrian**



Statue of divine Nero





**“divine” Nero
by his own will**



**Paul, [maker of tents &]
an apostle of Christ Jesus
by God’s will**

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.

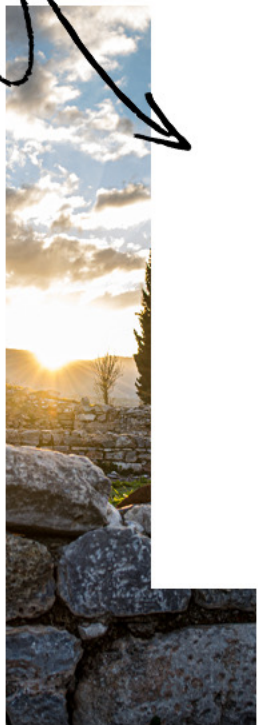
² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1 CSB

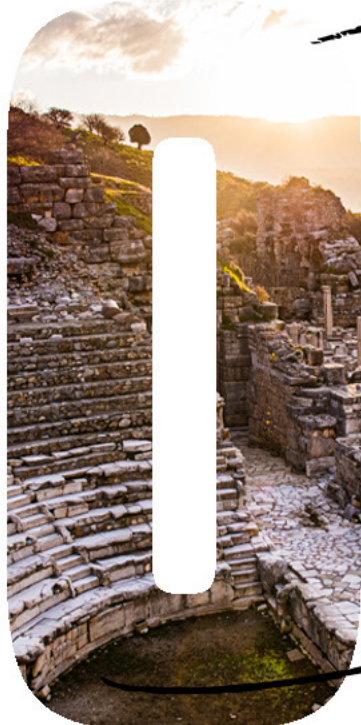
²¹ Tychicus, our dearly loved brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me so that you may be informed. ²² I am sending him to you for this very reason, to let you know how we are and to encourage your hearts.

Ephesians 6 CSB

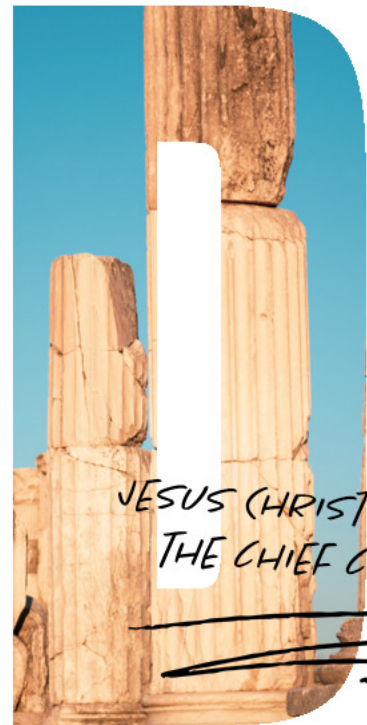
IN HIM...WE ARE



FOR WE ARE HIS
WORKMANSHIP



ROOTED AND GROUNDED
IN LOVE



JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING
THE CHIEF CORNER STONE

EPHESIANS

**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.**

**² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

**Χάρις charis = grace, especially
undeserved favor from God**



Grace extended to the Church 1:1-2

The Calling of the Church in Grace 1:3-3:21

Praise to the God of all blessings [1:3-14]

Prayer for wisdom [1:15-23]

Positional newness detailed [2:1-22]

Parenthetical description of the mystery [3:1-13]

Prayer for love [3:14-21]

The Conduct of the Church by Grace 4:1-6:24

Walking in unity [4:1-16]

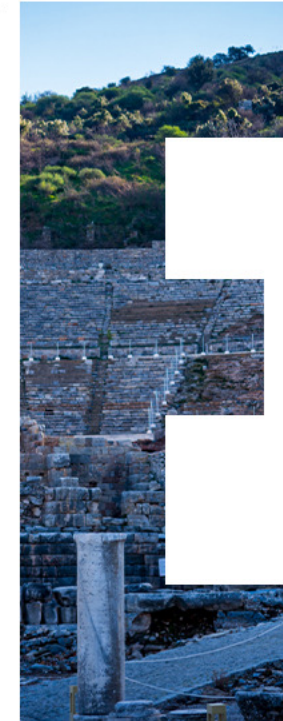
Walking in holiness [4:17-32]

Walking in love [5:1-2]

Walking in the light [5:3-20]

Walking in normal life relationships [5:21-6:20]

Grace extended to the Church 6:21-24





courtesy vagabond; American men think about this all the time.



courtesy Wayne Braudrick

Ancient Ephesus restored
Edward Faulkner
1889



courtesy wikimedia

⁸ Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly over a period of three months, arguing and persuading them about the kingdom of God. ⁹ But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus. ¹⁰ This went on for two years, so that all the residents of Asia, both Jews and Greeks, heard the word of the Lord.

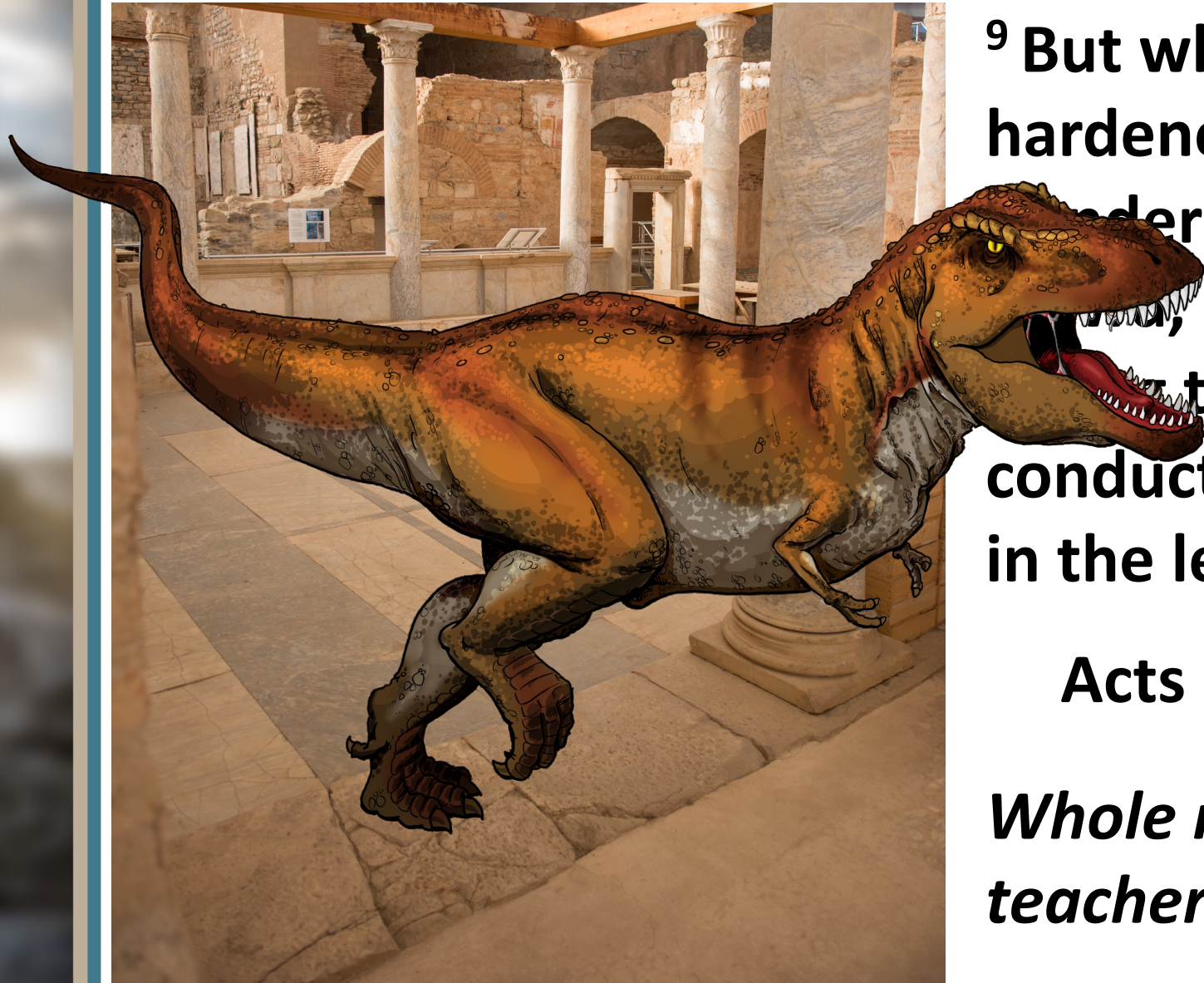
Acts 19 CSB





⁹ But when some became hardened and would not believe, slandering the Way in front of the crowd, he withdrew from them, taking the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

Acts 19 CSB



⁹ But when some became hardened and would not believe, ordering the Way in front of the people, he withdrew from them, leaving the disciples, and conducted discussions every day in the lecture hall of Tyrannus.

Acts 19 CSB

Whole new meaning to meet the teacher night.

¹⁸ And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, ¹⁹ while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. ²⁰ In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed.

Acts 19 CSB

18 And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, 19 while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed.

Acts 19 CSB

“Ephesians writings” became a euphemism for scrolls of spells.



18 And many who had become believers came confessing and disclosing their practices, 19 while many of those who had practiced magic collected their books and burned them in front of everyone. So they calculated their value and found it to be fifty thousand pieces of silver. 20 In this way the word of the Lord spread and prevailed.

Acts 19 CSB

“Ephesians writings” became a euphemism for scrolls of spells.

²³ About that time there was a major disturbance about the Way. ²⁴ For a person named Demetrius, a silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, provided a great deal of business for the craftsmen. ²⁵ When he had assembled them, as well as the workers engaged in this type of business, he said, “Men, you know that our prosperity is derived from this business. ²⁶ You see and hear that not only in Ephesus, but in almost all of Asia, this man Paul has persuaded and misled a considerable number of people by saying that gods made by hand are not gods.

Acts 19 CSB

27 Not only do we run a risk that our business may be discredited, but also that the temple of the great goddess Artemis may be despised and her magnificence come to the verge of ruin—the very one all of Asia and the world worship.”

28 When they had heard this, they were filled with rage and began to cry out, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” 29 So the city was filled with confusion, and they rushed all together into the amphitheater, dragging along Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians who were Paul’s traveling companions.

Acts 19 CSB



**Great Theatre where
the riot climaxed.**



**Odeon (meeting hall &
concert venue) where the
great riot likely began.**

**Great is Artemis
of the Ephesians!**

**Great is Artemis
of the Ephesians!**





The city secretary put down the uprising by referring to Ephesus' past history of rioting against Rome. By couching this in civil terms, he stopped the visible show of aggression & calmed the conflict, but we can assume that religious relationships remained strained for some time.

Luke's Ephesus slideshow teaches to look for:

- **Jew/Gentile issues in the letter – inside & outside the church.**
- **church growth issues, especially the culture's reaction to church growth.**
- **non-biblical “spiritual” issues like demons, magic & idols, and how to handle them.**

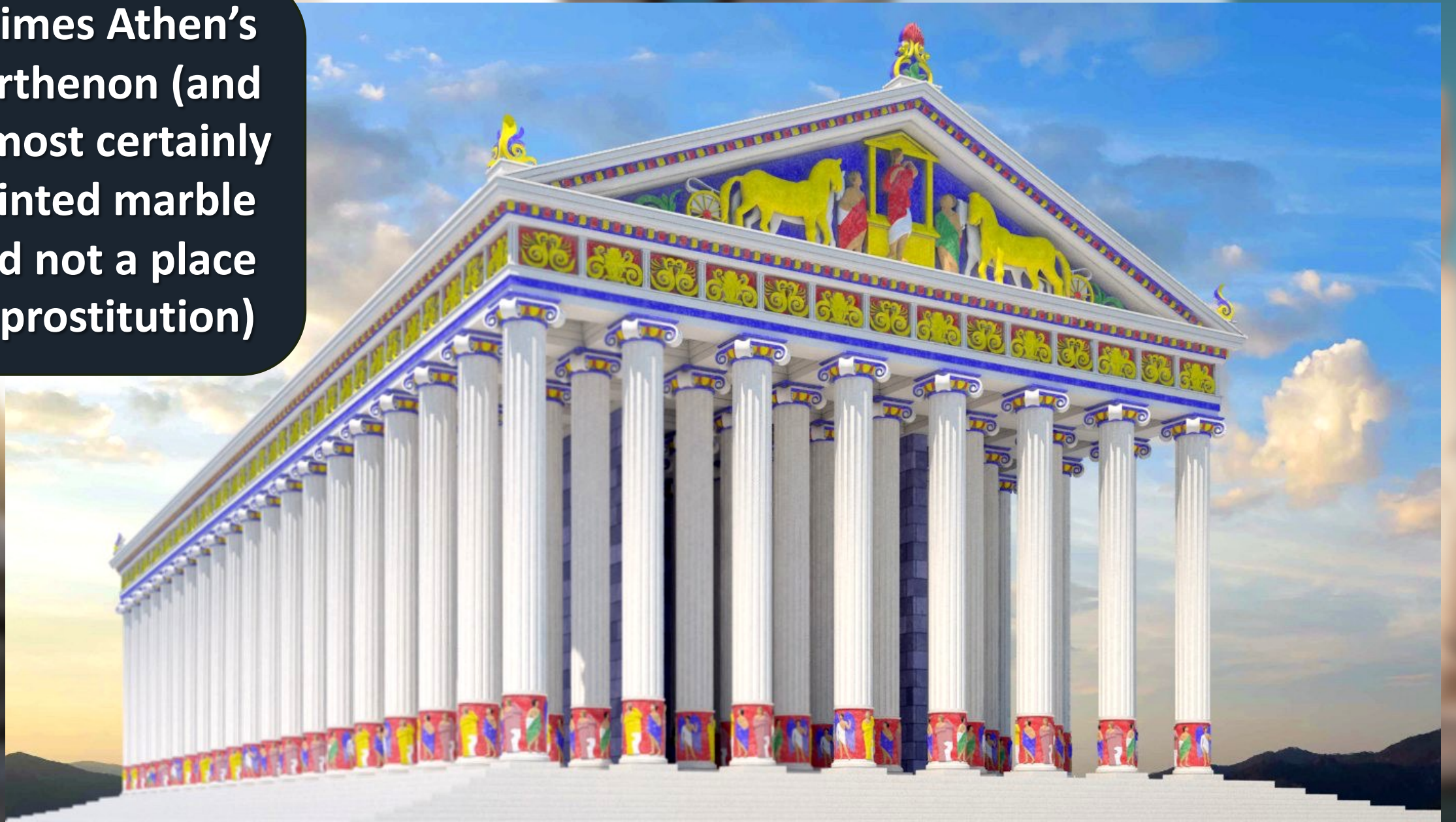
ΣΦΕΝΔΟΝΗ, hoc est, FVNDAMENTA
POSIDONII

DELINEATA A P. BERTIO Christianissimi Regis LVDOVICI XIII.
Geographo & Professore.



**Unified world according
to notes of Posidonius
Petrus Bertius, 1630**

4 times Athen's
Parthenon (and
almost certainly
painted marble
and not a place
of prostitution)



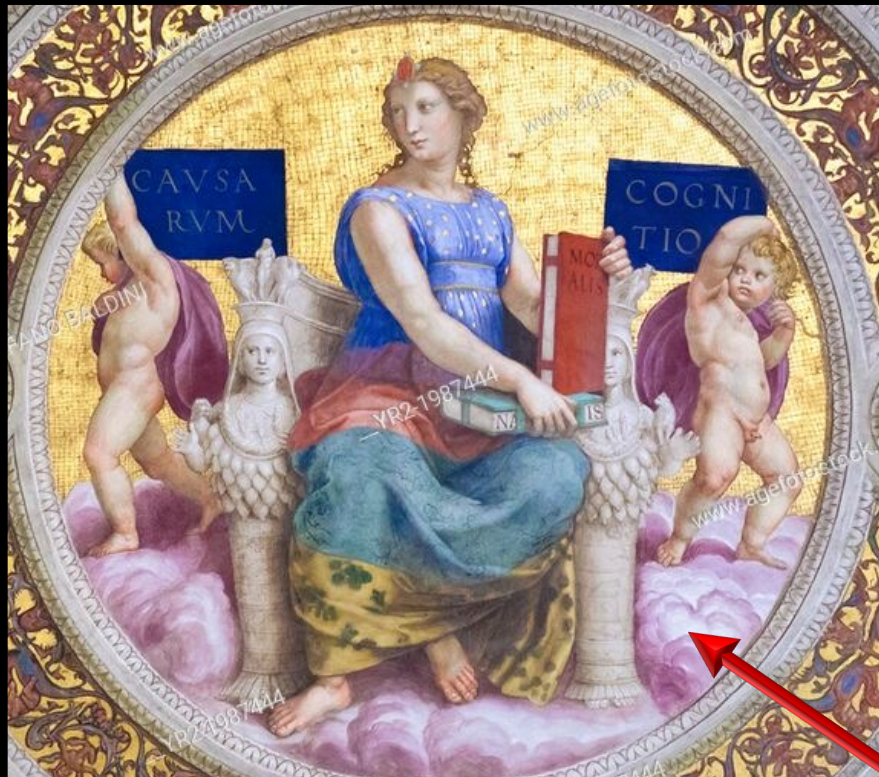
courtesy 3dmdb

Artemis was an eternal virgin whose worship was considered a way of ensuring fertility. Sounds odd, until you realize these are testicles of gods who tried to conquer or fool her. A huntress, she sees far and knows causes of things; thus, she can't be fooled. In return for worship, Artemis provides divine fertility.



Virgin enthroned
Raphael, ca. 1515

- Artemis is the foundation
- Causarum cognito means “knowledge of causes” and also appears in Raphael’s famous “School of Athens.”



**We have reverted to paganism
clothed in Christianity.**



courtesy Lifeway

**We have reverted to paganism
clothed in Christianity.**

***The Pied Piper*
Edmund Evans, 1888**



courtesy pinterest

**We have reverted to paganism clothed
(rather garishly) in Christianity.**



¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

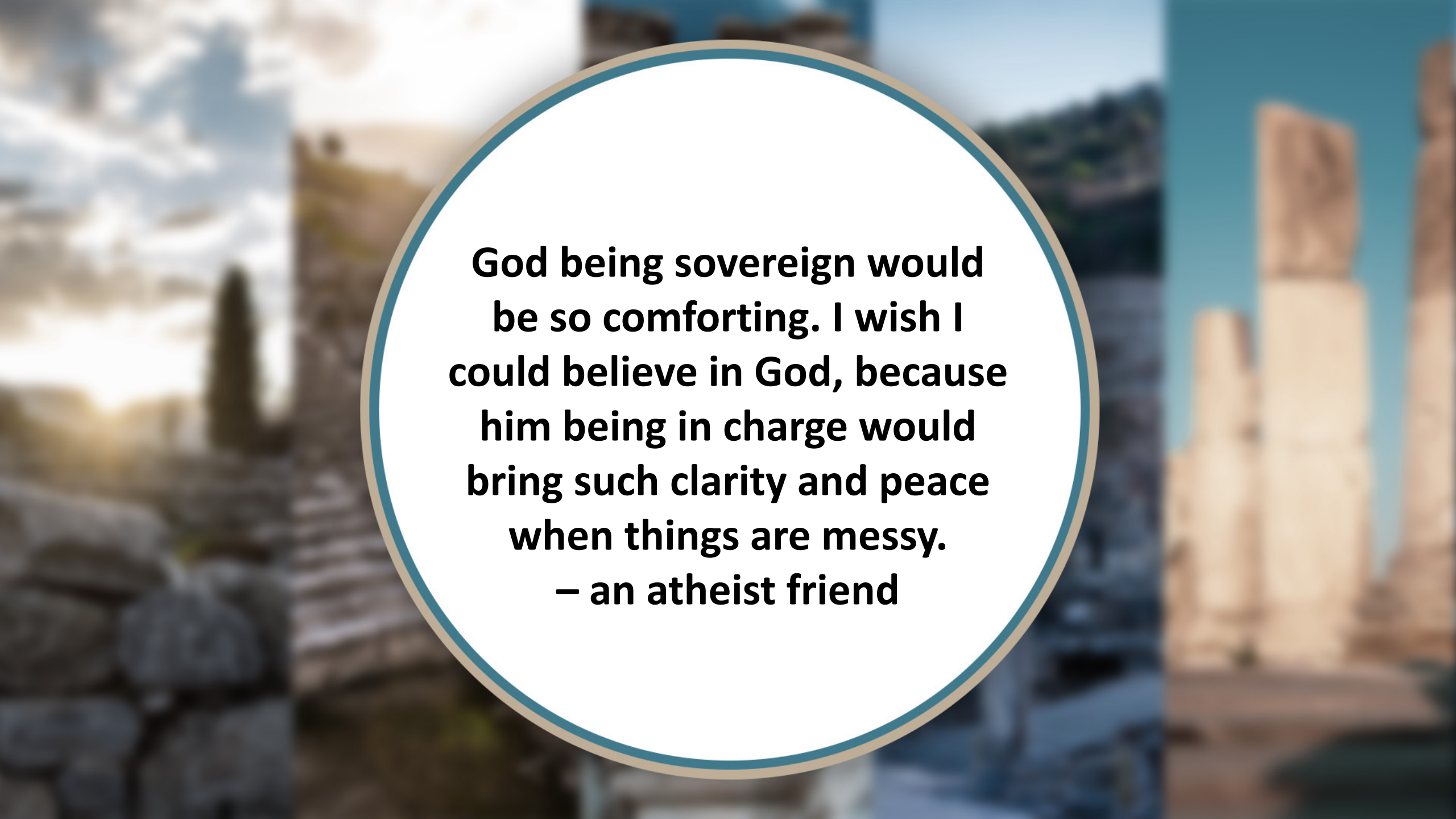
Ephesians 1 CSB

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1 CSB



**God being sovereign would
be so comforting. I wish I
could believe in God, because
him being in charge would
bring such clarity and peace
when things are messy.
– an atheist friend**



¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will: To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1 CSB

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will: To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.



Ephesians 1 CSB

Ephesians 1 CSB

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

No article here in the original autographs



**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.**

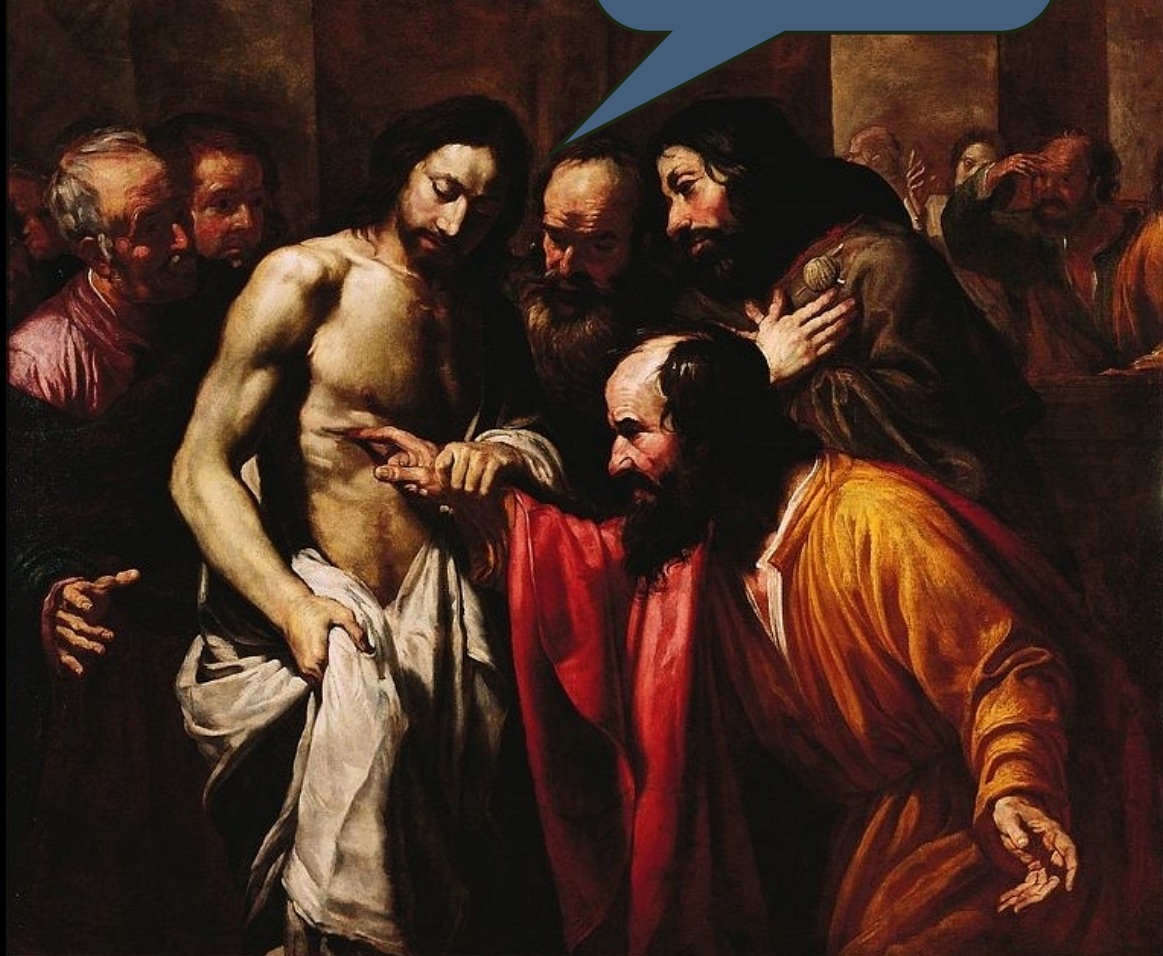
**² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and *the* Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

Notice how Paul associates 'the Lord Jesus Christ' with 'God our Father' as the originator of these blessings. The name of Christ appears in each of the three clauses in this opening salutation. What follows in the body of Ephesians has to do with the relationship between 'the saints'...and their living Lord who is fully [God]. – J. Skevington Wood, *Ephesians*



Stay away & I might kill for you.



Come close. I died & live for you.

**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.**

**² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.

**² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

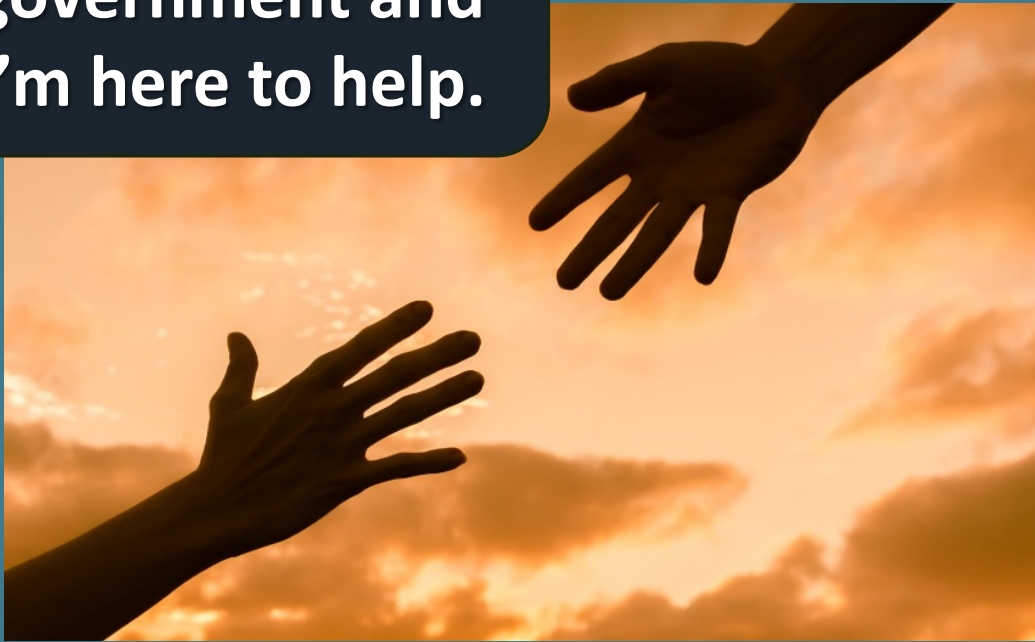
Ephesians 1 CSB



**Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

**I'm from the
government and
I'm here to help.**



**Grace to you and peace
from God our Father and
the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. ² Grace to you
and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

- Paul is apostle, submissive to God's will, and human author.**
- Ephesus is important to understand so we can learn from this letter.**
- God is determiner, Father, Christ, giver of grace & granter of peace.**


**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.**

**² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. ² Grace to you
and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB



ἅγιος *hagios* = holy ones; originally, something over which one felt awe. Specifically, something dirty that looked worthless until it was washed and made clean.

Homer and many other Greek writers had such a low view of gods and men, that they rarely used *hagios*. But Jewish & Christian writers grabbed the word and employed it to describe something set aside to be beautiful, holy, and awesome for God.



courtesy Grass Valley CofC



courtesy k1017

**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. ² Grace to you
and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Ephesians 1 CSB

**ἅγιος hagios = holy ones;
originally, something over
which one felt awe.
Specifically, something
dirty that looked worthless
until it was washed and
made clean.**



Ephesians 1 CSB

**¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus. ² Grace to you
and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**


**holy ones; that is, the believers in Christ Jesus
– translation by Dr. Harold Hoehner**

defined by what we do

- going to church
- doing all 10 commands
- helping old ladies cross
- eating right
- stopping murder habit
- working out

defined by whom we trust

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:
To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.

↓
holy ones; that is, the
believers in Christ Jesus
– trans by Dr. Harold Hoehner

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by God's will:

To the faithful saints in Christ Jesus at Ephesus.

² Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 1 CSB



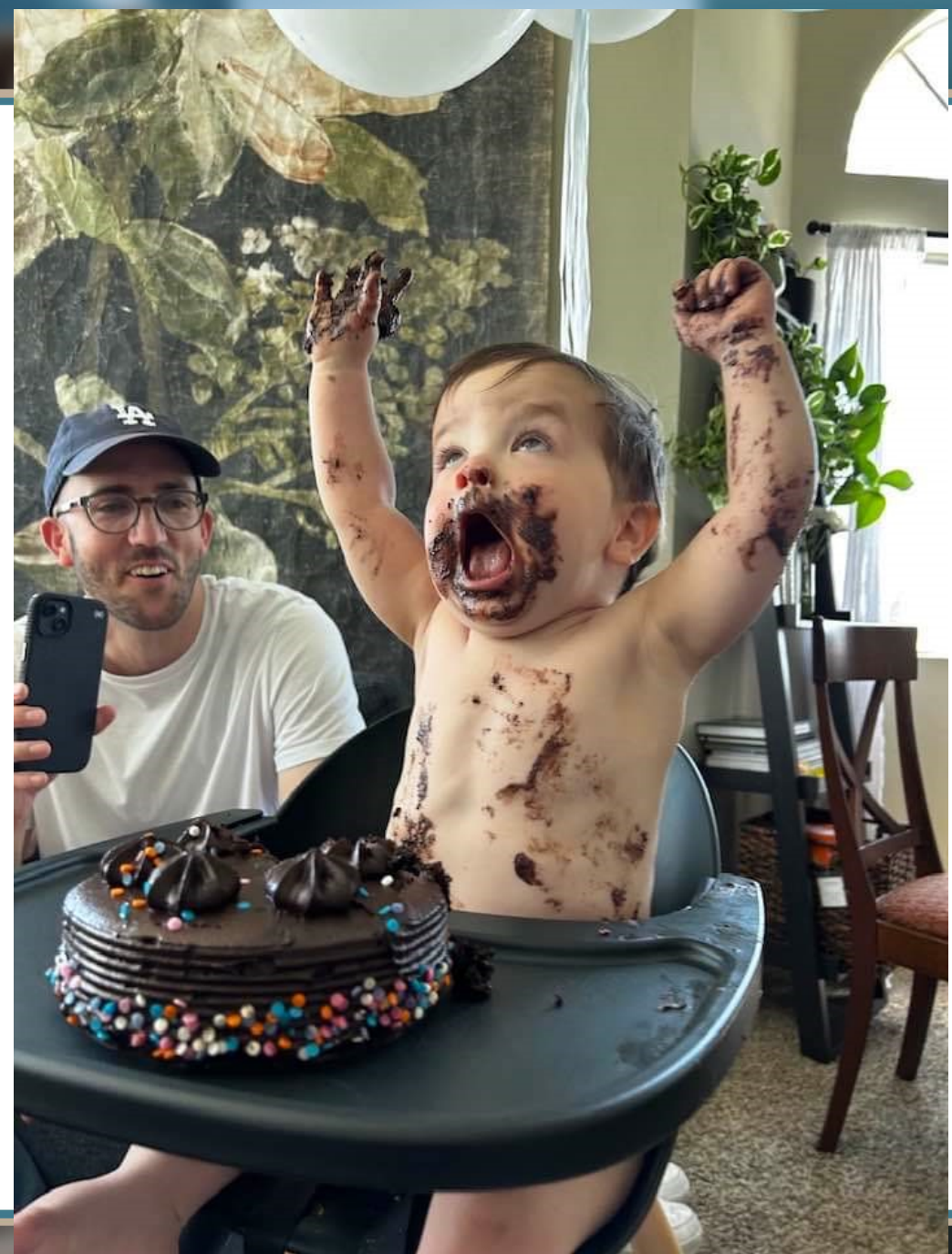
courtesy pinterest; inspirelle

I learned you can truly believe God is good with your joy secure in Christ even as you mourn. I learned that oftentimes true joy is evident even when a person weeps – that deeply feeling grief and loss does not mean you are faithless. Joy and sorrow can intertwine. – Brittany Allen on “Growing in Grace”

Premise: People who know who they are and how deeply God loves them live changed lives. The congregation of Frisco Bible Church needs to understand just who we really are as the body of Christ and how deeply we are loved. Such understanding will surely lead to transformative joy expressed in unity and love.

What's really going on:

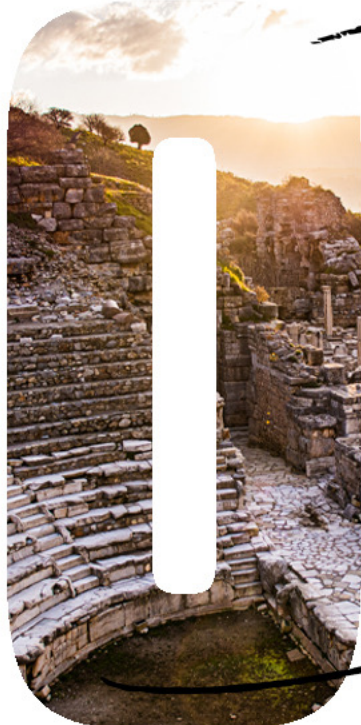
- **We are believers!**
- **We have peace & grace!**
- **We're in Jesus!**
- **We are saints!**



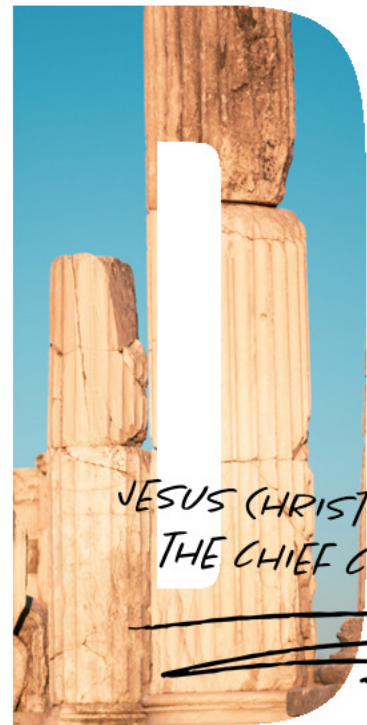
IN HIM...WE ARE



FOR WE ARE HIS
WORKMANSHIP



ROOTED AND GROUNDED
IN LOVE



JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING
THE CHIEF CORNER STONE

EPHESIANS