



We needn't be discouraged

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We do not lose heart

Ephesians 3:7-13

November 26, 2023

“What would you now say to your young self?”

Paul's big picture summary:

v.7-9

God's grace and power change lives

God is inscrutably in control

The altered state of the Christian life

v.10-13

We are living testimonies

The purpose was that...the manifold wisdom (sophia) of God might be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. In classical Greek the adjective “multi-faceted” (polypoikilos) referred to the beauty of an embroidered pattern or the variety of colors in flowers (cf. poikilḗs, “in its various forms,” in 1 Peter 4:10)...The medium by which this wisdom is communicated is the church; the recipients are the angelic hosts “in the heavenly realms” (cf. Eph. 1:3). These “rulers and authorities” refer to both good and evil angels as seen in 6:12 (cf. 1:21)...This mystery—that both believing Jews and Gentiles are in one body (3:6)—was revealed to the apostles and prophets (v. 5) and was disseminated by Paul (vv. 7-9). Its purpose was that angelic beings might see God's variegated wisdom. - Harold Hoehner, Ephesians

We have confident access to the Father

We need not lose heart in the face of troubles

8000 Sanctuary Dr., Frisco, TX 75033 | 972-335-8150 | www.friscobible.com



@friscobible



@friscobiblechurch



Upcoming
Events

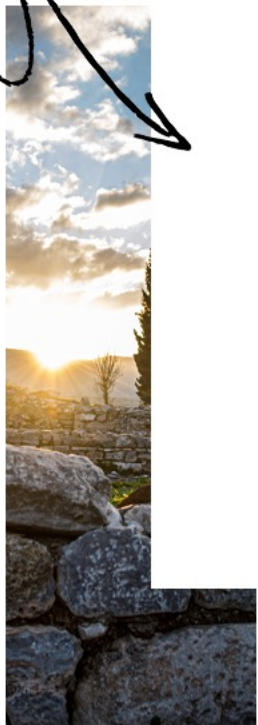


Give

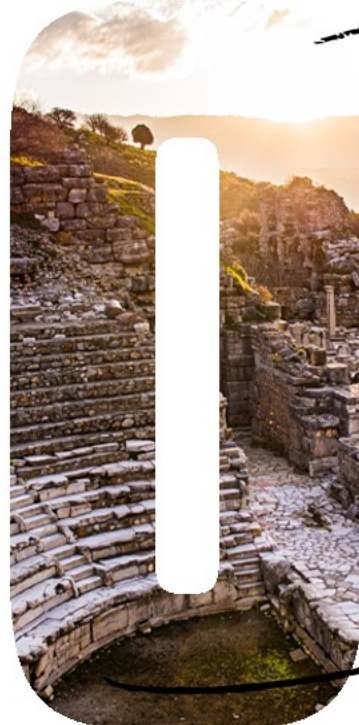


Prayer
Request

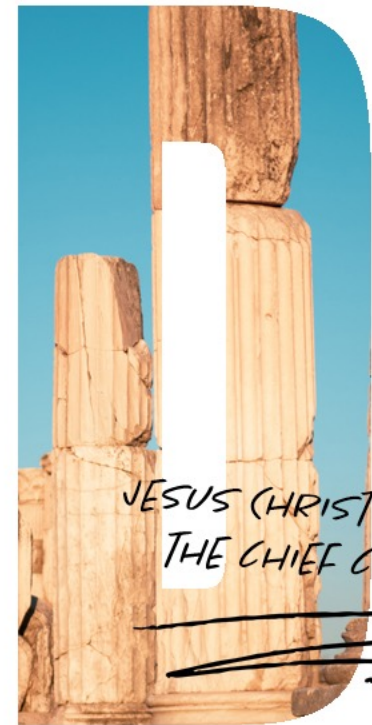
IN HIM...WE ARE



FOR WE ARE HIS
WORKMANSHIP



ROOTED AND GROUNDED
IN LOVE



JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING
THE CHIEF CORNER STONE

EPHESIANS

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



courtesy sixtynme



The Wall will be standing in 50 and even in 100 years, if the reasons for it are not removed.

(Erich Honecker)



courtesy ABC

YES!!!

VOLUME 266 NUMBER 129

SUBSCRIPTIONS: 1 Year \$100, 3 Years \$280, 5 Years \$450



The Red Sox stormed the Busch Stadium field to celebrate their commanding march to the world championship.

Red Sox complete sweep, win first Series since 1918

WORLD SERIES SPECIAL SECTION

Police response: Officers block access to Fenway Park...

The next phase: The city has been slow to learn the answer to the question of 'What will downtown do after the Red Sox leave?'

Table with 2 columns: Features, Classified



mp nominee World Series Trump photoshop Assisted suicide Haunted House Michelle Obama John Witherspoon Max Scherzer

LD SERIES CHAMPS



CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2016 | \$1 CITY/BURBS \$2 ELSEWHERE

World Series Chicago Cubs Win! WORTH THE WAIT Cubs fans rejoice at first World Series title since 1908

Victory transforms a region's identity

By Thomas Hargrave... New England's identity and an eclipse-red-tinted moon early today, toasting a baseball championship whose champions since World War I had become a regional badge of honor...



Red Sox fans celebrated last night's World Series victory at the Who's on First? bar near Fenway Park.

By Raja Mathur... In South Boston, fireworks lit the sky as crowds spilled into the streets amid a cooing of cat howls. In Jamaica Plain, grown men fell to their knees...

Fort Worth Star-Telegram

2016 WORLD SERIES GAME 7 HIGHLIGHTS, STANDINGS &

BELIEVE IT!

MVP Corey Seager leads Rangers to historic world title



The Rangers stormed the Chase Field field to celebrate their commanding march to the world championship.

By [Name]... The Rangers stormed the Chase Field field to celebrate their commanding march to the world championship. The Rangers' MVP Corey Seager led the team to victory...

You can relax. It all really does work out perfectly. You are going to face some horrible struggles, but in Jesus you have confident access to God Almighty, who is in control. You do not need to ever lose heart.



⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God’s grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

Ephesians 3 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPHESIANS

PHIL

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of **God's grace** that was given to me by the working of **his power.**⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ,⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

Ephesians 3 CSB

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL

EPHESIANS

PHIL

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS



⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of **God's grace** that was given to me by the working of **his power.** ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

Ephesians 3 CSB

⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of **God's grace** that was given to me by the working of **his power.**⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ,⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

Ephesians 3 CSB



Thinking I'm good as is comprises willful lunacy. Truth is that, like Paul, I am desperately in need of the power and grace of God so that I can grow up and change.

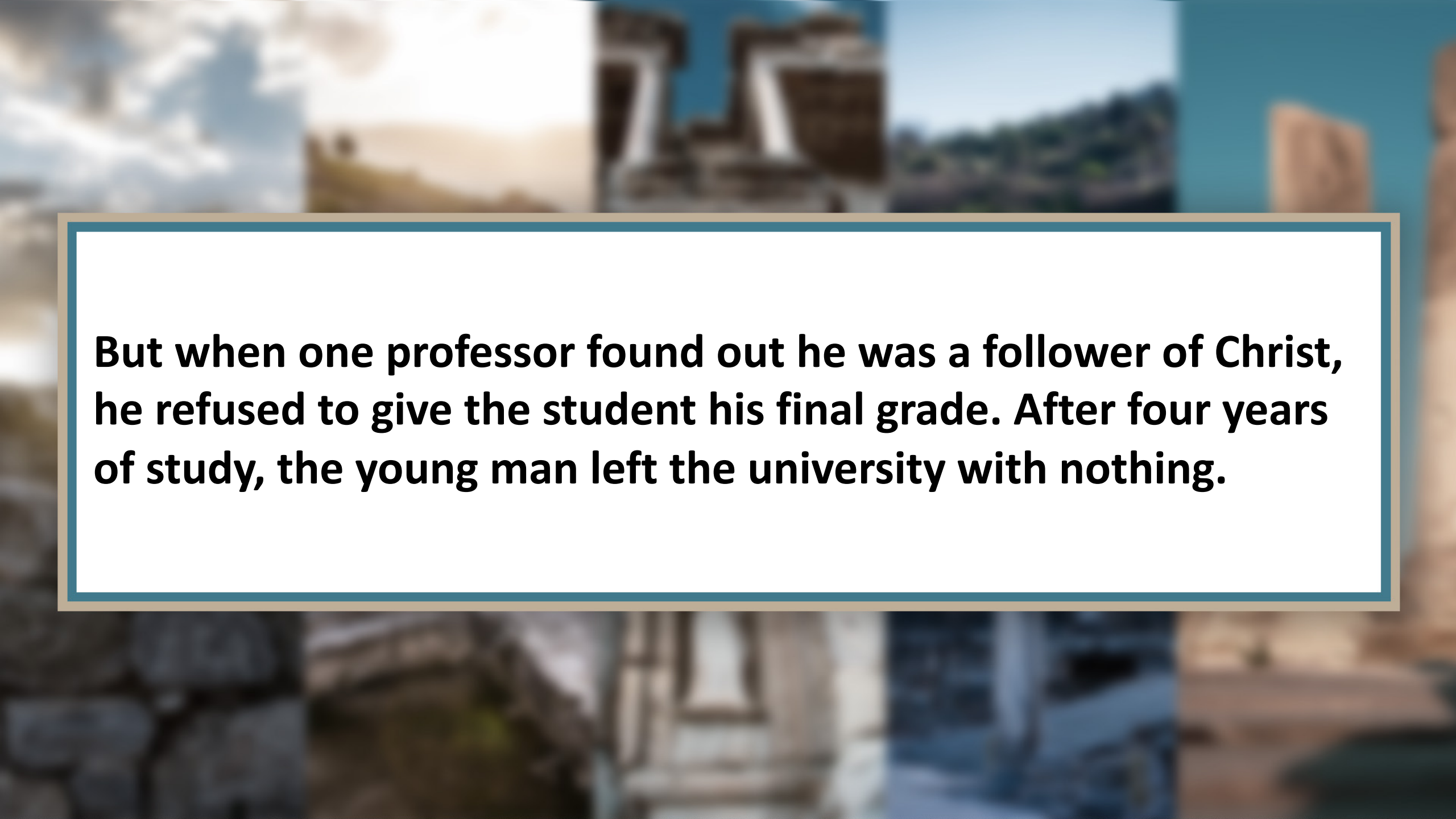
Story Time



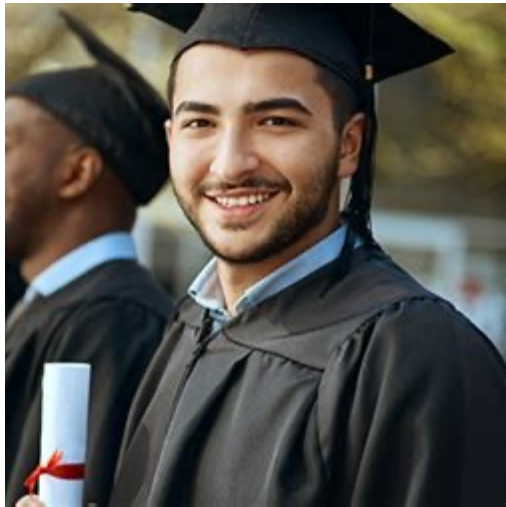
“Teaching the Nations” by Amy Lewis



courtesy hokudai.ac



But when one professor found out he was a follower of Christ, he refused to give the student his final grade. After four years of study, the young man left the university with nothing.



After a stint in the military, he returned to retake the class, hoping to at least get his diploma. Impressed by the young man's humility, an anti-Christian professor came to his defense. The university gave him his diploma.

His father has since asked him to return to the family, although they still don't know what to do with his Christianity. The secular friends who helped him survive his family separation have all become Christians, and the young man still attends campus ministry meetings. His story of suffering has become an inspiration to the other students.

– Amy Lewis, “Teaching the Nations”



⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

Ephesians 3 CSB




I have no story of change. I believed Jesus when I was a child and can't remember any difference.

⁵ The Lord is near. ⁶ Don't worry about anything, but in everything, through prayer and petition with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4 CSB

⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things.

Ephesians 3 CSB



Greek: ἀνεξιχνίαστος anexichniatos = [only appears in the Bible or in Greek writings about the Bible] inscrutable, untraceable; compound of not + out of + a track



courtesy dailystar



Religious writings use a number of words for reciprocity. But the thought that God possessed incalculable riches to graciously bestow on people never entered the pagan mind.

⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ

Greek: ἀνεξιχνίαστος anexichniatos = [only appears in the Bible or in Greek writings about the Bible] inscrutable, untraceable; compound of not + out of + a track

⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things

μυστήριον mysterion
= like a modern
mystery novel

Non!



μυστήριον
mysterion = mystery
religion

No.



μυστήριον mysterion
= something deity
alone knows and
chooses to share with
humans; in place long
but not humanly
comprehended



courtesy Texas Rangers

⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things

μυστήριον mysterion
= like a modern
mystery novel

Non!



μυστήριον
mysterion = mystery
religion

No.



μυστήριον mysterion
= something deity
alone knows and
chooses to share with
humans; in place long
but not humanly
comprehended

THE
Prophecy Candle

The first week of Advent.



¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. ¹¹ This is according to his eternal purpose accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him we have boldness and confident access through faith in him. ¹³ So, then, I ask you not to be discouraged over my afflictions on your behalf, for they are your glory.

Ephesians 3 CSB

Reasons for the makeup of Jesus' church

1. Testimony to Israel

¹¹ Salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous.

Romans 11 CSB

2. Testimony to angelic beings

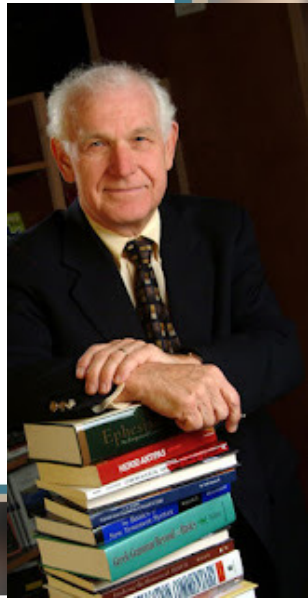
¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.

Ephesians 3 CSB

¹² angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

1 Peter 1 CSB

The purpose was that...the manifold wisdom (*sophia*) of God might be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms. In classical Greek the adjective “multi-faceted” (*polypoikilos*) referred to the beauty of an embroidered pattern or the variety of colors in flowers (cf. *poikilēs*, “in its various forms,” in 1 Peter 4:10)...The medium by which this wisdom is communicated is the church; the recipients are the angelic hosts “in the heavenly realms” (cf. Eph. 1:3). These “rulers and authorities” refer to both good and evil angels as seen in 6:12 (cf. 1:21) ...This mystery—that both believing Jews and Gentiles are in one body (3:6)—was revealed to the apostles and prophets (v. 5) and was disseminated by Paul (vv. 7–9). Its purpose was that angelic beings might see God’s variegated wisdom. – Harold Hoehner, *Ephesians*



Reasons for the makeup of Jesus' church

1. Testimony to Israel

¹¹ Salvation has come to the Gentiles to make Israel jealous.

Romans 1 CSB

2. Testimony to angelic beings

¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.

Ephesians 3 CSB

¹² angels long to catch a glimpse of these things.

1 Peter 1 CSB

¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.

Ephesians 3 CSB

- How might I better commit to church unity – through giving, attendance, small group connections?**
- What racial or social reconciliations need to occur so that I better display God's variegated wisdom in the church?**
- What can I make a habitual practice that reflects the gospel as a testimony?**

“Teaching the Nations” by Amy Lewis

As students scrape the last bits of food from their plates, David Hernandez and several medical students stand and begin clearing the tables. Nobody asked them to, which is why paid cafeteria workers and students still eating watch them in quizzical disbelief.

“¿Por qué están haciendo esto?”
one student calls out over the clatter of dishes. *“¿Quién te obliga a hacer esto?”* (“Why are you doing this? Who is making you do this?”)





**We do this as Christians because we want to love you, and we want to serve you. We meet on Mondays. You're welcome to join us.
(Dr. David Hernandez)**

The lunchroom staff is just as impressed with the group and have begun to ask, “What days are the Christians coming?” Hernandez sees service as a tangible way to show love to people who don’t know Jesus yet. When he was a medical student in his struggling Latin American country, he often went hungry. A Christian group on campus shared food with him and others, a sacrificial act that drew him to the love of Christ.

Hernandez now serves as general secretary of his country's...campus ministries. Besides serving meals, his team regularly shares food and laptops with students who cannot afford either. "It's beautiful because when you have a lack, it's easier to seek for hope and to find meaning in God."

– Amy Lewis, "Teaching the Nations"



¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens.

Ephesians 3 CSB

- How might I better commit to church unity – through giving, attendance, small group connections?**
- What racial or social reconciliations need to occur so that I better display God's variegated wisdom in the church?**
- What can I make a habitual practice that reflects the gospel as a testimony?**

**¹² In him we have boldness
and confident access through
faith in him.**

Ephesians 3 CSB

¹⁷ pray constantly

1 Thessalonians 5 CSB

17 pray constantly

1 Thessalonians 5 CSB

4:16 [Because of Jesus], let us approach the throne of grace with boldness.

10:19 Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have boldness to enter the sanctuary through the blood of Jesus —²⁰ he has inaugurated for us a new and living way through the curtain (that is, through his flesh)—²¹ and since we have a great high priest over the house of God, ²² let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith

Hebrews CSB



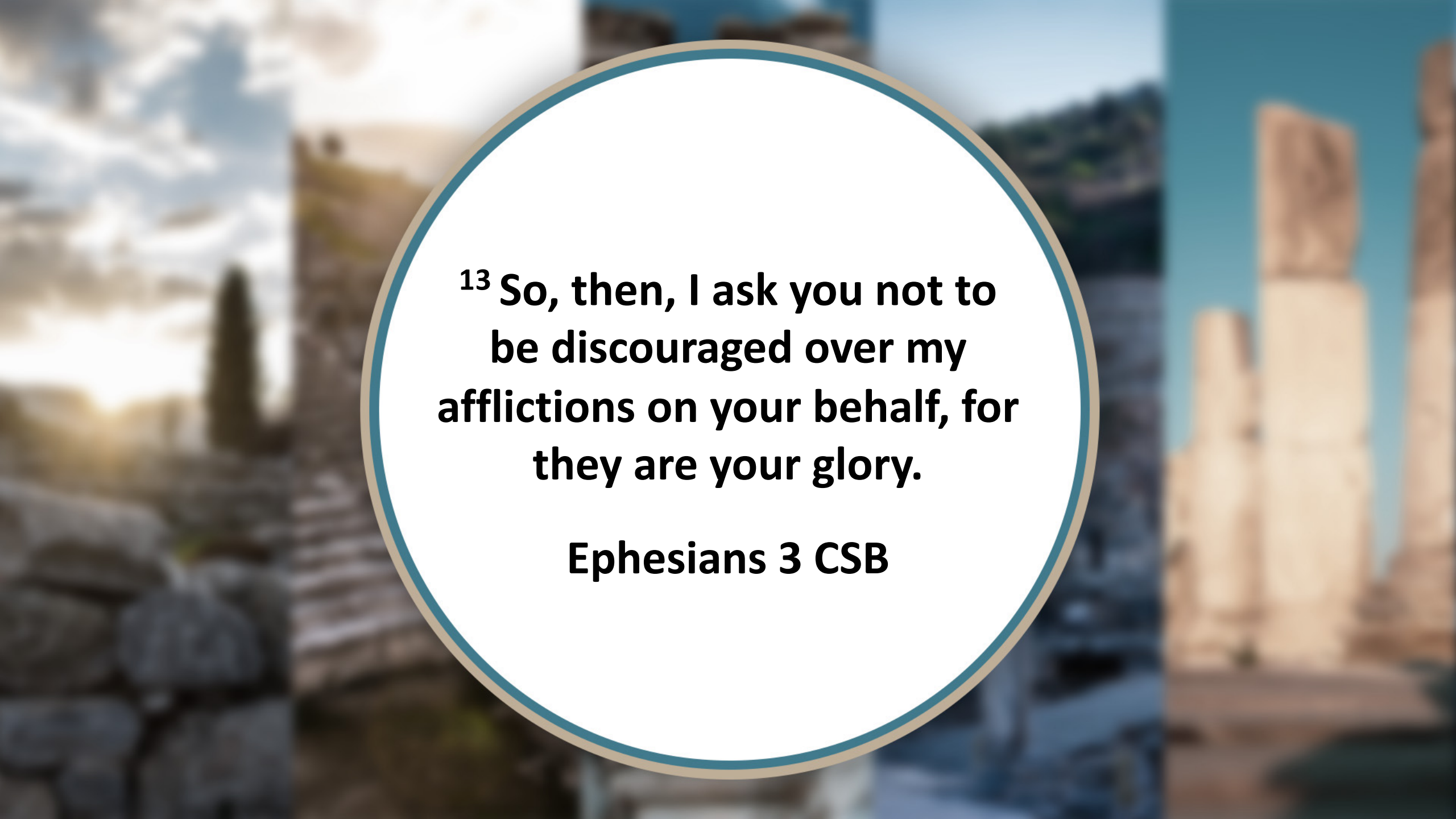
**¹² In him we have boldness
and confident access through faith in him.**

Ephesians 3 CSB

**And can it be that I should gain
An int'rest in the Savior's blood?
Died He for me, who caused His pain?
For me, who Him to death pursued?
Amazing love! how can it be
That Thou, my God, should die for me?
'Tis mystery all! Th'Immortal dies!
Who can explore His strange design?
In vain the firstborn seraph tries
To sound the depths of love divine!
'Tis mercy all! let earth adore,
Let angel minds inquire no more.**

**No condemnation now I dread;
Jesus, and all in Him is mine!
Alive in Him, my living Head,
And clothed in righteousness divine,
Bold I approach th'eternal throne,
And claim the crown, through Christ my own.
– Charles Wesley, “And Can It Be?”**





**¹³ So, then, I ask you not to
be discouraged over my
afflictions on your behalf, for
they are your glory.**

Ephesians 3 CSB



*Mayflower in
Plymouth Harbor*
William Halsall
1882

courtesy wikimedia



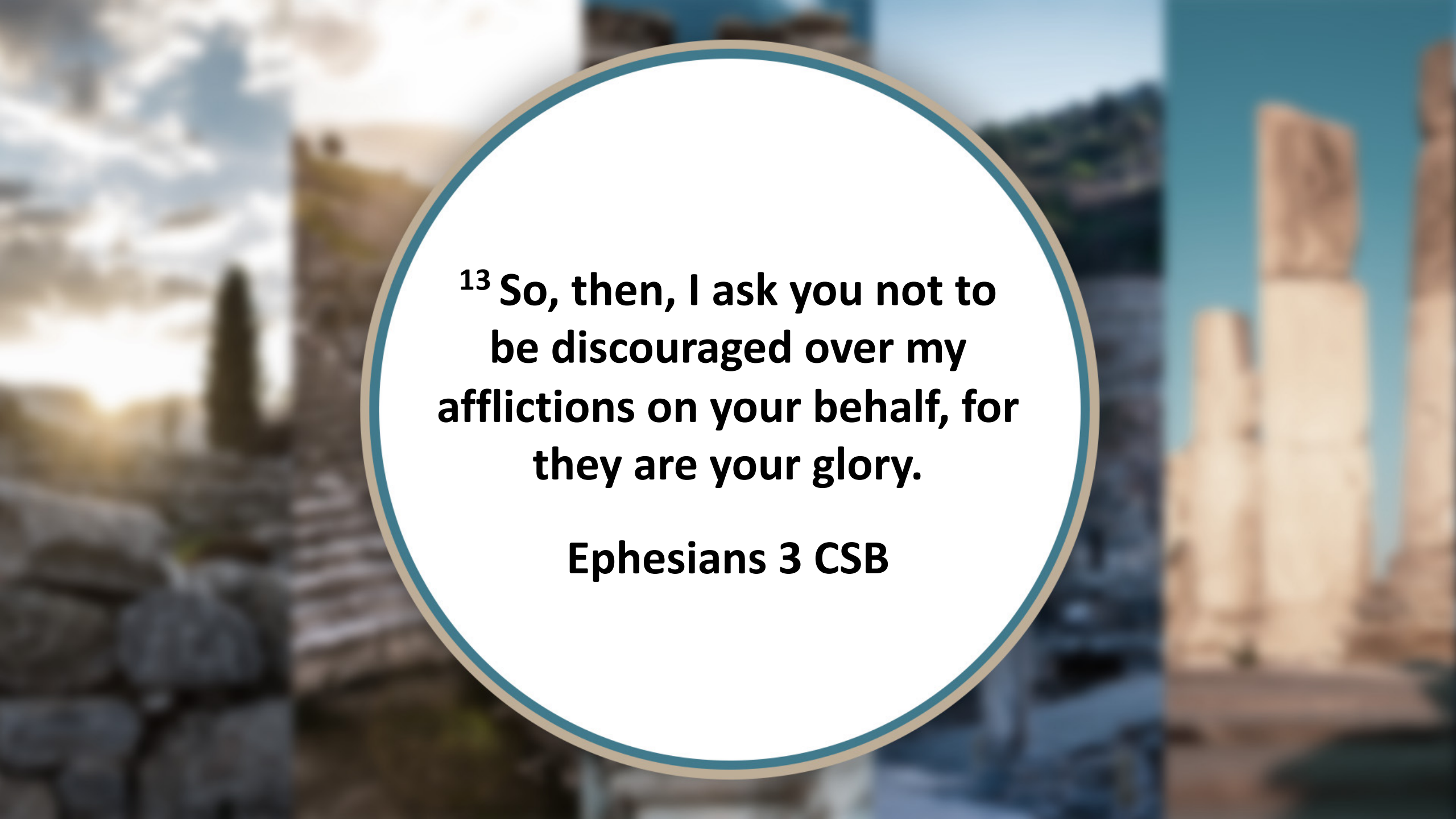
**I know that what we are enduring is by the hand of the loving, Sovereign God and will benefit others to come. Remember the Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians iii. 13 “Therefore I ask you not to lose heart at my tribulations on your behalf, for they are your glory.”
– Priscilla Mullins (later Alden)**



Priscilla Mullins Alden
Postcard 1902



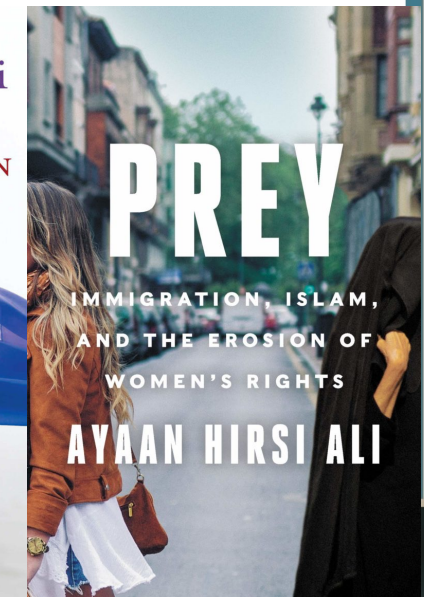
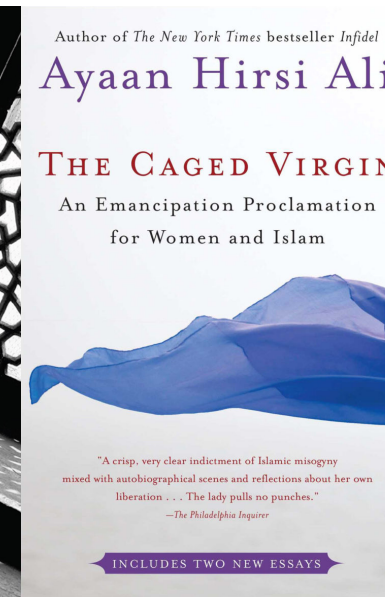
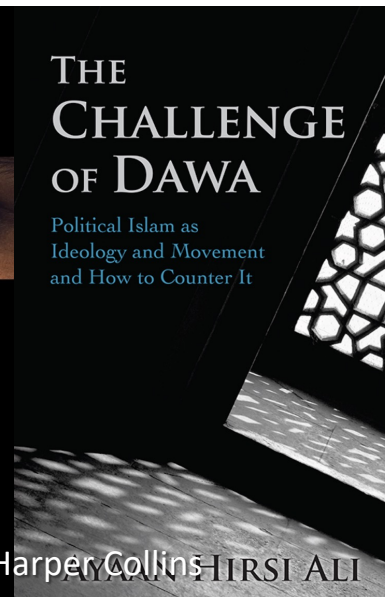
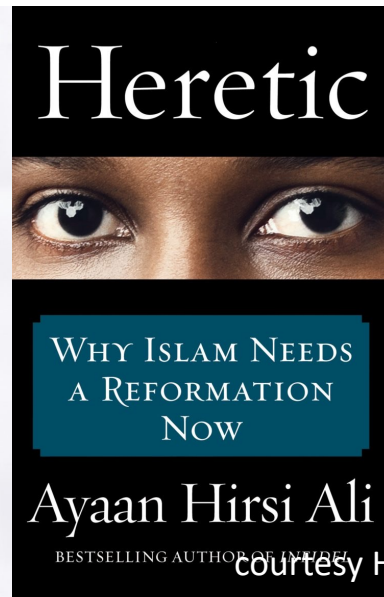
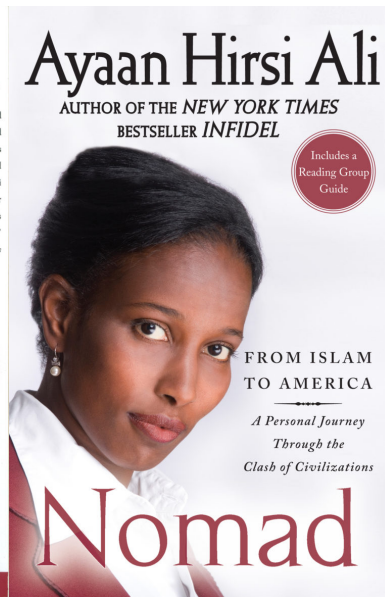
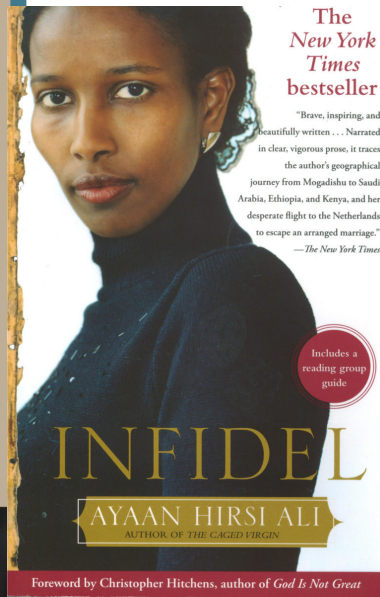
John Adams
John Trumbull 1793



**¹³ So, then, I ask you not to
be discouraged over my
afflictions on your behalf, for
they are your glory.**

Ephesians 3 CSB

Ayaan Hirsi Ali is a Somali-born Dutch-American activist and former politician. Once a Muslim Brotherhood apologist, she became a persecuted critic of Islam. As a Dutch member of Parliament, she advocated for the rights & self-determination of Muslim women, opposing forced marriage, honor killing, child marriage, and female genital mutilation. Ali became a central figure of New Atheism, and Christopher Hitchens called her “the most important voice to come from Africa.” In 2005, Time magazine named her one of the 100 most influential people in the world.



courtesy HarperCollins



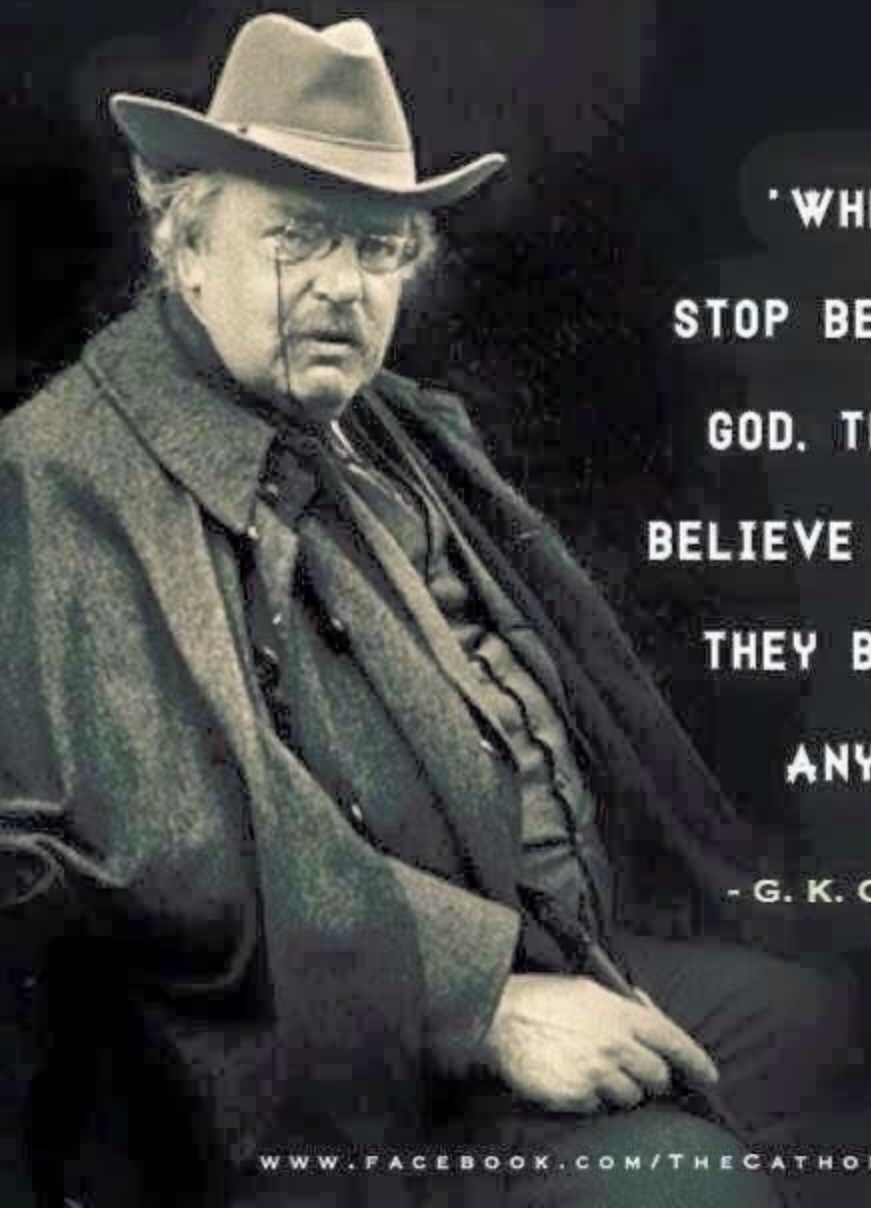
**“Why I am Now a Christian” by Ayaan Hirsi Ali
UnHerd weekend essay 11 November, 2023**

As an atheist, I thought I would lose fear. I...found an entirely new circle of friends, as different from the preachers of the Muslim Brotherhood as one could imagine. The more time I spent with them — people such as Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins — the more confident I felt that I had made the right choice. For the atheists were clever. They were also a great deal of fun.

So, what changed? Why do I call myself a Christian now?

Bertrand Russell and other activist atheists believed that with the rejection of God we would enter an age of reason and intelligent humanism. But the “God hole” — the void left by the retreat of the church — has merely been filled by a jumble of irrational quasi-religious dogma. The result is a world where modern cults prey on the dislocated masses, offering them spurious reasons for being and action — mostly by engaging in virtue-signalling theatre on behalf of a victimised minority or our supposedly doomed planet.





'WHEN MEN
STOP BELIEVING IN
GOD. THEY DON'T
BELIEVE IN NOTHING.
THEY BELIEVE IN
ANYTHING.'

- G. K. CHESTERTON -



courtesy piplum

That is why I no longer consider myself a Muslim apostate, but a lapsed atheist. Of course, I still have a great deal to learn about Christianity. I discover a little more at church each Sunday. But I have recognised, in my own long journey through a wilderness of fear and self-doubt, that there is a



a better way to manage the challenges of existence than either Islam or unbelief had to offer. – Ayaan Hirsi Ali, “Why I am Now a Christian”



Priscilla Mullins was born in England. Ayaan Hirsi Ali was birthed 400 years later in Africa. Yet each learned to lean on the unfathomable riches of Christ. Jesus alone offers a way to manage the challenges of existence.





courtesy mykentfamily

⁷ I was made a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. ⁸ This grace was given to me—the least of all the saints—to proclaim to the Gentiles the incalculable riches of Christ, ⁹ and to shed light for all about the administration of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things. ¹⁰ This is so that God's multi-faceted wisdom may now be made known through the church to the rulers and authorities in the heavens. ¹¹ This is according to his eternal purpose accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹² In him we have boldness and confident access through faith in him. ¹³ So, then, I ask you not to be discouraged over my afflictions on your behalf, for they are your glory.

Ephesians 3 CSB

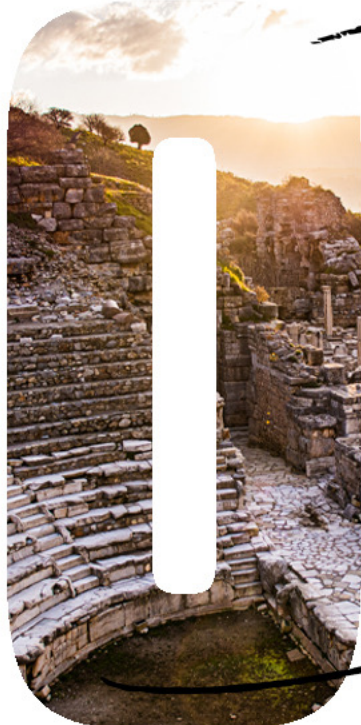
You can relax. It all really does work out perfectly. You are going to face some horrible struggles, but in Jesus you have confident access to God Almighty, who is in control. You do not need to ever lose heart.



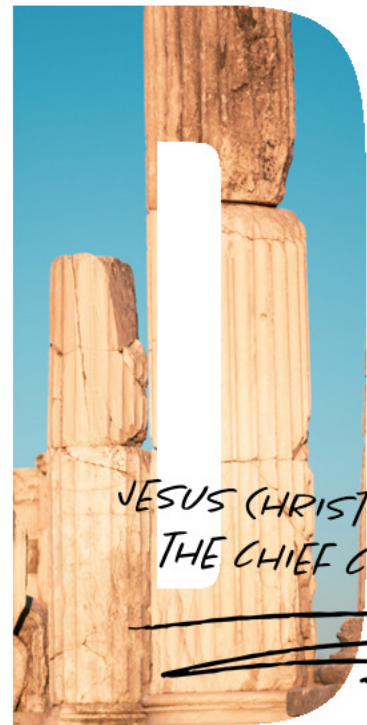
IN HIM...WE ARE



FOR WE ARE HIS
WORKMANSHIP



ROOTED AND GROUNDED
IN LOVE



JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING
THE CHIEF CORNER STONE

EPHESIANS