



Maturing (John Mark & Timothy)

Wayne Braudrick

Life Change: We would move forward in Christ

Selected texts

July 19, 2026

Keep moving forward or you fall...

John Mark:

Was endowed with wonderful momentum

Acts 12:12
1 Peter 5:13

Crashed and let his friends down

Acts:13:13

Got up and moved forward with God's people

Col 4:10-11

Timothy:

Rooted his life in God's will

Phil 2:19-21
1 Tim 4:16

Was a willing disciple, trained in grace

2 Tim 3:10-11
1 Tim 1:1-2

Worked to reproduce God's blessings

2 Tim 2:2

Our corporate responsibility in maturation

Gal 6:1-2

If you find my life offensive, good, you should be offended by sin. But for the grace of God, it could have been you. It's great if your life has not been marred by gross sin. That's the greatest of testimonies. I'd love to trade stories. Use your virtue to minister to others...teach them to hate the sin without hating the sinner...to minister to and strengthen us weaker vessels...to fulfill the mandate to make disciples and feed sheep.
- Kevin McDowell, *Samson of a Man*

Our individual responsibilities in maturation:

Gal 6:4-5

Root in the good soil of God's word

If you've crashed, by grace get back in the race

Embrace God's training

Remember that reproduction is part of maturing

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PAUL'S VALUABLE PARTNERS

VIRTUS

Aquila & Priscilla

John Mark

EPAPHRAS

Luke



Timothy

Epaphroditus

Titus

TIMOTHY

Barnabas

PLEASE SILENCE YOUR PHONE



dfw
SUMMER
SERIES

VIRTUS = the character traits that comprise the strength of society. These personal traits make for powerful relationships that change the world.

**Virtus celebrated on an
AD 305 Roman coin**



¹³ For it is God who is working in you both to will and to work according to his good purpose.

Philippians 2 CSB

¹⁷ Brethren, join in following my example, and observe those who walk according to the pattern you have in us.

Philippians 3 NASB



Timothy

Saul/
Paul

John/
Mark

¹¹ When Peter came to himself, he said, “Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from Herod’s grasp and from all that the Jewish people expected.” ¹² As soon as he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John who was called Mark, where many had assembled and were praying.

Acts 12 CSB



MATT

MARK

LUKE

JOHN

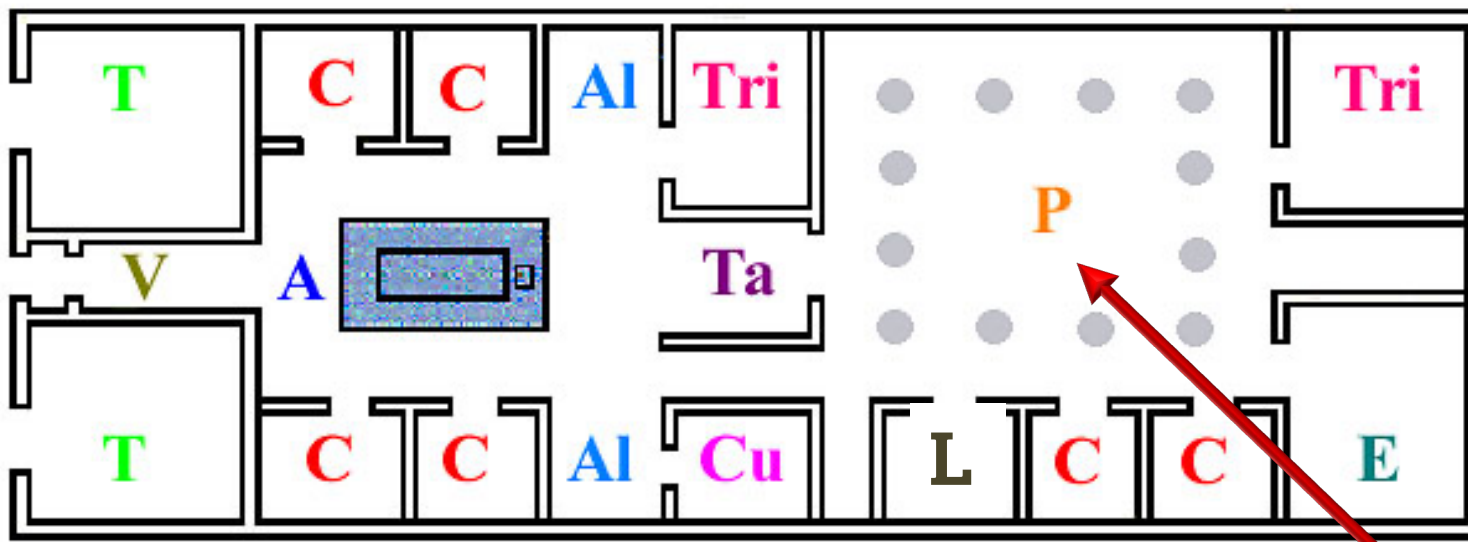
ACTS

ROM

1 COR

2 COR

GAL



sample plan of a midsize Roman villa

A	atrium	formal entrance hall
C	cubiculum	small room; bedroom
P	peristylum	colonnaded garden
T	taberna	shop
Ta	tablinum	office; study
Tri	triclinium	dining room

V	vestibule
Al	alae open seating
Cu	culina kitchen
E	exedra living room
L	latrina washroom

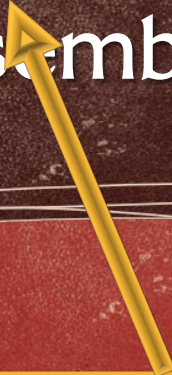
Space for many dozens to gather



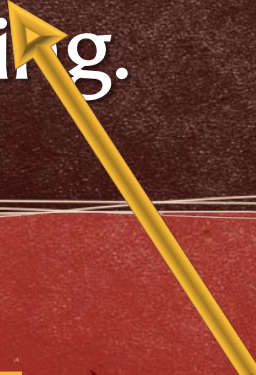
Jewish Christian Romans
St. Priscilla Catacombs
2nd c. A.D.

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Acts 12 CSB



Ioannes – from Hebrew;
also Jochanan or Johanan



Markos – of Latin
origin; also Marcus

¹ Now in the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen, a close friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul.

² As they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." ³ Then after they had fasted, prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them off.

⁴ So being sent out by the Holy Spirit, they went down to Seleucia, and from there they sailed to Cyprus. ⁵ Arriving in Salamis, they proclaimed the word of God in the Jewish synagogues. They also had John as their assistant.

Acts 13 CSB



courtesy Rehberger Family



courtesy Alex Price

¹³ She who is in Babylon, chosen together with you, sends you greetings, as does Mark, my son.

1 Peter 5 CSB



courtesy istock

But it's so
frightening.



We should
capitalize on
this great
momentum!



Remember the purpose!
Moving ahead in Jesus,
growing in virtue, that is
what matters.

¹³ Paul and his companions set sail from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia, but John left them and went back to Jerusalem.

Acts 13 CSB





No trophy, no flowers, no flashbulbs, no wine
He's haunted by something he cannot define
Bowel-shaking earthquakes of doubt and remorse
Assail him, impale him with monster truck force
– Greg Brown, "The Distance"



³⁶ After some time had passed, Paul said to Barnabas, “Let’s go back and visit the brothers and sisters in every town where we have preached the word of the Lord and see how they’re doing.”

³⁷ Barnabas wanted to take along John who was called Mark.

³⁸ But Paul insisted that they should not take along this man who had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not gone on with them to the work. ³⁹ They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company, and Barnabas took Mark with him and sailed off to Cyprus. ⁴⁰ But Paul chose Silas and departed, after being commended by the brothers and sisters to the grace of the Lord.

Acts 15 CSB

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Acts 15 CSB

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He's haunted by something he cannot define
Bowel-shaking earthquakes of doubt and remorse
Assail him, impale him with monster truck force
– Greg Brown, “The Distance”

I bet John Mark
felt this.



Hey, don't write yourself off yet
Just try your best, try everything you can
...It just takes some time
You're in the middle of the ride
Everything, everything will be just fine
Everything, everything will be alright, all right
– from “The Middle”
by the band Jimmy Eat World

I imagine Barnabas said
something like this to J-M.



¹⁰ Aristarchus, my fellow prisoner, sends you greetings, as does Mark, Barnabas's cousin (concerning whom you have received instructions: if he comes to you, welcome him),
¹¹ and so does Jesus who is called Justus. These alone of the circumcised are my coworkers for the kingdom of God, and they have been a comfort to me.

Colossians 4 CSB



²³ Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you greetings, and so do ²⁴ Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my coworkers.

Philemon CSB

Lion, symbol of St. Mark
Duomo, Venice
A.D. 2nd c.

Greek: συνεργοί sunergoi
(sun + ergon) = people
working hard in harmony
together

⁹ Make every effort to come to me soon, ¹⁰ because Demas has deserted me, since he loved this present world, and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, Titus to Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you, for he is useful to me in the ministry.

2 Timothy 4 CSB



Yelling
Robert Noebecker
2014

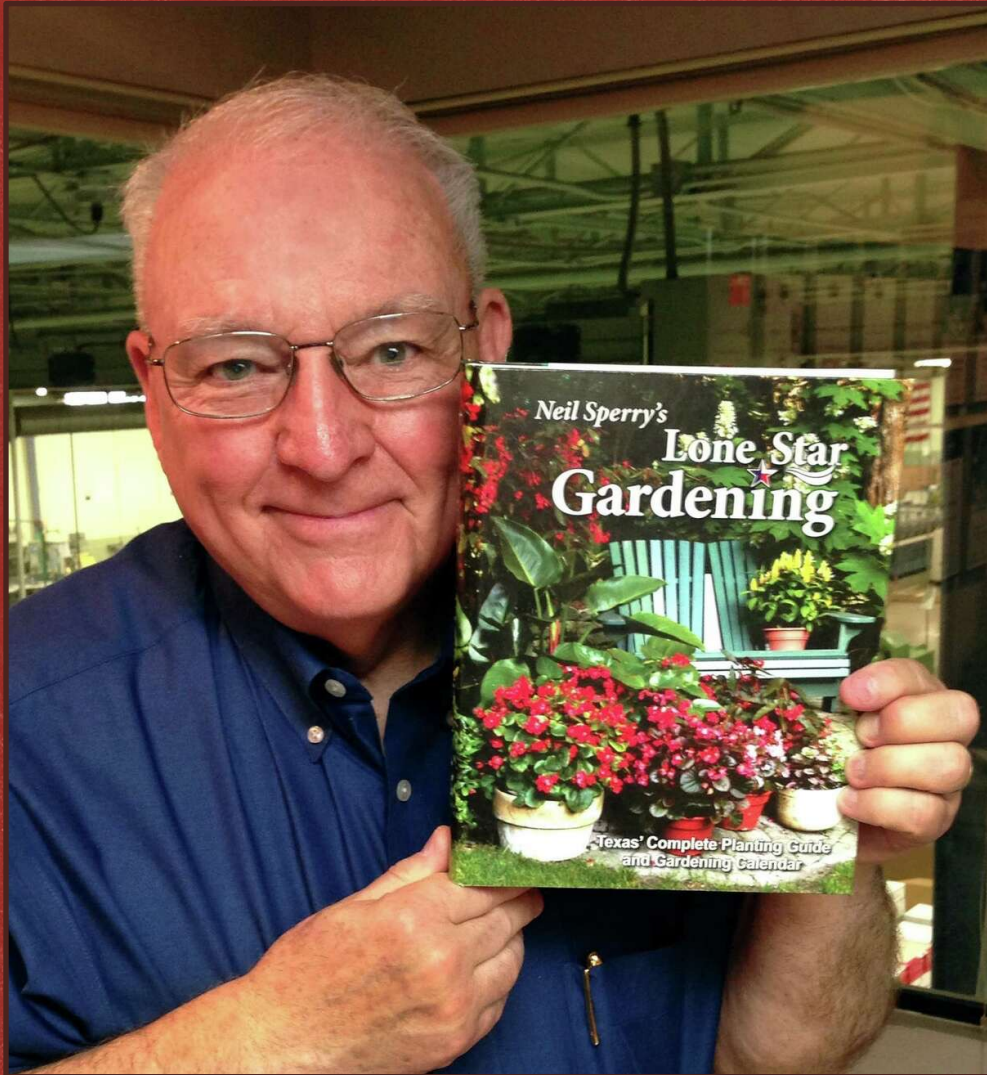


Top Tour de France
contender Tadej Pogacar
gets clipped and crashes in
Stage 11 of the 2025 race.

Tadej Pogacar gets back in the race after the crash; here passing his rival, Jonas Vingegaard.

Pogacar goes on to win the Tour.





Neil Sperry

The Voice in Texas Gardening



Soil



Training



Reproduction

¹⁹ Now I hope in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you soon so that I too may be encouraged by news about you. ²⁰ For I have no one else like-minded who will genuinely care about your interests; ²¹ all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

Philippians 2 CSB

**Rostrum in the
Philippian forum**



The image shows the interior of a classical era church in modern Thessaloniki. The architecture features a series of tall, fluted columns supporting a series of arches. The floor is made of stone tiles, and the walls are constructed from brick and stone. The lighting is warm and focused on the central aisle, creating a sense of depth and history. The church appears to be well-preserved but has a rustic, ancient feel.

**Classical era church under
modern Thessaloniki**

² And we sent Timothy, our brother and God's coworker in the gospel of Christ, to strengthen and encourage you concerning your faith, ³ so that no one will be shaken by these afflictions. For you yourselves know that we are appointed to this.

1 Thessalonians 3 CSB

¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 4 NKJV

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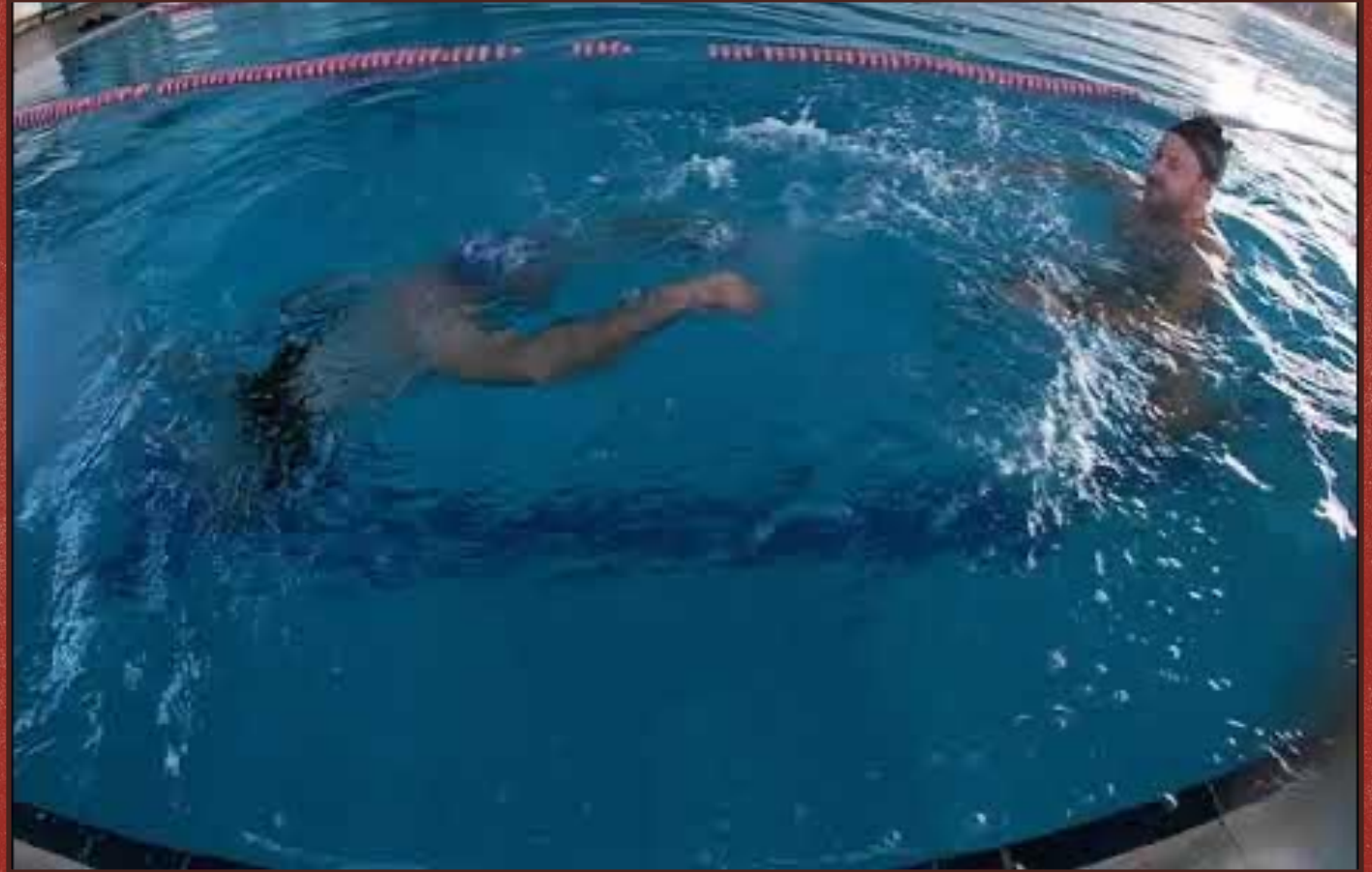
1 Timothy 4 NKJV



courtesy Pro Guard

You must pay attention to the doctrines of guarding so you can be of true benefit to those in need.

One of the cardinal rules is that when you go to save a drowner, always reverse 6 feet or more away.



He suddenly gasped and raised up, flailing his fists – one of which caught me in the side of my temple. When I came to, another guard, Jim Buser, was rescuing me.

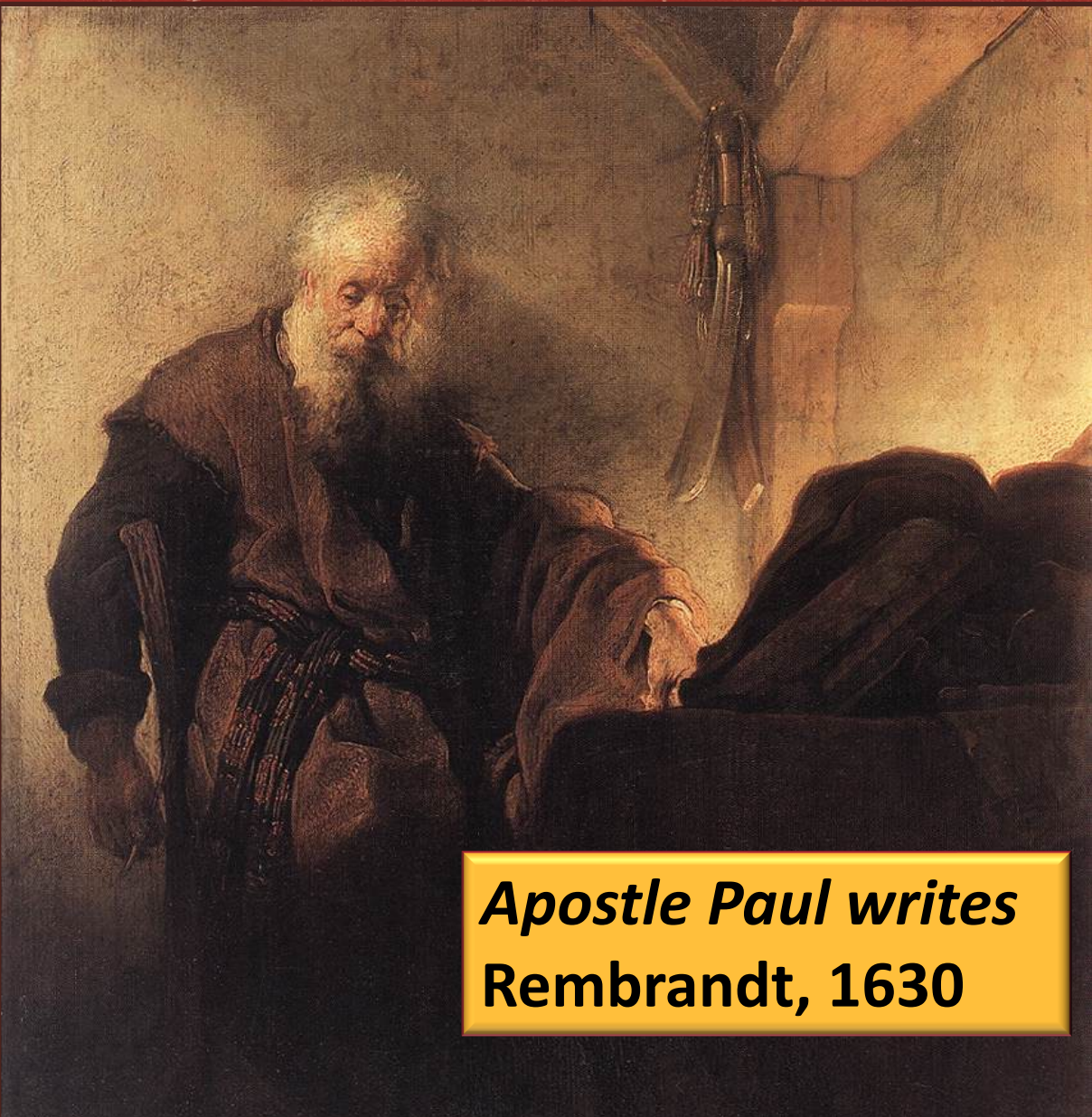


¹⁶ Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.

1 Timothy 4 NKJV



courtesy Pro Guard



Apostle Paul writes
Rembrandt, 1630

¹⁰ But you have followed my teaching, conduct, purpose, faith, patience, love, and endurance,
¹¹ along with the persecutions and sufferings that came to me in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra. What persecutions I endured—and yet the Lord rescued me from them all.

2 Timothy 3 CSB

COL

1 THESS

2 THESS

1 TIM

2 TIMOTHY

TITUS

PHILEM

HEB

JAMES

¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the command of God our Savior and of Christ Jesus our hope:

² To Timothy, my true son in the faith.

Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Timothy 1 CSB



courtesy gardenweb

¹ You, therefore, my son,
be strong
in the grace
that is in Christ Jesus.

2 Timothy 2 CSB



courtesy esmartbiz



courtesy USDA



courtesy Macresearch



courtesy dailymeal

¹ You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2 CSB



Roy Robertson
and Pearl
Harbor,
1941



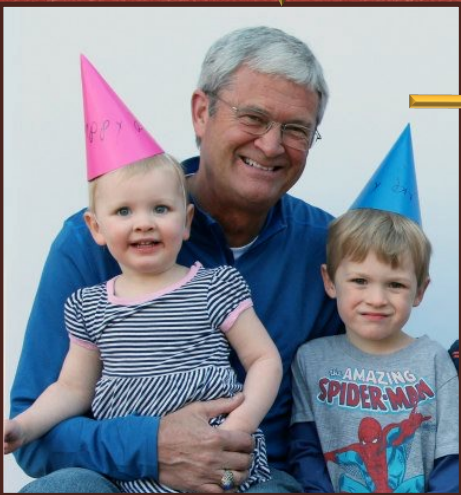
Dawson Trotman



Roy
Robertson



SMU ca. 1950

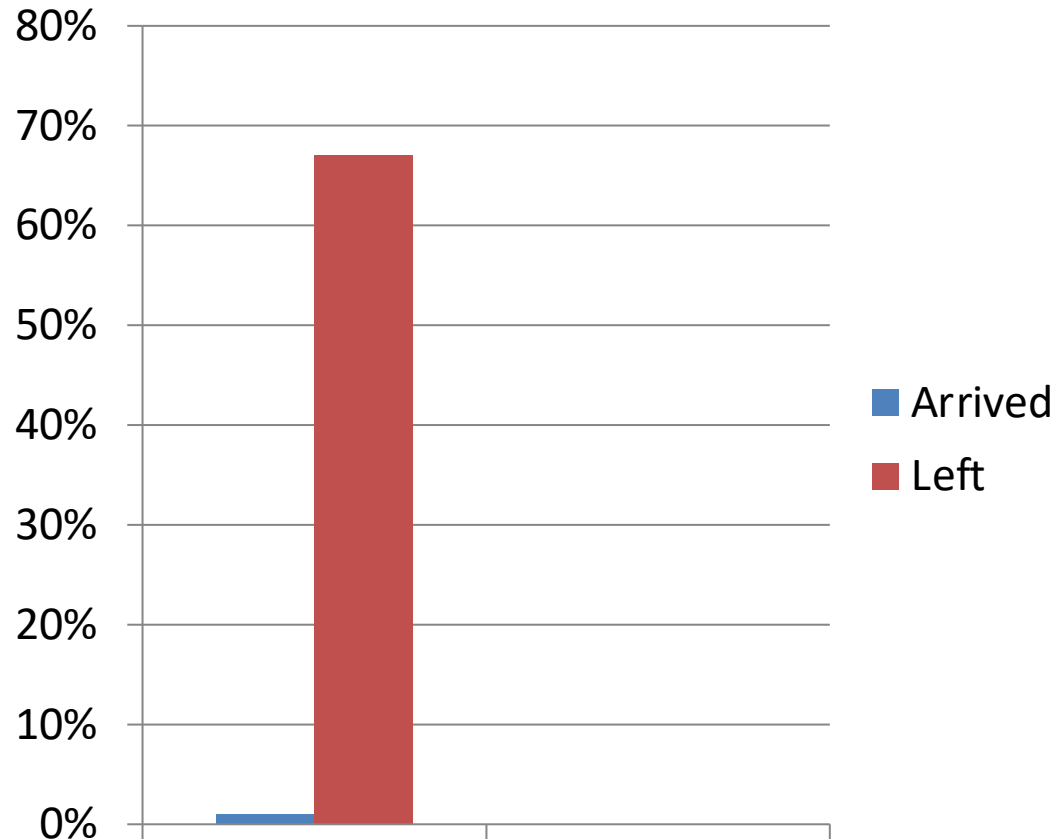


Frank Childers

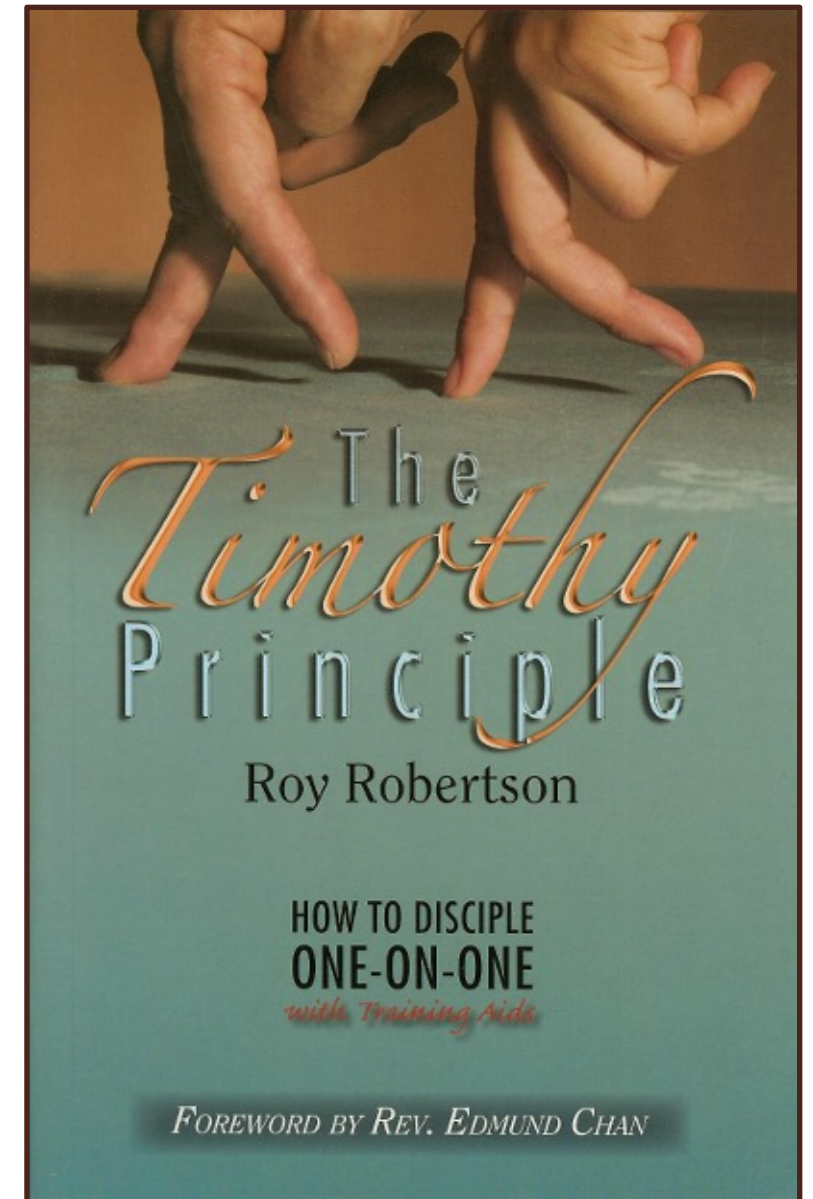


WB &
grandson

67% attended church when he left
(50% confessed faith in Jesus)



1% attended church when
Robertson arrived in Singapore



¹ You, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. ² What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, commit to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.

2 Timothy 2 CSB



Timothy

Saul/
Paul

John/
Mark

¹ You, therefore, my son,
be strong in the grace
that is in Christ Jesus.

² What you have heard
from me in the presence
of many witnesses,
commit to faithful men
who will be able to teach
others also.

2 Timothy 2 CSB



¹ Brothers and sisters,
if someone is overtaken in any wrongdoing,
you who are spiritual,
restore such a person with a gentle spirit,
watching out for yourselves
so that you also won't be tempted.

² Carry one another's burdens;
in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.

Galatians 6 CSB

SAMSON of a Man

saved soul, wasted life



most books should never be written.

I wish this were one of them.

Above all I wish I wasn't the author.

Kevin McDowell

If you find my life offensive, good, you should be offended by sin. But for the grace of God, it could have been you. It's great if your life has not been marred by gross sin. That's the greatest of testimonies. I'd love to trade stories. Use your virtue to minister to others...teach them to hate the sin without hating the sinner...to minister to and strengthen us weaker vessels...to fulfill the mandate to make disciples and feed sheep. – Kevin McDowell, *Samson of a Man*

⁴ Let each person examine his own work, and then he can take pride in himself alone, and not compare himself with someone else. ⁵ For each person will have to carry his own load.

Galatians 6 CSB

It is possible to be a believer in Jesus without being a disciple; to be a camp-follower without being a soldier of the king; to be a hanger-on in some great work without pulling one's weight. Once someone was talking to a great scholar about a younger man. He said, 'So & so tells me he was one of your students.' The teacher answered devastatingly, 'He may have attended my lectures, but he was not one of my students.' There is a world of difference between attending lectures and being a student. It is one of the supreme handicaps of the Church that there are so many distant followers and so few true disciples. – William Barclay, *Lessons from Luke*



Tadej Pogacar gets back in the race after the crash; here passing his rival, Jonas Vingegaard.

Pogacar goes on to win the Tour.



¹The beginning of the gospel of
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Mark 1 CSB



¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

² Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.”

John 15 CSB

¹ “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.

² Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit.”

John 15 CSB

Greek: αἶρει airei = lifts upward,
bears away from the ground





² What you have heard
from me in the presence
of many witnesses,
commit to faithful men
who will be able to teach
others also.

2 Timothy 2 CSB



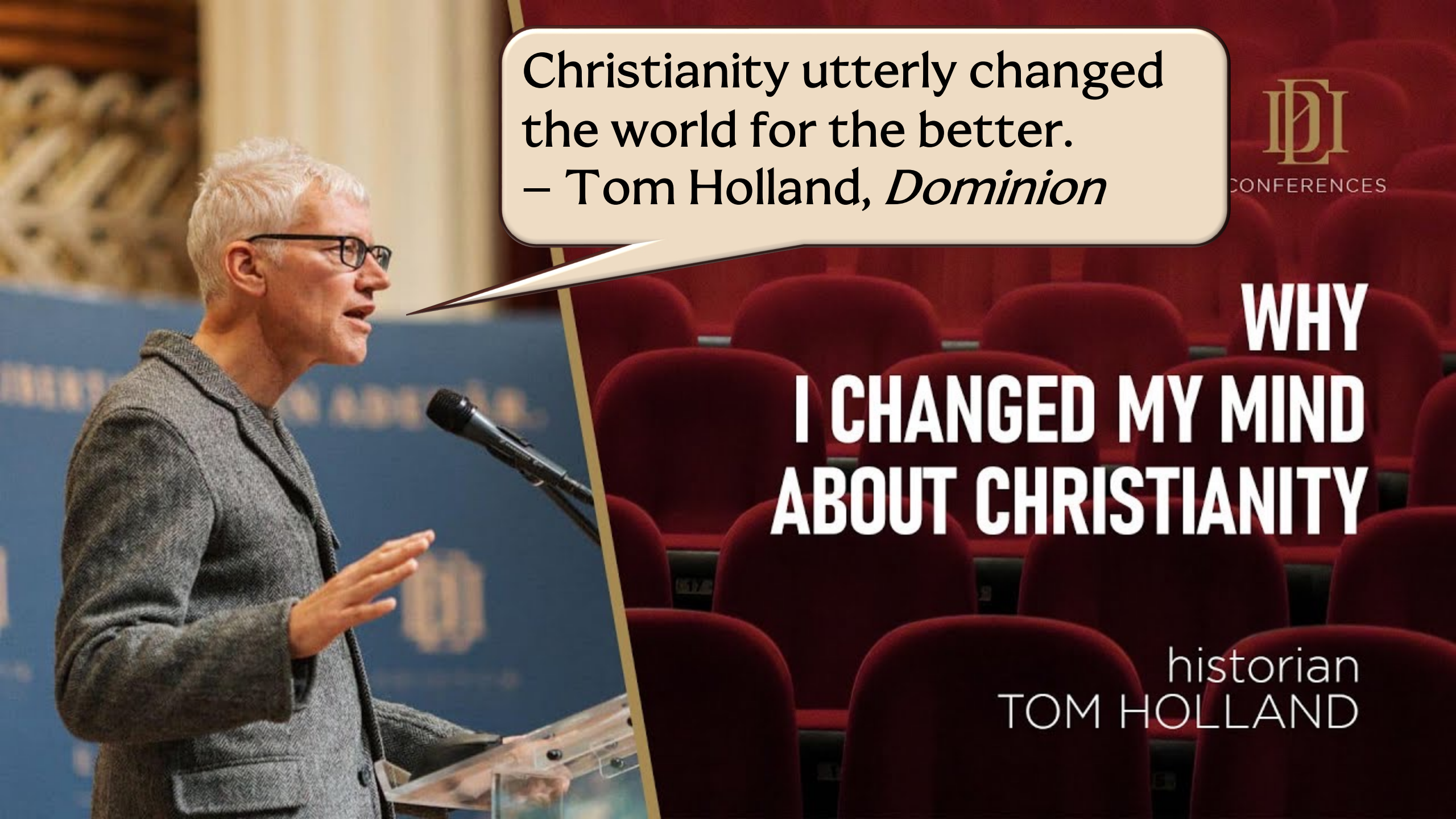
Seedless
melons
must be
planted
next to



a row of
seeded
melons
in order
to be
productive.



courtesy freepik

A man with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a grey tweed jacket, is speaking at a podium. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background shows rows of red seats in an auditorium. A speech bubble points from the text to the speaker.

Christianity utterly changed
the world for the better.
– Tom Holland, *Dominion*



CONFERENCES

WHY I CHANGED MY MIND ABOUT CHRISTIANITY

historian
TOM HOLLAND

Seedless
melons
must be
planted
next to



a row of
seeded
melons
in order
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PAUL'S VALUABLE PARTNERS

VIRTUS

Aquila & Priscilla

John Mark

EPAPHRAS

Luke



Apolllos

Epaphroditus

Titus **TIMOTHY**

Barnabas