

“How apparent to everyone it is, and how shameful, that our own people lack support from us, when no Jew ever has to beg, and the impious Galileans support not only their own poor, but ours as well.”

- Emperor Julian

“The apostles, obedient to Jewish tradition as well as to the teachings of their master, had laid it as a solemn charge upon new churches always 'to remember the poor. Generation after generation, Christians had held true to this injunction. **Every week, in churches across the Roman world, collections for orphans and widows, for the imprisoned, and the shipwrecked, and the sick had been raised.** Over time, as congregations swelled, and ever more of the wealthy were brought to baptism, the funds available for poor relief had grown as well. Entire systems of social security had begun to emerge.”

- Tom Holland, *Dominion*

**Timothy**

**Epaphroditus**

**Trustworthy**

**Selfless**

# **The Gospel Makes Possible**

Unconventional Character

Let each of you look not only to his own interests,  
but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:4

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but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:4

who, though he was in the form of God, did not  
count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but  
emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant...

Philippians 2:7 (ESV)

# **The Gospel Makes Possible**

Unconventional Character

Unlikely Community

though possessing in Himself, the characteristics, essence, the power and rights of being God...

He did not cling to that power or status for self-serving purposes

“In the twentieth century, the political philosopher Hannah Arendt argued that totalitarian ideologies gained so much traction only **because societies were so atomized**. Imperialism and capitalism had brought wealth to European nations but destabilized traditional hierarchies and left many people without social affiliations. As a result, people were drawn to ideas that provided a clear sense of identity and simple explanations for an increasingly complicated world.

In the final pages of *Origins of Totalitarianism*, Arendt wrote, "What prepares men for totalitarian domination in the non-totalitarian world is the fact that **loneliness, once a borderline experience usually suffered in certain marginal social conditions like old age, has become an everyday experience of the ever-growing masses of our century.**" Unfortunately, the digital revolution has not only exacerbated the forces of loneliness and atomization but also empowered those who seek to exploit them."

- Fareed Zakaria, *Age of Revolution*

**Partnership**

**Mentorship**

**Challenge**

# Three Questions to Ponder

What is my particular mission within God's greater Mission?

Who is my Paul (mentor)?

Who is my Timothy (someone I'm investing in)?