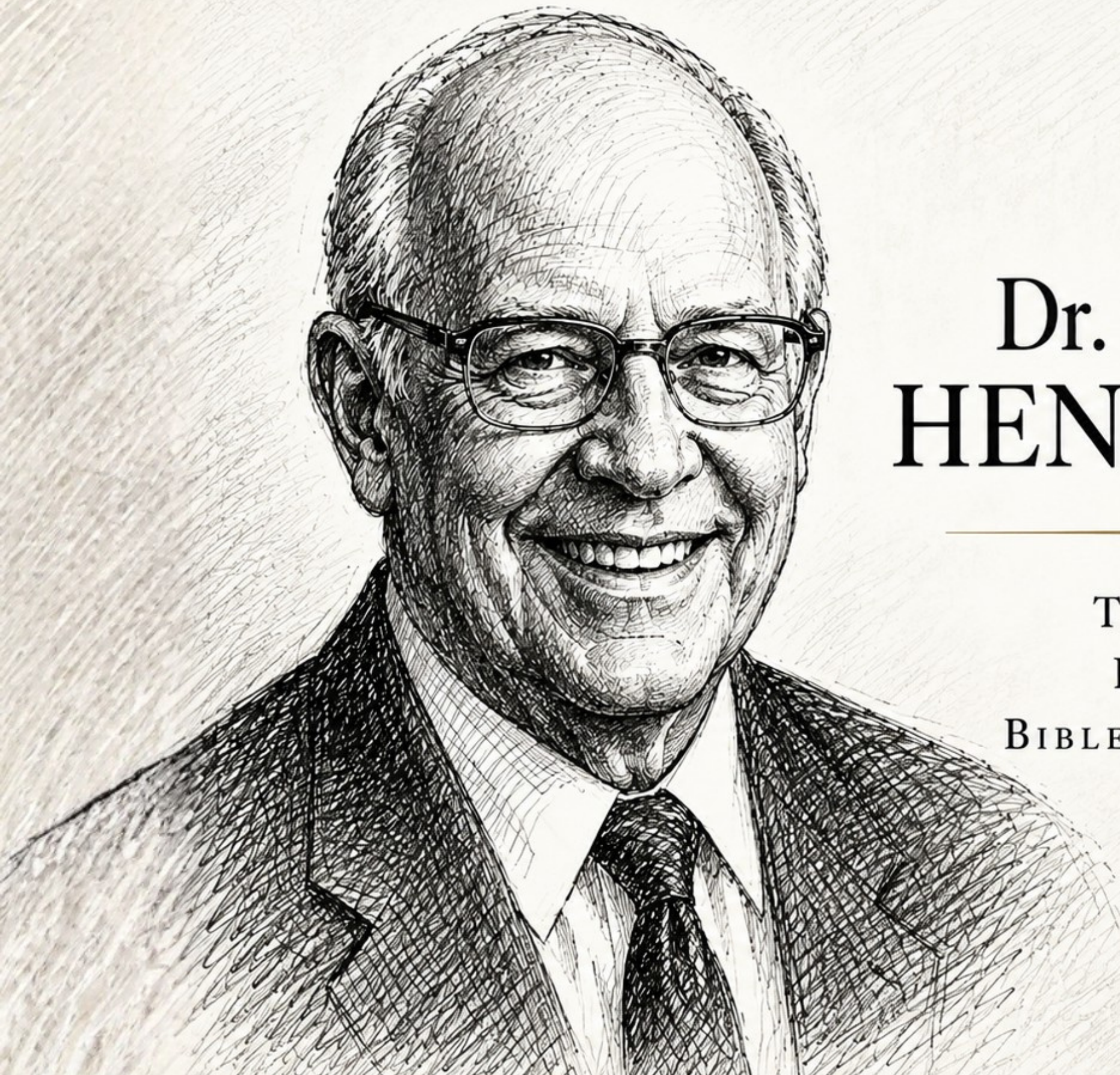




EPHESIANS

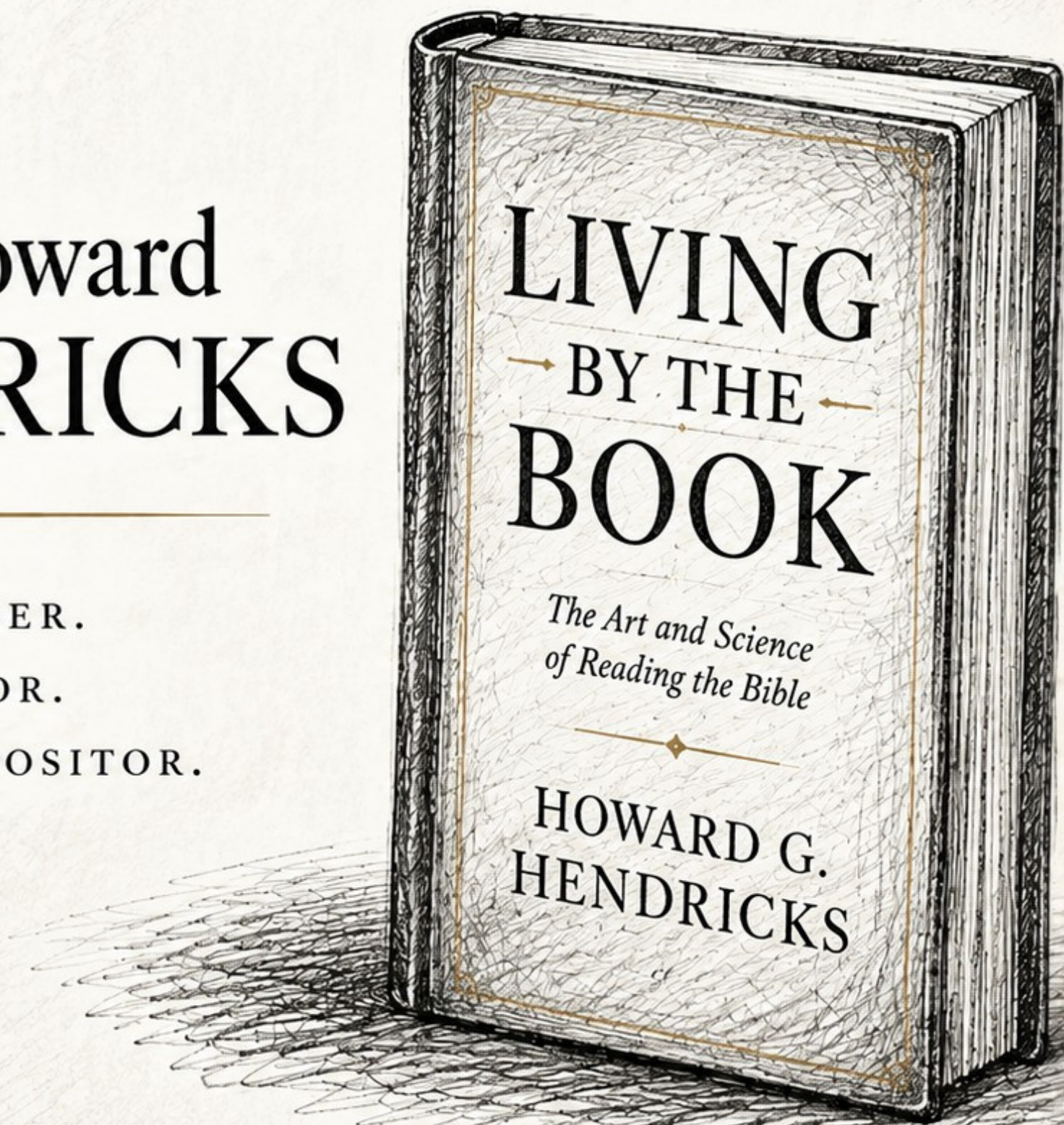
TOGETHER IN CHRIST

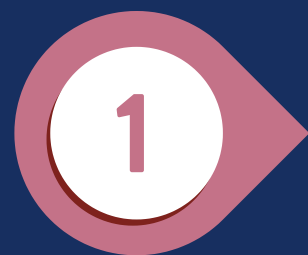




Dr. Howard HENDRICKS

TEACHER.
PASTOR.
BIBLE EXPOSITOR.





THERE &
THEN



HERE &
NOW

BIBLE STUDY METHOD

1. **Observe:** What do I see?
2. **Interpret:** What does it mean?
3. **Application:** How does it work?

OBSERVATION

WHAT DO I SEE?

OBSERVE

Six Things to Look For:

1. Things that are repeated
2. Things that are emphasized
3. Things that are related
4. Things that are alike
5. Things that are unlike
6. Things that are true to life

OBSERVATIONS:

- Paul identifies both his authority and the source of his calling.
- Paul describes his readers by their relationship to Christ.
- ***Blessing:*** Paul's greeting joins grace and peace to God the Father and Jesus Christ.

EPHESIANS 1:1-2

Paul, an **apostle** of Christ Jesus by the will of God,

To the **saints** who are in Ephesus, and are faithful in Christ Jesus:

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

OBSERVATIONS:

- God is the **primary actor** throughout the passage.
- God's blessings repeatedly come **through union** with Christ.
- God **chose** "us" before the foundation of the world.
 - *What was the basis of his choosing?*

EPHESIANS 1:3-6

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in Christ** with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴ even as **he chose us in him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵ **he predestined us** for adoption to himself as sons **through Jesus** Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶ to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us **in the Beloved**

OBSERVATIONS:

- **In Christ** believers possess redemption and forgiveness through his blood.
- God has revealed a previously hidden **purpose centered on Christ.**
- God's plan reaches beyond individual salvation to the **uniting of all creation in Christ.**

EPHESIANS 1:7-10

In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸ which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹ **making known to us the mystery of his will,** according to his purpose, which he set forth **in Christ** ¹⁰ as a plan for the fullness of time, **to unite all things in Christ,** things in heaven and things on earth in him.

OBSERVATIONS:

- **God's saving work** unfolds according to his deliberate purpose and will.
- The **Holy Spirit** seals believers and guarantees their future inheritance.

EPHESIANS 1:11-14

¹¹ In him we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, ¹² so that we who were the first to hope

in Christ might be to the praise of his glory.

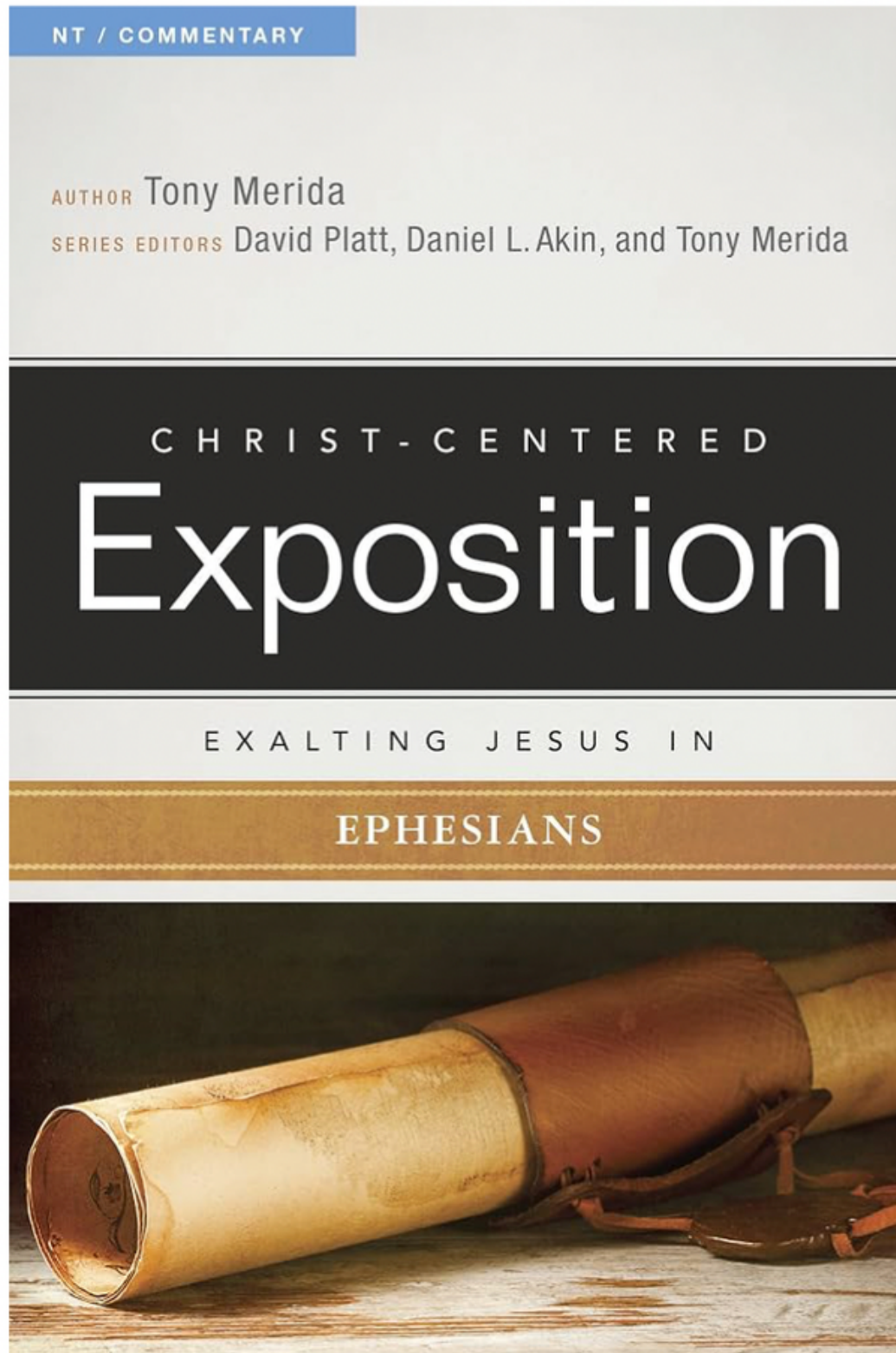
¹³ In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed

in him were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit,

¹⁴ who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

INTERPRETATION

WHAT DOES IT MEAN?



EPHESIANS

BY TONY MERIDA

INTERPRETATION

What does it mean?

Work to understand the author's intended meaning.

- What does this word or phrase mean here?
 - How does the context help us understand it?
- How does this paragraph relate to what comes before and after?
- What did Paul intend his original readers to understand?
 - What does this teach us about God, Christ, salvation, the church, or the Christian life?
- How does the rest of Scripture help clarify this passage?

INTERPRETATION

1. Every spiritual blessing of salvation belongs to believers because they are **united to Christ**.
2. Salvation originates in God's eternal purpose and is accomplished by **the work of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit**.
3. God's salvation of individuals is part of his larger purpose to **bring all things together under Christ**.

EPHESIANS:

**UNITY IN DIVERSITY AS A
WITNESS TO THE “POWERS”**

APPLICATION

HOW DOES IT WORK?

APPLICATION

How should I respond?

- *Is there an example for me to follow?*
- *Is there a sin to avoid?*
- *Is there a promise to claim?*
- *Is there a prayer to repeat?*
- *Is there a command to obey?*
- *Is there a condition to meet?*
- *Is there a verse to memorize?*
- *Is there an error in my life to mark?*
- *Is there a challenge to face?*

APPLICATION

1. Live from your identity in Christ.

- *Where am I looking for identity or security apart from Christ?*
- *How would remembering what I possess in Christ change the way I act today?*

YOUR TURN!