

1 PETER 1

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatian, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, Elect according to the foreknowledge of god the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you,, and peace, be multiplied.”

I. Peter the Apostle - “sent one” - primary ministry was to Jewish believers

II. The Strangers

A. Circular letter to address groups of believers in all these areas spread all over modern day Turkey

B. Strangers -

1. lit. Expatriates; “those sojourning in a strange place away from one’s own people” - Vine’s

a) as the letter unfolds it is obvious that the recipients were scattered as the result of persecution arising from their faith in Christ

(1) Acts 8:1, 4 - persecution following Stephen’s death

(2) Acts 11:19 - persecuted Jews fled to Phonic, Cyprus, Antioch

(3) James 1:1 - James was also writing to believers in similar circumstances

2. Later on, Peter does refer to these believers as strangers in the sense that they are heavenly citizens in a fallen world (1 Pe. 2:11)

III. Elect According to the Foreknowledge of God the Father

A. Elect - lit. Chosen

1. God’s Word teaches two seemingly contradictory truths - Election and Man’s Free Will

a) In an effort to make logical and philosophical sense of these seemingly contradictory truths, many Bible teachers have erred on one side or the other

(1) Reformed theology - teaches that man’s free will has no bearing on their salvation and God sovereignly saves

(2) Arminianism - teaches that God choses men based on knowing in advance that certain one’s will believe His promise for salvation

b) The best approach is to take God’s Word at face value and trust that God’s election to salvation in eternity past and man’s free will can and do co-exist, and leave what we do not understand about this seeming contradiction to the infinite wisdom of God

(1) 1 Pe. 1:2 - has been used as support for teaching Arminianism but there is a problem with this interpretation

(2) The English version does a poor job translating these verses as the original writings:

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the choice sojourners of the dispersion of Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, according to a foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit,...” - YLT

(3) Peter is actually stating to these believers that they are chosen strangers according to God’s foreknowledge- in other words, their wandering, due to persecution, was part of God’s plans for their lives from eternity past

- (4) **QUESTION:** What comfort should the knowledge that their current difficulties were the result of God's "choosing" provide?
- B. Sanctification of the Spirit
 - 1. This is a sanctification, or a setting apart, brought about by the Holy Spirit
 - 2. Their present circumstances would be used by the Holy Spirit to grow them spiritually
 - C. Unto obedience - man's responsibility (God's will)
 - D. Sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ (God's responsibility)
 - 1. Benefits of Christ's death constantly being applied to the believer
 - a) Heb. 9:14 - conscience purged (knowledge that the superiority of Christ's sacrifice frees one from trying to come to God by own efforts)
 - b) Heb. 10:19 - believer provided confidence to come before the throne of God by the blood of Jesus (Christ's death makes access possible)
 - c) Heb. 13:20 - blood of the everlasting covenant makes one mature
 - E. Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied
 - 1. Grace and peace are present possessions for every believer
 - 2. It is possible to appreciate them more and more

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you"

- I. Blessed be the God... - lit. Well spoken of
- II. According to His Abundant Mercy hath Begotten Us Again unto a Lively Hope
 - A. Abundant mercy - lit. Vast mercy - God's compassion on our suffering as the result of sin
 - B. Begotten us again - lit. Above + Birth; born from above; regeneration
 - 1. Salvation is spiritual in nature - Jo. 3:3
 - 2. Salvation is distinct from natural birth - Jo. 3:6
- III. Lively Hope by the Resurrection of Jesus Christ
 - A. Christ's Resurrection has Provided Believers with a Living Hope - it's a living hope that affects our lives
 - B. Christ's resurrection is a recurring theme in Peter's preaching in Acts - Acts 2:24; 3:15
 - C. Christ's resurrection made a new kind of life possible for believers
 - 1. Ro. 8:11 - The Spirit that raised Christ from the dead indwells each believer making a new kind of life possible
 - 2. 1 Cor. 15:20 - Christ's resurrection provides believers with the hope that they will be raised up with Him
 - 3. 1 Thess. 4:13-14 - Christ's resurrection provides hope that the bodies of all believers will be raised up at the Rapture
- IV. To an Inheritance Incorruptible, Undefiled, and that Fadeth Not Away
 - A. In the Upper Room, Jesus promised His disciples that when He departed, he would prepare a place for them to be with Him - Jo. 14:22
 - B. Reserved - "To guard (from loss or injury, properly, by keeping the eye upon..." - Thayer
 - 1. Eternal Security - Jo. 6:39; 10:29
 - 2. The believer can have the confidence that no matter how terrible their situation in this life, nothing can occur that will cause them to lose their salvation - Ro. 8:34-39

3. **QUESTION:** How would this truth strengthen and comfort these believers?

“Who are being kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appear of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory: Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.”

V. Who are Kept by the Power of God Through Faith

A. Each believer is continuously being kept by the inherent power of God

1. Kept - lit. Guarded (our salvation is being guarded)
 - a) Jude 24 - God keeps believers from falling
 - b) Eph. 2:8-9 - The believer in Christ has been saved and continues to be saved by grace (if it's by grace we can't lose it)
 - c) Phil. 1:6 - God began a good work at the moment of salvation and has promised to bring the job to completion in the future

VI. Unto Salvation Ready to be Revealed in the Last Time, Wherein ye Greatly Rejoice

A. Believers are being guarded into their Future Tense Salvation

1. All humans are tri-part beings (Body, Soul, Spirit) - 1 Thess. 5:23
2. Believers in Christ are saved in their spirit - John 3:5-7
3. Our bodies and our souls are awaiting their future salvation
4. **QUESTION:** What is the significance of the fact that our bodies and souls are awaiting their future salvation?

B. The fact that we are awaiting the final installment of our salvation in which our bodies and souls will be glorified should be cause for rejoicing

VII. Though Now for a Season if Need Be, Ye are in Heaviness Through Manifold Temptations

A. Lit. - though now for a little while since need be, ye are in heaviness...

1. Peter begins to introduce the idea that these difficult trials are a necessary part of God's plan for their lives
2. 1st class condition - Since it is necessary
 - a) Jo. 16:33 - Jesus warned His disciples that they “*shall have tribulation*”
 - b) Acts 14:22 - “*...and that we through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*”
 - c) 2 Ti. 3:12 - Paul wrote that, “*all that will live godly shall suffer persecution*”

B. Although a necessary part of the Christian life, these trials still produce “heaviness”

1. Manifold - lit. A wide variety (not just persecution)
2. Temptations
 - a) “Those that come to men from without, persecutions, troubles,...”
 - b) “More than direct solicitation to evil. It embraces all that goes to to furnish a test of character.” - Vincent

VIII. That the Trial of Your Faith, Being Much More Precious Than of Gold that Perisheth, Though it Be Tried With Fire

A. That - *hina* - lit. In order that; Purpose

B. The purpose behind God allowing believers to suffer through a wide variety of difficulties is so that the quality of their faith might be made evident

- C. Might be found
 1. Might - subjunctive - maybe it will, maybe it won't
 2. Found - lit. Something found as the result of exam or scrutiny
 3. Peter's hope for these believer's is that the testing of their faith, when placed under the microscope of Christ's scrutiny at the Bema Seat, will be found to be worthy of praise, honor, and glory
- IX. Whom Having Not Seen... - these believer's present situation was loving and believing their unseen Savior
- X. Receiving the End of Your Faith, Even the Salvation of Your Souls
 - A. When Christ shall appear, each believer will receive for their own selves, their completed salvation
 1. Phil. 3:20-21- *"For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: 21 Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."*
 2. 1Co 15:42-44 -*"So also [is] the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."*
 - B. "Peter provides these believers with an endpoint on which they ought to focus...the completion of their salvation at the appearing of Jesus Christ" - T. Hoelscher
 - C. **QUESTION:** How can this focus help a believer endure the difficulties they encounter in life?

"Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow. Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into..."

XI. Of Which Salvation the Prophets Have Enquired and Searched Diligently...

- A. Dispensational Distinctives
 1. God revealed to the Old Testament Prophets that Christ would suffer, die, and be raised from the dead, but He did not reveal to those prophets what this gracious offering would provide those that believed on Him
 2. Old Testament saints, although saved by grace through faith, did not experience the same content of salvation that the Church experiences today - Provisions of Grace
 3. Salvation in the Dispensation of Grace is so incredible that the angels in heaven are peering down trying to catch a glimpse of what God is doing in the lives of believers

"Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: but as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

XII. Wherefore Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind

- A. Peter used a cultural concept to encourage these believers to prepare themselves mentally
 1. Gird up the loins - reference to gathering loose hanging clothing material and tying into a belt before work, warfare, or serious physical exertion
 2. Equipped with the insight that Peter was providing them, these believers were to prepare for spiritual warfare

XIII. Be Sober, and Hope to the End for the Grace That is to be Brought Unto You at the Revelation of Jesus Christ

- A. Sober - lit. Being serious minded, clear headed (understand your present circumstances)
- B. Hope perfectly, maturely - a hope with the end in sight
- C. Grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ
 1. Peter is referencing the Bema Seat - Christ scrutinizing the works of all believers after the Rapture
 - a) Grace - the Bema Seat is not a Baptist purgatory
 - b) Grace - There will be no classifications of believers established
 - c) Grace - None will be punished for the quality of their works
 2. **QUESTION:** How should the truth that Christ will come for the Church bringing Grace affect the way we look forward to His return?

XIV. As Obedient Children, Not Fashioning Yourselves According to the Former Lusts in Your Ignorance

- A. Obedient children - individuals pursuing the Father's desirous will for their lives
- B. Not fashioning yourselves - lit. A change of outward appearance
 1. For the believer to live a life dominated by the desires of their sin nature would be to go against their new identity and nature in Christ
 - a) Ro. 6:1-2 - "*Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? God forbid!*"
 - b) Eph 2:1-2, 5-6 - "*And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: ... Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus:*"
 2. Peter could have said, "that's not who you are anymore!"
- C. But as he which hath called you is holy so be ye holy in all manner of conversation
 1. Holy - lit. Set apart; always in a positive way (God - His uniqueness from Creation sets him apart; the believer is to be set apart to God and for His purposes)
 2. The believer ought to be set apart unto God and His desires in every aspect of their lives - not spiritual and secular
 3. Peter saying, "may your lives reflect your having been set apart by God"

"And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear. Forasmuch as ye know that ye we're not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from you vain conversation received by tradition from you fathers:"

XV. And if Ye Call on the Father, Who Without Respect of Persons Judgeth According to Every Man's Work, Pass the Time of Your Sojourning Here in Fear

- A. If - hina - lit. Since - these believers were calling on the Father
 1. God does play favorites among his children

- 2. The works of all believers will be judged without partiality in the future
- B. Have a healthy respect for God, His plans, and purposes as you live out the days of your pilgrimage on earth (we are strangers to this world - our citizenship is in heaven)

XVI. Ye Know That We're Not Redeemed with Corruptible Things

- A. These believers were not saved from their worthless way of life which they learned from their parents by money or precious jewels
- B. No monetary transaction saved them from sin

“But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”

XVII. But with the Precious Blood of Christ - something of infinitely more precious and valuable than gold and precious jewels

XVIII. Who Verily Was Foreordained Before the Foundation of the World

- A. Foreordained - lit. The boundaries were marked out in advance
- B. Christ's sacrificial death for the sins of mankind was not God's Plan B - Rev. 13:8
 - 1. God knew that His creation would reject Him even before Creation
 - 2. **QUESTION:** Why would God go through with Creation if He knew that the only way to redeem it would be for Him to die?
- C. This is a God that can be trusted

“Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away; but the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

XIX. Seeing Ye have Purified Your Souls in Obeying the Truth Through the Spirit unto Unfeigned Love of the Brethren

- A. Obedience to the truth had a purifying affect on these believers' souls - The Holy Spirit was the agent of purification
 - 1. Peter previously indicated that believers are awaiting the future salvation of their souls
 - a) Because the soul is unregenerate, it is very susceptible to the sin nature's attacks - 1 Pe. 2:11
 - b) When the believer operates out from their soul (instincts, senses, emotions) they experience a great deal of instability
 - (1) James 1:8 - two-souled believers are unstable
 - (2) 2 Pe. 2:14 - unstable souls are vulnerable to false teachers
 - (3) 1 Thess. 5:14 - speak soothingly to the small-souled
- B. The truth - in the New Testament often a reference to a particular content of Truth
 - 1. The Truth - at it's core is the recognition that “I can't, but God can”
 - a) Opposite of the Lie - Ro. 1:21-25 - *“Because that, when they knew God, they glorified [him] not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. 22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the*

glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

- b) **How to Overcome Sin** - Jo. 8:32-34, 36 - *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. 33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free? 34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. ... 36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.”*
- 2. There are certain truths that God has provided believers in Christ so that they understand how to overcome the sin nature
 - a) Gal 5:13 - *“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only [use] not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.”*
 - (1) At the moment of salvation, every believer in Christ has been provided freedom for the law and their sin nature
 - (2) God’s purpose in providing us that freedom is that we might sincerely and sacrificially love other believers
 - b) 1Jo 3:16-19 - *“Hereby perceive we the love [of God], because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down [our] lives for the brethren. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels [of compassion] from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.”*

XX. Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God...

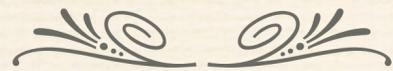
- A. Peter reminds these persecuted believers that their spiritual birth came about by God’s revelation
- B. While we all have our day in the sun and eventually wither away, God’s word will endure

1 Peter



Chapter 1

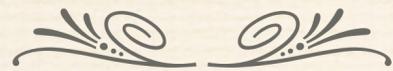
Strangers



Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia



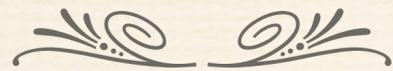
Elect



What had God chosen for these believers?

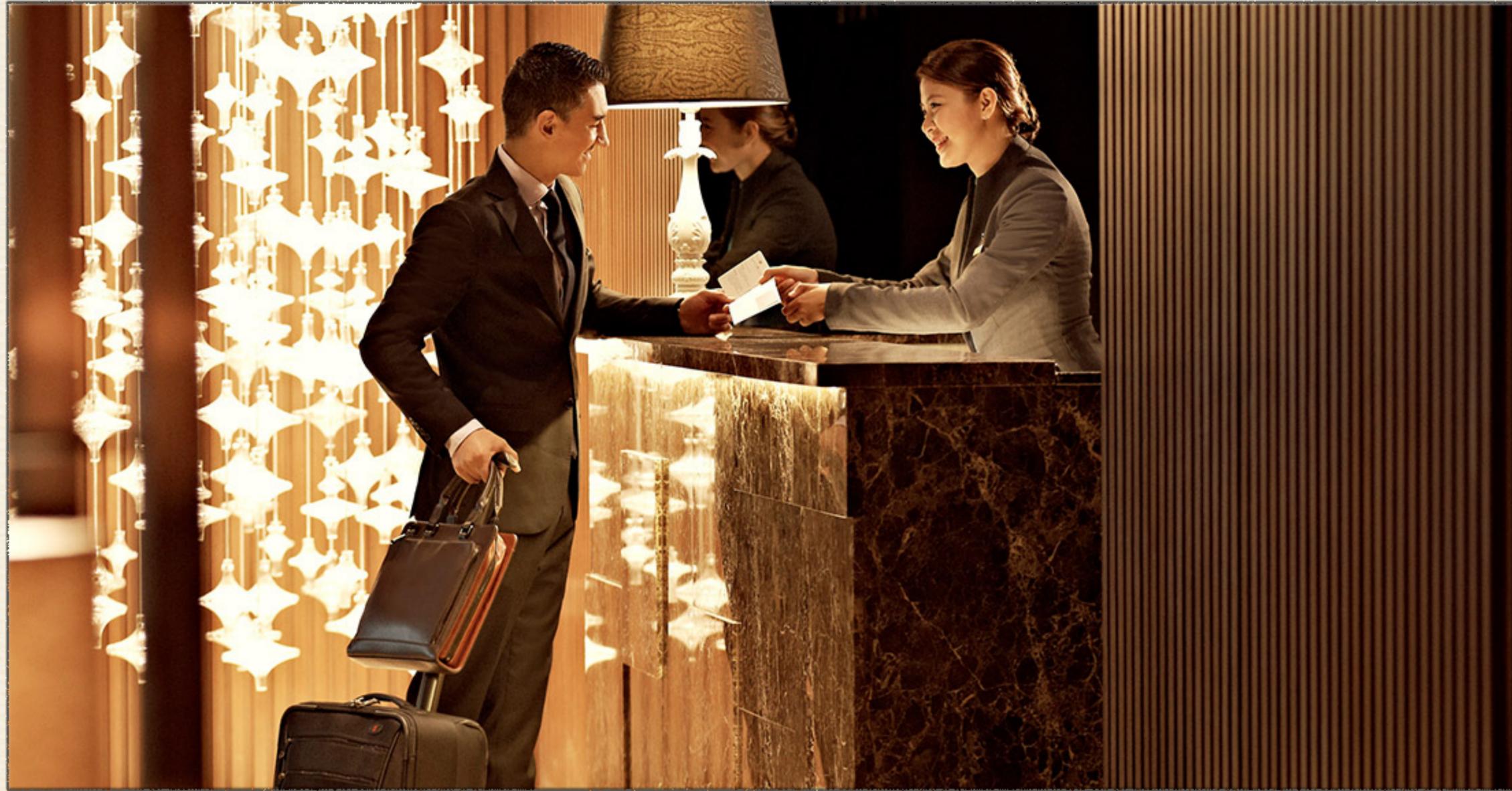


Lively Hope



A hope that affects our life right now





Reserved in Heaven

God has prepared a place for you



Kept by the Power of God

God guards our salvation



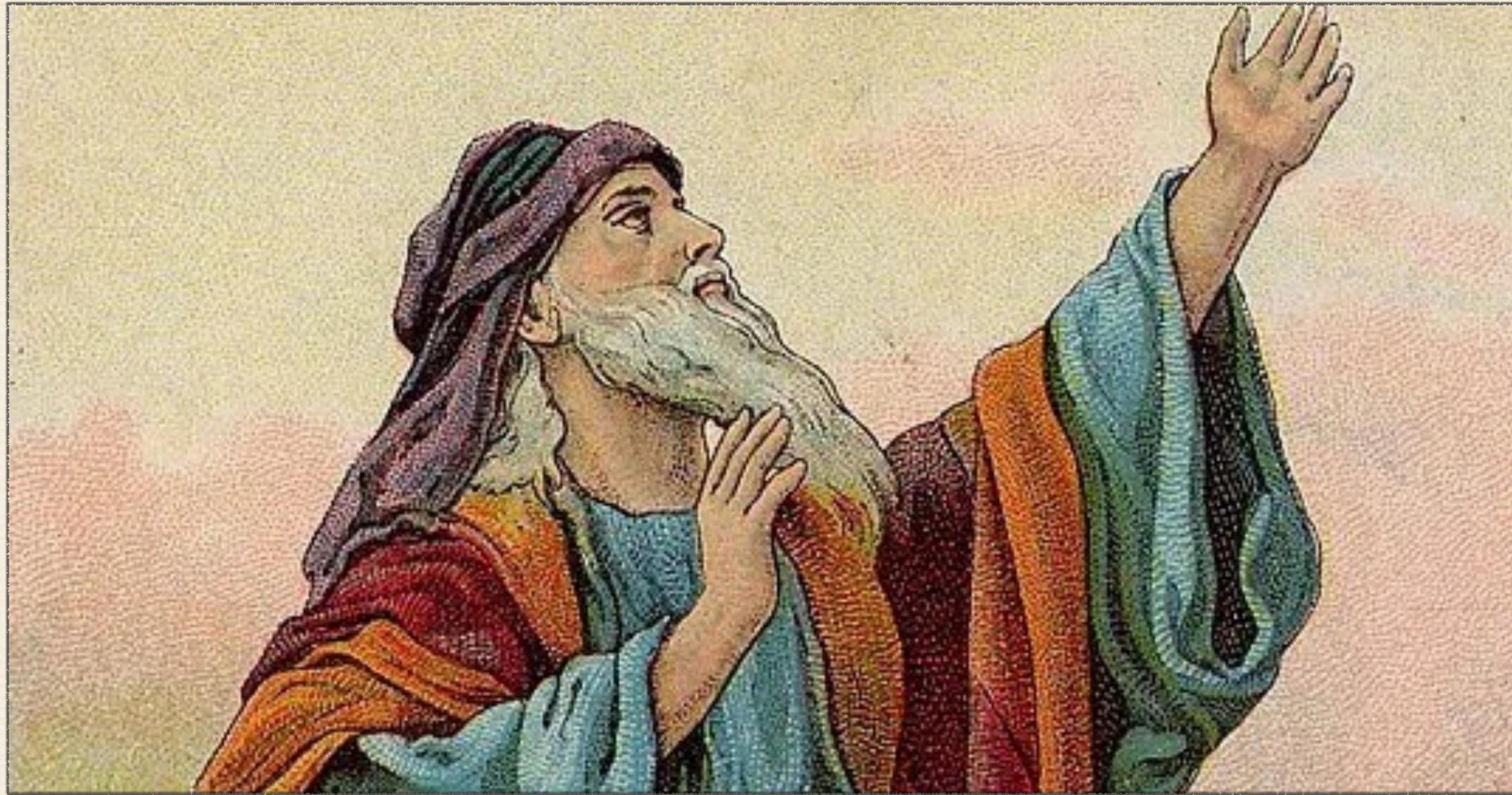
The Trial of Your Faith

God is purifying the believer's faith in this life



The End of Your Faith

Believers' souls will be saved in the Future



Of Which Salvation the Prophets Have Enquired and Searched
Diligently

The OT prophets did not understand what Christ's death and resurrection would provide the Church

How to Gird Up Your Loins

The Art of
MANLINESS



1. The tunic wouldn't allow you to do heavy labor or fight in battle, necessitating the "girding" of one's loins.



2. First, hoist the tunic up so that all the fabric is above your knees. This will give you mobility.



3. Gather all the extra material in front of you, so that the back of the tunic is snug against your backside.



4. Once the excess fabric is gathered in front, pull it underneath and between your legs to your rear. This feels much like a diaper.



5. Gather half of the material in each hand, bringing it back around to the front.



6. Finally, tie your two handfuls of material together, and you're all set for both battle and some hard labor. Go forth, be ye men, and gird up your loins!

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Gird Up the Loins of Your Mind

Mentally Prepare Yourself for the Difficult Circumstances

S E T

A P A R T



But as he which hath called you is holy,

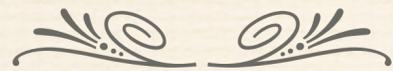
So be ye holy in all manner of conversation



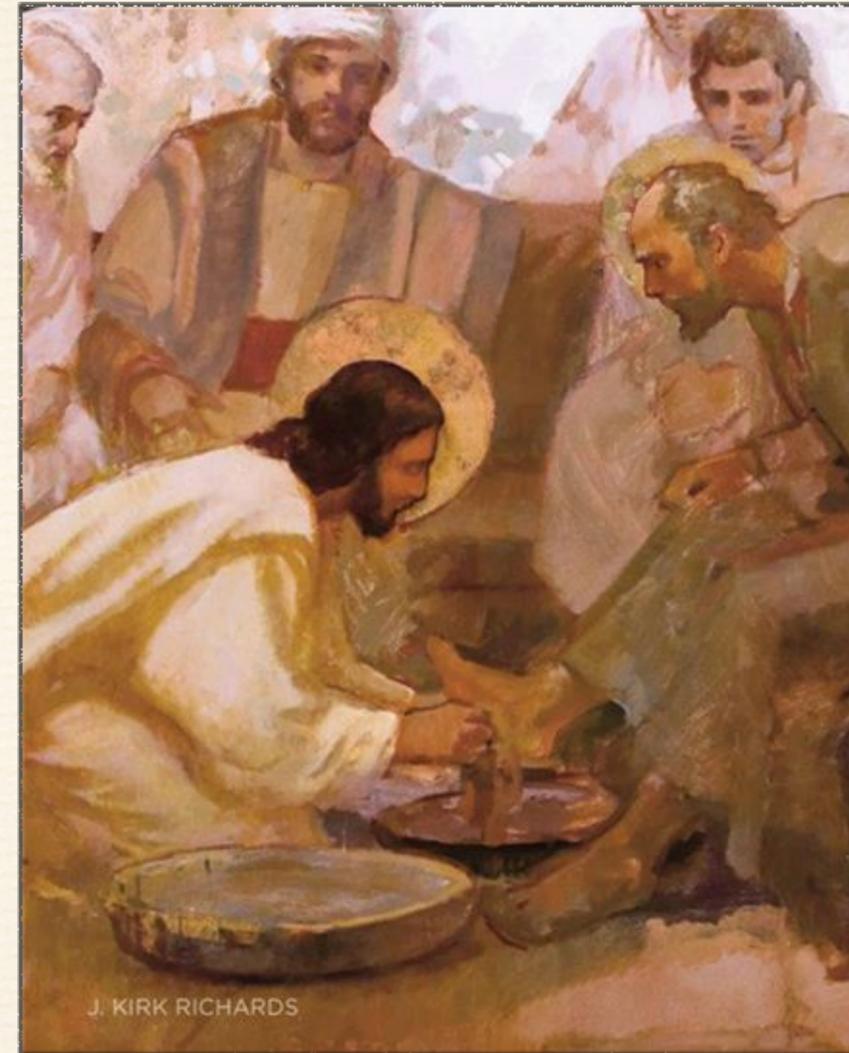
The Lamb Slain Before the Foundation of the World

Christ's Crosswork was not God's Plan B

Seeing ye have purified
your souls in obeying the
truth through the Spirit

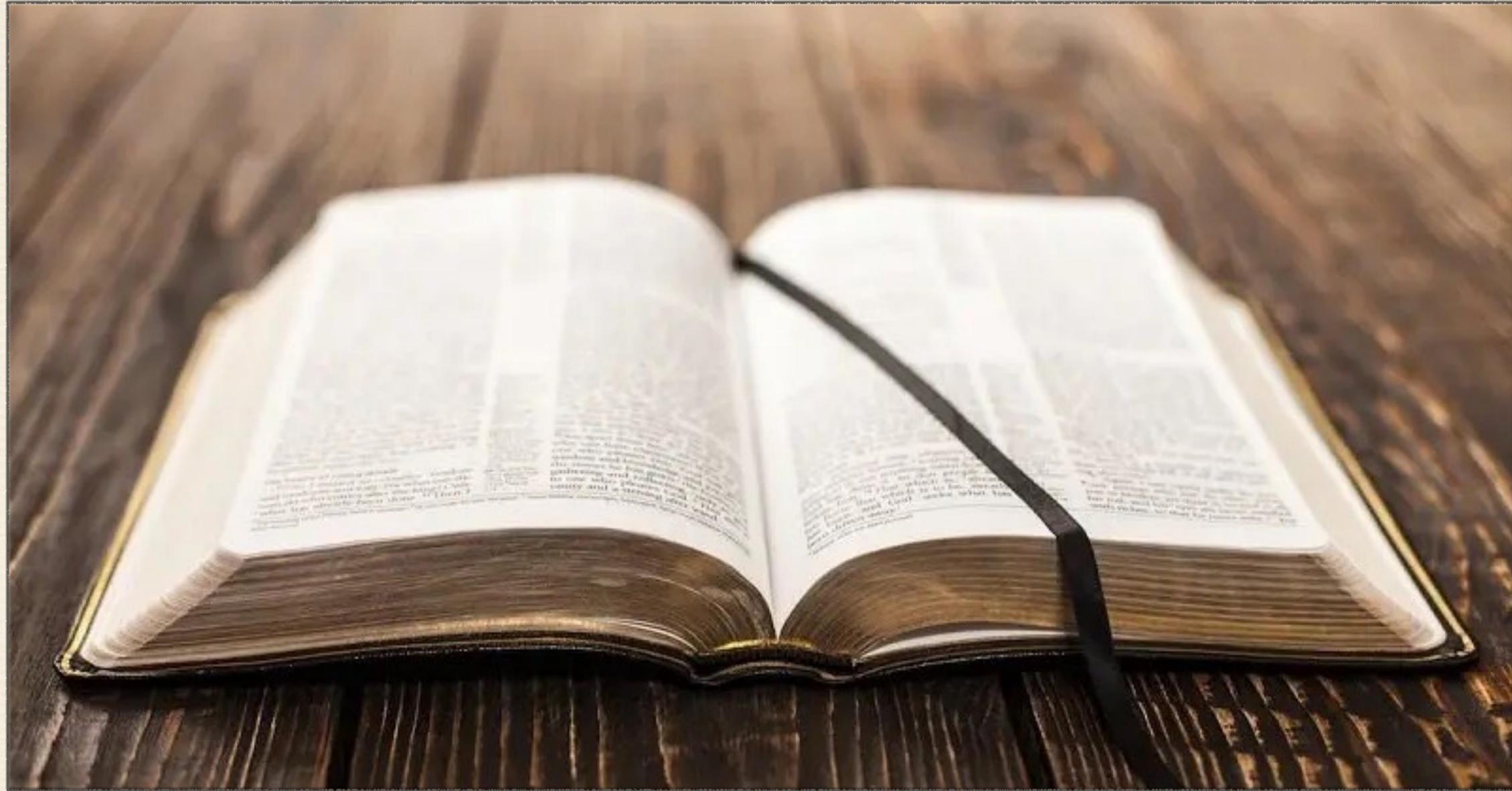


*unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye
love one another with a pure heart fervently:*



A NEW
COMMANDMENT
I GIVE UNTO YOU,
THAT YE
LOVE
ONE ANOTHER
AS I HAVE
LOVED YOU

JOHN 13:34



The Word of God

Which liveth and abideth forever