



ACTS

The Church Empowered
for Mission





CALL TO WORSHIP

*Our soul waits for the Lord;
he is our help and our shield.*

*For our heart is glad in him,
because we trust in his holy name.*

*Let your steadfast love, O Lord, be upon us,
even as we hope in you.*

Psalm 33:20-23

ACTS 27:39-28:16

39 Now when it was day, they did not recognize the land, but they noticed a bay with a beach, on which they planned if possible to run the ship ashore. 40 So they cast off the anchors and left them in the sea, at the same time loosening the ropes that tied the rudders. Then hoisting the foresail to the wind they made for the beach. 41 But striking a reef, they ran the vessel aground. The bow stuck and remained immovable, and the stern was being broken up by the surf.

ACTS 27:39-28:16

42 The soldiers' plan was to kill the prisoners, lest any should swim away and escape. 43 But the centurion, wishing to save Paul, kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and make for the land, 44 and the rest on planks or on pieces of the ship. And so it was that all were brought safely to land.

ACTS 27:39-28:16

28 After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. 2 The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold. 3 When Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and put them on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat and fastened on his hand. 4 When the native people saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer. Though he has escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live."

ACTS 27:39-28:16

5 He, however, shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. 6 They were waiting for him to swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no misfortune come to him, they changed their minds and said that he was a god.

7 Now in the neighborhood of that place were lands belonging to the chief man of the island, named Publius, who received us and entertained us hospitably for three days.

ACTS 27:39-28:16

8 It happened that the father of Publius lay sick with fever and dysentery. And Paul visited him and prayed, and putting his hands on him, healed him. 9 And when this had taken place, the rest of the people on the island who had diseases also came and were cured. 10 They also honored us greatly, and when we were about to sail, they put on board whatever we needed.

ACTS 27:39-28:16

11 After three months we set sail in a ship that had wintered in the island, a ship of Alexandria, with the twin gods as a figurehead. 12 Putting in at Syracuse, we stayed there for three days. 13 And from there we made a circuit and arrived at Rhegium. And after one day a south wind sprang up, and on the second day we came to Puteoli.

ACTS 27:39-28:16

14 There we found brothers and were invited to stay with them for seven days. And so we came to Rome. 15 And the brothers there, when they heard about us, came as far as the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns to meet us. On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage. 16 And when we came into Rome, Paul was allowed to stay by himself, with the soldier who guarded him.



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PAUL'S CONFIDENCE IN GOD KEEPING HIS WORD (ACTS 27:39–28:6)

God's promises do not depend on favorable circumstances

In Acts 27, 276 people are aboard a ship battered by a storm. Hope of survival seems lost.

Yet Paul says in Acts 27:25, *“So take heart, men, for I have faith in God that it will be exactly as I have been told.”*

He does not place his faith in the ship, the captain, or a change in the weather. His confidence is in the God who has spoken.



ACTS

PAUL'S CONFIDENCE IN GOD KEEPING HIS WORD (ACTS 27:39–28:6)

God's promises do not eliminate hardship

Notice the accumulation of hardship: imprisonment, storm, shipwreck, then snakebite. Paul is not exempt from trouble because he belongs to God.

The presence of suffering does not mean the absence of God's faithfulness.



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GOD'S PROMISES TOWARD BUILDING HIS CHURCH (ACTS 28:7-15)

God uses unexpected circumstances for His mission

Paul intended to travel to Rome, not spend three months shipwrecked on Malta.

Luke does not explicitly say that a church was planted there, and we should not claim that he does.

He does show God working through Paul in a place Paul never planned to go.



ACTS

GOD'S PROMISES TOWARD BUILDING HIS CHURCH (ACTS 28:7–15)

Jesus has promised to build His church

Matthew 16:18 Jesus says, *“I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

He does not say He hopes to build it. He calls it His church. Its ultimate success does not rest on leadership talent, a budget, or a program. It rests on Christ's authority and faithfulness.



ACTS

GOD'S PROMISES TOWARD BUILDING HIS CHURCH (ACTS 28:7–15)

God strengthens His church through His people

Acts 28:14–15, believers travel to meet Paul at the Forum of Appius and Three Taverns. Luke says,

“On seeing them, Paul thanked God and took courage.”

The apostle who had faced rulers and survived shipwreck is strengthened by the presence of ordinary Christians.

“There is no power in the universe that can stop God from fulfilling his totally good plans for you.” J. Piper



ACTS

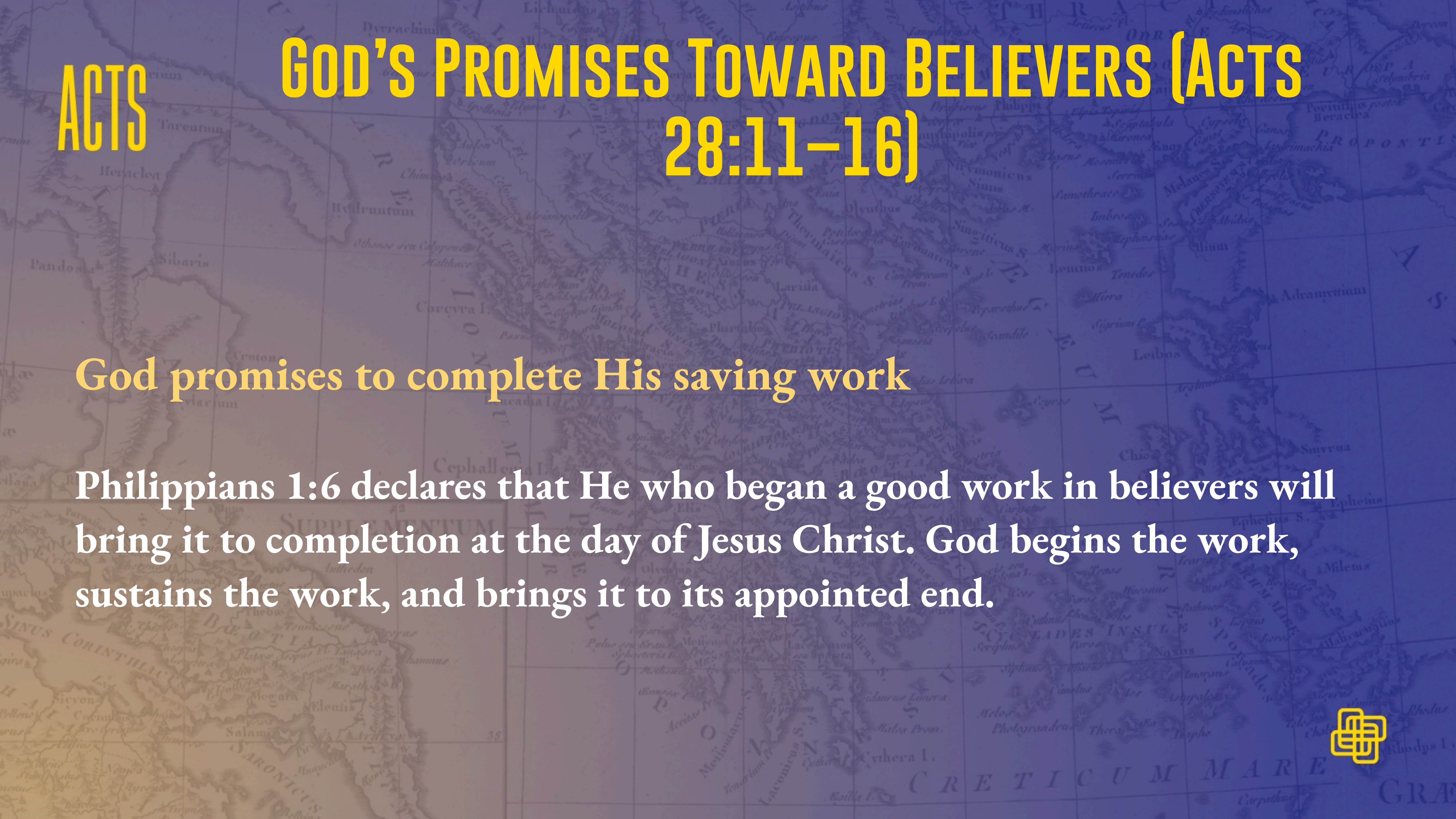
GOD'S PROMISES TOWARD BELIEVERS (ACTS 28:11-16)

God promises His presence, not a trouble-free life

Jesus says in John 16:33 that in the world we will have tribulation, but we should take heart because He has overcome the world.

In Matthew 28:20 He promises to be with His disciples always. Our comfort is not that storms will never come, but that Christ will never abandon His people.



The background is a historical map of the Aegean Sea region, showing islands like Sicily, Crete, and the Cyclades, and cities like Tarentum, Heraclea, and Corinthus. A semi-transparent blue overlay covers the entire map.

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GOD'S PROMISES TOWARD BELIEVERS (ACTS 28:11-16)

God promises to complete His saving work

Philippians 1:6 declares that He who began a good work in believers will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. God begins the work, sustains the work, and brings it to its appointed end.



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GOD'S PROMISES TOWARD BELIEVERS (ACTS 28:11-16)

Every saving promise finds its Yes in Jesus

2 Corinthians 1:20 tells us that *all the promises of God find their Yes in Christ.*

Paul survived a storm because God intended him to testify in Rome.

Jesus willingly entered suffering and death to accomplish the gospel itself.

At the cross it appeared that hope had been defeated. But on the third day Jesus rose.

The resurrection announces that even death cannot overturn God's saving word.

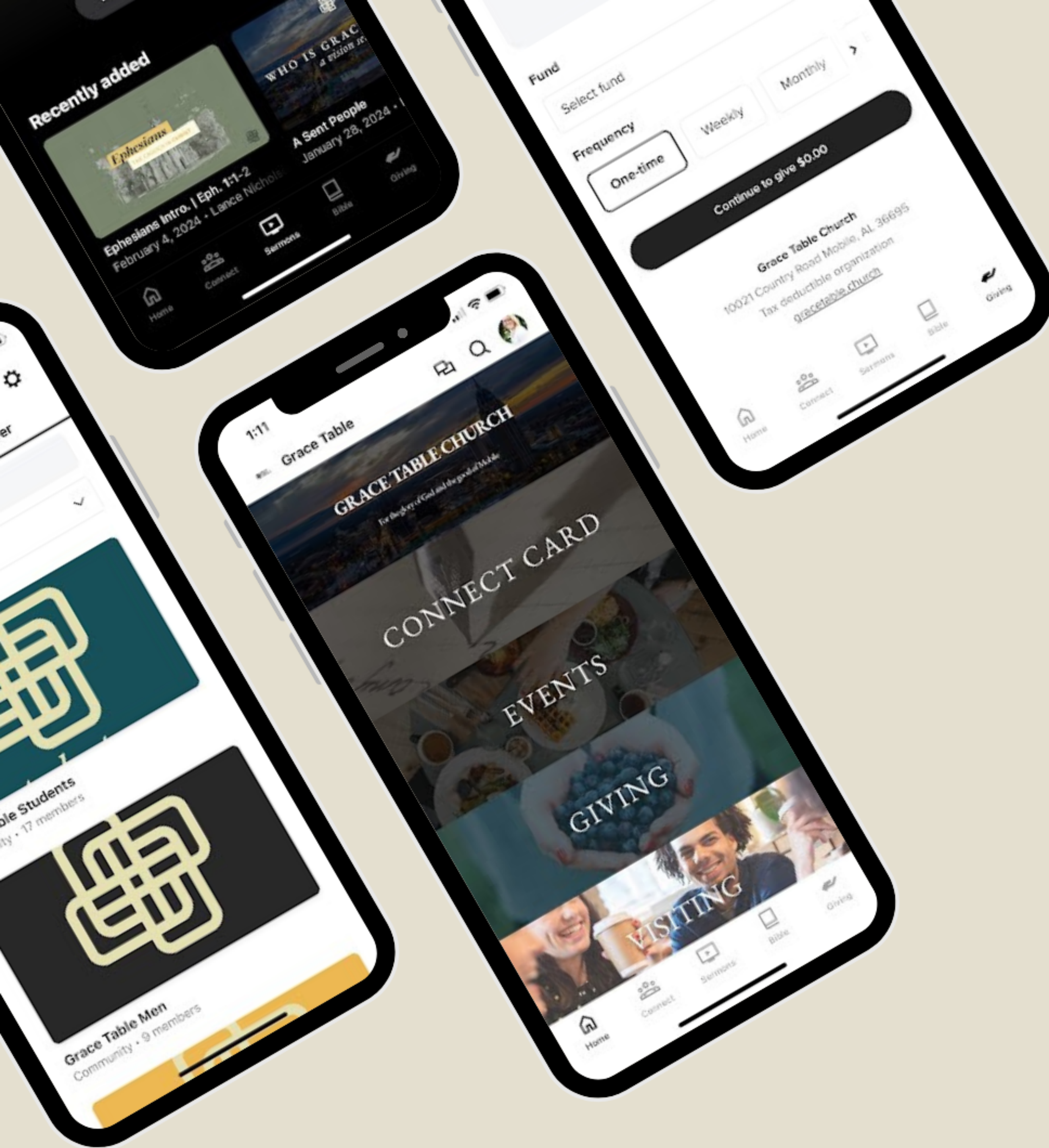




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BENEDICTION

Leader:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

-2 Corinthians 13:14

People:

And also with you.