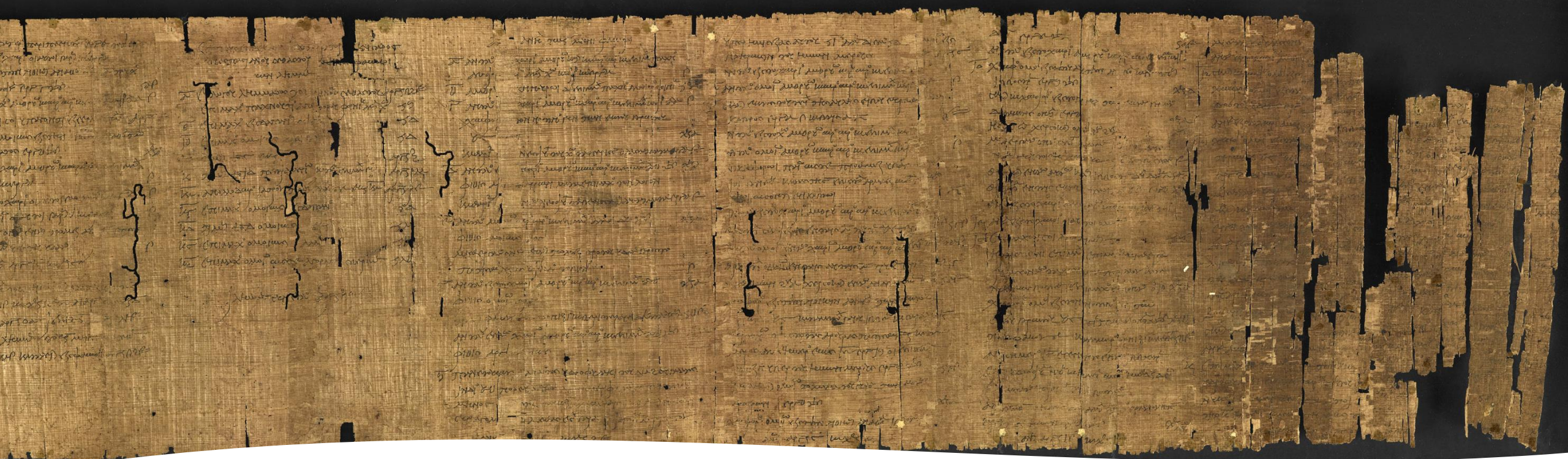
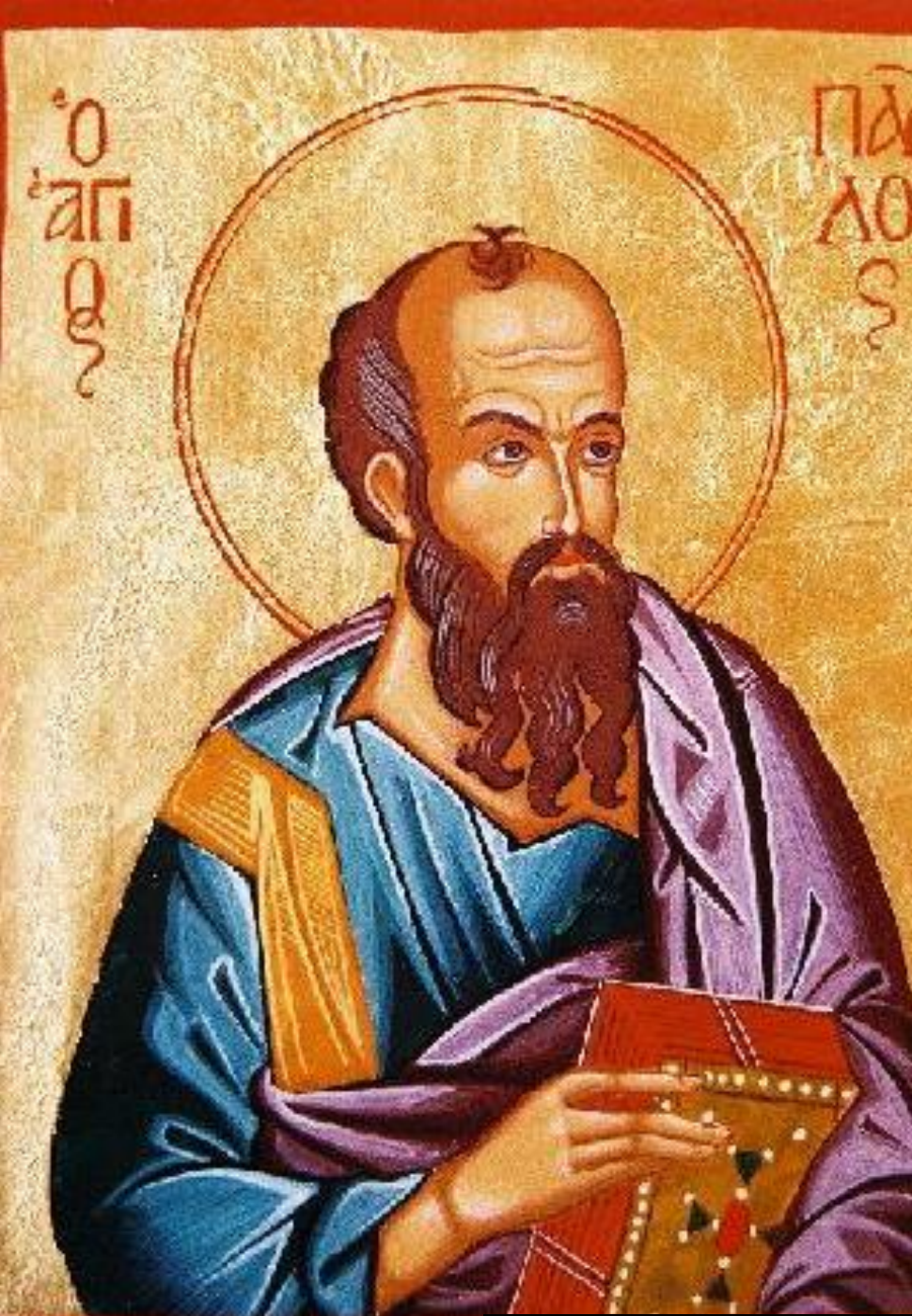




TRANSFORMED LIFE



“Now in response to the matters you wrote about...” (1 Corinthians 7:1a)



“A wife is bound as long as her husband is living. But if her husband dies, she is free to be married to anyone she wants – only in the Lord. But she is happier if she remains as she is, in my opinion. And I think that I also have the Spirit of God.”

- 1 Corinthians 7:39-40



TRANSFORMED LIFE

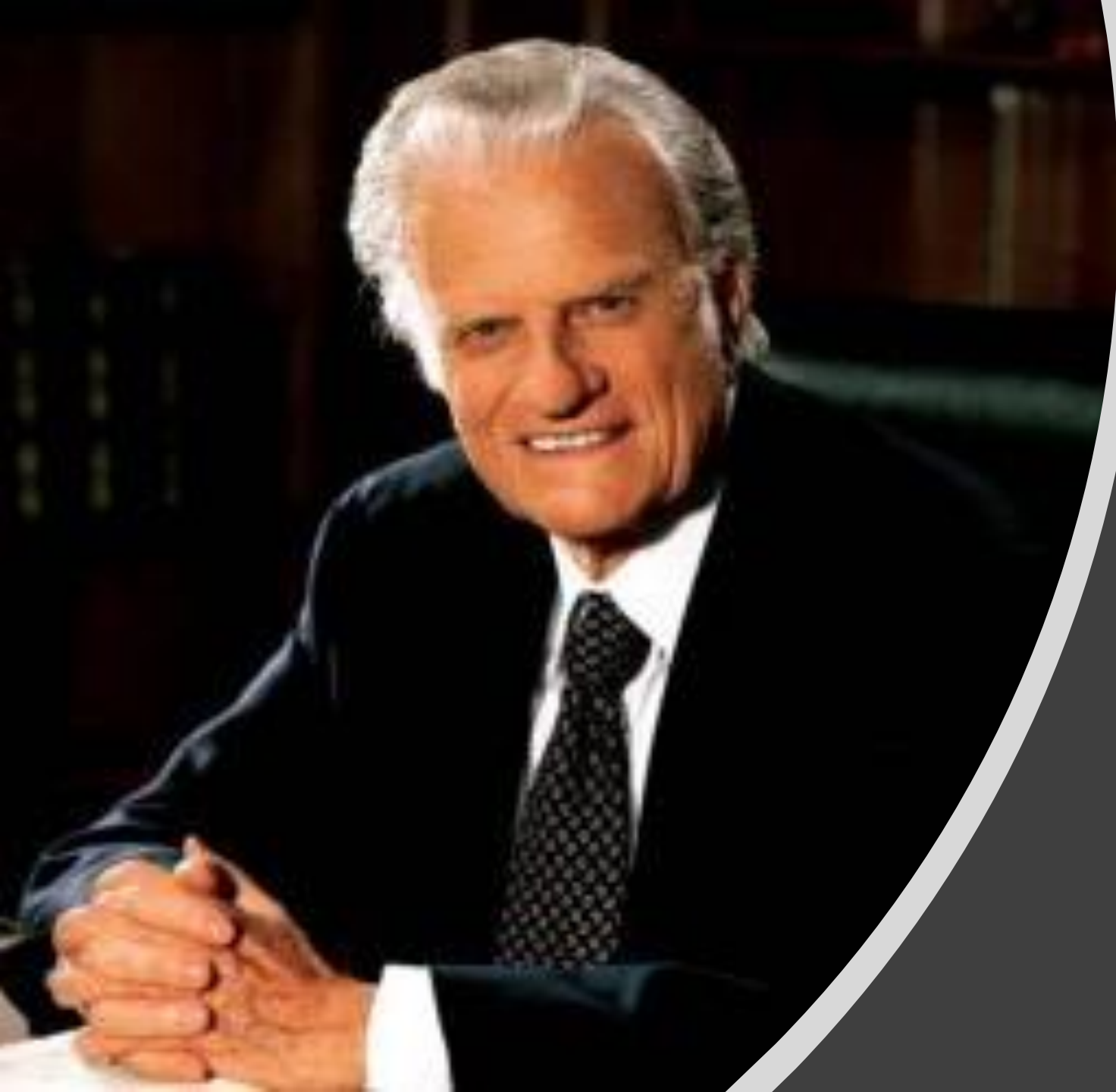
1. Widows Serving and Serving Widows

“Pure and undefiled religion before God the Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained from the world.”

James 1:27

“God is His holy dwelling is a father of the fatherless and a champion of widows. God provides homes for those who are deserted. He leads out the prisoners to prosperity, but the rebellious live in a scorched land.”

Psalm 68:5-6



“The word *decease* literally means ‘exodus’ or ‘going out’. The imagery is that of the children of Israel leaving Egypt and their former life of bondage, slavery, and hardship for the Promised Land. So death to the Christian is an exodus from the limitations, the burdens, and the bondage of this life.”

-Billy Graham



TRANSFORMED LIFE

2. Learning from Widows in the Old Testament

“Naomi’s husband Elimelech died, and she was left with her two sons. Her sons took Moabite women as their wives: one was named Orpah and the second was named Ruth. After they lived in Moab about ten years, both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two children and without her husband.”

Ruth 1:3-5



“The suffering that you have now is just the black velvet upon which the diamond of God’s glory is going to be revealed.”

- Charles H. Spurgeon



“Return home,
my daughters.
Why do you
want to go with
me?”

Ruth 1:11
despondent



“Look, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods. Follow your sister-in-law.”

Ruth 1:15
Defeated

“But Ruth replied, ‘Don’t plead with me to abandon you or to return and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the Lord punish me, and do so severely, if anything but death separates you and me.’”

Ruth 1:16-17
Dedicated

“The Bible never allows us to waste time over the departed. It does not mean that the fact of human grief is ignored, but the worship of reminiscence is never allowed.”

Oswald Chambers



“We do not want you to be grieved, brothers and sisters, concerning those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, in the same way, through Jesus, God will bring with him those that have fallen asleep.”
1 Thessalonians 4:13-14



**BE JOYFUL IN HOPE,
PATIENT IN AFFLICTION,
FAITHFUL IN PRAYER.**

ROMANS 12:12

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TRANSFORMED LIFE

3. New Testament Church, Widows, & The Gospel

“In those days, as the disciples were increasing in number, there arose a complaint by the Hellenistic Jews against the Hebraic Jews that their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution”

Acts 6:1



“So they
chose men
(good
reputation,
full of the
Spirit and
Wisdom)”

Acts 6:5b

“So the Word of God spread, the disciples in Jerusalem increased greatly in number, and a large group of priests became obedient to the faith.”

Acts 6:7

A 3D rendering of a puzzle with one red piece standing out among many grey pieces. The red piece is in the center, and the grey pieces are arranged around it, creating a sense of depth and focus. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the puzzle pieces.

Who Do You Know?

How Can You Serve?