

New Testament Survey

NTS.6

"Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men."

Paul's Third Missionary Journey / Acts 18:23 – 21:15





Logistics & Learning Objectives:

1. Learning Objectives. Participants will gain a high level understanding of:
 - a. Paul's Third Missionary Journey
 - b. Gnosticism and its influence today
 - c. Paul's Letter to the Colossians
 - d. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians
2. For more information please visit www.studioscriptura.com
3. We'd love to get an email, a couple of sentences, on how your finding NTS of value. walter@studioscriptura.com

The New Testament Survey

seeks to presents Christianity's core tenets and doctrines for all that are interested in learning about Christianity. We seek to provide tools for believers to build a strong foundation and thereby help them bolster their faith in Christ. We seek to be purposeful and diligent in teaching the foundations of our beliefs, so we can earnestly contend for our faith.



Key Sources:

1. **New King James Version. 1988. Nashville: Holman Bible Publishers.**



Themes



Messiah & Fulfillment

"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins. So all this was done that it might be **fulfilled** which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name **Immanuel**, which is translated, 'God with us.'" **Matthew 1:21-23**

Words & Works of Jesus

"And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen." **John 21:25**

"The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to *do* and *teach*." **Acts 1:1**



The Kingdom

"For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the **kingdom of heaven**." **Matthew 5:20** "For indeed, the **kingdom of God** is within you." **Luke 17:21(b)** "Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The **kingdoms** of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!" **Revelation 11:15**





Themes *(continued)*



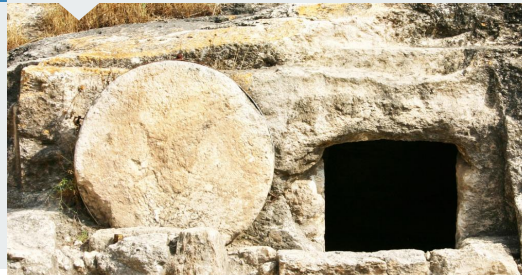
The Cross

"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him." **Romans 5:8-9** "For the preaching of the cross is foolishness to those who perish; but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God." **1 Corinthians 1:18** "Then the offense of the cross has ceased." **Galatians 5:11b**

Empty Tomb

"and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." **Romans 1:4**

"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable." **1 Corinthians 15:19**



Fishers of Men

"Then He said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." **Matthew 4:19**

"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. **Matthew 28:19-20**

Themes *(continued)*



Salvation by Grace through Faith

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them." **Ephesians 2:8-10**

Warning to avoid False Teachers

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints. For certain men have crept in unnoticed, who long ago were marked out for this condemnation, ungodly men, who turn the grace of our God into lewdness and deny the only Lord [b]God and our Lord Jesus Christ." **Jude 3-4**



HIS Return

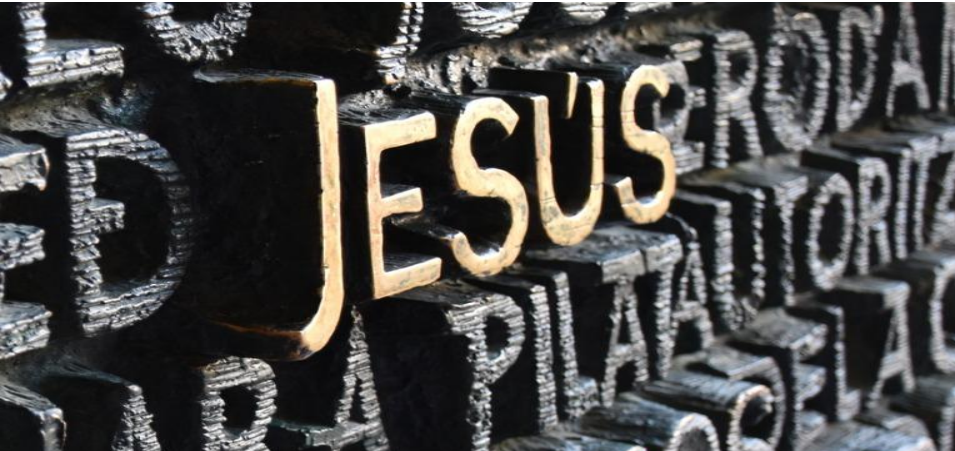
"And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, who also said, 'Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.'" **Acts 1:10-11**




Themes *(continued)*

The Preeminence of Christ

“He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. **Colossians 1:15-18**





c. 4 BC	Jesus' Birth	c. 52 AD	3rd Missionary Journey 
c. 28 - 30 AD	Jesus' Ministry	c. 50 - 95 AD	Gospels written (or c. 65 AD?)
c. 30 - 32 AD	Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension	c. 62 AD	Journey to Rome
c. 34 AD	Paul's Conversion	c. 90 AD	John's Epistles
c. 48 AD	1st Missionary Journey	c. 95 AD	John on Patmos / The Book of Revelation
c. 49 AD	2nd Missionary Journey	?	Jesus' Return



Acts 20:6-7 But we sailed away from Philippi after the Days of Unleavened Bread, and in five days joined them at Troas, where we stayed seven days. 7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

Acts 19:9b-10 "Reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus."
Acts 19:29 "The whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theater having seized Paul's travel companions."

Acts 20:17 From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called for the elders of the church.
Acts 20:38 "Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship."

Acts 21:13-14 "Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus. So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done."
Acts 21:31 "Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar."

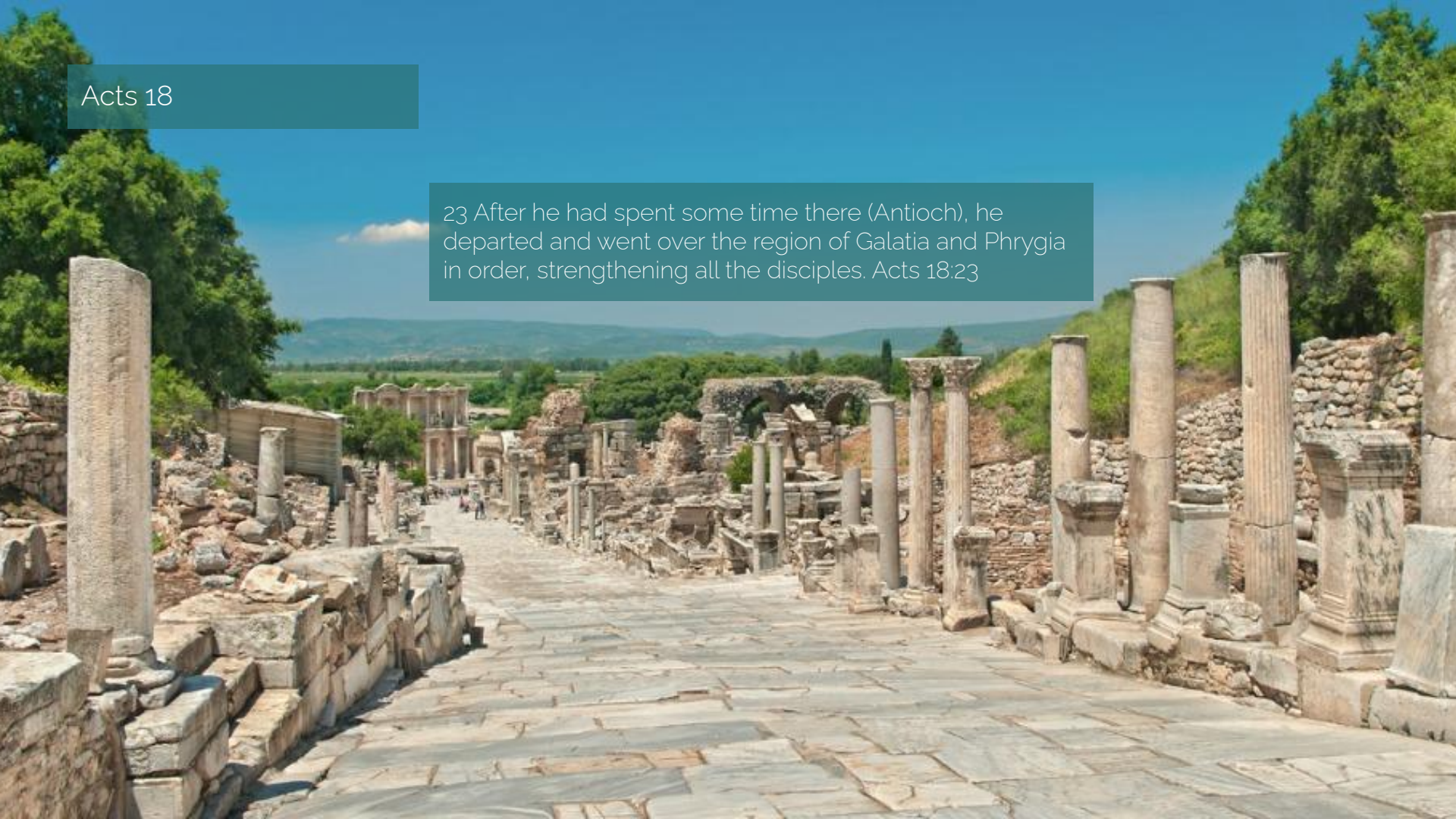
Col 1:4a "Since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus"
Col 4:16 "Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea."

● The Seven Churches addressed by John
— Route of the Via Maris

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Acts 18

23 After he had spent some time there (Antioch), he departed and went over the region of Galatia and Phrygia in order, strengthening all the disciples. Acts 18:23





Acts 19 "Commotion about the Way"

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples. Acts 19:1

Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." Acts 19:4

But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning (διαλεγόμενος - giving and receiving information with someone to reach deeper understanding) daily in the school of Tyrannus. And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks. Acts 19:9-10

Also, many of those who had practiced magic brought their books together and burned them in the sight of all. And they counted up the value of them, and it totaled fifty thousand pieces of silver. So the word of the Lord grew mightily and prevailed. Acts 19:19-20

And about that time there arose a **great commotion about the Way**. Acts 19:23



Acts 19 "Commotion about the way" *(continued)*

Moreover you see and hear that not only at Ephesus, but throughout almost all Asia, this Paul has persuaded and turned away many people, saying that they are not gods which are made with hands. So not only is this trade of ours in danger of falling into disrepute, but also the temple of the great goddess Diana may be despised and her magnificence destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship." Acts 19:26-27

Then some of the officials of Asia, who were his friends, sent to him pleading that he would not venture into the theater. Some therefore cried one thing and some another, for the assembly was confused, and most of them did not know why they had come together. Acts 19:31-32

But when they found out that he was a Jew, all with one voice cried out for about two hours, "Great is Diana of the Ephesians!" Acts 19:34

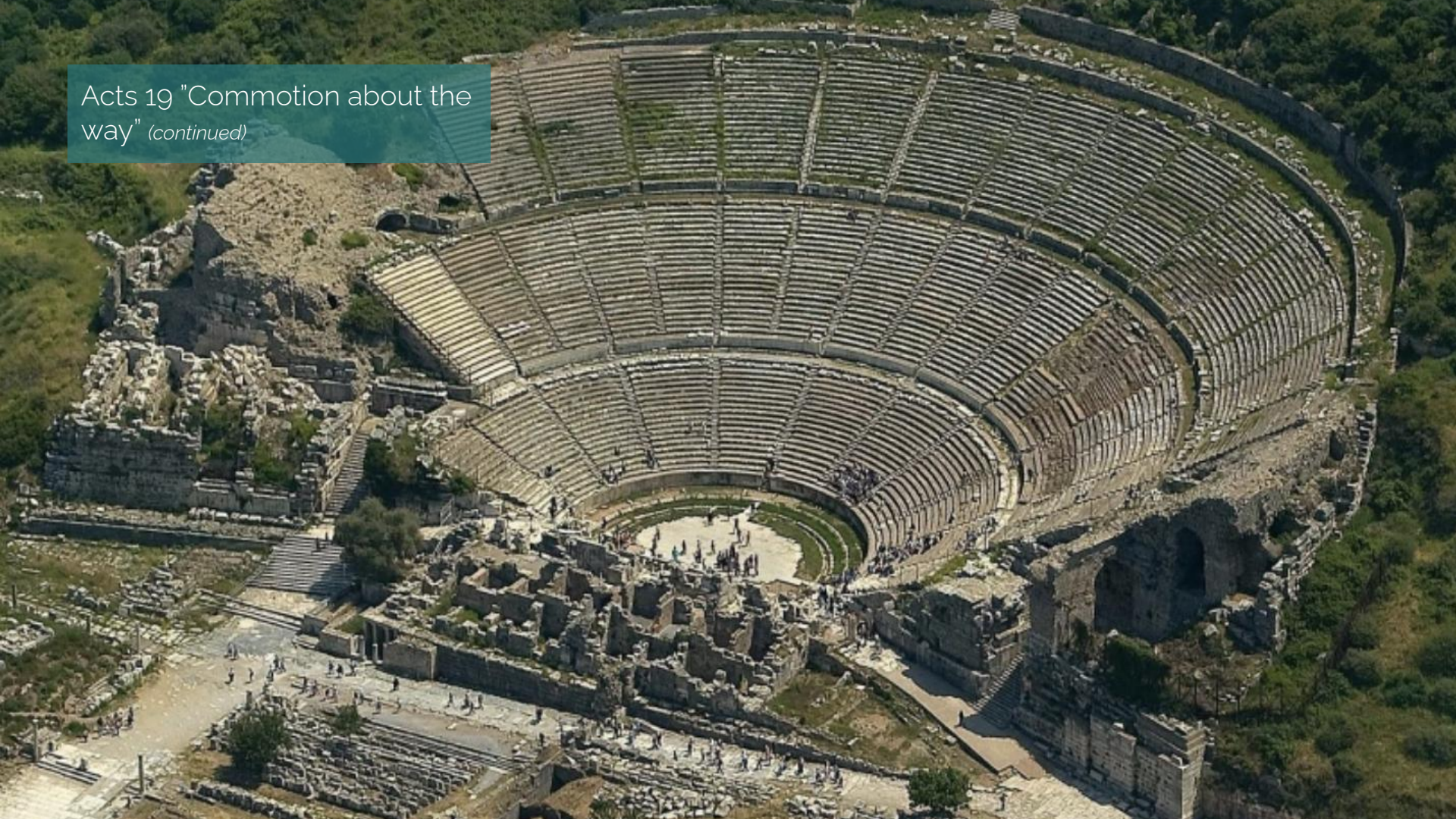
Therefore, if Demetrius and his fellow craftsmen have a case against anyone, the courts are open and there are proconsuls. Let them bring charges against one another. Acts 19:38

For we are in danger of being called in question for today's uproar, there being no reason which we may give to account for this disorderly gathering." Acts 19:40

Acts 19 "Commmotion about the
way" *(continued)*



Acts 19 "Commotion about the
way" *(continued)*



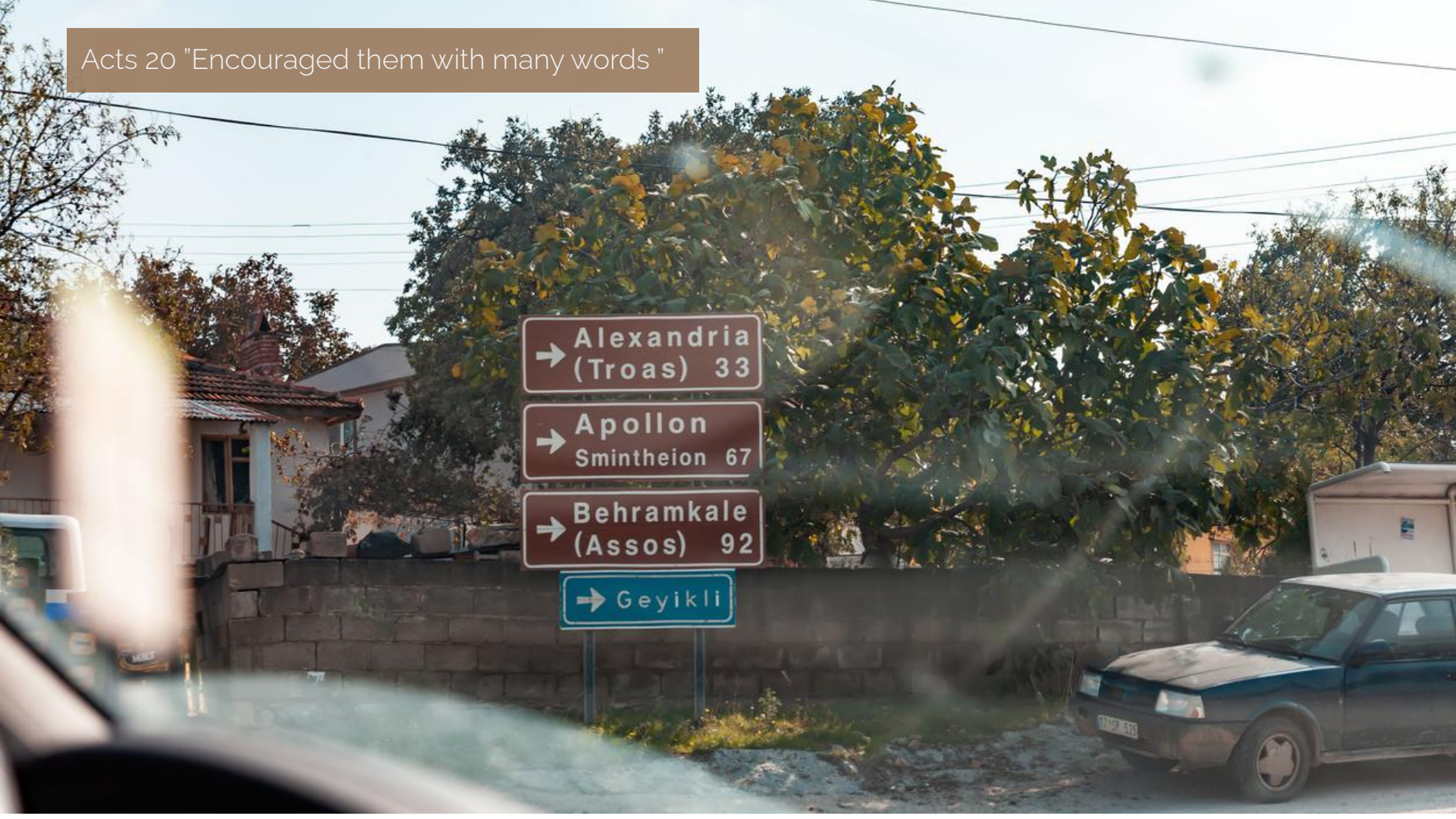
Acts 20 "Encouraged them with many words "

→ Alexandria
(Troas) 33

→ Apollon
Smintheion 67

→ Behramkale
(Assos) 92

→ Geyikli



Alexandria Troas



Alexandria Troas



Acts 20 "Encouraged them with many words "
(continued)

After the uproar had ceased, Paul called the disciples to himself, embraced them, and departed to go to Macedonia. Now when he had gone over that region and encouraged them with many words, he came to Greece Acts 20:1-2

And Sopater of Berea accompanied him to Asia—also Aristarchus and Secundus of the Thessalonians, and Gaius of Derbe, and Timothy, and Tychicus and Trophimus of Asia. These men, going ahead, waited for us at **Troas**. Acts 20:4-5

And in a window sat a certain young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep. He was overcome by sleep; and as Paul continued speaking, he fell down from the third story and was taken up dead. But Paul went down, fell on him, and embracing him said, "Do not trouble yourselves, for his life is in him." Acts 20:9-10

Acts 20 "Encouraged them with many words "
(continued)

We sailed from there, and the next day came opposite Chios. The following day we arrived at Samos and stayed at Trogyllium. The next day we came to **Miletus**. For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost. Acts 20:15-16



Acts 20 "Encouraged them with many words "

(continued)

17 From Miletus he sent to **Ephesus** and called for the elders of the church. Acts 20:17

18 And when they had come to him, he said to them: "You know, from the first day that I came to Asia, in **what manner I always lived among you**, 19 serving the Lord with all humility, with many tears and trials which happened to me by the plotting of the Jews; 20 how I kept back nothing that was helpful, but proclaimed it to you, and taught you publicly and from house to house, 21 testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, **repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ**. 22 And see, now I go bound in the spirit to Jerusalem, not knowing the things that will happen to me there, 23 except that the Holy Spirit testifies in every city, saying that chains and tribulations await me. 24 But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and **the ministry which I received** from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God.

25 "And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, will see my face no more. 26 Therefore I testify to you this day that I am **innocent of the blood of all men**. 27 For I have not shunned to declare to you **the whole counsel of God**. 28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which **He purchased with His own blood**. 29 For I know this, that after my departure **savage wolves will come in** among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also from among yourselves **men will rise up, speaking perverse things**, to draw away the disciples after themselves. 31 Therefore watch, and remember that for three years I did not cease to warn everyone night and day with tears.

32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified. 33 I have coveted no one's silver or gold or apparel. 34 Yes, you yourselves know that **these hands have provided for my necessities**, and for those who were with me. 35 I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that **you must support the weak**. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.' "

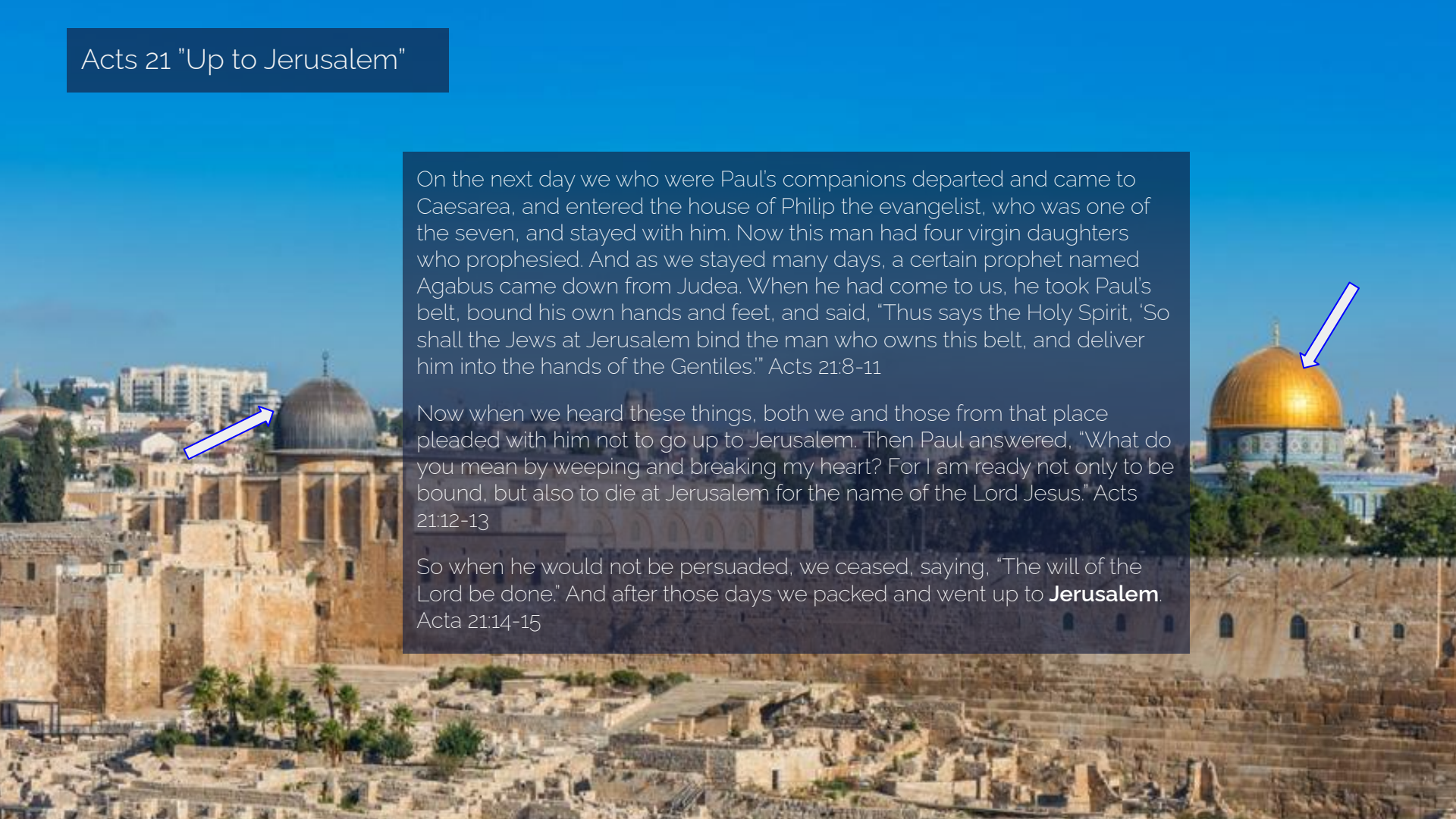
36 And when he had said these things, he knelt down and prayed with them all. 37 Then they all wept freely, and fell on Paul's neck and kissed him, 38 sorrowing most of all for the words which he spoke, that they would see his face no more. And they accompanied him to the ship. Acts 20:18-37

Acts 21 "Up to Jerusalem"

On the next day we who were Paul's companions departed and came to Caesarea, and entered the house of Philip the evangelist, who was one of the seven, and stayed with him. Now this man had four virgin daughters who prophesied. And as we stayed many days, a certain prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. When he had come to us, he took Paul's belt, bound his own hands and feet, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'So shall the Jews at Jerusalem bind the man who owns this belt, and deliver him into the hands of the Gentiles.'" Acts 21:8-11

Now when we heard these things, both we and those from that place pleaded with him not to go up to Jerusalem. Then Paul answered, "What do you mean by weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound, but also to die at Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Acts 21:12-13

So when he would not be persuaded, we ceased, saying, "The will of the Lord be done." And after those days we packed and went up to **Jerusalem**. Acta 21:14-15



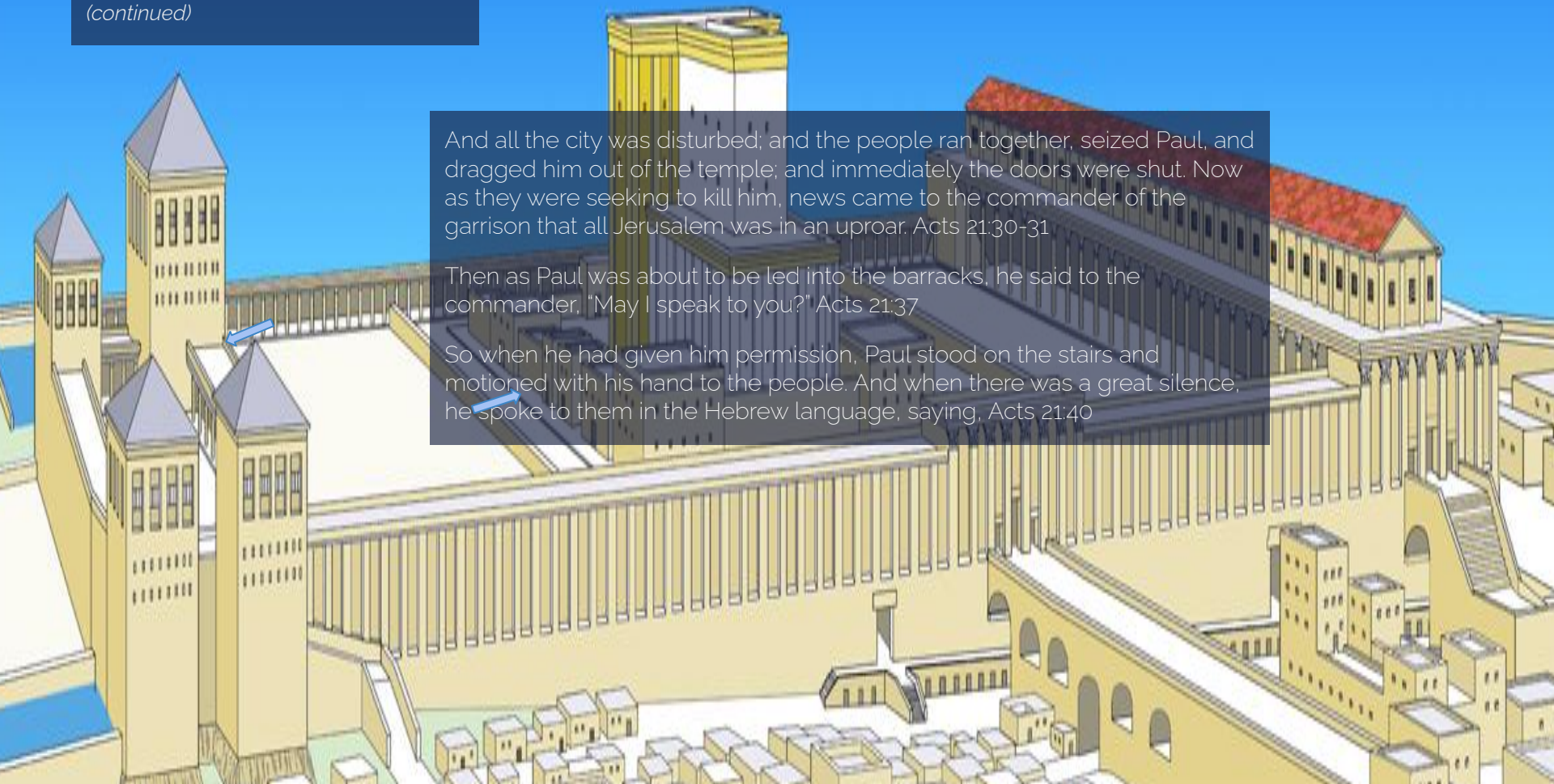
Acts 21 "Up to Jerusalem"

(continued)

And all the city was disturbed; and the people ran together, seized Paul, and dragged him out of the temple; and immediately the doors were shut. Now as they were seeking to kill him, news came to the commander of the garrison that all Jerusalem was in an uproar. Acts 21:30-31

Then as Paul was about to be led into the barracks, he said to the commander, "May I speak to you?" Acts 21:37

So when he had given him permission, Paul stood on the stairs and motioned with his hand to the people. And when there was a great silence, he spoke to them in the Hebrew language, saying, Acts 21:40



The Letter of Paul to the EPHESIANS



SPCR

Salvation
Prayer
Church
Reconciliation

... of Redemption
... of Christ Jesus
... at Ephesus
... Christ Jesus:
... from God
... Christ.
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Ephesians

There is a certain solemnity about the letter and the absence of specifics shows that it is devoted to a general articulation of what is profitable for believers. There is no specific false teaching against which Ephesians is aimed. Might have been an encyclical.

The letter's emphasis on the church is unmistakable; Ephesians clearly tells us more about the church than do other writings by Paul.

Christ's saving work is stressed in the opening, a work that has significant implications for Christology. This emphasis persists throughout the letter; it is plain everywhere that who Christ is and what He does is at the heart of the of the Christian message.

The importance of prayer and the cosmic conflict against "principalities and powers," for which only the whole armor of God is adequate, depicts a world of dangerous opponents, that Christians face.

An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo <https://a.co/bKgJ4Ho>



Ephesians

A considerable section of the letter is given over to an emphasis on the importance of lives lived in conformity with the salvation that God has given believers. The kind of life the Gentiles live is contrasted with the new life believers live - one of reconciliation to God and to others.

In this letter we cannot miss the supreme place of God, who brings salvation despite the unworthiness of sinners. Nor can we overlook the greatness of Christ or the fact that the church, his body, occupies an important place in God's working out of His great purpose.

An Introduction to the New Testament by D. A. Carson, Douglas J. Moo <https://a.co/bKgJ4Ho>



Ephesians

"The city was famous in its day for the nearby Temple of Artemis (completed around 550 BC), which has been designated one of the *Seven Wonders of the Ancient World*.

Its many monumental buildings included the Library of Celsus and a theatre capable of holding 24,000 spectators.

Ephesus was one of the larger cities of Roman Asia Minor.



Ephesians 1

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which He made us accepted in the Beloved. Ephesians 1:3-6

In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory. Ephesians 1:13-14

Therefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love for all the saints, do not cease to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers: Ephesians 1:15-16

And what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, Ephesians 1:19-20

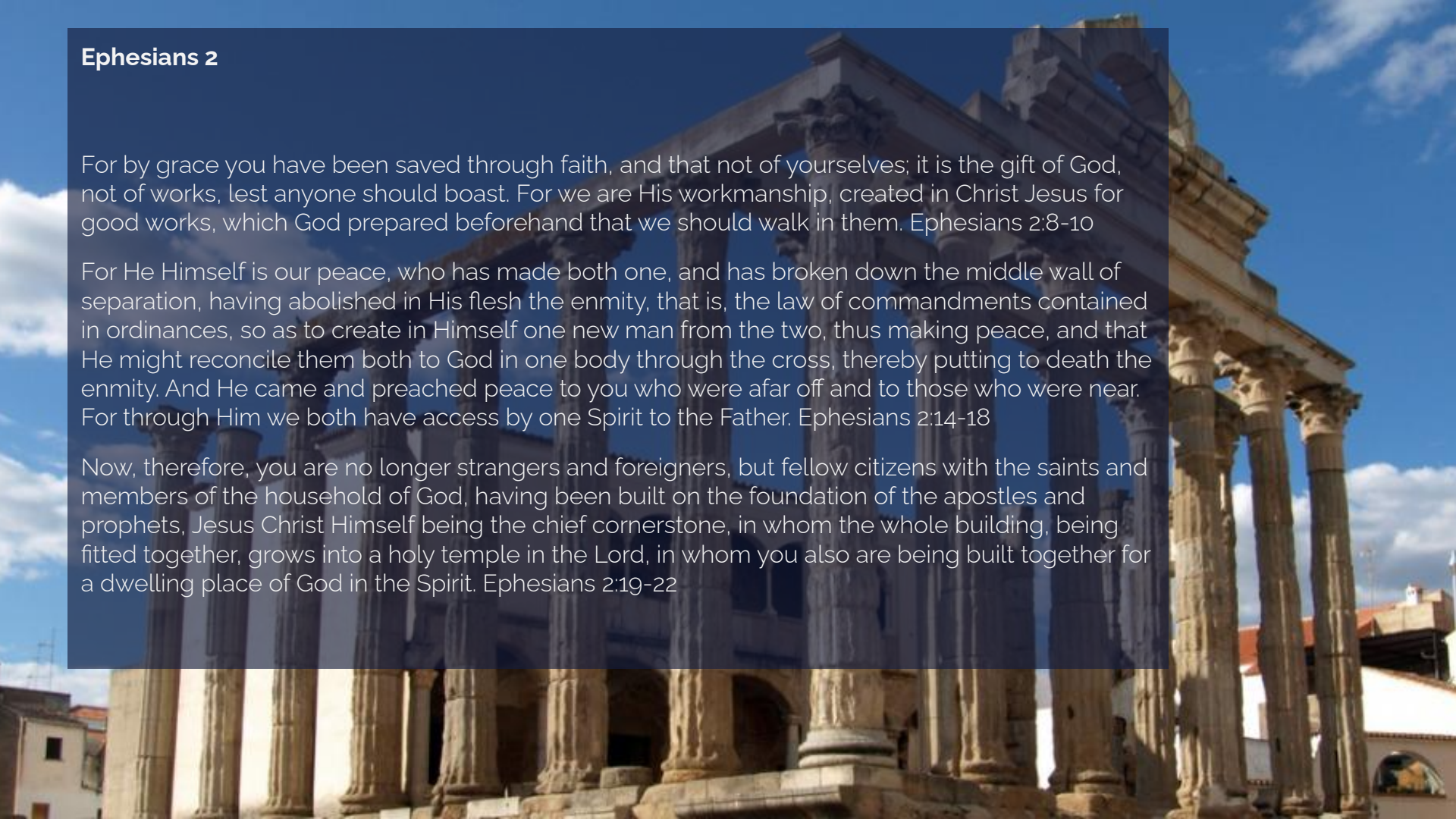
And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, Ephesians 1:22

Ephesians 2

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them. Ephesians 2:8-10

For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father. Ephesians 2:14-18

Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone, in whom the whole building, being fitted together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a dwelling place of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22





Ephesians 3

That the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel, Ephesians 3:6

For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, Ephesians 3:14-15

That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height— to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God. Ephesians 3:16-19

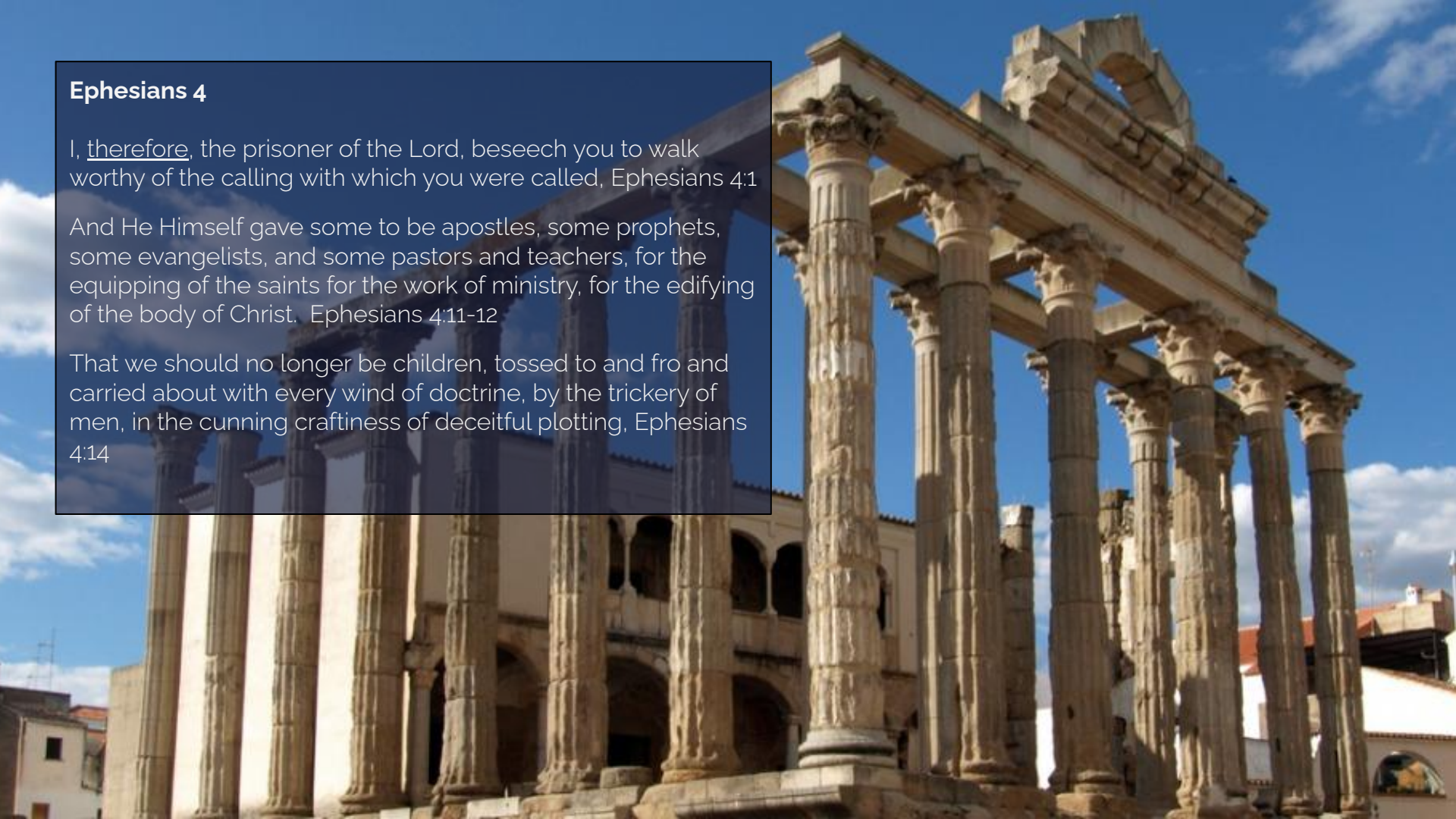
Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen. Ephesians 3:20-21

Ephesians 4

I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, Ephesians 4:1

And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. Ephesians 4:11-12

That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, Ephesians 4:14





Ephesians 5

Therefore be imitators of God as dear children. And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma. Ephesians 5:1-2

Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks. Ephesians 5:4

For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. Ephesians 5:31-32



Ephesians 6

"And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him." Ephesians 6:9

For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Ephesians 6:12-13

Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints. Ephesians 6:14-18

Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen. Ephesians 6:24

The Letter of Paul to the
COLOSSIANS

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2Lit the
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Mound (tel) where ancient Colossae was located



- ❑ Colossians was written around 60 AD, from a Roman prison at about the same time as Ephesians and Philemon were written. Geisler
- ❑ In every generation Christians are tempted to go along with the philosophy of the times. It is never a comfortable thing to be out of step with what our community holds to be the best thinking of the day. Colossians warns us of that temptation.. Moo
- ❑ Paul's purpose in writing to the Colossians is to warn them against the temptation of sliding into the heresy of Gnosticism.
- ❑ Paul is warning about a hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world
- ❑ Paul also emphasizes the preeminence of Christ in this letter.
- ❑ As other letters, Paul begins with rich theology and concludes with practical application to the Colossians

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- ❑ The heresy present in Colossians has been with us for 2000 years (and longer); the desire for an additional source of truth, to diminish the person of Christ. So Paul stresses the preeminence of Christ.
 - ❑ The heresy also Includes aspects of the worship of angels - a pagan feature.
 - ❑ We must guard against those who flaunt an exclusivist air of secrecy and superiority - more about this in a few slides on Gnosticism.
 - ❑ Paul stresses the all-inclusiveness and global aspect of the gospel.

Gnosticism

Gnosticism

Gnosticism

- ❑ “Gnosticism, as an intellectual product, is grounded firmly in the general human act of reflecting on existence.” Edward Moore Email: emoore@theandros.com, St. Elias School of Orthodox Theology
- ❑ Gnosticism teaches: “We, as human beings persist in a realm of becoming. We are not responsible for, or to, any eternal truths. Knowledge is not of the eternal (i.e., to be obeyed) but rather knowledge is of the *process*, by which things *become* e.g., becoming the best version of myself as I learn more.” Edward Moore Email: emoore@theandros.com, St. Elias School of Orthodox Theology
- ❑ Error, or sin, is therefore an issue of not knowing. So gaining more knowledge (mystical insight, or esoteric and elitist information) is the cure to sin. And with this new knowledge I can then become and express my authentic self.
- ❑ The term "Gnosticism" does not appear in ancient sources and although it was clearly nascent during Paul's travels, it became more prominent in the following century.
- ❑ “Because the knowledge one needs to live a successful life is seemingly just out of reach, one is therefore placed on an endless search. This resulting lack of any sense of permanence leads individuals to experience anxieties of all kinds, and eventually to shun the meaningful patterns of human existence in favor of a private and stifling search through subjectivity. Hopelessness, atheism, despair, are the results of such an existence.” Edward Moore Email: emoore@theandros.com, St. Elias School of Orthodox Theology

- ❑ Ancient Gnosticism was syncretistic, adopting from a variety of religions, philosophies, and systems.
- ❑ Gnostics will often work people into an emotional froth, and only then the mystery can be revealed to those who have entered this state of desire *to know*.
- ❑ “Under the Gnostic belief system you discover and decide upon your own truth i.e., that piece of knowledge that helps you transform. You eventually become your own purveyor of truth.” *Gnostic America: A Reading of Contemporary American Culture & Religion according to Christianity's Oldest Heresy by Peter Burfeind*
- ❑ “The public discourse for Gnostics moves from pursuing holiness to discovering your authentic self which is free from the restrictions of hard realities of family, marriage, meanings of words and other *deceptive impositions*.” *Gnostic America: A Reading of Contemporary American Culture & Religion according to Christianity's Oldest Heresy by Peter Burfeind*
- ❑ “Nietzsche proposed that in the vacuum created by God's death (Time Magazine April 8, 1966), we ourselves must rise up and become new gods. Our own selves will be god. And this god will be crafted by our own choices, our own striving to be authentic, not bound by conventions imposed upon us by parents, Church, or society.” *Gnostic America: A Reading of Contemporary American Culture & Religion according to Christianity's Oldest Heresy by Peter Burfeind*
- ❑ Pop psychology, the self-help industry, the alphabet agendas that are controlling today's culture have all arose from gnosticism and the self-focused philosophies to become your authentic self.

Genesis 3:1b, 4-6

And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said {you are being oppressed}, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it *your eyes will be opened* {*awake*}, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was *pleasant* to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

Gnosticism

Gnosticism

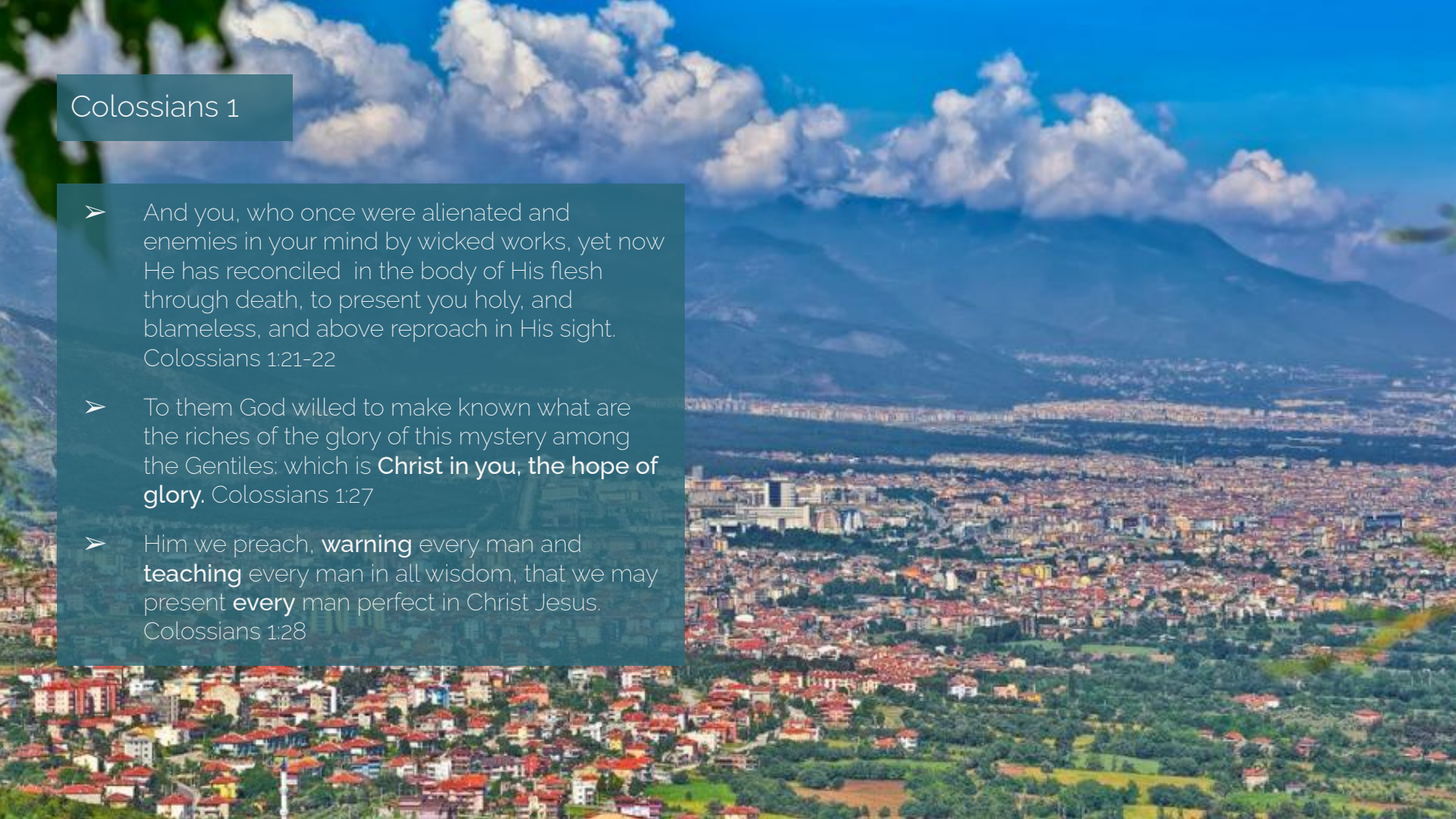
Gnosticism

Colossians 1

- We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you, **since we heard** of your faith in Christ Jesus and of your love for all the saints; Colossians 1:3-4
- For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, **do not cease to pray** for you, and to ask that you may **(A)** be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may **(B)** walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, **(C)** being fruitful in every good work and **(D)** increasing in the knowledge of God; **(E)** strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, for all **(F)** patience and longsuffering with joy; **(G)** giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light. Colossians 1:9-12
- He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that **in all things He may have the preeminence**. Colossians 1:15-18
- For it pleased the Father that in Him **all the fullness should dwell**, Colossians 1:19

Colossians 1

- And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight. Colossians 1:21-22
- To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you, the hope of glory**. Colossians 1:27
- Him we preach, **warning** every man and **teaching** every man in all wisdom, that we may present **every** man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28



Colossians 2

*Jesus has the receipts
that your sins have
been paid for in full!*

- Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words Colossians 2:4
- As you therefore have **received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him**, rooted and built up in Him and established in the **faith**, as you have been taught, abounding in it with thanksgiving. Colossians 2:6-7
- **Beware** lest anyone **cheat** you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ. For **in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily**; and you are **complete in Him**, who is the head of all principality and power. Colossians 2:8-10

And you, **being dead** in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has **made alive** together with Him, having **forgiven you all trespasses**, having **wiped out** the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, **having nailed it to the cross**. Colossians 2:13-14

- Let no one **cheat** you of your reward, taking delight in false humility and worship of angels, intruding into those things which he has not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind, and not **holding fast** to the Head, from whom all the body, nourished and knit together by joints and ligaments, grows with the increase that is from God. Colossians 2:18-19

Colossians 3

- If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. Colossians 3:1-3
- And have put on the **new man** who is renewed in knowledge according to the **image of Him who created him**, where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, but **Christ is all and in all**. Colossians 3:10-11
- And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. Let the **word of Christ dwell in you richly** in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. Colossians 3:15-16
- And whatever you do, do it heartily, **as to the Lord** and not to men, Colossians 3:23

Colossians 4

- Continue earnestly in prayer, **being vigilant** in it with thanksgiving; Colossians 4:2
- Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time. Let your speech always be with **grace, seasoned with salt**, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. Colossians 4:5-6
- **Tychicus**, a beloved brother, faithful minister, and fellow servant in the Lord, will tell you all the news about me. I am sending him to you for this very purpose, that he may know your circumstances and comfort your hearts, Colossians 4:7-8
- **Luke** the beloved physician and **Demas** greet you. Greet the brethren who are in Laodicea, and **Nymphas** and the church that is in his house. Colossians 4:14-15
- Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that **you likewise read the epistle** from Laodicea. Colossians 4:16
- This salutation **by my own hand** - Paul. Remember my chains. Grace be with you. Amen. Colossians 4:18

Beware that you are not spoiled
by philosophies of the world -
and not after Christ

The
preeminence
of Christ

Continue in
Christ

The cross of Christ

So What?



1. What in your life, your house, do you need to *remove* to eliminate anything keeping you from becoming a better follower of Jesus?
2. When you read Paul's parting words to the Ephesian Elders, how do those words prompt/motivate you to be a better *encourager* of other believers?
3. How are/should you be *vigorously refuting* false teachings and faulty world views?
4. How are you *strengthening the disciples*?

So What?
Now What?



1. What aspect of the Letter to the Ephesians is having/ will have the most impact on your Christian life?
2. Is there anyone with whom you need to reconcile?
3. How is your prayer life?
4. Are you active in a strong church and playing your role in ministry?
5. Are you prepared to battle for the kingdom with God's Word as your sword?

So What?
Now What?



1. What aspect of the letter to the Colossians will have the most impact on your life?
2. What worldly philosophies are having too much of an impact on how you live your life?
3. How would you explain the preeminence of Christ to someone?
4. What younger folks are you training in the works of ministry?
5. If you were truly *rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith* - then how would your life look different on a daily basis?

