

FBC
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DURHAM, NC

GAMMA22

GAMMA
SERIES

EPHESIANS

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE, EMPOWERED BY PEACE



STUDY 10 THE GOSPEL AND SUFFERING

Ephesians 3:1-13

THE STRUCTURE

Glory and Grace of God

The Peace of God in the church

Theological

Practical

Ephesians 1

Ephesians 2

Ephesians 3

Ephesians 4

Ephesians 5

Ephesians 6

Who God is and what He has
done for us in Christ

How we should live because
of what He has done for us

THE STRUCTURE

The Glory and Grace of God

The Peace of God in the church

Theological

Practical

Ephesians 1

Ephesians 2

Ephesians 3

Ephesians 4

Ephesians 5

Ephesians 6

Spiritual blessing in Christ
Election
Predestination
Adoption
Knowledge of His will
...

Sin, Spiritual death,
Salvation by grace
God's new community

Mystery of the Gospel
Suffering for the gospel
Praying for Spiritual Transformation



Living and working out spiritual transformation in the church

STRUCTURE

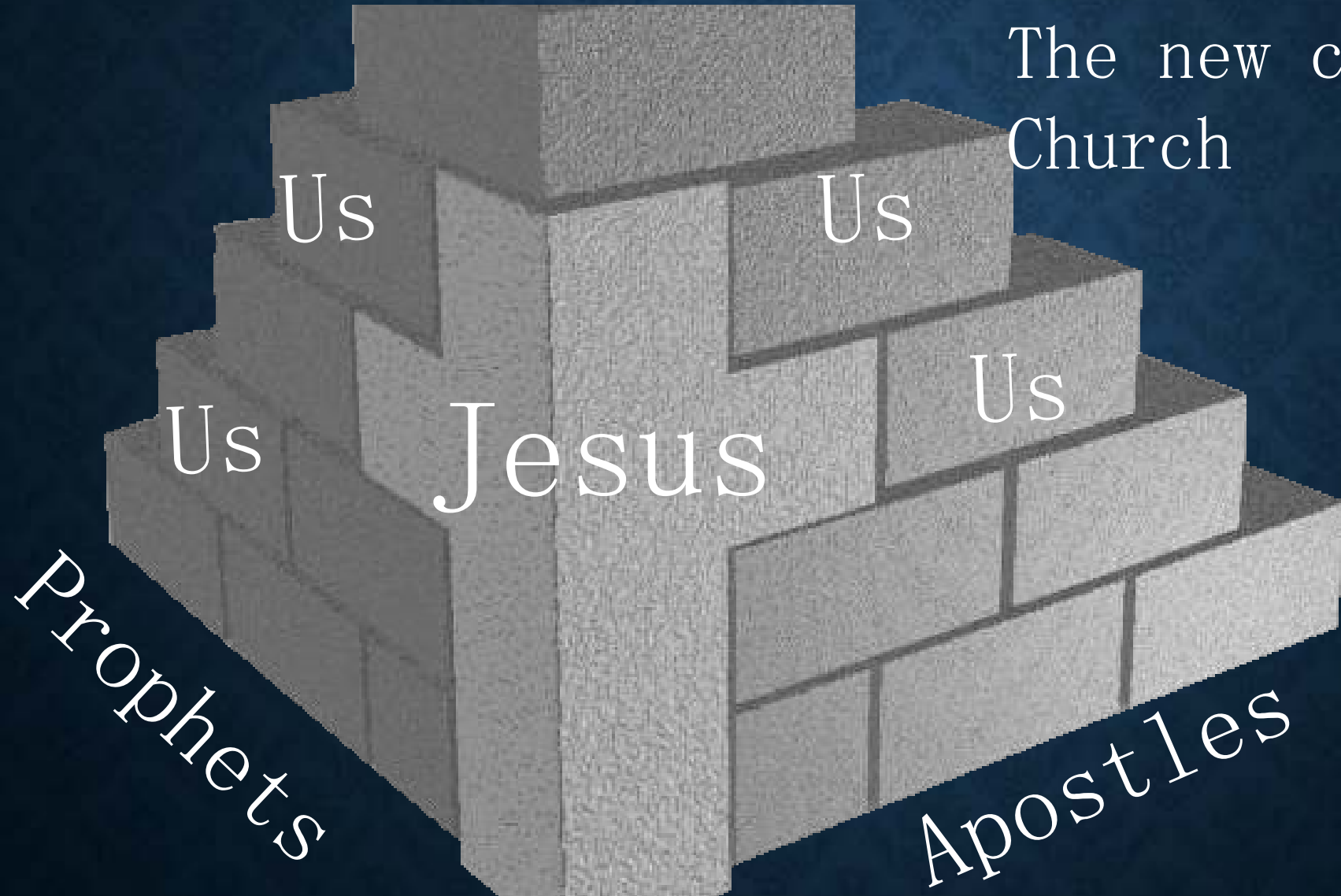
Paul's start of his prayer

Ephesians 3:1-13 (ESV) 1 For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—

- 2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you **The nature of the Mystery** 5 which was not made known to the sons of **Gentiles are included in God's promises to Israel** to his holy apostles and prophets by the **Paul is a steward of that gospel** low heirs, members of the same body, and **The reason is for encouragement during difficult** gospel. 7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now **The reason for the digression**

authorities in the heavenly places. 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord, 12 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through our faith in him. **Paul continues his prayer**

- 13 So I ask you not **to lose heart** over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory



The new community
Church

Us

Us

Us

Jesus

Us

Prophets

Apostles

A close-up photograph of two hands gripping vertical, rusty metal bars. The hands are weathered and the skin is a yellowish-tan color. The background is dark and indistinct. The bars are thick and show signs of significant rust and wear. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting the texture of the skin and the metal.

PRISONER

Ephesians 3:1
(ESV) For this
reason I, Paul,
a prisoner of
Christ Jesus
on behalf of
you Gentiles

REASON FOR HIS SUFFERING STEWARD OF GOD'S MYSTERY

Ephesians 3:2-9 (ESV) assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you 3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly. 4 When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, 5 which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. 6 This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

7 Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God,

*SOMETHING THAT CAN
BE DISCOVERED*



NOT SOMETHING THAT CAN BE DISCOVERED



SIMILARITIES



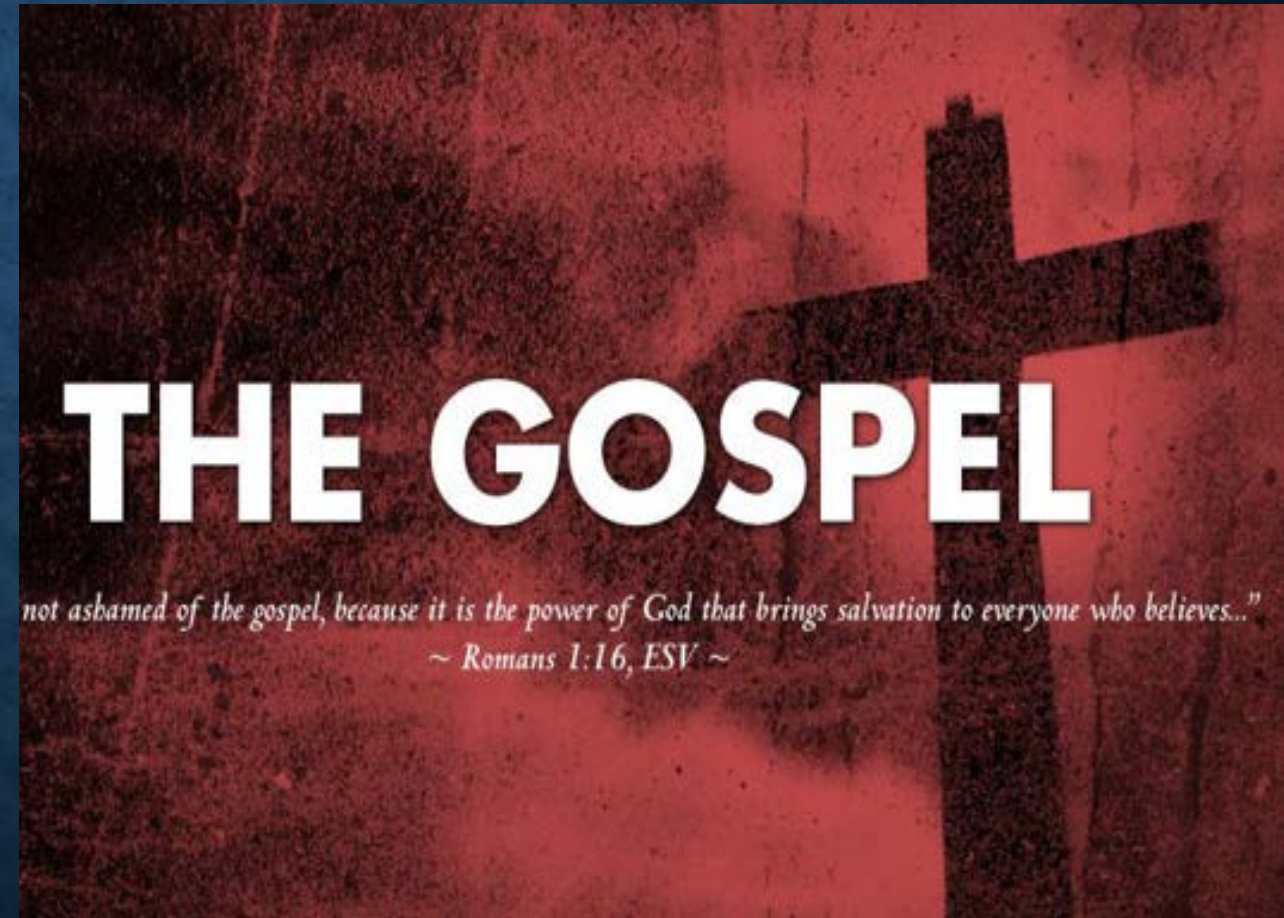
THE DIFFERENCE

Common sense..everyone knows

Won by loosing...mystery .



It will crush you in the long run



It will liberate you the more you think about it

PREVIOUSLY HIDDEN TO BE REVEALED



MUSTERION

Hidden for ages in God

Ephesians 3:9–10 (ESV) the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things,

Concerns Jesus Christ

Ephesians 3:4–6 (ESV) When you read this, you can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Requires revelation

Ephesians 3:3 how the mystery was made known to me by revelation,
Ephesians 3:5 .. now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit.

THE MUSTERION

Ephesians 3:6 (ESV) This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.



THE GOSPEL

not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes...
 ~ Romans 1:16, ESV ~



NEW COMMUNITY



The dividing wall of hostility

Court of Gentiles
 Those who were far off

GREAT COMMISSION





CREATION MANDATE

Romans 8:20–21 (ESV) For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God

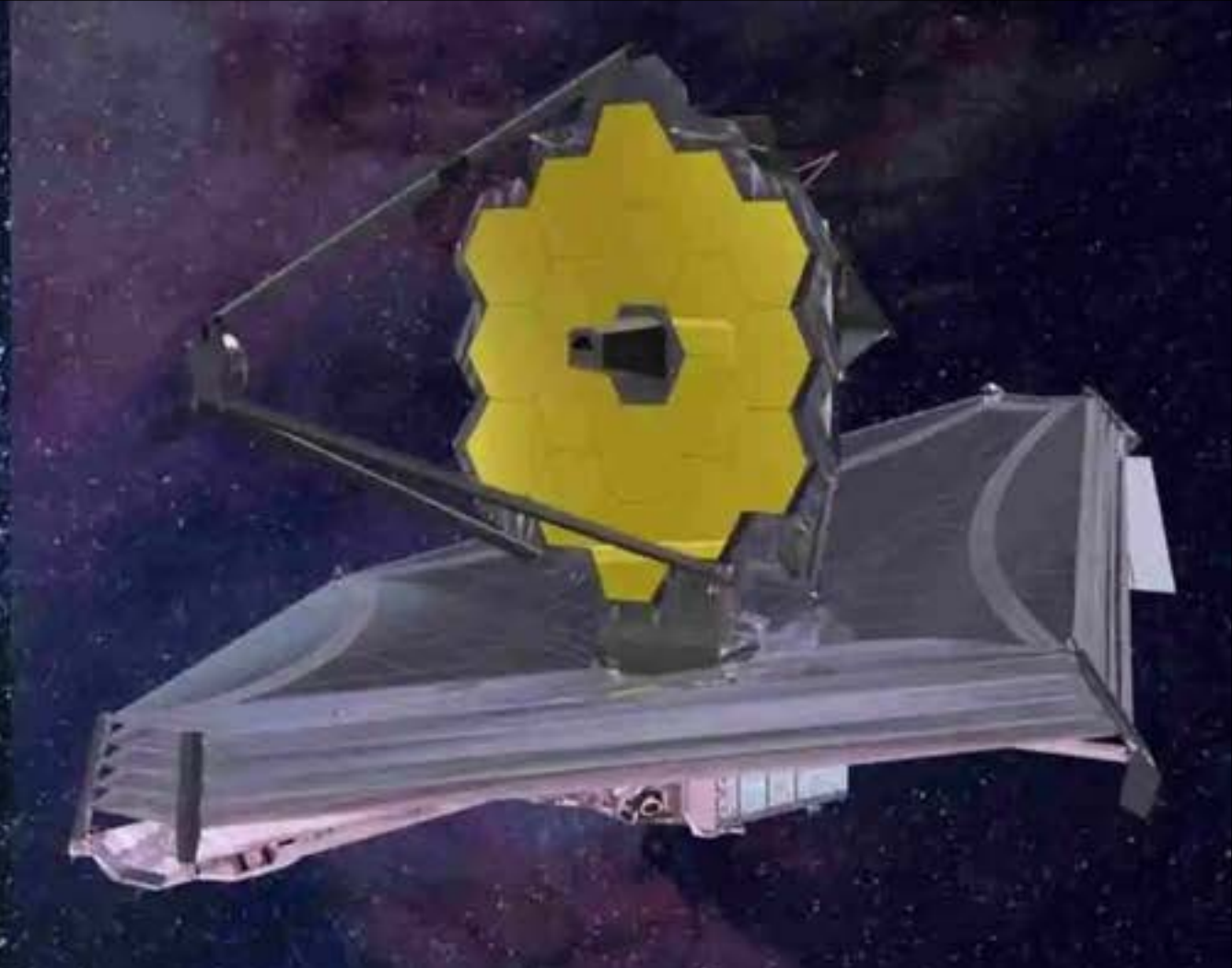
WHY GOD DID IT

Ephesians 3:8–10 (ESV) To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places



4.7 billion
341 miles

Hubble telescope



9.7 billion
1 millions miles away

James Webb telescope







MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD MIGHT NOW BE
MADE KNOWN TO THE RULERS AND
AUTHORITIES IN THE HEAVENLY PLACES

… rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

Host of Angels?

Ephesians 6:12 (ESV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

BEINGS IN THE SPIRITUAL REALM

Job 2:1-2 (ESV) Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the LORD.

Job 2: 3 And the LORD said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, who fears God and turns away from evil?”

SALVATION WAS NOT A LAST MINUTE SAVE

Ephesians 3:11 (ESV) This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord,

PAUL'S LIFE CALLING

- Ephesians 3:1–2 (ESV) For this reason I, Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus on behalf of you Gentiles—
2 assuming that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you,
- Ephesians 3:7–8 (ESV) Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ

A close-up photograph of two hands gripping vertical, rusty metal bars. The hands are weathered and the skin is a yellowish-tan color. The background is dark and indistinct. The text is overlaid on the image.

PRISONER

Ephesians 3:1
(ESV) For this
reason I, Paul,
a prisoner of
Christ Jesus
on behalf of
you Gentiles

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING WE NEED TO ...

1. Adjust our perspectives in life

2. Look at suffering in the light of Biblical truths not circumstances

3. Understand the purpose of suffering

Suffering in the light of a universal vision

Suffering in the light of grace

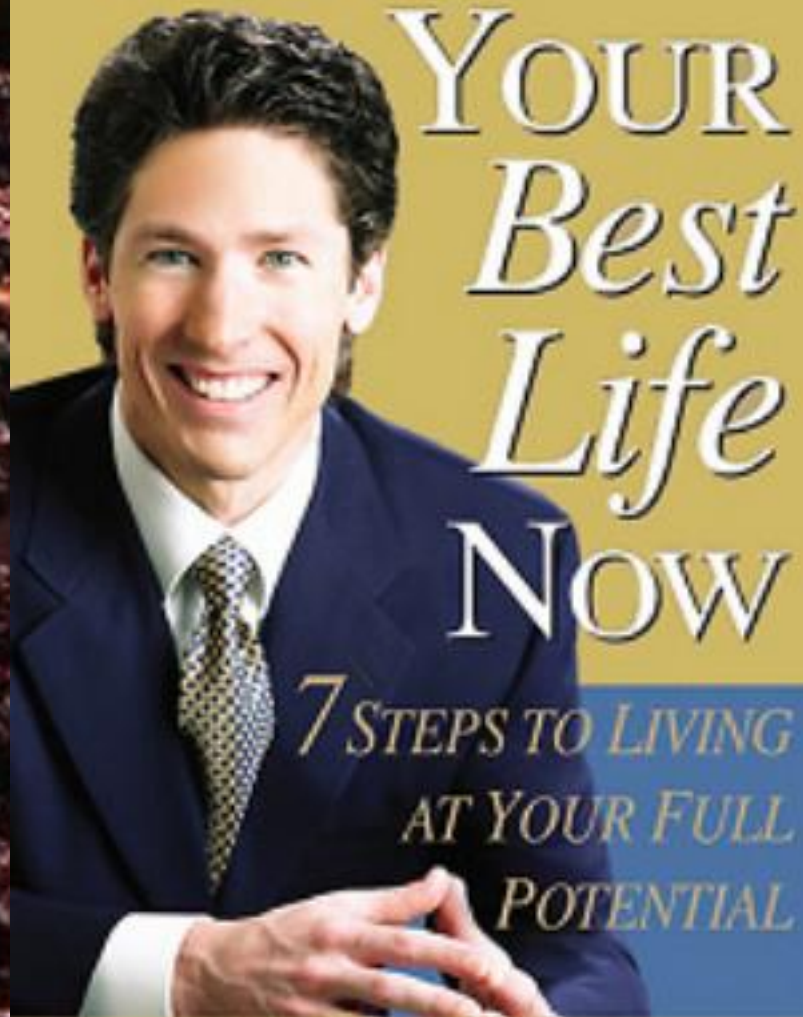




THOMAS JEFFERSON

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

The #1 New York Times Bestseller—Over 4 Million Copies Sold

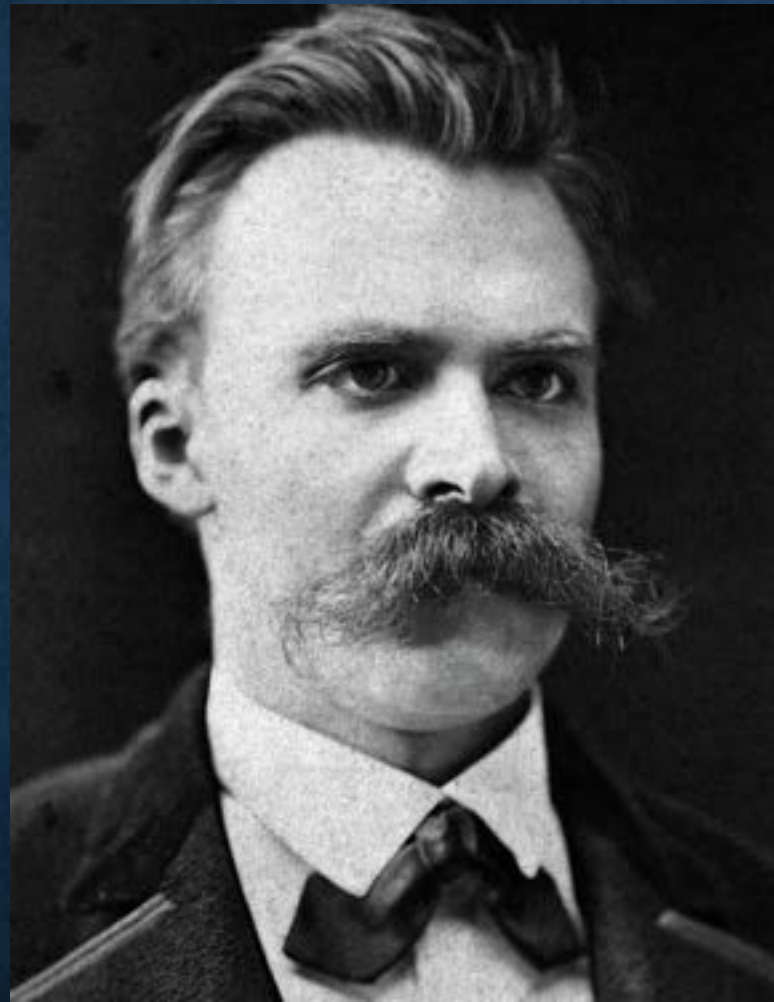
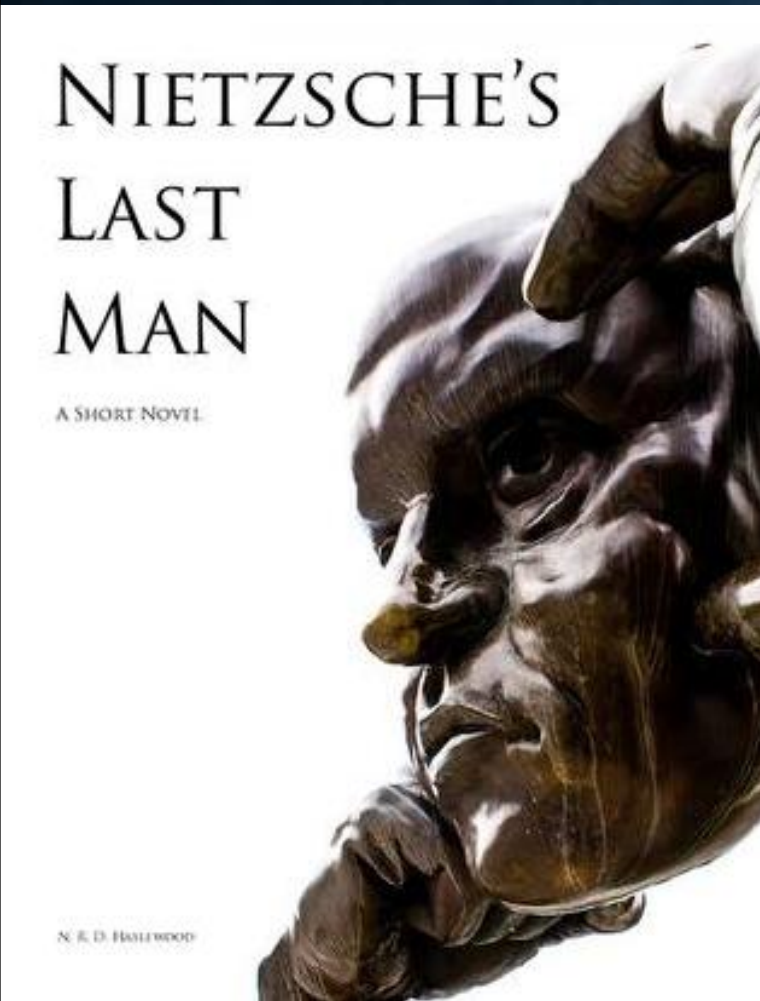


YOUR *Best* *Life* NOW

7 STEPS TO LIVING
AT YOUR FULL
POTENTIAL

JOEL OSTEEN





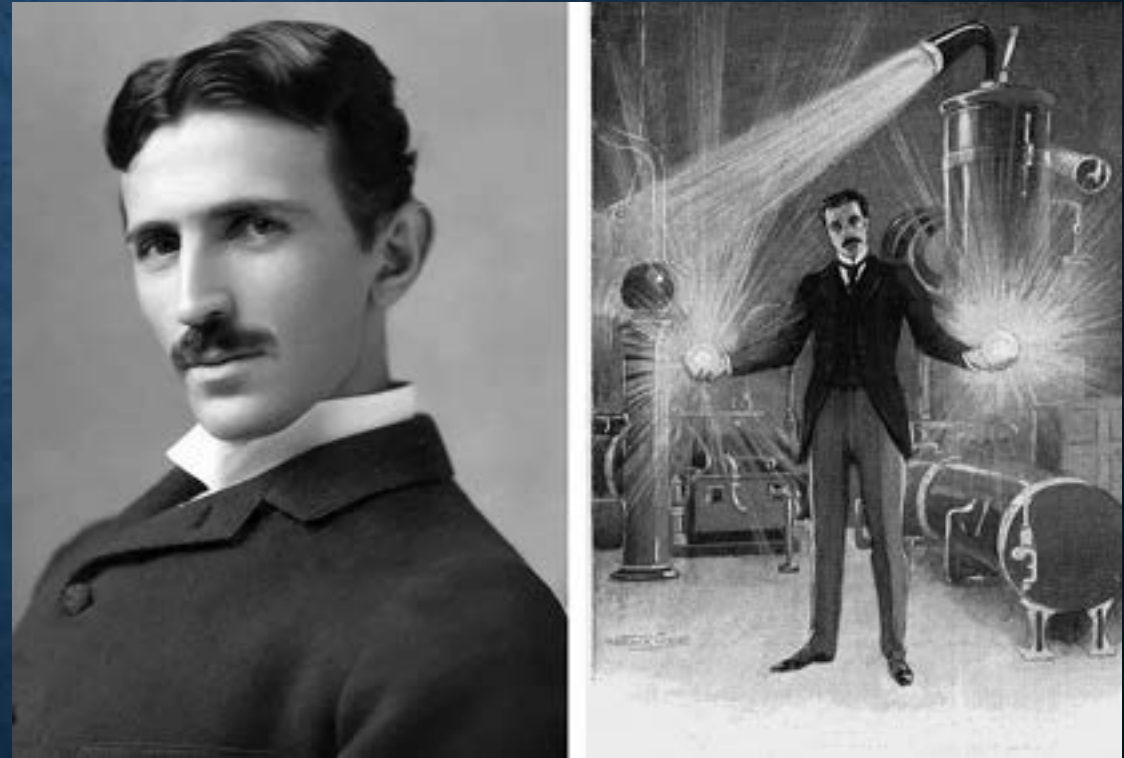
*The mere pursuit
of happiness,
defined here as
that which gives
pleasure, as a
dull waste of
human life*

Joy accompanies, joy does not move

JOY IS ALWAYS A BY-PRODUCT, IT CANNOT BE THE TOTAL AIM.



Michaelangelo



Nicola Tesla



2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV)

Indeed, all who desire to
live a godly life in
Christ Jesus will be
persecuted

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING WE NEED TO ...

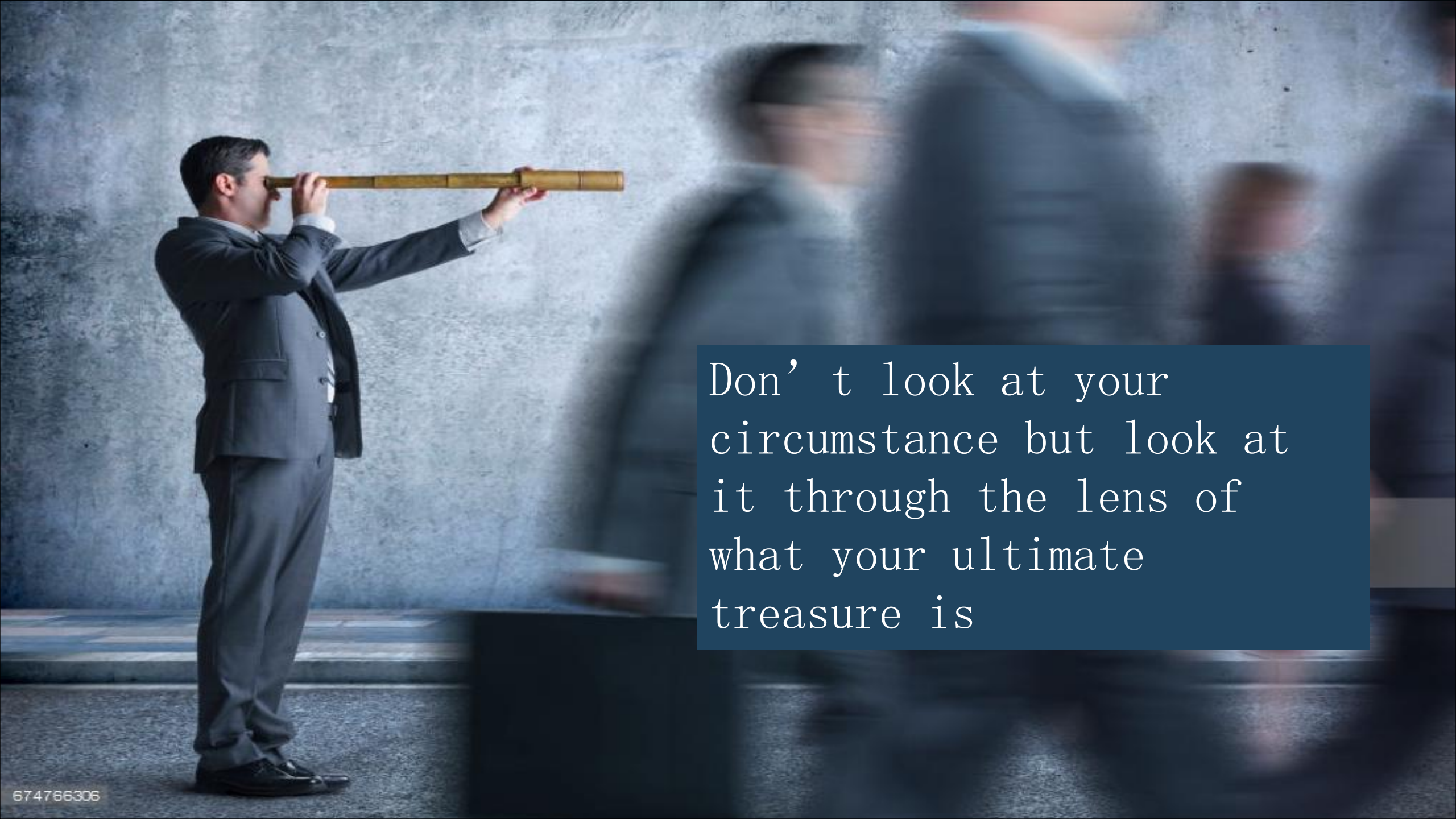
1. Adjust our perspectives in life

2. Look at suffering in the light of Biblical truths not circumstances

3. Understand the purpose of suffering

Suffering in the light of a universal vision

Suffering in the light of grace



Don' t look at your
circumstance but look at
it through the lens of
what your ultimate
treasure is

LOOKING AT SUFFERING THROUGH THE LENS OF BIBLICAL TRUTH



• (John 19:10-11 (ESV)) 10 So Pilate
Ephesians 3:1 (ESV) 10 For this
said to him, “You will not speak
reason? Do you not know that
Christ Jesus on behalf of you
have authority to release you and
authority to crucify you?” 11
Gentiles
Jesus answered him, “You would
have no authority over me at all
unless it had been given you from
above

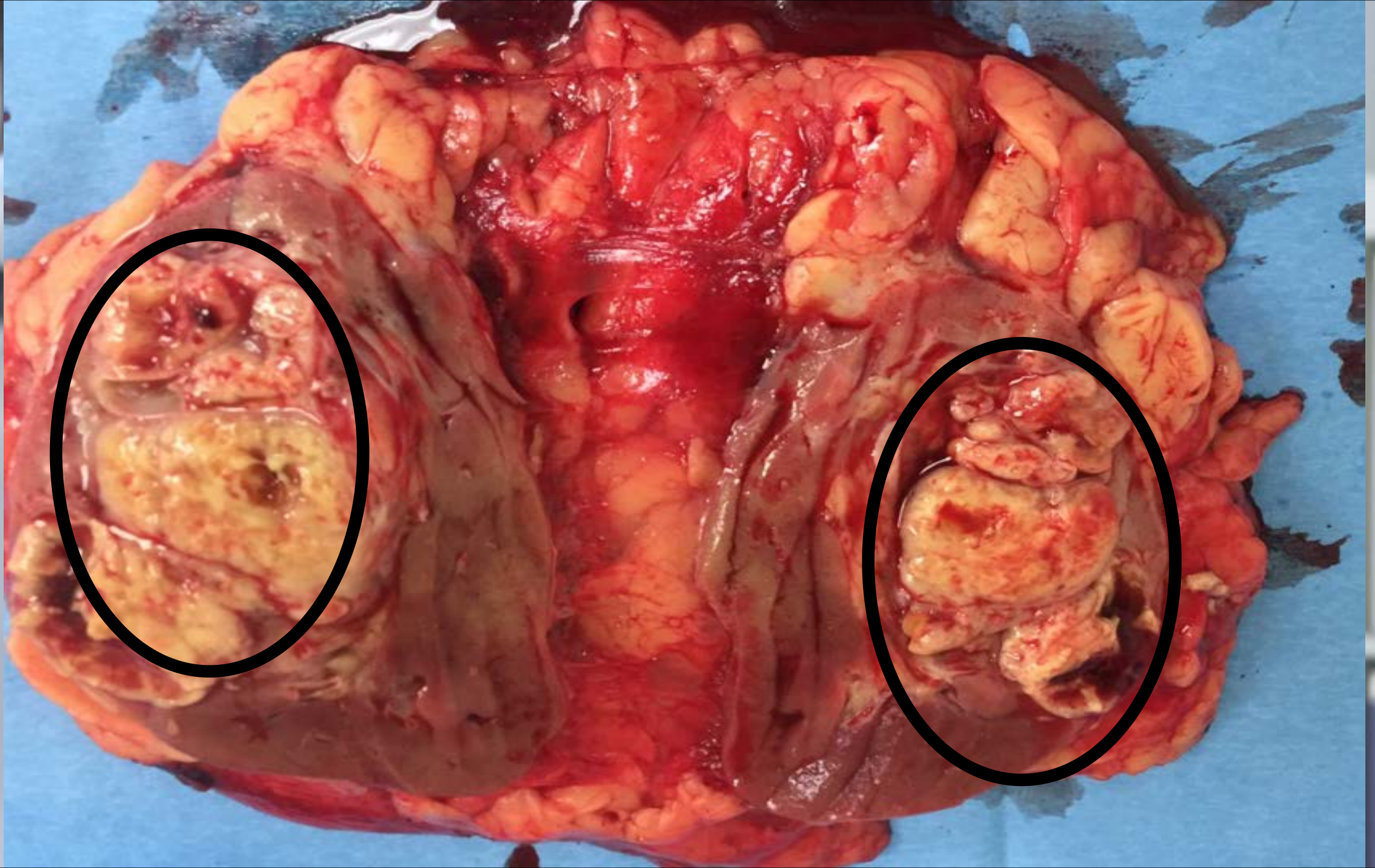
SUFFERING WITH A PURPOSE

13 So I ask you not to lose heart over what I am suffering for you, which is your glory

Romans 8:18–21 (ESV) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. 19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. 20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING WE NEED TO ...

1. Adjust our perspectives in life
2. Look at suffering in the light of Biblical truths not circumstances
3. Understand the purpose of suffering
 - Suffering in the light of a universal vision
 - Suffering in the light of grace





TRADE WARS



HARAPAN

HARAPAN

HARAPAN

HARAPAN

HARAPAN



OLD TESTAMENT VISION OF ISRAEL SHOW CASE FOR NATIONS

Deuteronomy 4:7 For what great nation is there that has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is to us, whenever we call upon him? 8 And what great nation is there, that has statutes and rules so righteous as all this law that I set before you today?

VISION OF THE CHURCH

Ephesians 3:6-11 ..to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, 9 and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God, who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.

THE CHURCH



*and to bring to
light for everyone
what is the plan of
the mystery*

Fore taste for the
world--

THE CHURCH IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE UNIVERSE



Ephesians 3: 11 This was according to the eternal purpose that he has realized in Christ Jesus our Lord

THE CHURCH IS INDISPENSABLE TO THE UNIVERSE



Ephesians 1:9-10 (ESV) 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 him, things in heaven and things on earth.

Ephesians 3:10
(ESV) so that
through the
church the
manifold wisdom
of God might now
be made known to
the rulers and
authorities in
the heavenly
places.





EVERY CIRCUMSTANCE HAS A DUAL TRACK



A close-up portrait of Charles Colson, an older man with short, graying hair, wearing dark-rimmed glasses, a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is a soft, out-of-focus bokeh of warm colors like red, orange, and yellow.

CHARLES COLSON

, “I found myself increasingly drawn to the idea that God had put me in prison for a purpose and that I should do something for those I had left behind.”

The Spread of Christianity



The Spread of Christianity
in the Roman Empire
By the Second and Fourth Centuries



Suffering and Bitterness

Emotions betray
our ultimate
treasure



ELIZABETH ELLIOT

He suffered not that we
might not suffer but that
when we suffer trusting in
His suffering we become
like Him

Get rid of your self pity
When you figure this out you will be free

SUFFERING IN THE LIGHT OF GRACE

- Ephesians 3:7–8 (ESV) Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

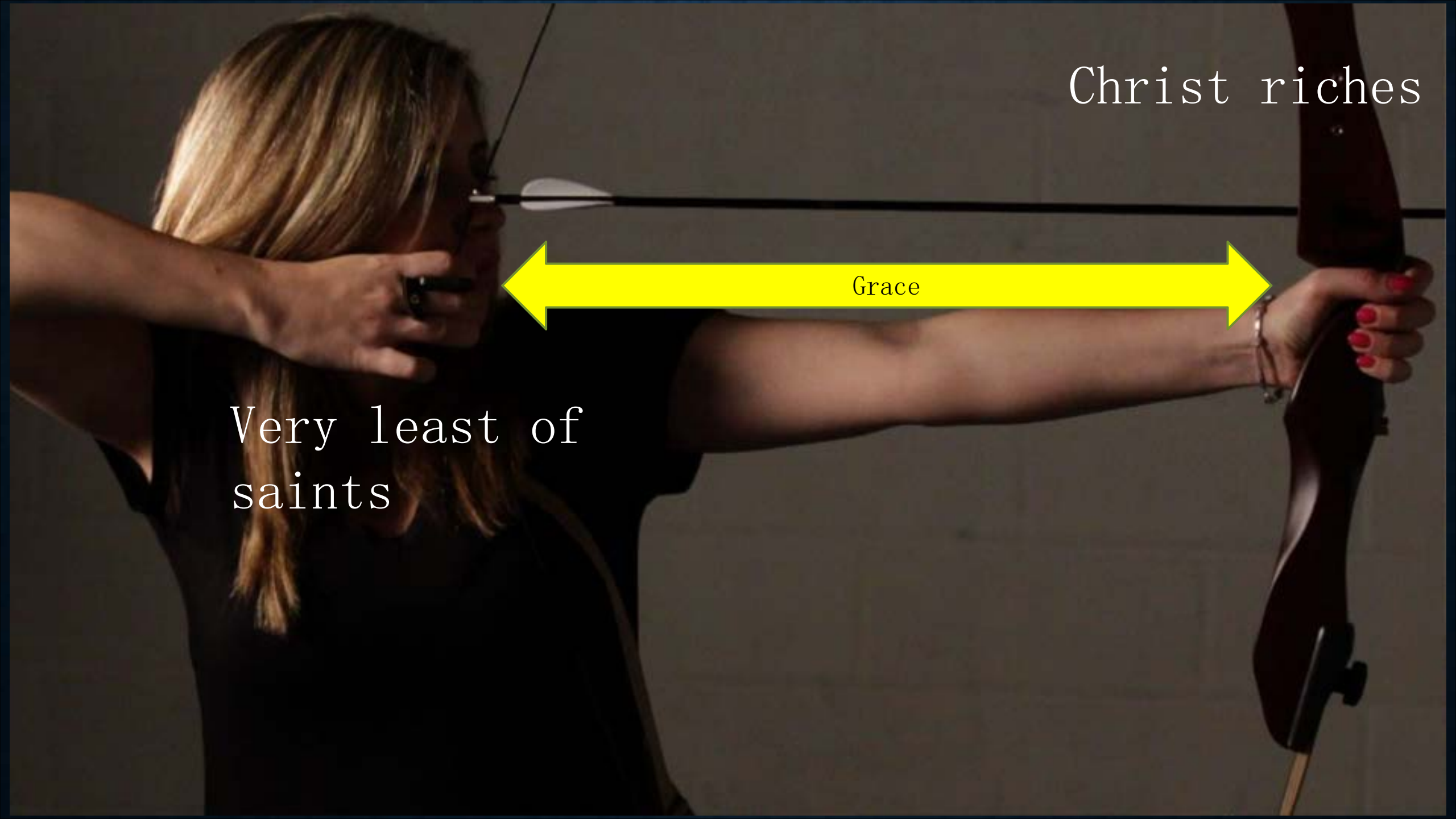
PAULS PERCEPTION OF GRACE

- Ephesians 3:7–8 (ESV) Of this gospel I was made a minister according to the gift of God's grace, which was given me by the working of his power. 8 To me, though I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ,

Christ riches

Grace

Very least of
saints



OUR SUFFERING AFFECTS OTHERS

Philippians 1:14 And most of the brothers, having become confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, are much more bold to speak the word without fear

Philippians 1:12-13 (ESV) 12 I want you to know, brothers, that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, 13 so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ.

Revelation 12:10–11 (ESV) Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come, for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down, who accuses them day and night before our God. 11 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.