

TRUMPET CALL

WELCOME TO THE UPTOWN CHURCH!

MATTHEW 24:30-31

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please check your bulletin for more information.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

A pastoral prayer of invocation, adoration, thanksgiving, and illumination.

Psalm 67:1-2, 105:4

PASSING THE PEACE

Unity & Reconciliation

*Romans 16:16; 1 Corinthians 16:20; 2 Corinthians 13:11-12;
1 Thessalonians 5:26; 1 Peter 5:14; Matthew 5:23-24, 18:15*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Corporate prayer of our covenantal commitment with our Heavenly Father through the Son of God, which encourages the confession of sin together.

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

Our Father,
who is in heaven,
holy is Your Name.
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.



Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.



For Yours is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
forever and ever.

Amen.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Beatitudes

Matthew 5:1-12

ELDER

Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying:



ELDER

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

CONGREGATION

For theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.



ELDER

Blessed are those who mourn,

CONGREGATION

For they shall be comforted.



ELDER

Blessed are the meek,

CONGREGATION

For they shall inherit the earth.



ELDER

Blessed are those who hunger and
thirst for righteousness,

CONGREGATION

For they shall be satisfied.



ELDER

Blessed are the merciful,

CONGREGATION

For they shall receive mercy.



ELDER

Blessed are the pure in heart,

CONGREGATION

For they shall see God.



ELDER

Blessed are the peacemakers,

CONGREGATION

For they shall be called sons of
God.



ELDER

Blessed are those who are
persecuted for righteousness' sake,

CONGREGATION

For theirs is the kingdom of
heaven.



ELDER

Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.



EVERYONE

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.



PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Pastoral & Congregational Prayer

Philippians 4:6-7

ROMANS 12:9-13

Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.



BLESSING & DISMISSAL OF THE CHILDREN

Call children to the altar for prayer and blessing.

Matthew 18:1-14, 19:13-14

PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

DECLARATION OF THE LAW

The Greatest Commandment with a supplementary passage.

*Mark 12:29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28;
John 13:34-35; 1 John 4:7-8,21; Romans 13:9-10; Galatians 5:14; James 2:8
Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Leviticus 19:18*

‘Hear, O Israel!

The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

And you shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your
strength.’



This is the first and great commandment.
And the second is like it:
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
On these two commandments hang all
the Law and the Prophets.



For the commandments,
“You shall not commit adultery,
You shall not murder,
You shall not steal,
You shall not covet,”



and any other commandment,
are summed up in this word:

“You shall love your neighbor as
yourself.”

Love does no wrong to a neighbor;
therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law.

Romans 13:9-10





WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

Understanding the Greatest Commandment, Part 8



GREATEST COMMANDMENT: THE LAW OF LOVE & LIBERTY

Distinct Laws in the Old Testament

- Shema — **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**
- Priestly Law — **Leviticus 19:18**

Christ Harmonizes these Laws in the NT

- Greatest Commandment (Royal Law) — **Mark 12.29-31; Matthew 22:35-40; Luke 10:25-28; John 13:34-35; Rom.13:9-10; Gal.5:14; James 2:8; 1 John 4:7-8,21**





GREATEST COMMANDMENT: EXPOSITION

1. Hear, O Israel:
The Kingdom
2. The Lord our God, the Lord is one!
The Trinity
3. And you shall love the Lord your God
The Law of Love
4. with all your heart, soul, mind +
strength.
Whole Self + More



VERY QUICK SUMMARY

The Sunday before last...

YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

- **Love is of the will** (not uncontrollable, spontaneous emotional response).
- Holy Spirit > nature > will (love) > intentions, thoughts, desires, etc.
- Love is *unifying motion* of the will:

“Love is to will the good of the other” — *Thomas Aquinas*

- Agape is love without thinking, without feeling, without seeing, without picking and choosing—love is being.



YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD

- The Law of Christ is for God's will to work in and through your life.
- Love becomes “natural law” through Christ, not external observances, but a holistic purity of the will becoming desire and behaviour through the Spirit (i.e., emptiness of want is filled full of love).
- Therefore, love is the highest good, the essence of law, and the purpose of our existence.
- **Love fulfills the purpose of freewill**



YOU SHALL AGAPE THE LORD YOUR GOD

- Agape love is a **willful, faithful, impartial, sacrificial “giving to” another** that seeks the other's good *over* emotion, reciprocity, or personal welfare.
- Agape love does not expect anything in return—it just does.
- Agape love is a **freewill offering—a sacrifice for the Lord.**



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

LAW



LAW



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU



YOU

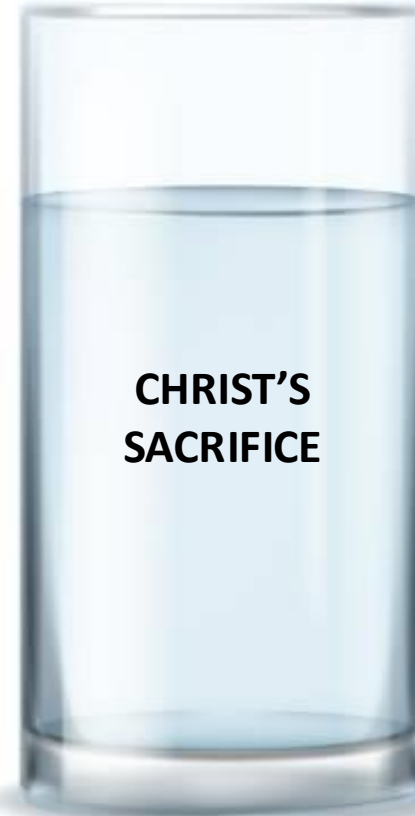


YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



**CHRIST'S
SACRIFICE**



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



**LOVE OF
GOD**



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



**SHALL LOVE
GOD**



YOU SHALL LOVE

YOU + LAW



YOU + LAW



**SHALL LOVE
NEIGHBOUR**



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

You shall love the Lord your God with all your...

- **Soul** — Lifebreath: *the spiritual body that animates the physical body.*

“breath of life, living creature, life force; the inner self”

- Feed the spiritual body with spiritual truths (Word of God)
- The Spirit is breath of life in the ‘lungs’ of the soul, so to speak

- **Heart** — Conscience: *the centre of the whole inner self.*

“moral constitution: moral law, moral belief, inner judge”

• Flow of action, from belief to behaviour



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

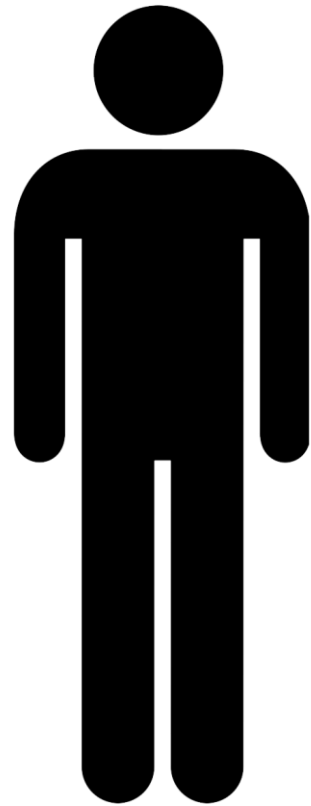
You shall love the Lord your God with all your...

- **Mind — Reason/Thought: *the eye of the soul***
“understanding, knowledge, logic, discernment,
intention, ambition, thinking, meditation, reflection,
imagination, wisdom, etc.”

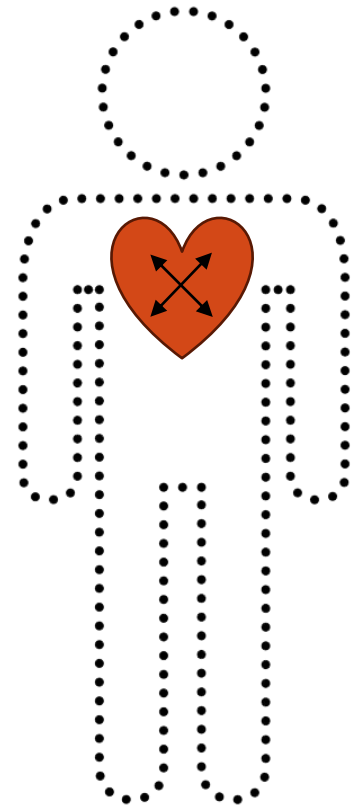


THE CONSTITUTION OF MAN: SPIRITUAL MAN

(ANALOGOUS, NOT ACTUAL)



BODY



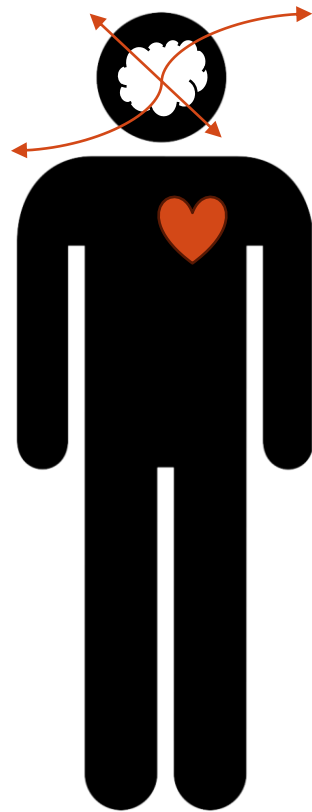
HEART
(MIND)

SOUL



THE CONSTITUTION OF MAN: NATURAL MAN

(ANALOGOUS, NOT ACTUAL)



BRAIN
(MIND)

“HEART”
(EMOTIONS)

BODY



WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

You shall love the Lord your God with all your:

- **Heart** — “with all you can”
- **Soul** — “with all you are”
- **Mind** — “with all you could”
- **Strength** — ?



LET'S CONTINUE

What does it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength?

LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

- How do you love the Lord your God with all your stength?
- First, we need to know what the strength is, according to Scripture?
- **Suprise!** It is not just muscle, mettle, willpower, or “inner strength”.



WHAT IS THE STRENGTH?

In ancient Hebrew:

- ***me'od*** = very, much / exceedingly, greatly / might, force, abundance
— adverb, meaning, “to a great degree”
Genesis 1:31 — “very good” + **Genesis 4: 5** — “very angry”

In ancient Greek: ***ischys*** = strength, might, power, ability

In ancient Aramaic: ***mamonakh*** = wealth, possessions, resources



WHAT IS THE STRENGTH?

To love God with all your strength is both inward and outward:

- “Muchness” — with all your everything (and anything)
- Total capacity, everything you got, to the nth degree – opportunity, capacity, ability, moment, energy + urgency, intensity, aliveness (soul), fire
- **Resources = internal resources + external resources**

Now, Since “all your heart, soul, and mind” includes the whole self, the keystone element that differentiates strength from the other three is external resources. Your stuff is an extension of you!

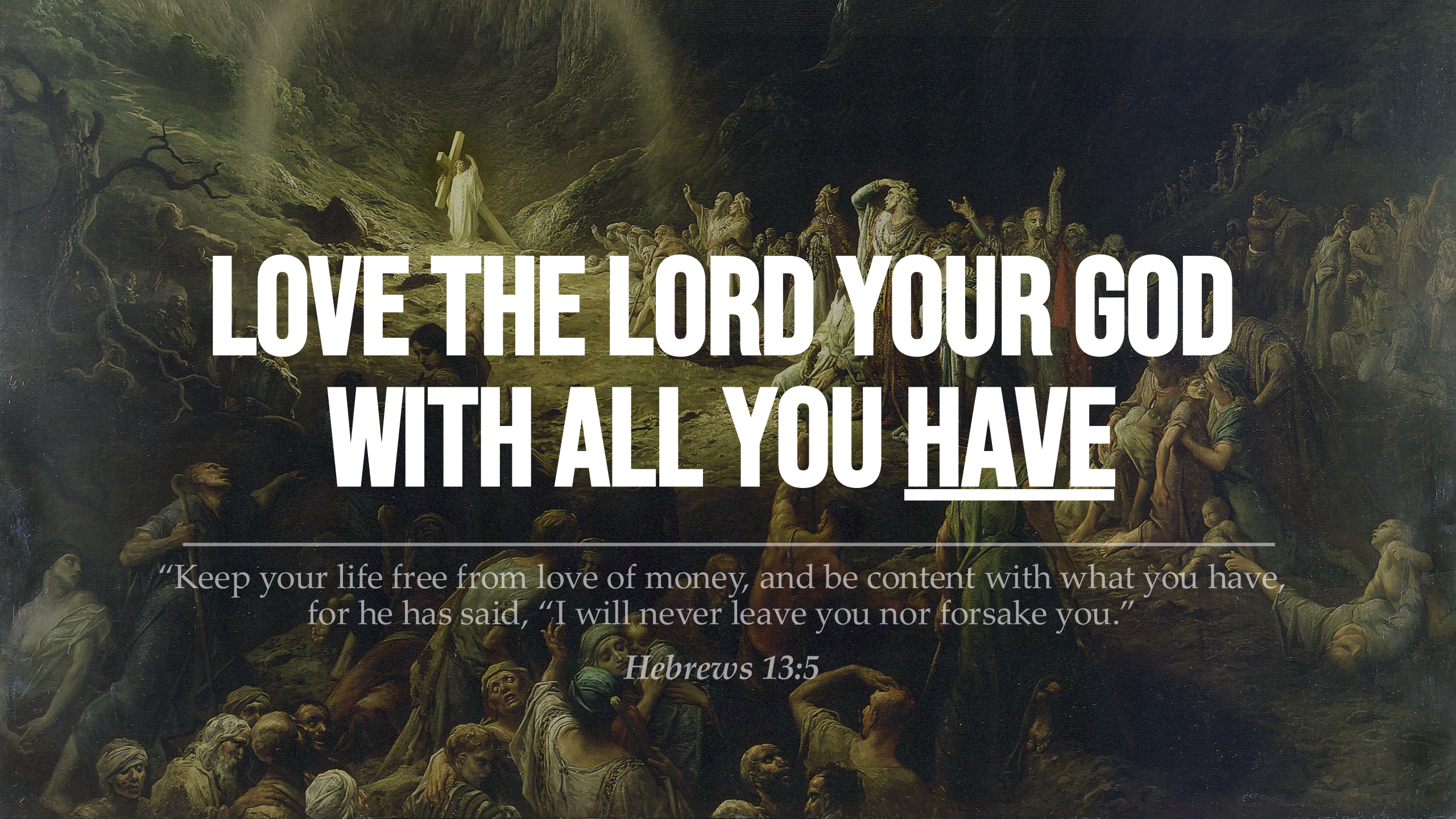




LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5



LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOU HAVE

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE?

You shall love the Lord your God:

- **Heart** — “with all you can”
- **Soul** — “with all you are”
- **Mind** — “with all you could”
- **Strength** — “with all you have”



ADMONITION: A PASSION FOR POSSESSIONS

There are things in your life that are weighing you down from loving God with your whole self...

- Your stuff—earthly things that are perishable and fading.
- External Resources: Possessions — wealth, money, land, property, house, car, business, investments, etc.
- Here in the West, we have a LOT of possessions
- Compared to previous generations, the middle-class would be considered princes based on wealth and standards of living.



MATTHEW 19:16-22

And behold, a man came up to him, saying, “Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?” And he said to him, “Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one who is good. If you would enter life, keep the commandments.” He said to him, “Which ones?” And Jesus said, “You shall not murder, You shall not commit adultery, You shall not steal, You shall not bear false witness, Honor your father and mother, and, **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.**” The young man said to him, “All these I have kept. What do I still lack?” Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” **When the young man heard this he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions [and property].**



ADMONITION: A PASSION FOR POSSESSIONS

- The West is full of rich young rulers... if everything you own is not dedicated to God, you do not rule your possessions—your possessions rule you!
- **Matthew 6:24** — No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money.
- **Ecclesiastes 5:10** — He who loves money will not be satisfied with money, nor he who loves wealth with his income; this also is vanity.
- **Your passions direct your possessions**, and then your possessions end up directing your passions, whether earthly or heavenly.



ADMONITION: A PASSION FOR POSSESSIONS

- **1 Timothy 6:6-10** — But godliness with contentment is great gain, for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.



ACTS 2:42-47

And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.



ACTS 4:32-35

Now the full number of those who believed were of one heart and soul, and no one said that any of the things that belonged to him was his own, but they had everything in common. And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all. There was not a needy person among them, for as many as were owners of lands or houses sold them and brought the proceeds of what was sold and laid it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to each as any had need.



UNDERSTANDING STRENGTH

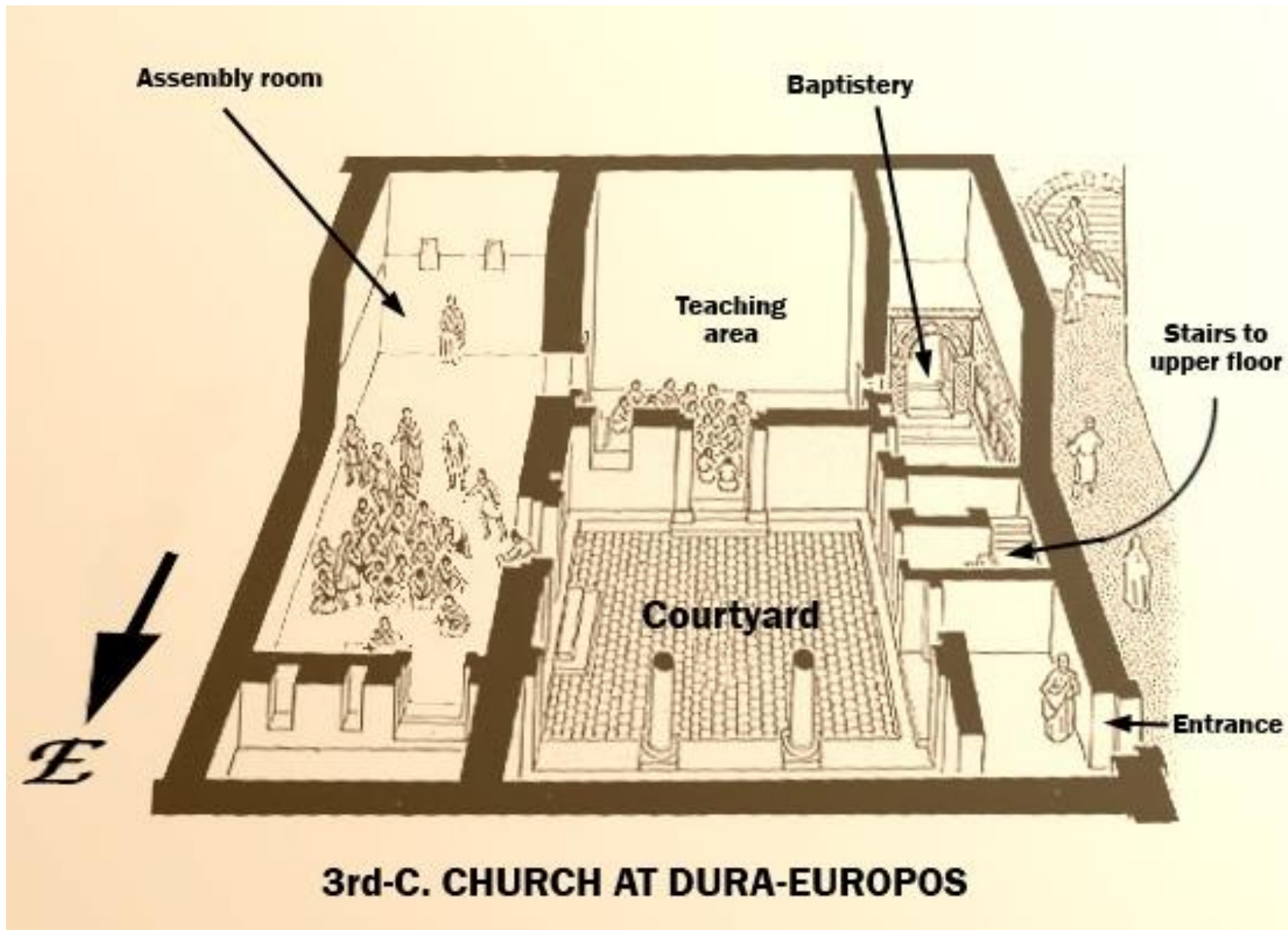
- **Acts 2–4** is descriptive, not prescriptive. It is not advocating for “Christian communism”, as if it is wrong to own property or possessions, and that you donate all you own to the church — all you have belongs to God already, if indeed you are in Christ.
- Christians owned property in the first century, this was never frowned upon (**Romans 16:1**). **Houses were converted into churches—sacred spaces for Christian services and rituals.** Sometimes these church houses were personal homes with dedicated space for services, and other times they were strictly houses renovated for church use.

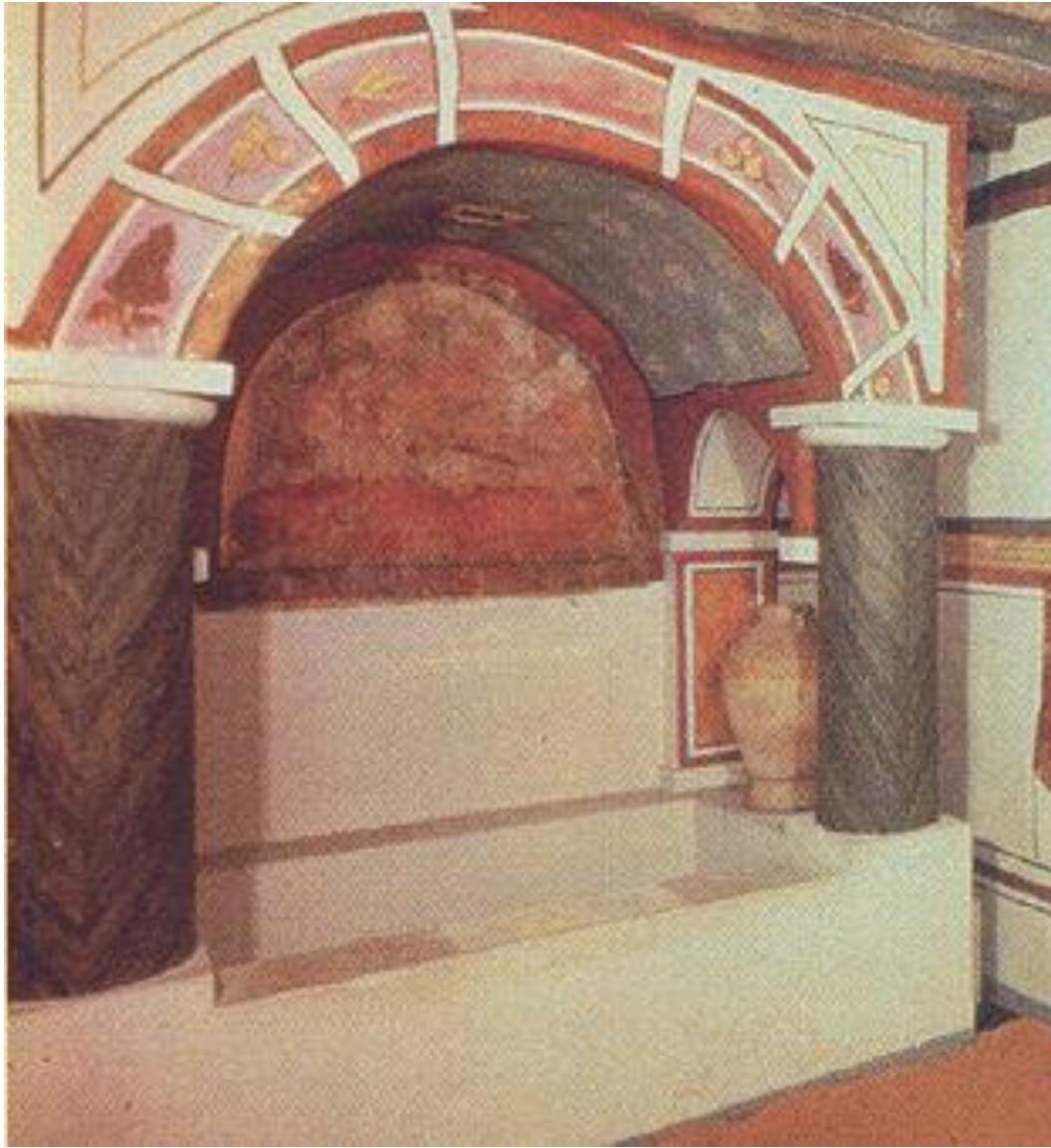


UNDERSTANDING STRENGTH

- Ancient house churches featured renovated or repurposed rooms for communal meals, scripture reading, and baptisms, often held in the homes of wealthier congregants, and could fit anywhere between 20 to 50 people.
- The Dura-Europos church in Syria (AD 233–256) had a baptistery.







UNDERSTANDING STRENGTH

- **Your house is a microcosm of the Church** (**Ephesians 2,:19, 5:22-33; Matthew 12:4; 1 Peter 2:5**). Your home is a sacred spiritual space dedicated to Christ, even though it is not for public use.
- **Acts 2–4** shows that all you have belongs to Christ already and ought to be used to grow His kingdom first, which includes clothing the poor, feeding the hungry, encouraging the destitute, visiting the forgotten, supporting the imprisoned, et cetera — in your own lives and homes! (**Matthew 25:31-36**)
- The point: Anti-individualism, pro-generosity — “one heart and soul” — we give freely as Christ gave Himself freely.



MATTHEW 25:31-36

When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.'



MATTHEW 25:37-40

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'



MATTHEW 25:41-46

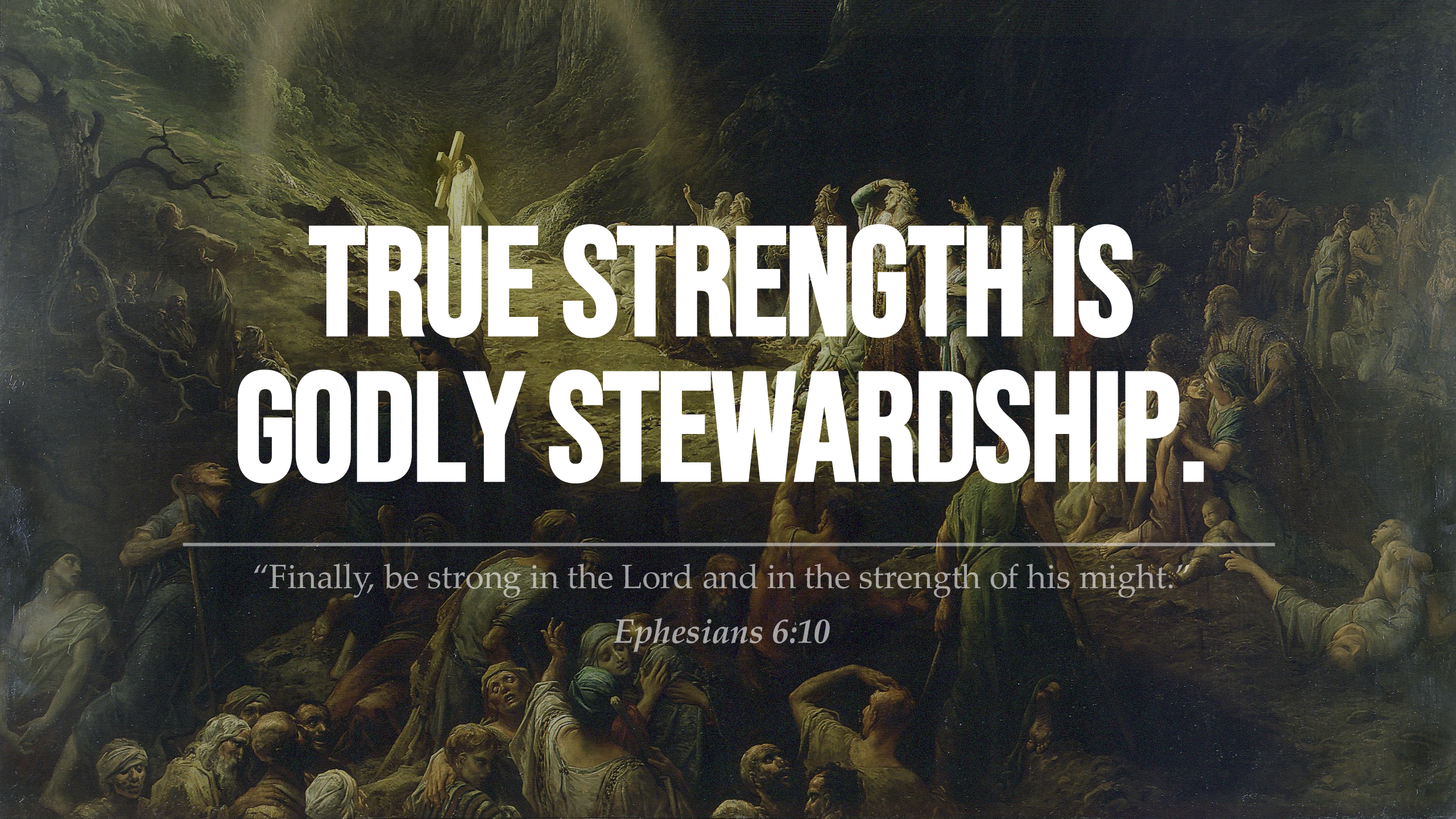
“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.’ Then they also will answer, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?’ Then he will answer them, saying, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.’ And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”



UNDERSTANDING STRENGTH

- We are one body in Christ with different callings and gifts using all our resources together to build His Kingdom — so we should treat everyone who is in Christ as if it was Christ, regardless of prestige, power, property, possessions, etc.
- **1 Peter 4:10-11** — As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, **as one who serves by the strength [resources] that God supplies**—in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.





TRUE STRENGTH IS GODLY STEWARDSHIP.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”

Ephesians 6:10



TRUE STRENGTH IS LOVING NEIGHBOUR.

“Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.”

Ephesians 6:10

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6-9

The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. **Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.** And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written:

“He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor;
his righteousness endures forever.”



2 CORINTHIANS 9:10-15

He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. **You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way**, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God **because** of your submission that **comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ**, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for his inexpressible gift!





SACRIFICING TO GOD ALL YOU HAVE

“Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Hebrews 13:5



SANCTIFYING TO GOD ALL YOU HAVE

“But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,
and all these things will be added to you.”

Matthew 6:33

YOUR STRENGTH WILL BE TESTED...

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-9** — “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength [resources, wealth]... You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.”
- **Revelation 13:16-17** — Also it [the beast] causes all, both small and great, both rich and poor, both free and slave, to be marked on the right hand or the forehead, so that no one can buy or sell unless he has the mark, that is, the name of the beast or the number of its name.



LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

1. Comfort v. Conviction

- People can be nice when all their needs and comforts are met. People appear good because, say, they are carefree or ‘have it easy’, resting on their wealth and resources—with little to no worries or anxieties about tomorrow ([Matthew 6:25-34](#)).
- **Nice ≠ Good**



LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

1. Comfort v. Conviction

- Without your abundance, how charitable would you be — more or less?
Like the rich young ruler or the apostles?
- **Why are you comfortable?**
- I am not here to make you comfortable — I am here to convict you



LOVE GOD WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH

2. Wealthy Worship

- Tithing, donating, and giving is an act of worship — it is a sacrifice to God!
- The condition of your heart determines if it is a worthy sacrifice (Psalm 51:16-17, Hosea 6:6)
- **Matthew 6:19-21** — “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.





LOVE IS A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING.

“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

2 Corinthians 9:7

PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION

Pastoral Prayer of Application of God's Word.

CALL THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH

Prayer in the aisles — altar call, confession of sin, anointing of the sick, pastoral intercession, along with prayer, praise, and worship.

James 5:13-16; Psalm 103:2-5

JAMES 5:13-16

Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.



PSALMS, HYMNS & SPIRITUAL SONGS

Worshipping and praising the Lord in song together.

Ephesians 5:19; Colossians 3:16

BENEDICTION

Priestly Blessing

BENEDICTION

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
And the love of God the Father,
And the communion of the Holy Spirit,
Be with you all this week.
Go in the peace that surpasses all understanding.
Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14



