

# Evangelism On Purpose



Adapted from a Douglas Bryan sermon

[http://www.sermoncentral.com/print\\_friendly.asp?SermonID=6563](http://www.sermoncentral.com/print_friendly.asp?SermonID=6563)

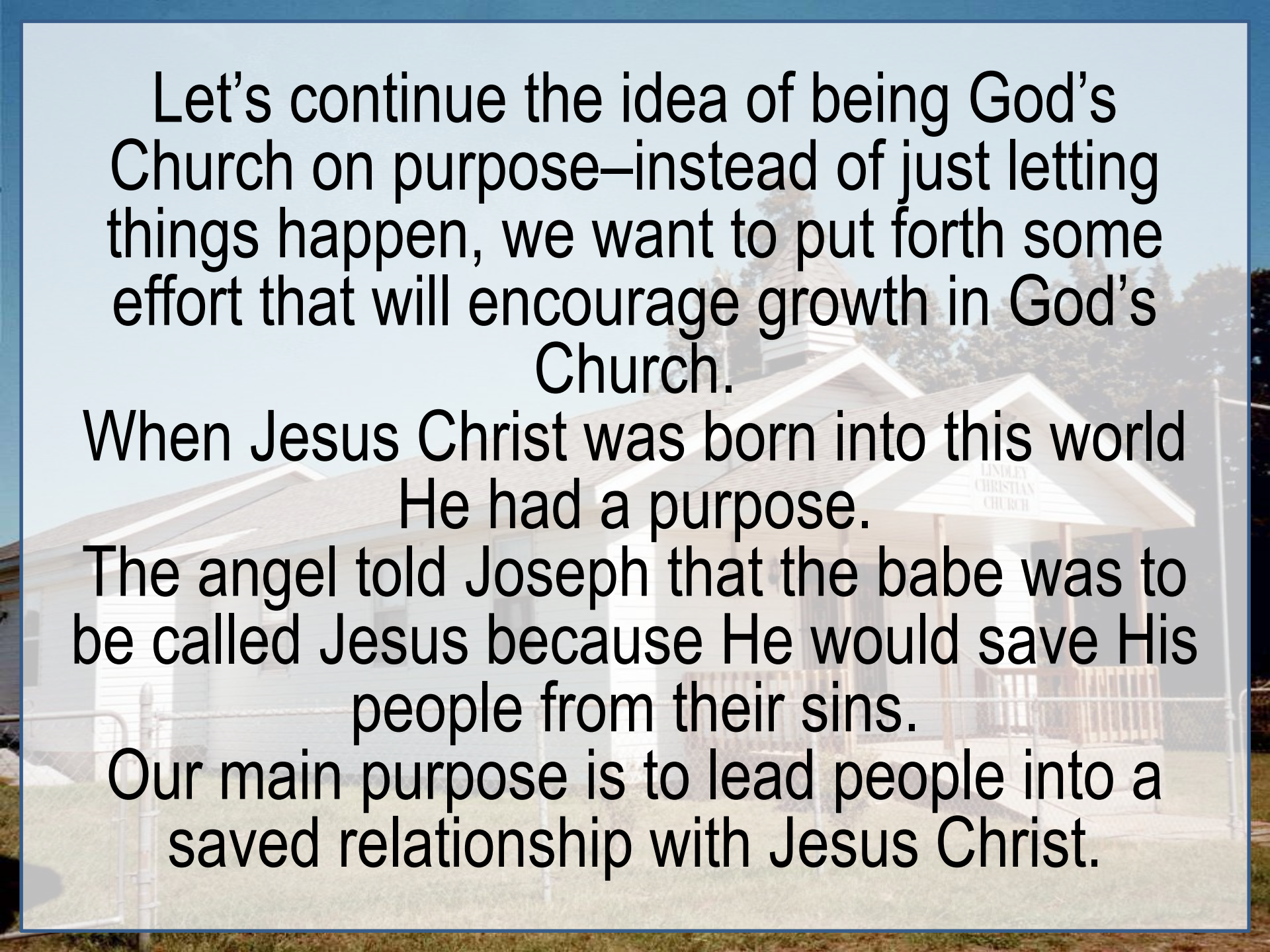
Every year at the Kiamichi Men's Clinic I get to hear a preacher named Marvin Phillips. Marvin is a fiery kind of preacher with a great heart for evangelism.

Marvin uses a lot of short sayings that carry a lot of truth.

"What the mind of man can conceive, and believe, it can achieve."

"Aim for nothing and you'll probably hit it every time with an amazing amount of accuracy."

"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss your target you'll be among the stars."

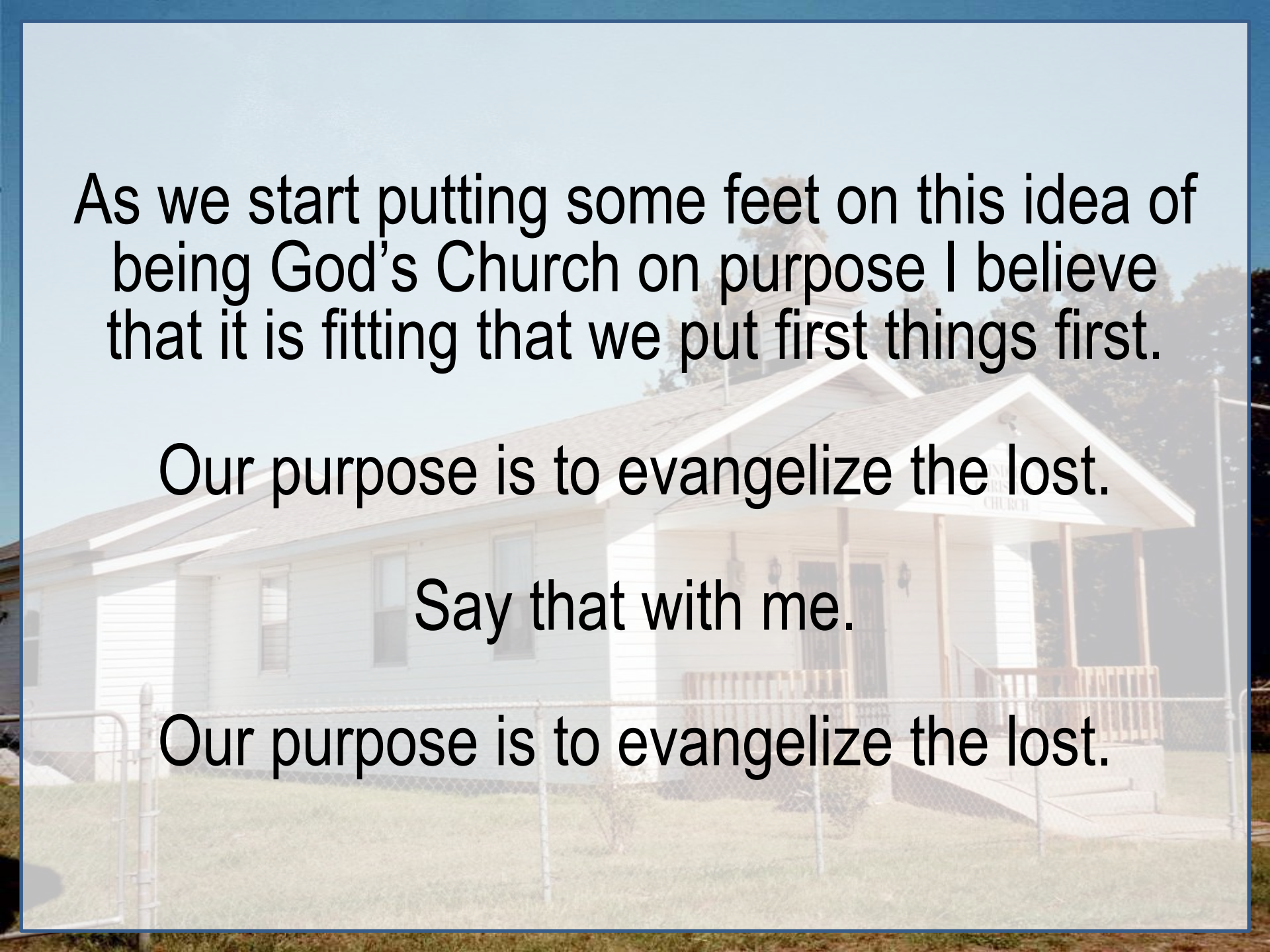


Let's continue the idea of being God's Church on purpose—instead of just letting things happen, we want to put forth some effort that will encourage growth in God's Church.

When Jesus Christ was born into this world He had a purpose.

The angel told Joseph that the babe was to be called Jesus because He would save His people from their sins.

Our main purpose is to lead people into a saved relationship with Jesus Christ.

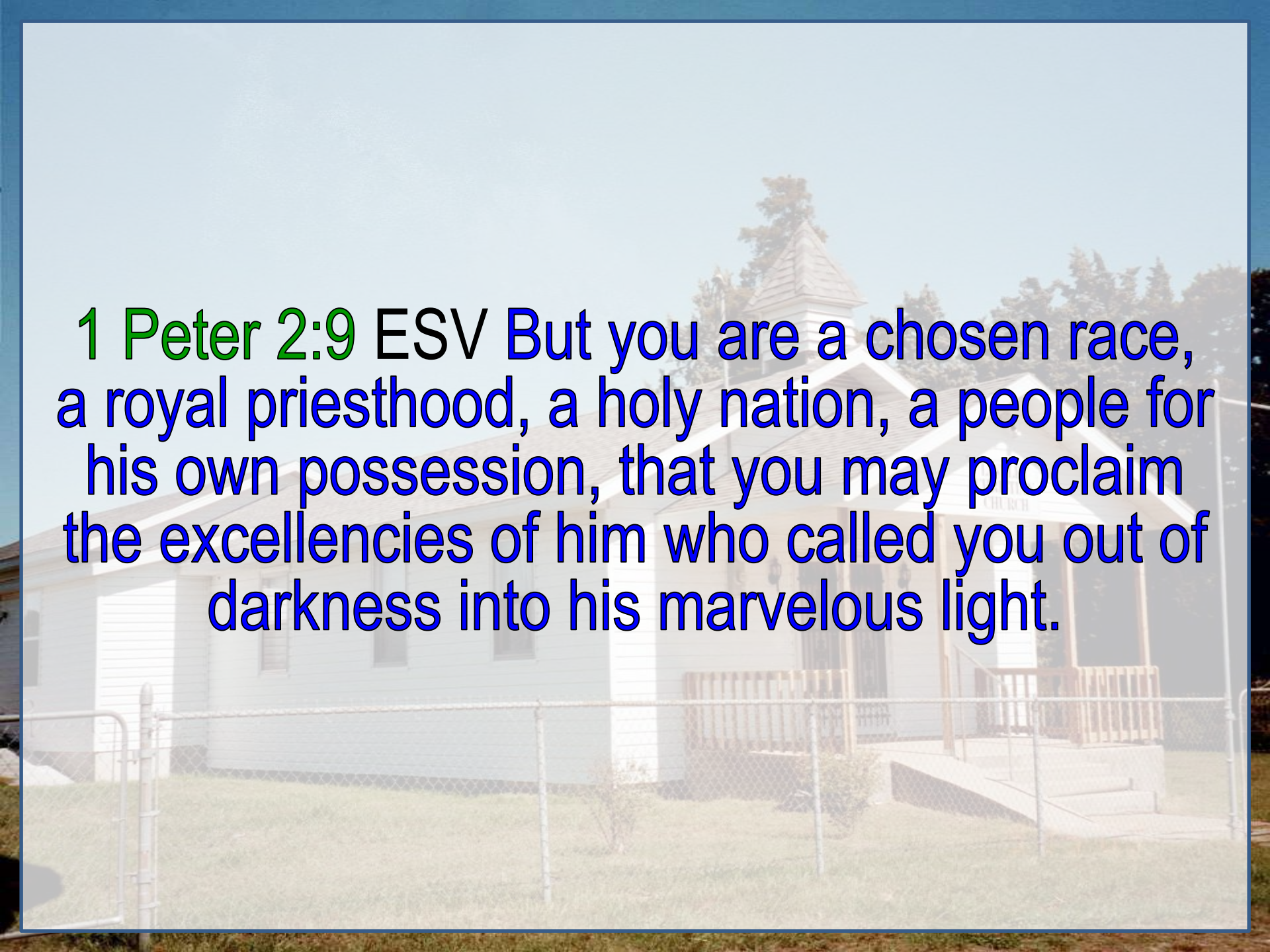


As we start putting some feet on this idea of being God's Church on purpose I believe that it is fitting that we put first things first.

Our purpose is to evangelize the lost.

Say that with me.

Our purpose is to evangelize the lost.

A photograph of a white church building with a steeple, viewed through a chain-link fence. The church has a prominent steeple and a porch with wooden railings. The background shows trees and a clear sky.

**1 Peter 2:9** ESV But you are a chosen race,  
a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for  
his own possession, that you may proclaim  
the excellencies of him who called you out of  
darkness into his marvelous light.

**Excellencies**—a word signifying excellencies, perfections, beauties, It is used in **2 Peter 1:3** of God's *power*.

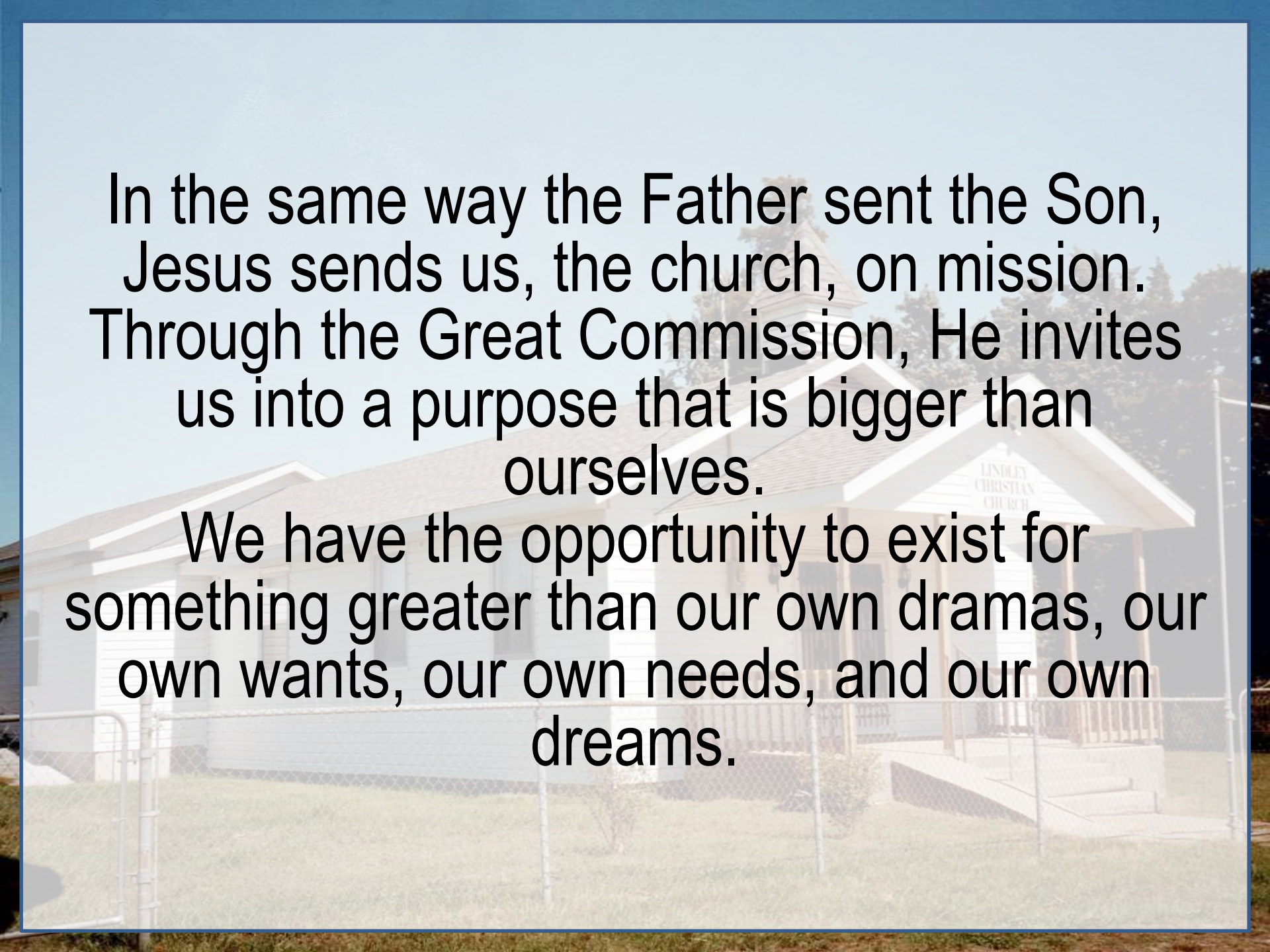
The scope of reference in this phrase is to our whole manner of life as a Christian. Surely the text would include our work as personal evangelists to those who are unsaved.

But in *every way* we are to be “reflectors” of God's glories. (College Press)

# A Sent People

John 20:19 ESV On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

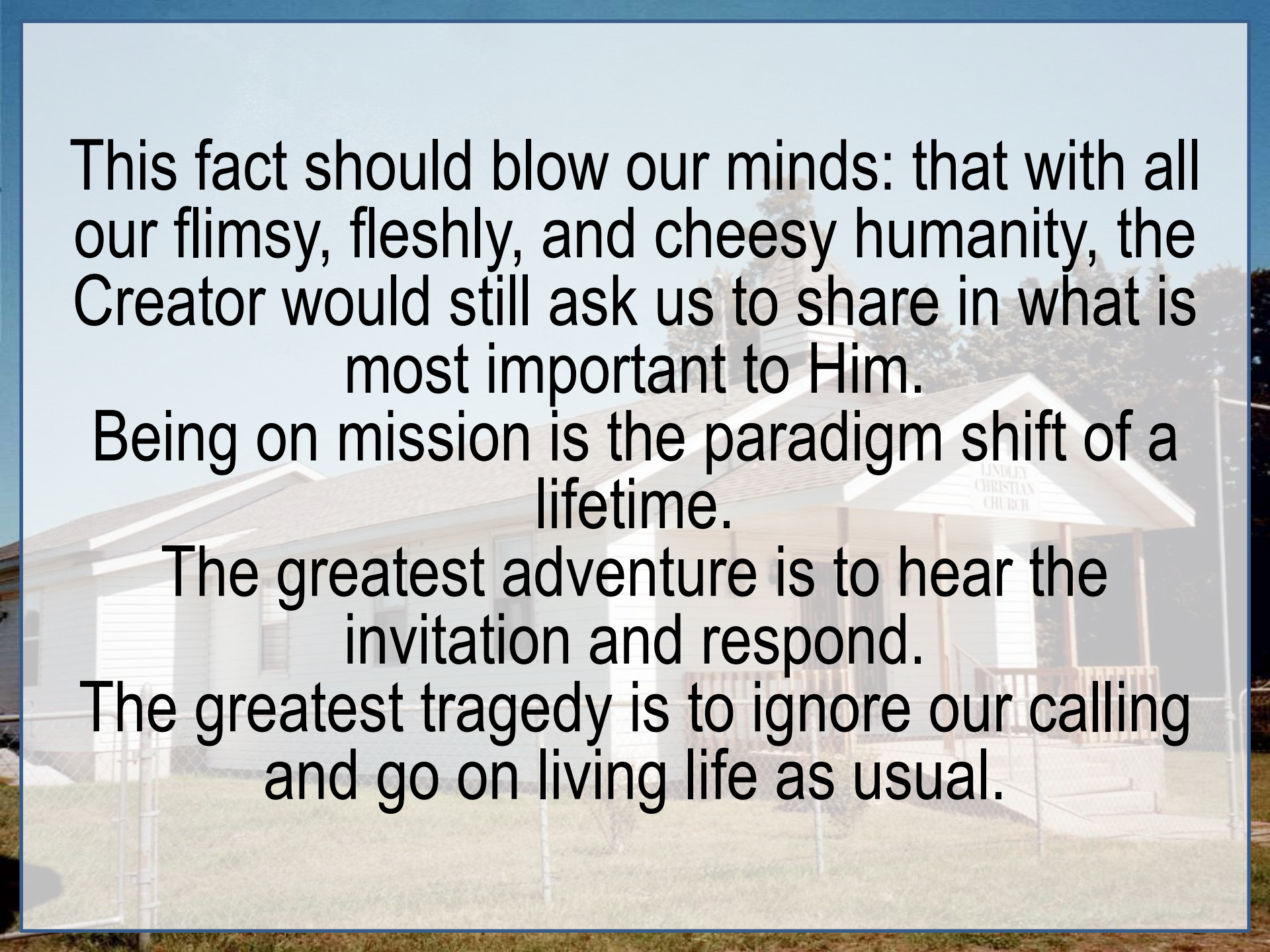
20 When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. 21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."



In the same way the Father sent the Son,  
Jesus sends us, the church, on mission.  
Through the Great Commission, He invites  
us into a purpose that is bigger than  
ourselves.

We have the opportunity to exist for  
something greater than our own dramas, our  
own wants, our own needs, and our own  
dreams.



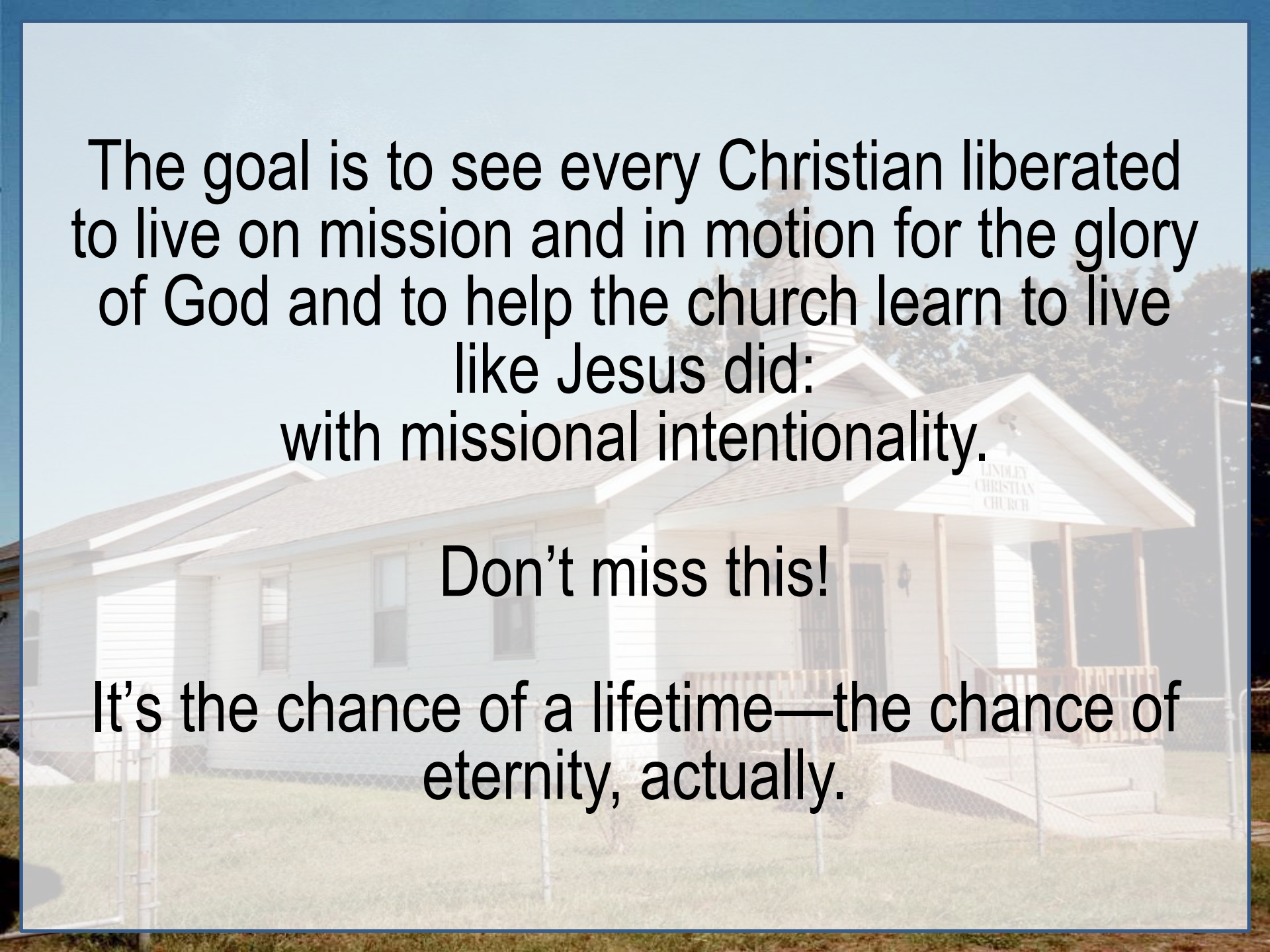


This fact should blow our minds: that with all our flimsy, fleshly, and cheesy humanity, the Creator would still ask us to share in what is most important to Him.

Being on mission is the paradigm shift of a lifetime.

The greatest adventure is to hear the invitation and respond.

The greatest tragedy is to ignore our calling and go on living life as usual.



The goal is to see every Christian liberated  
to live on mission and in motion for the glory  
of God and to help the church learn to live  
like Jesus did:  
with missional intentionality.

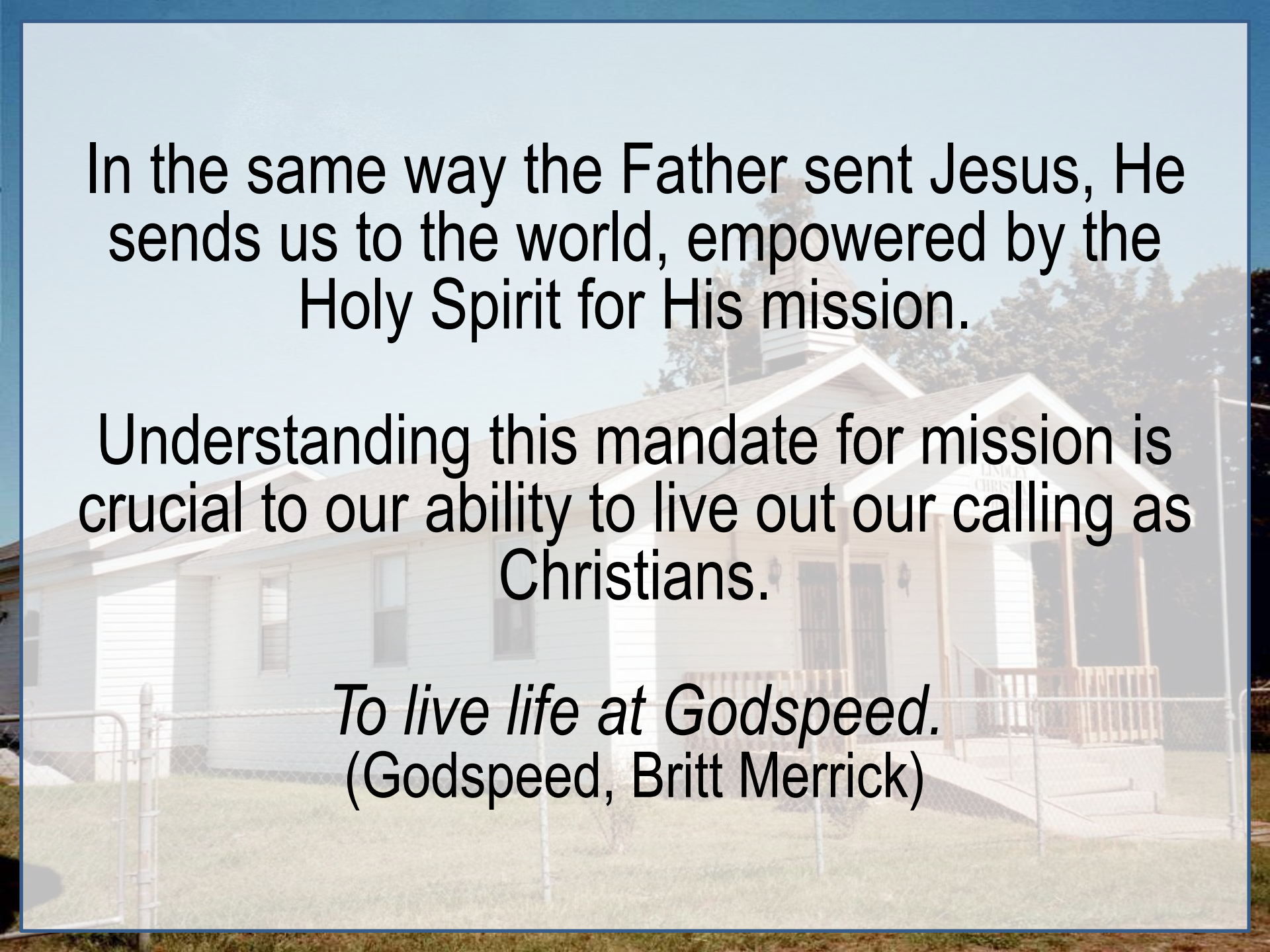
Don't miss this!

It's the chance of a lifetime—the chance of  
eternity, actually.

Christ was on a mission: the Father sent Him for the glory of God and for the salvation of humanity. And then Jesus said, “**As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.**”

Don't hear “I also send you” as Jesus saying you need to go somewhere else. Hear it as Jesus telling you that you have *already* been sent to where you are right now.

Like it or not, you are a sent person.



In the same way the Father sent Jesus, He sends us to the world, empowered by the Holy Spirit for His mission.

Understanding this mandate for mission is crucial to our ability to live out our calling as Christians.

*To live life at Godspeed.*  
(Godspeed, Britt Merrick)

We are going to be using **1 Corinthians**

**16:5-9** as our text for this sermon on evangelism.

Paul had spent about 8 years on his first 2 missionary journeys.

During that time he traveled from city to city preaching the gospel and starting churches.

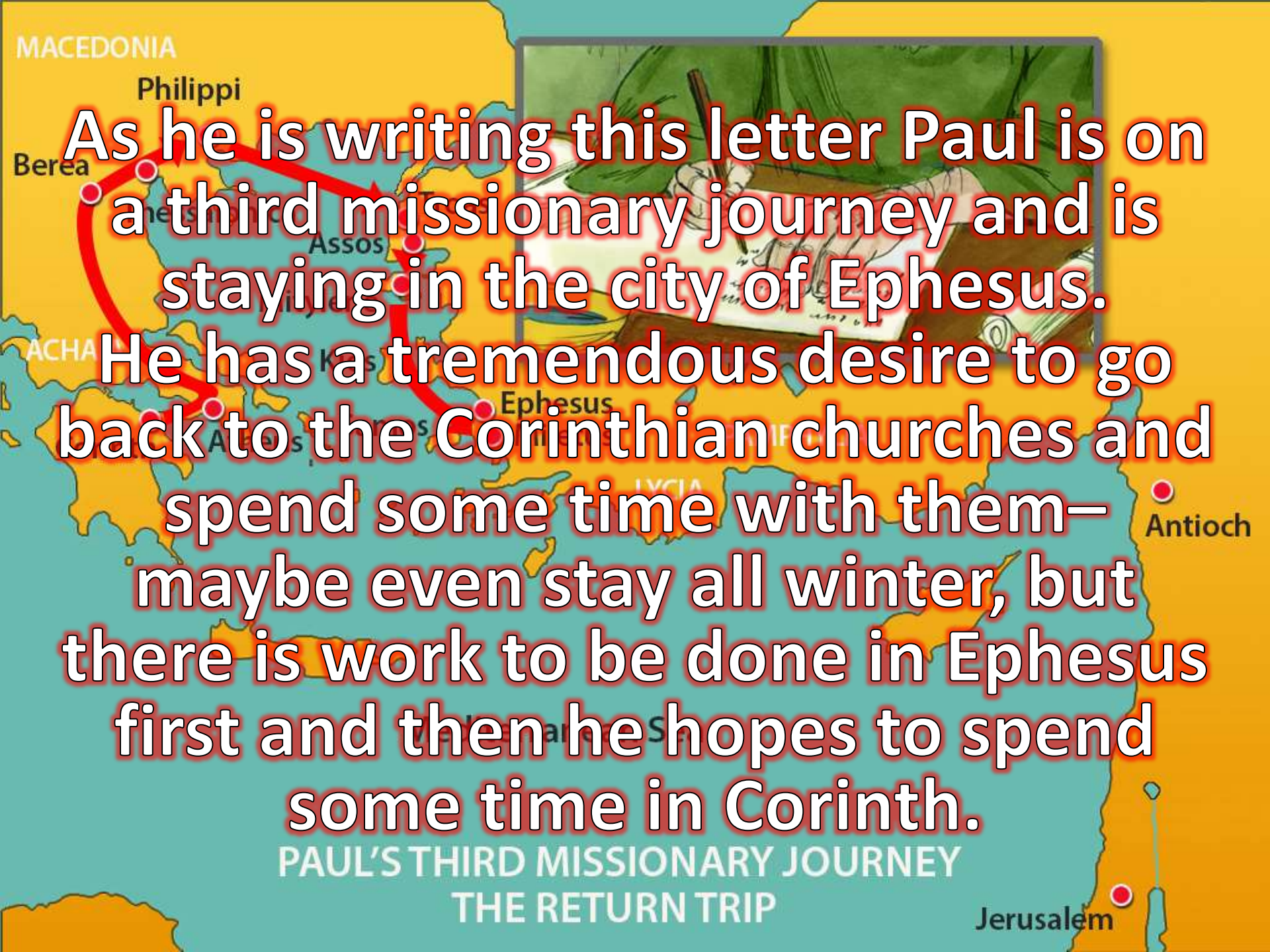
PAUL'S SECOND MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
49-52 AD





However, it wasn't always easy as he faced a lot of opposition.

He had been flogged with whips, beaten with rods, and even stoned and left for dead—all because he longed to share the saving grace of Jesus Christ with the world.



As he is writing this letter Paul is on a third missionary journey and is staying in the city of Ephesus.

He has a tremendous desire to go back to the Corinthian churches and spend some time with them—maybe even stay all winter, but there is work to be done in Ephesus first and then he hopes to spend some time in Corinth.

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
THE RETURN TRIP

Jerusalem

Antioch

MACEDONIA

Philippi

Berea

Assos

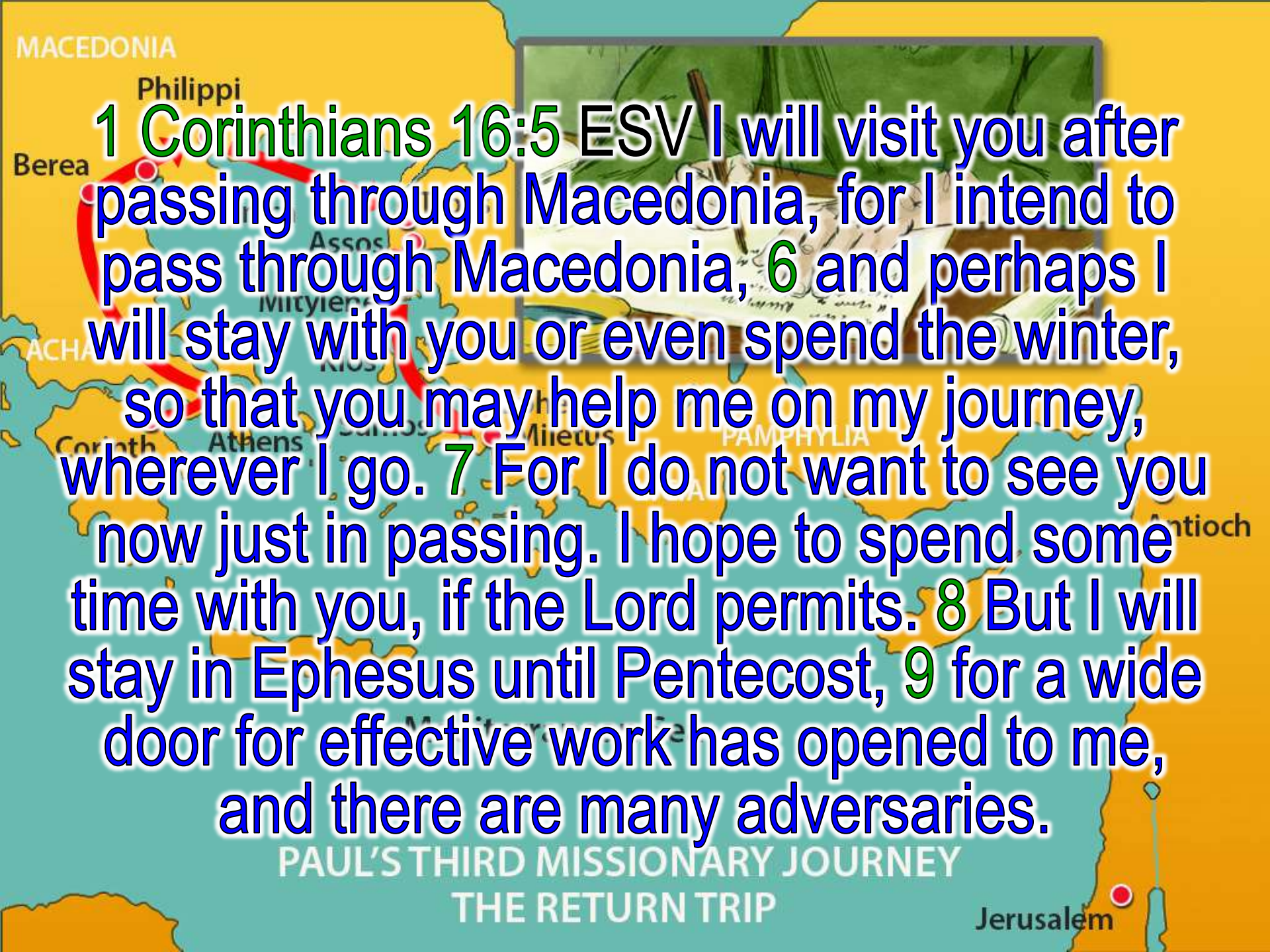
ACHAIA

Ephesus

LYCIA

Galatia

Asia

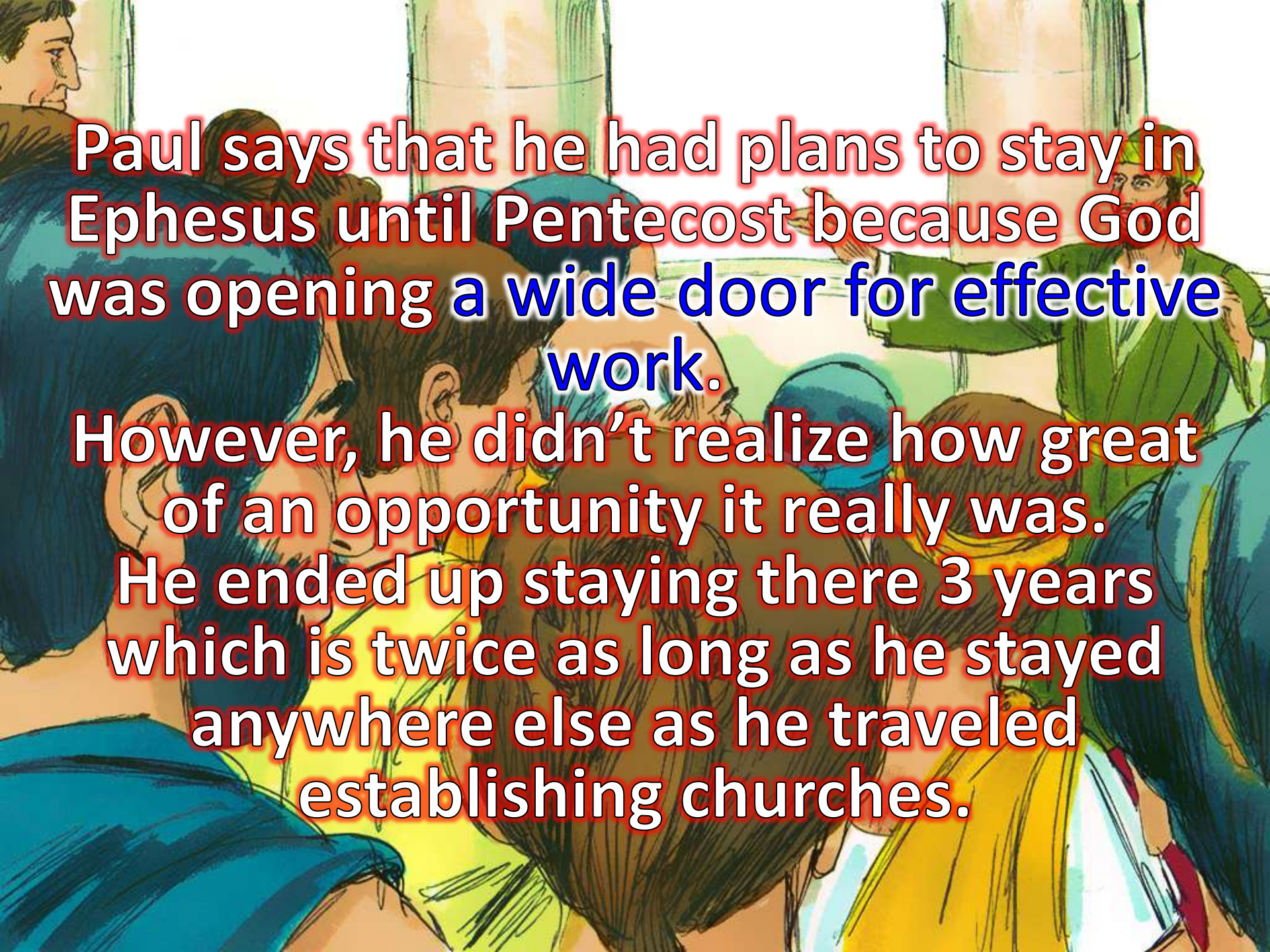


**1 Corinthians 16:5** ESV I will visit you after passing through Macedonia, for I intend to pass through Macedonia, **6** and perhaps I will stay with you or even spend the winter, so that you may help me on my journey, wherever I go. **7** For I do not want to see you now just in passing. I hope to spend some time with you, if the Lord permits. **8** But I will stay in Ephesus until Pentecost, **9** for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries.

PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY  
THE RETURN TRIP

Jerusalem



A colorful illustration depicting a man in a green robe, likely Paul, speaking to a crowd of people. He is standing on the right side of the frame, gesturing with his right hand towards the crowd. The crowd consists of several people, including a woman with long dark hair in the foreground on the left, and others in various colored robes (blue, yellow, brown). The background features classical architectural elements like columns and a doorway. The overall style is that of a religious or historical illustration.

Paul says that he had plans to stay in Ephesus until Pentecost because God was opening a wide door for effective work.

However, he didn't realize how great of an opportunity it really was. He ended up staying there 3 years which is twice as long as he stayed anywhere else as he traveled establishing churches.

# A Door Of Opportunity

Ephesus was not a town where most Christians would want to settle—it was a little bit on the wild side.

In the time of the Romans it bore the title of “the first and greatest metropolis of Asia.” It was distinguished for the Temple of Diana (q.v.), who there had her chief shrine; and for its theatre, which was the largest in the world, capable of containing 50,000 spectators.

It was, like all ancient theatres, open to the sky. Here were exhibited the fights of wild beasts and of men with beasts.

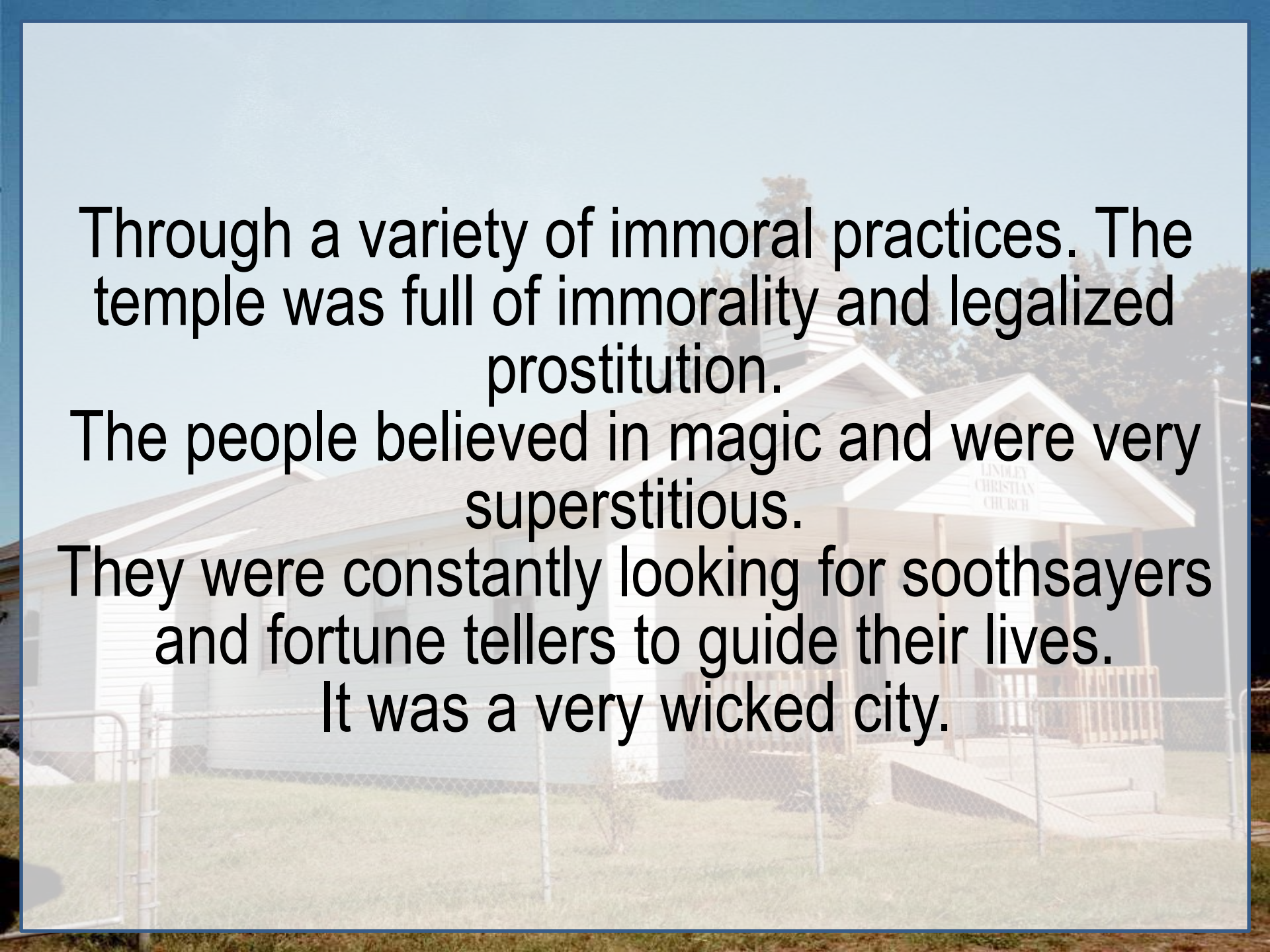
(Eastons)



It was a happening place. It was a financial and commercial center and there was a lot of money that went through that city

Ephesus also was the home to one of the seven wonders of the ancient world—the temple that was dedicated for the worship of the goddess Diana—the goddess of fertility.

How do you worship a goddess of fertility?

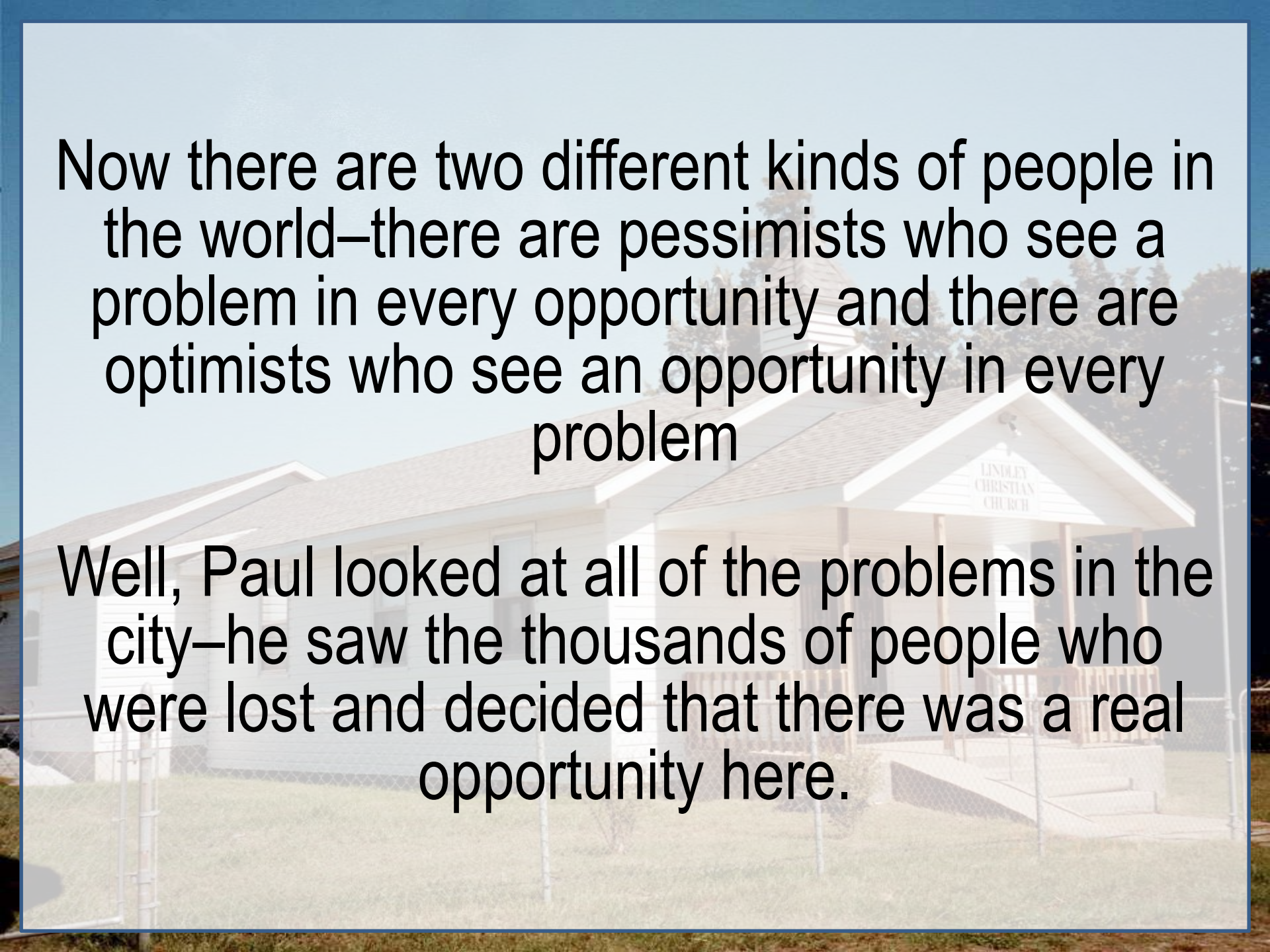


Through a variety of immoral practices. The temple was full of immorality and legalized prostitution.

The people believed in magic and were very superstitious.

They were constantly looking for soothsayers and fortune tellers to guide their lives.

It was a very wicked city.



Now there are two different kinds of people in the world—there are pessimists who see a problem in every opportunity and there are optimists who see an opportunity in every problem

Well, Paul looked at all of the problems in the city—he saw the thousands of people who were lost and decided that there was a real opportunity here.

There were so many people who needed to hear about Jesus.

So many lives that needed to be changed.

So many people who needed to hear the Gospel message and Paul was determined to turn that city upside down for Jesus.

He saw a great opportunity.

While many people profess to be Christians today there are still many who have never accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior—who are still lost.

**John 4:35** ESV Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest.

Beating people over the head with a Bible will not usually get you very far in winning someone to God's side.

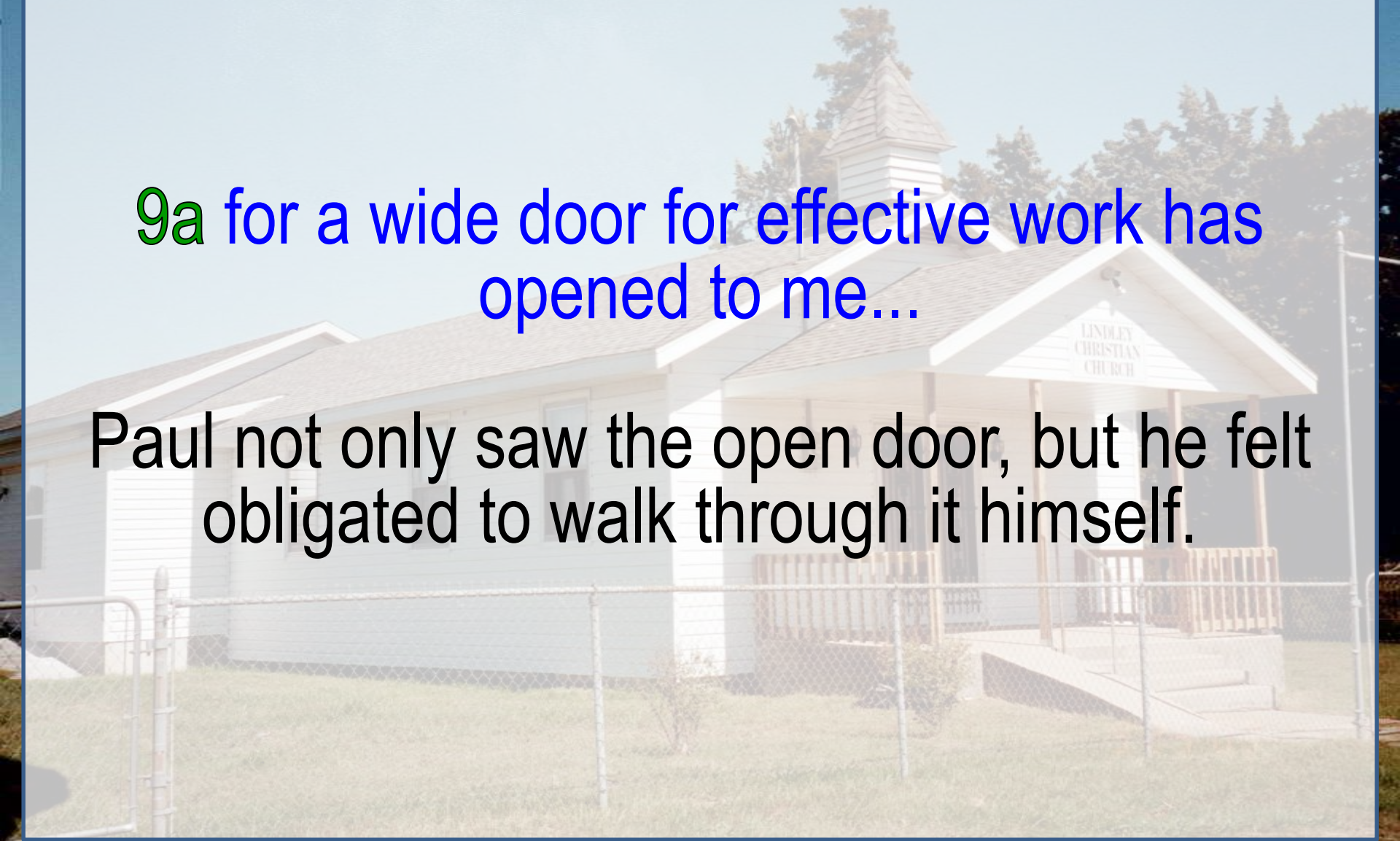
But, there will be opportunities to share—opportunities will come.

Look for them!

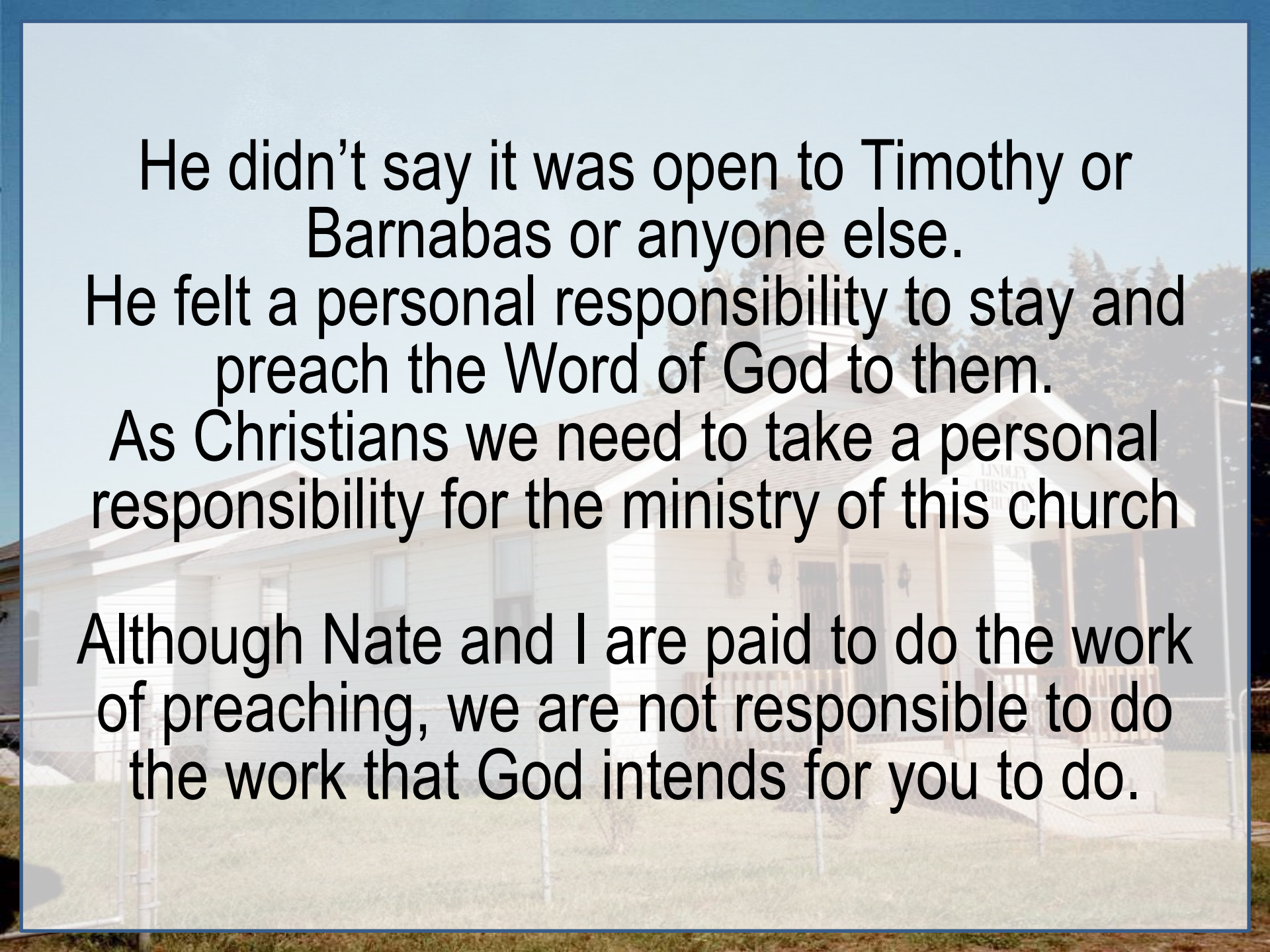
# A Door Of Obligation

9a for a wide door for effective work has opened to me...

Paul not only saw the open door, but he felt obligated to walk through it himself.





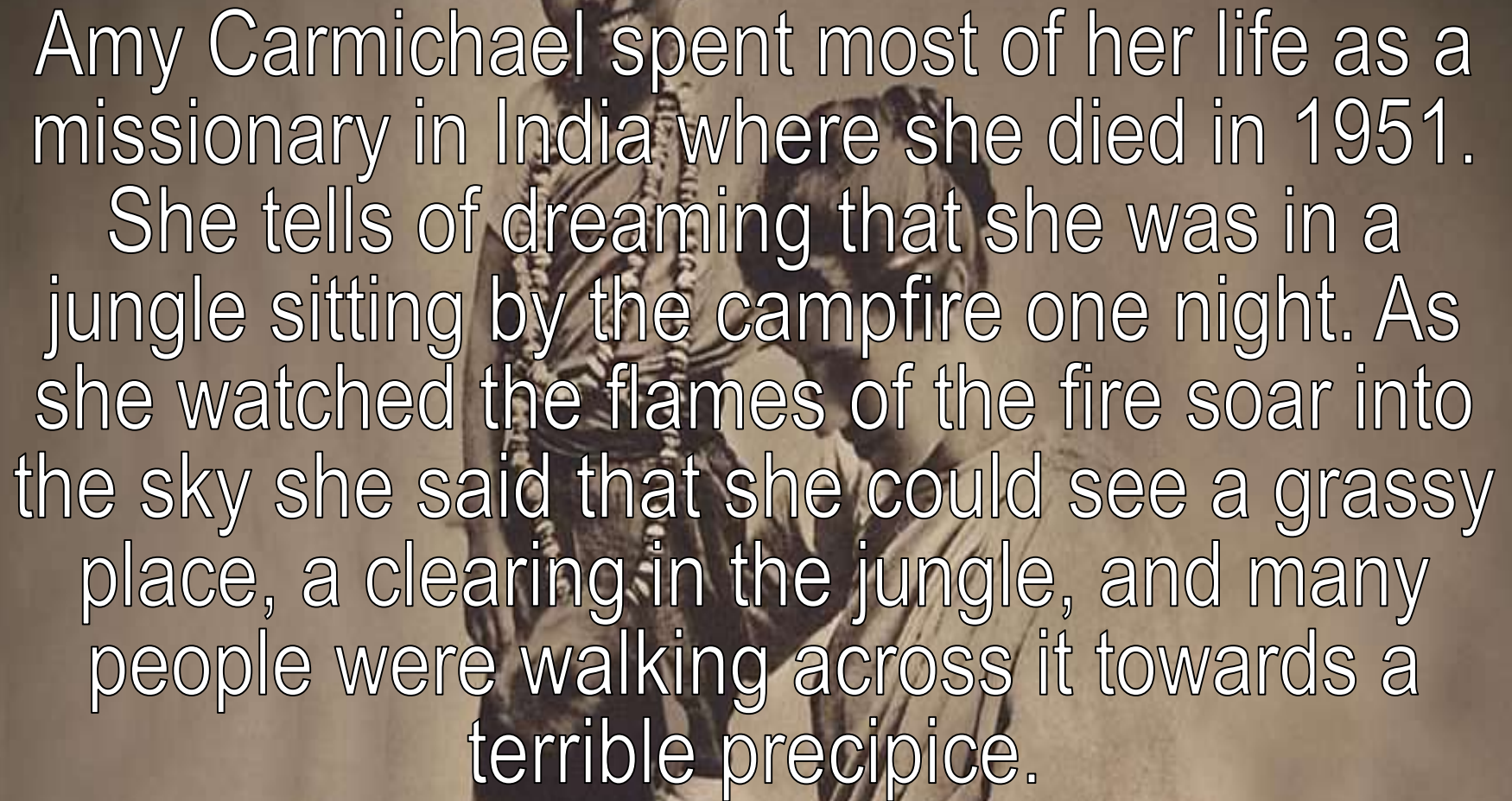


He didn't say it was open to Timothy or Barnabas or anyone else.

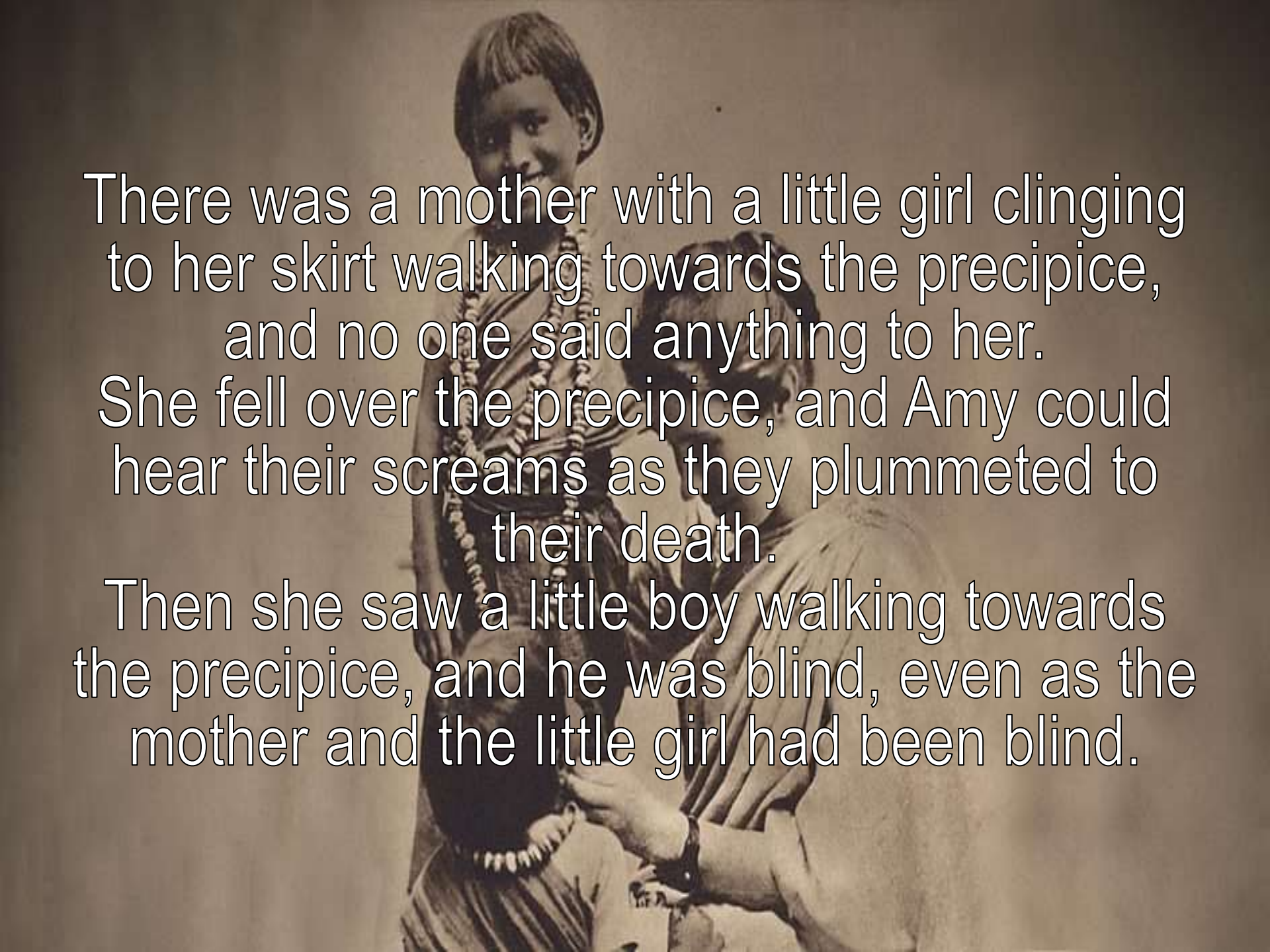
He felt a personal responsibility to stay and preach the Word of God to them.

As Christians we need to take a personal responsibility for the ministry of this church

Although Nate and I are paid to do the work of preaching, we are not responsible to do the work that God intends for you to do.



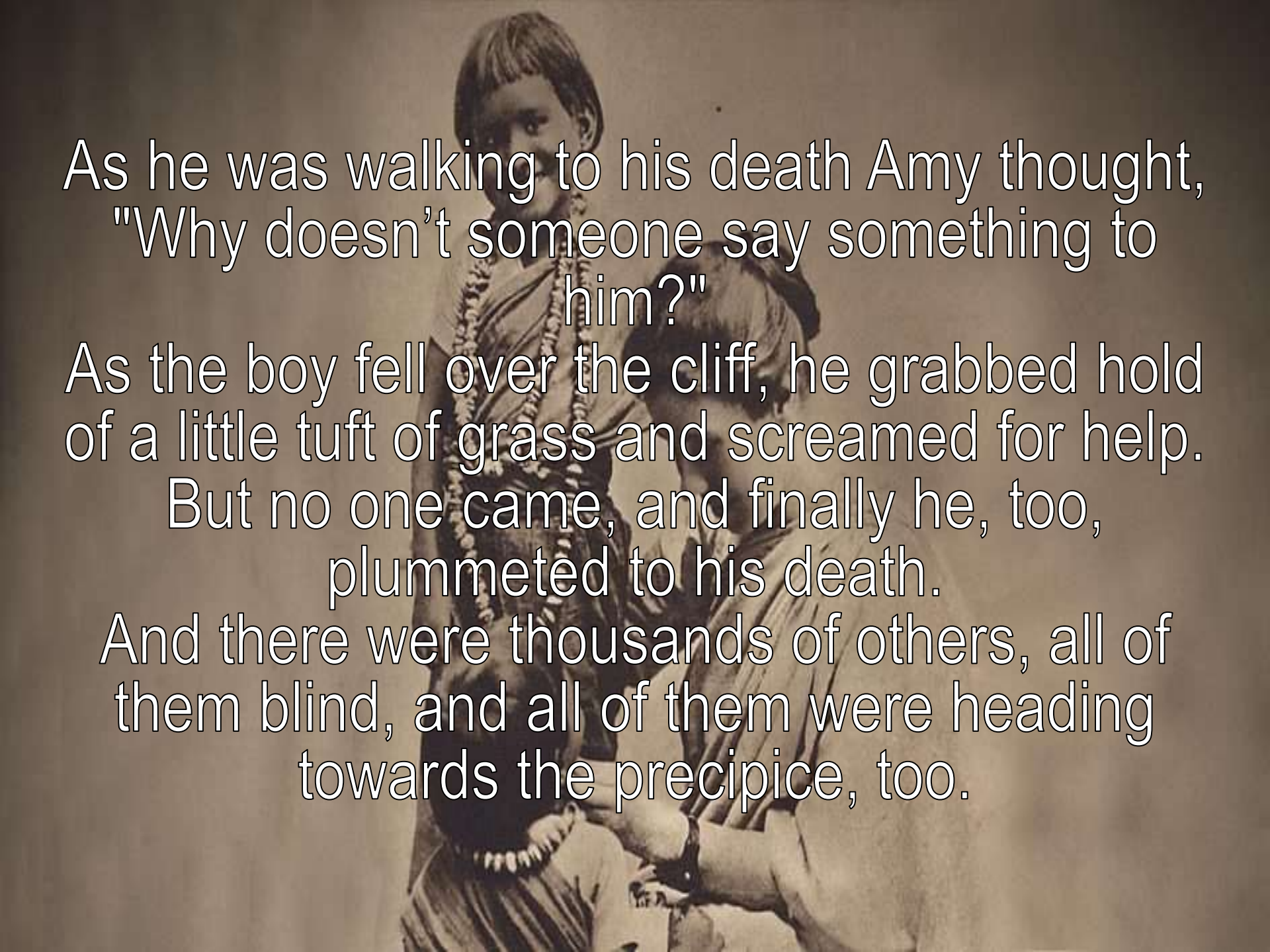
Amy Carmichael spent most of her life as a missionary in India where she died in 1951. She tells of dreaming that she was in a jungle sitting by the campfire one night. As she watched the flames of the fire soar into the sky she said that she could see a grassy place, a clearing in the jungle, and many people were walking across it towards a terrible precipice.



There was a mother with a little girl clinging to her skirt walking towards the precipice, and no one said anything to her.

She fell over the precipice, and Amy could hear their screams as they plummeted to their death.

Then she saw a little boy walking towards the precipice, and he was blind, even as the mother and the little girl had been blind.

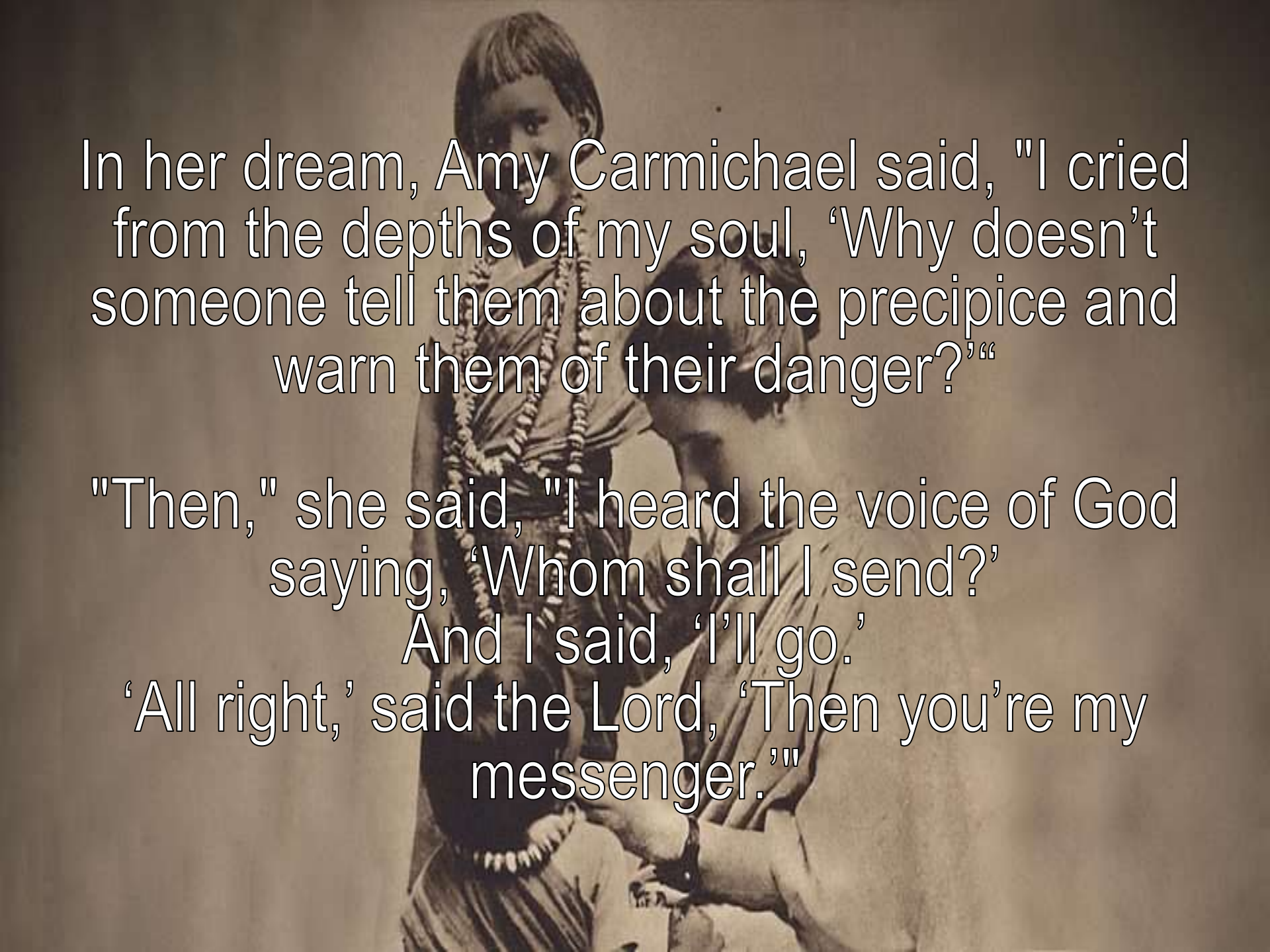


As he was walking to his death Amy thought,  
"Why doesn't someone say something to  
him?"

As the boy fell over the cliff, he grabbed hold  
of a little tuft of grass and screamed for help.

But no one came, and finally he, too,  
plummeted to his death.

And there were thousands of others, all of  
them blind, and all of them were heading  
towards the precipice, too.

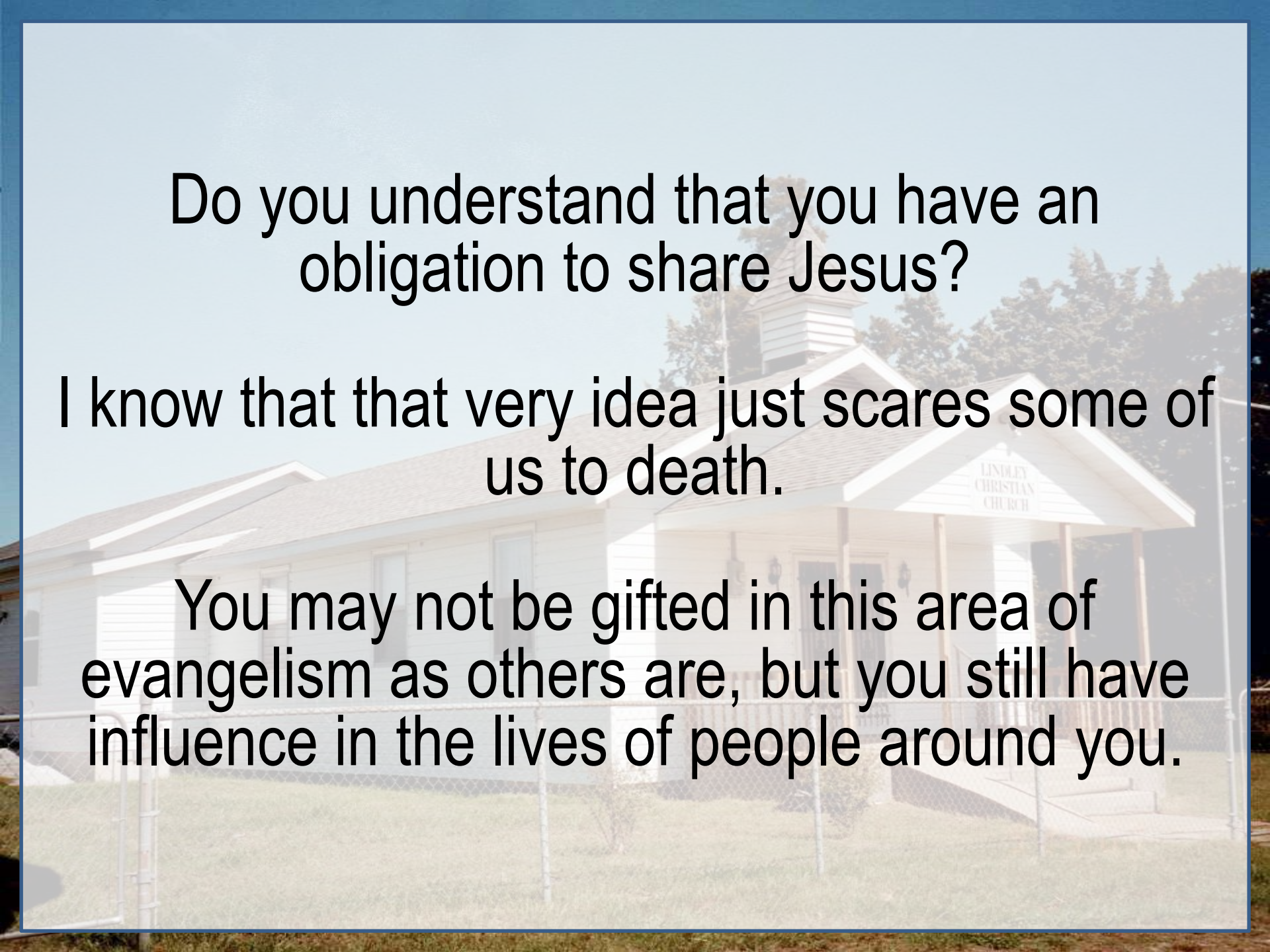


In her dream, Amy Carmichael said, "I cried from the depths of my soul, 'Why doesn't someone tell them about the precipice and warn them of their danger?'"

"Then," she said, "I heard the voice of God saying, 'Whom shall I send?'"

And I said, 'I'll go.'

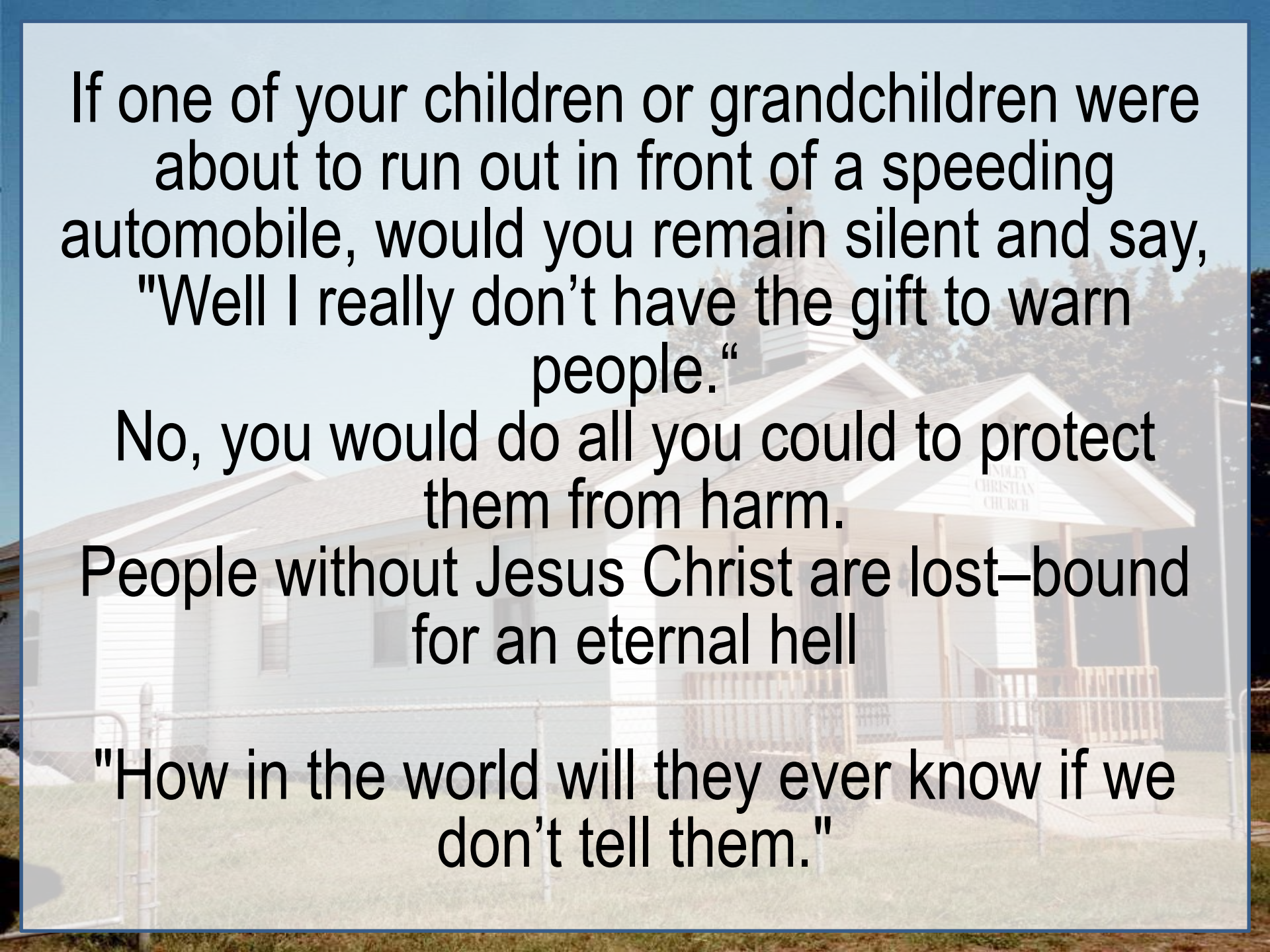
'All right,' said the Lord, 'Then you're my messenger.'"

A photograph of a single-story church building with a steeple, set against a clear blue sky. The church has a sign that reads "LINSLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH". The building is surrounded by a lawn and some trees in the background.

Do you understand that you have an obligation to share Jesus?

I know that that very idea just scares some of us to death.

You may not be gifted in this area of evangelism as others are, but you still have influence in the lives of people around you.



If one of your children or grandchildren were about to run out in front of a speeding automobile, would you remain silent and say, "Well I really don't have the gift to warn people."

No, you would do all you could to protect them from harm.

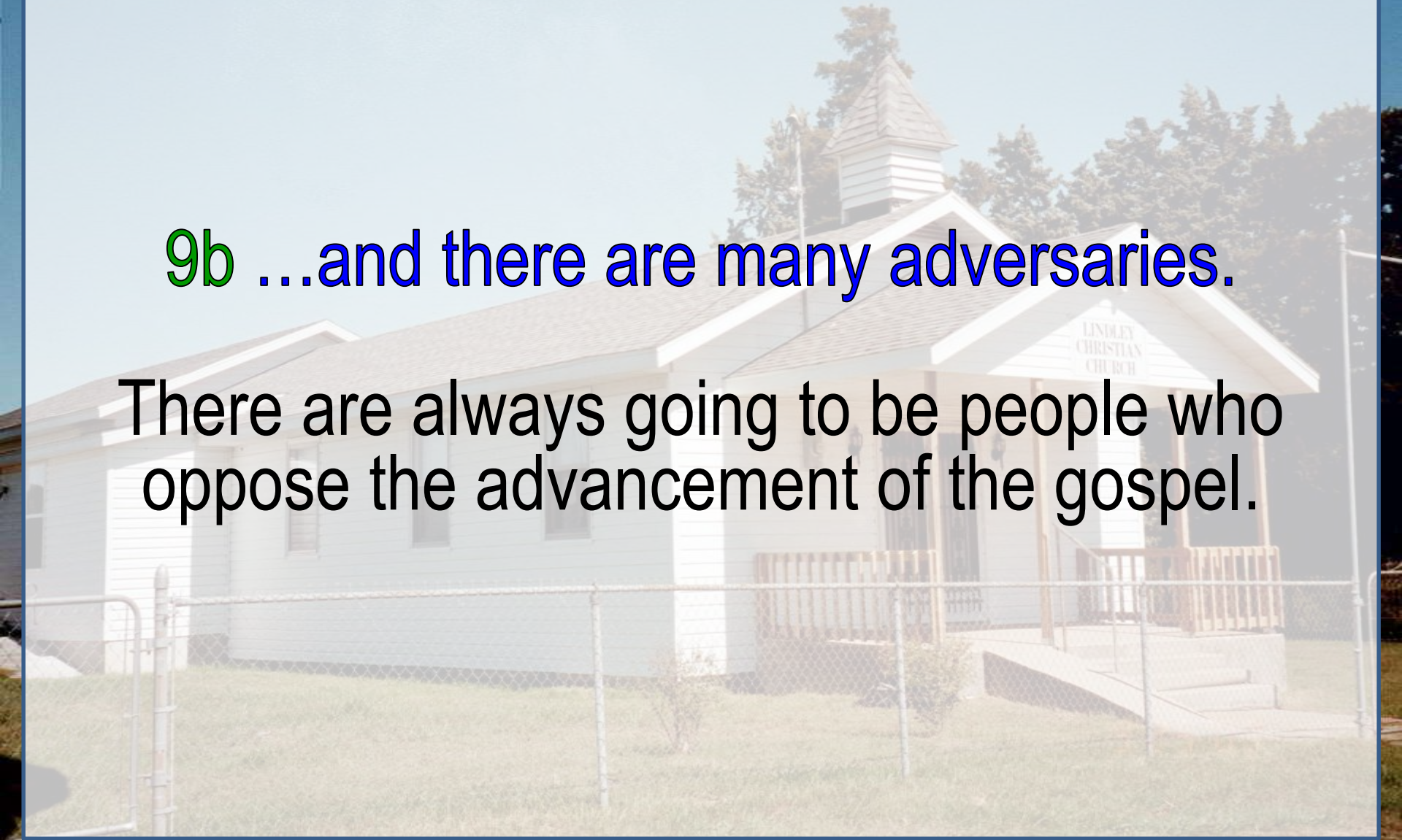
People without Jesus Christ are lost—bound for an eternal hell

"How in the world will they ever know if we don't tell them."

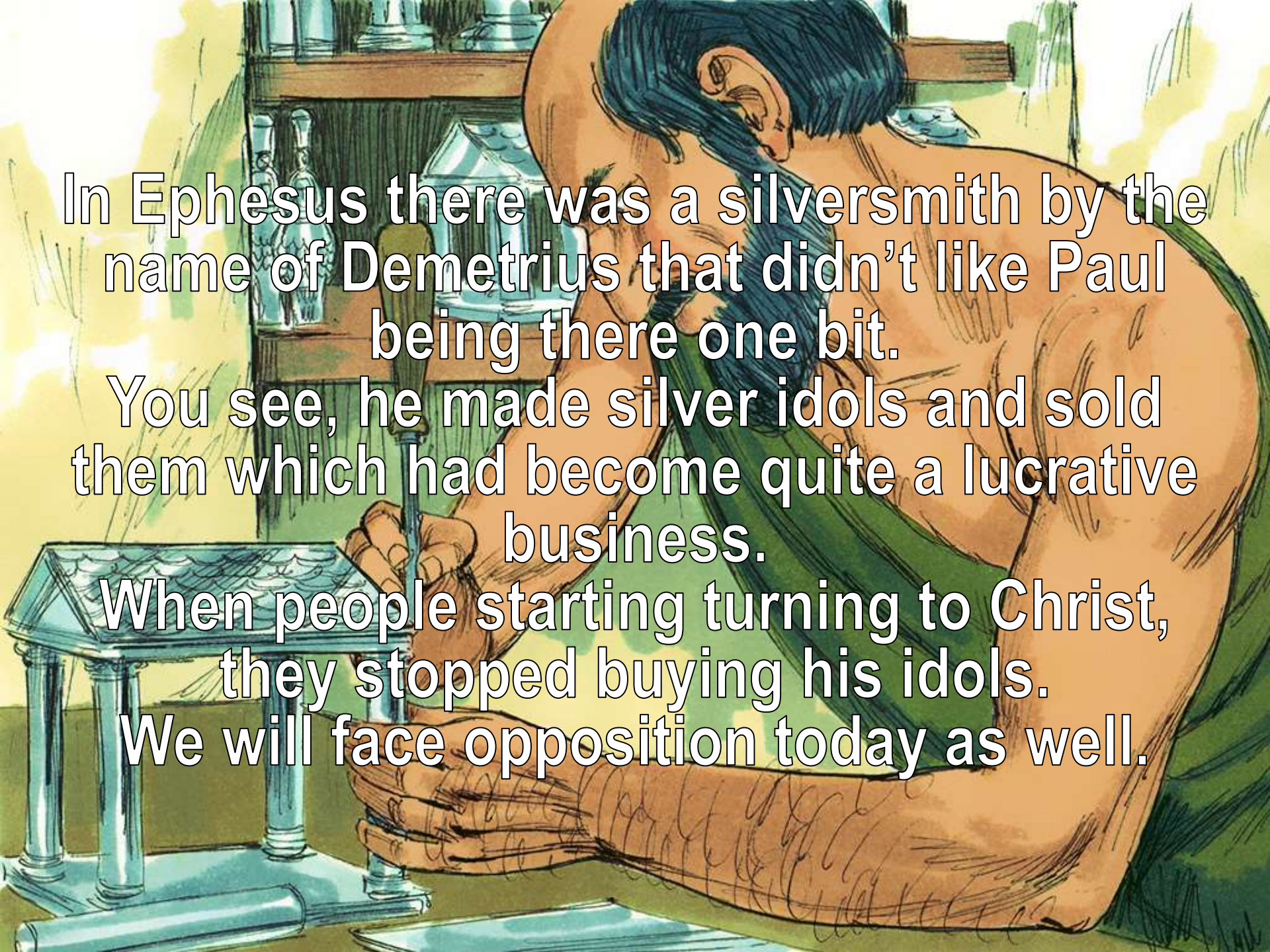
# A Door Of Opposition

9b ...and there are many adversaries.

There are always going to be people who oppose the advancement of the gospel.





A man with a beard and long hair, wearing a green tunic, is shown from the side, working at a workbench. He is using a tool to work on a piece of metal. The workbench has a small table with a glass top and four legs. In the background, there are shelves with various items, including what looks like a silver idol. The scene is set in a workshop or a store.

In Ephesus there was a silversmith by the name of Demetrius that didn't like Paul being there one bit.

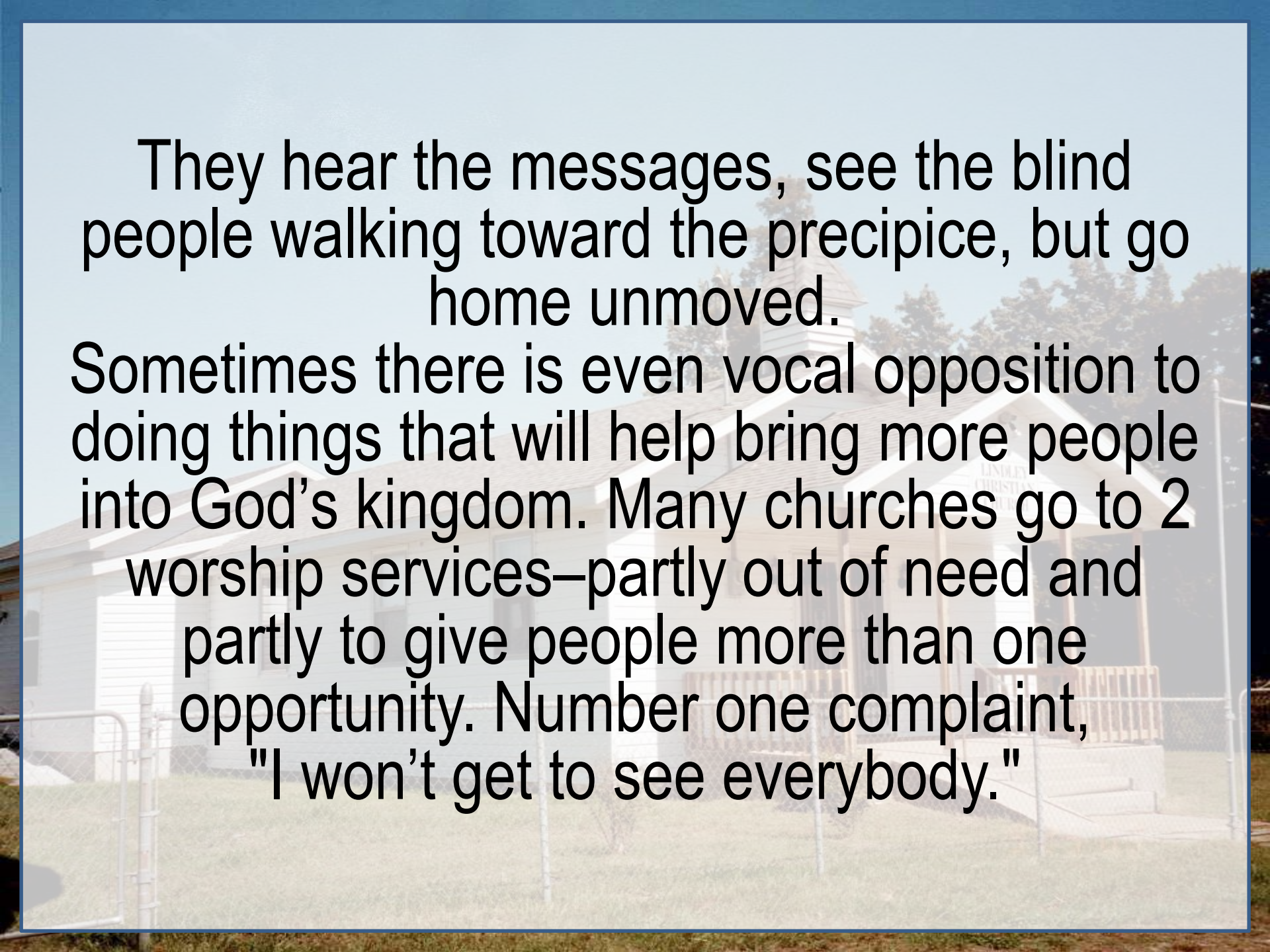
You see, he made silver idols and sold them which had become quite a lucrative business.

When people starting turning to Christ, they stopped buying his idols.

We will face opposition today as well.

There will be some who will want to label us as fanatics, fundamentalists, jokes about being homophobic and close-minded. It may be that the worst opponents to the advancement of the Gospel are not those who stand up and oppose it. It may be those who sit in the pews and are lukewarm Christians

**Revelation 3:15** ESV "I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot! **16** So, because you are lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.



They hear the messages, see the blind people walking toward the precipice, but go home unmoved.

Sometimes there is even vocal opposition to doing things that will help bring more people into God's kingdom. Many churches go to 2 worship services—partly out of need and partly to give people more than one opportunity. Number one complaint, "I won't get to see everybody."



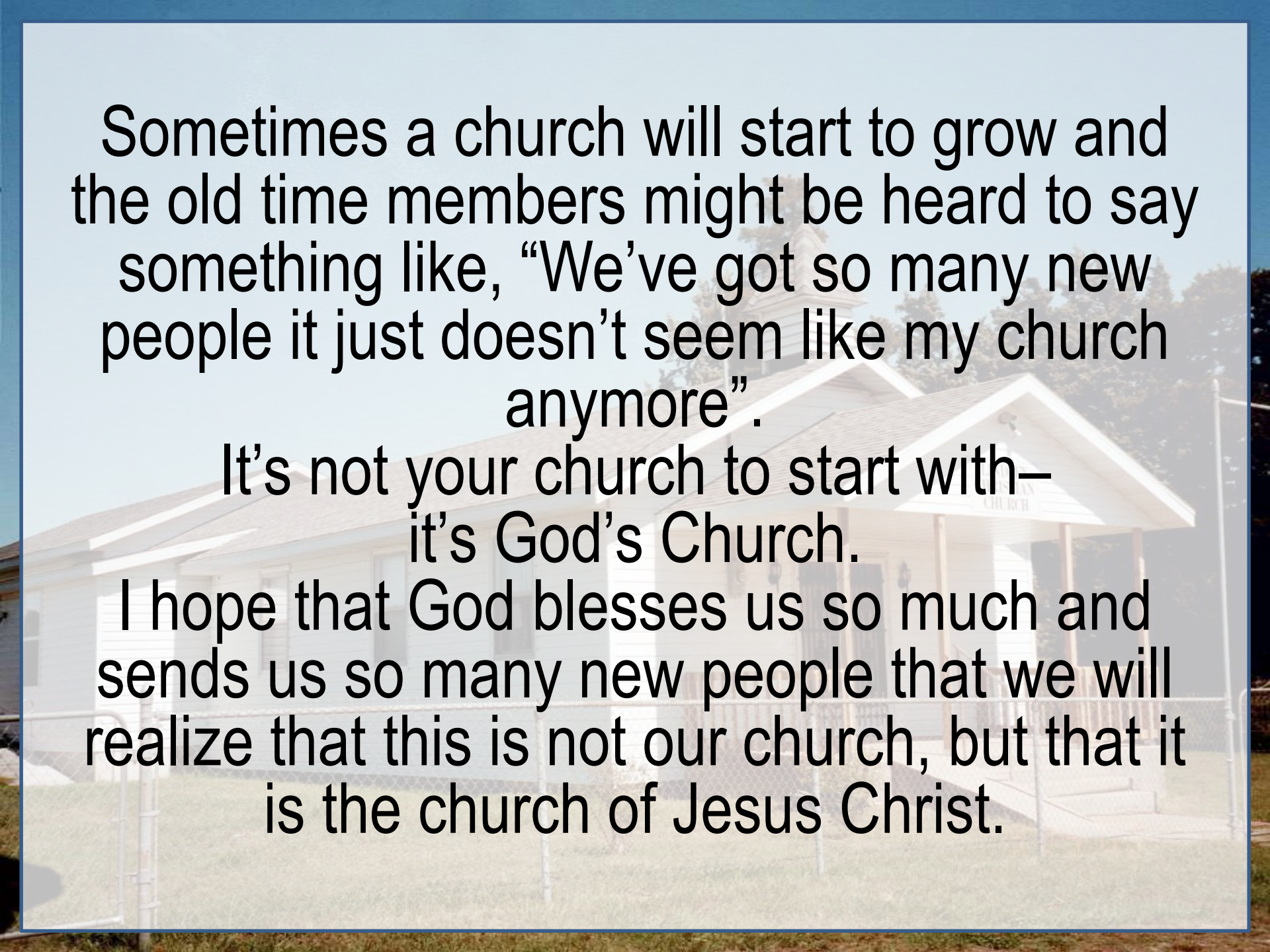
Let's go back to where we started.

Our purpose.

Is our purpose to be a social club?

Or is our purpose to reach the lost?

How would Jesus answer that?



Sometimes a church will start to grow and the old time members might be heard to say something like, “We’ve got so many new people it just doesn’t seem like my church anymore”.

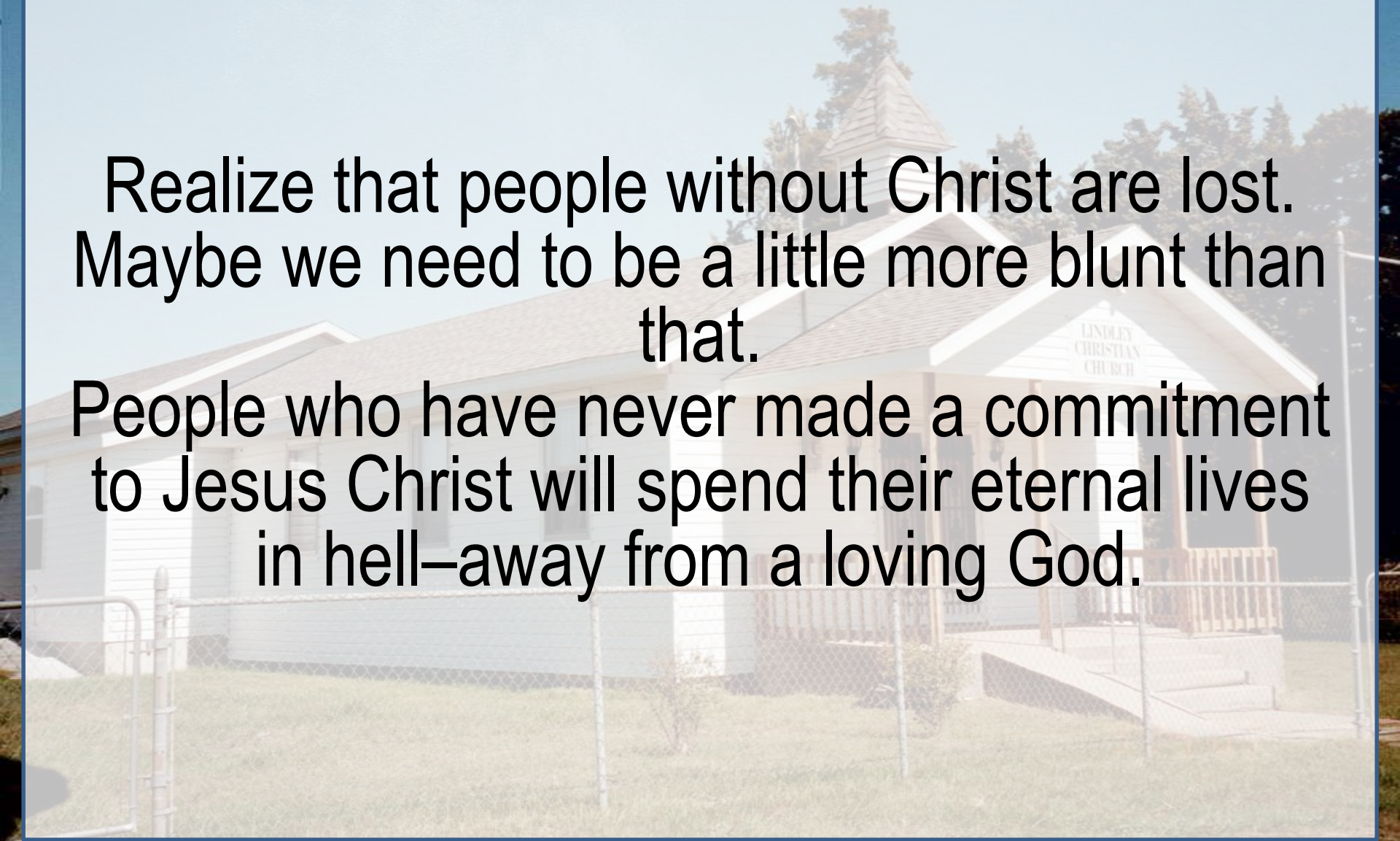
It’s not your church to start with—  
it’s God’s Church.

I hope that God blesses us so much and sends us so many new people that we will realize that this is not our church, but that it is the church of Jesus Christ.

# Steps To Sharing Your Faith

Realize that people without Christ are lost. Maybe we need to be a little more blunt than that.

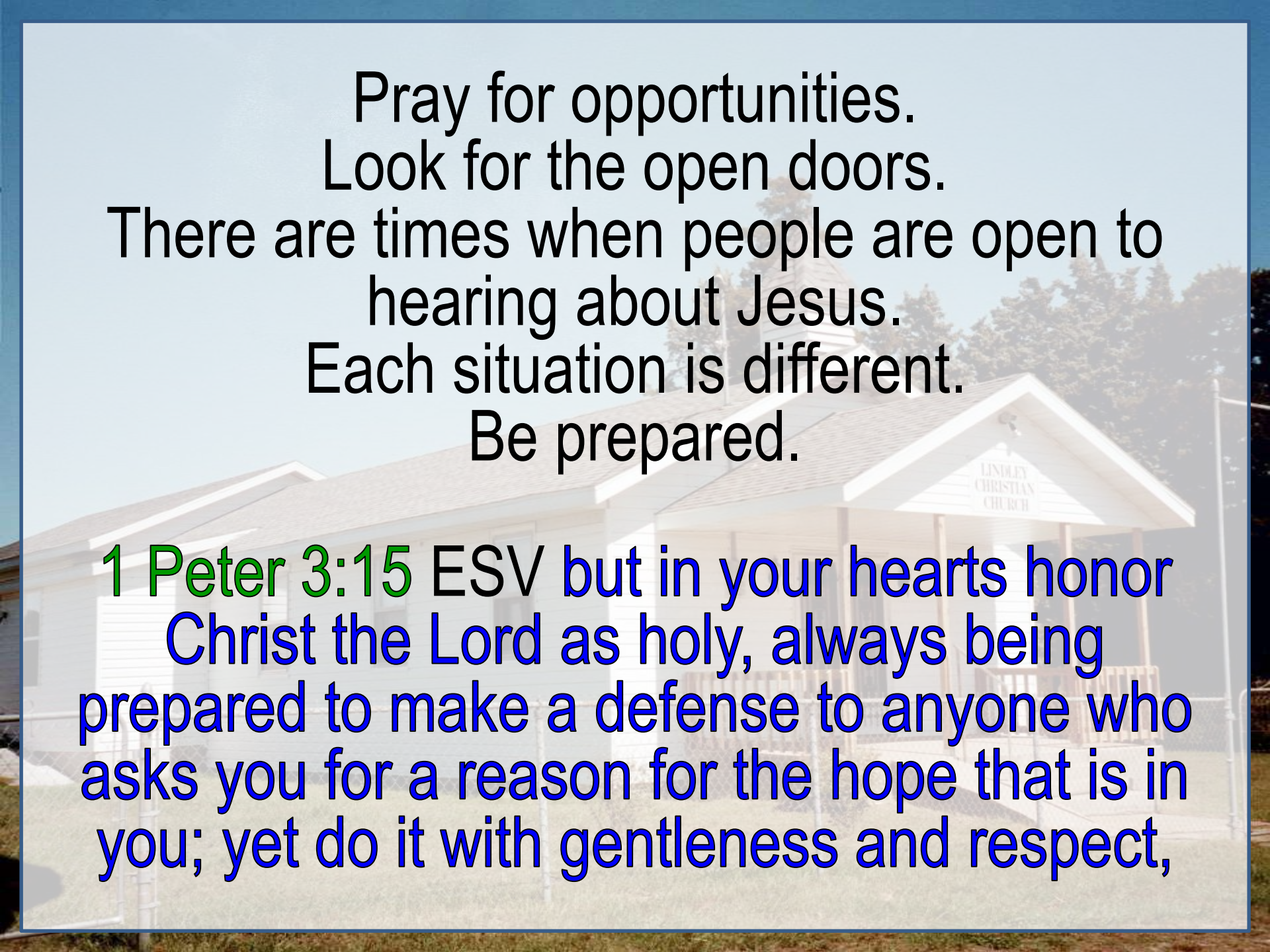
People who have never made a commitment to Jesus Christ will spend their eternal lives in hell—away from a loving God.





Until we realize that then we will never be motivated to do anything about it.

If we simply believe that everyone is going to heaven—that all you have to do is be good—then we won't be motivated to encourage anyone to change.



Pray for opportunities.  
Look for the open doors.  
There are times when people are open to  
hearing about Jesus.  
Each situation is different.  
Be prepared.

**1 Peter 3:15** ESV but in your hearts honor  
Christ the Lord as holy, always being  
prepared to make a defense to anyone who  
asks you for a reason for the hope that is in  
you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,



# Personal Responsibility

See yourself as an instrument of God.

NIKE Attitude - Just Do It

New Christians make some of the best evangelists because they are not that far removed from their former way of life.

Witness - Be a positive example.

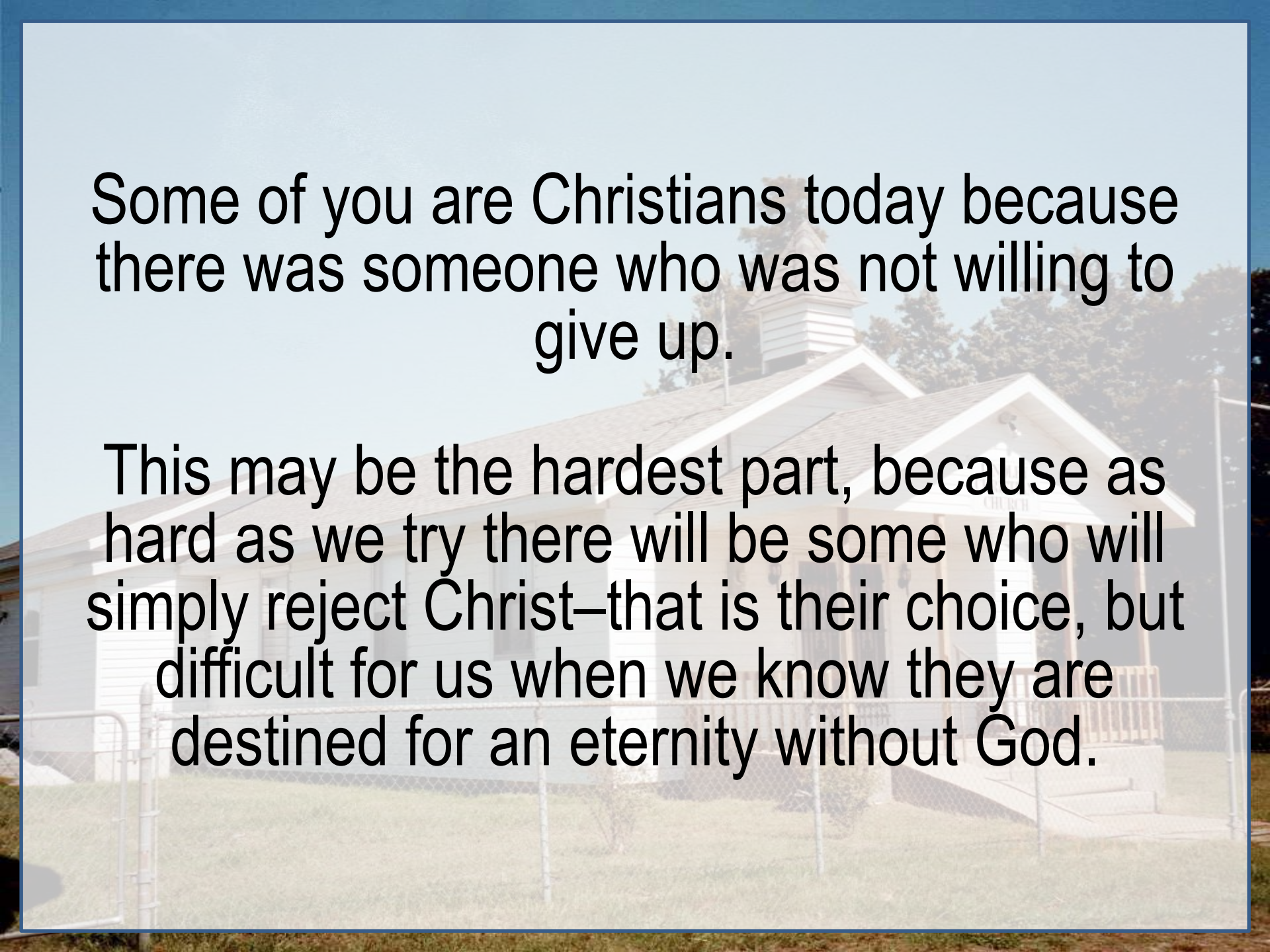
Invite people to come and see.

When Jesus was just starting His ministry  
one of the men he called was Phillip.

**John 1:46** ESV Nathanael said to him, "Can  
anything good come out of Nazareth?" Philip  
said to him, "Come and see."

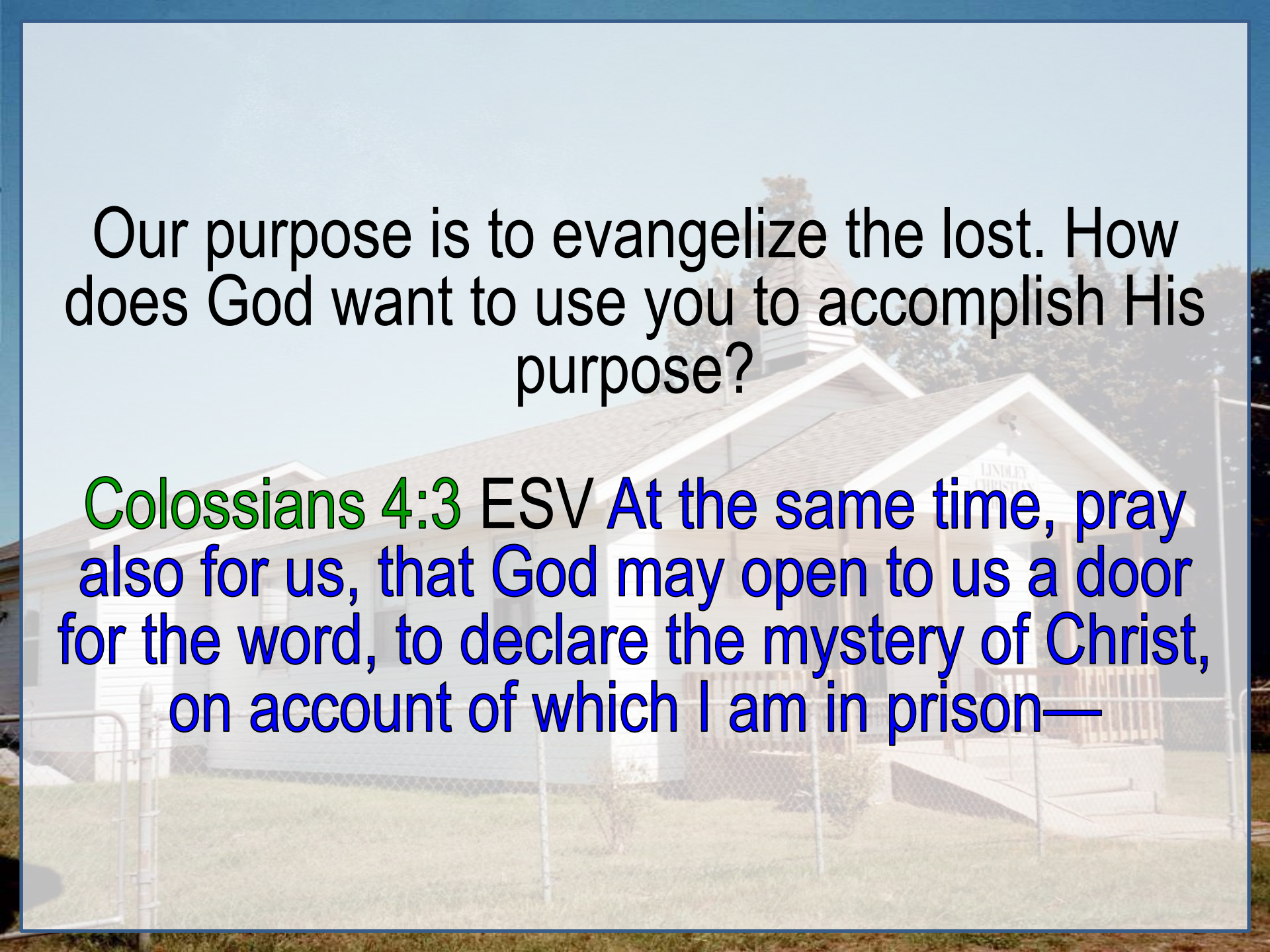
Effort—it takes work.

Persistence - Don't give up.



Some of you are Christians today because there was someone who was not willing to give up.

This may be the hardest part, because as hard as we try there will be some who will simply reject Christ—that is their choice, but difficult for us when we know they are destined for an eternity without God.



Our purpose is to evangelize the lost. How does God want to use you to accomplish His purpose?

**Colossians 4:3** ESV At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison—