



cultivating
CONTENTMENT
Philippians 3 & 4
Welcome





cultivating
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Philippians 3 & 4




The Root and the Fruit:
Knowing Christ,
Living It Out

Keynote 3 – Saturday morning

Philippians 4:10-23

Lovina Goad





Philippians

CHAPTERS 3 AND 4



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CONTENTMENT
Philippians 3 & 4



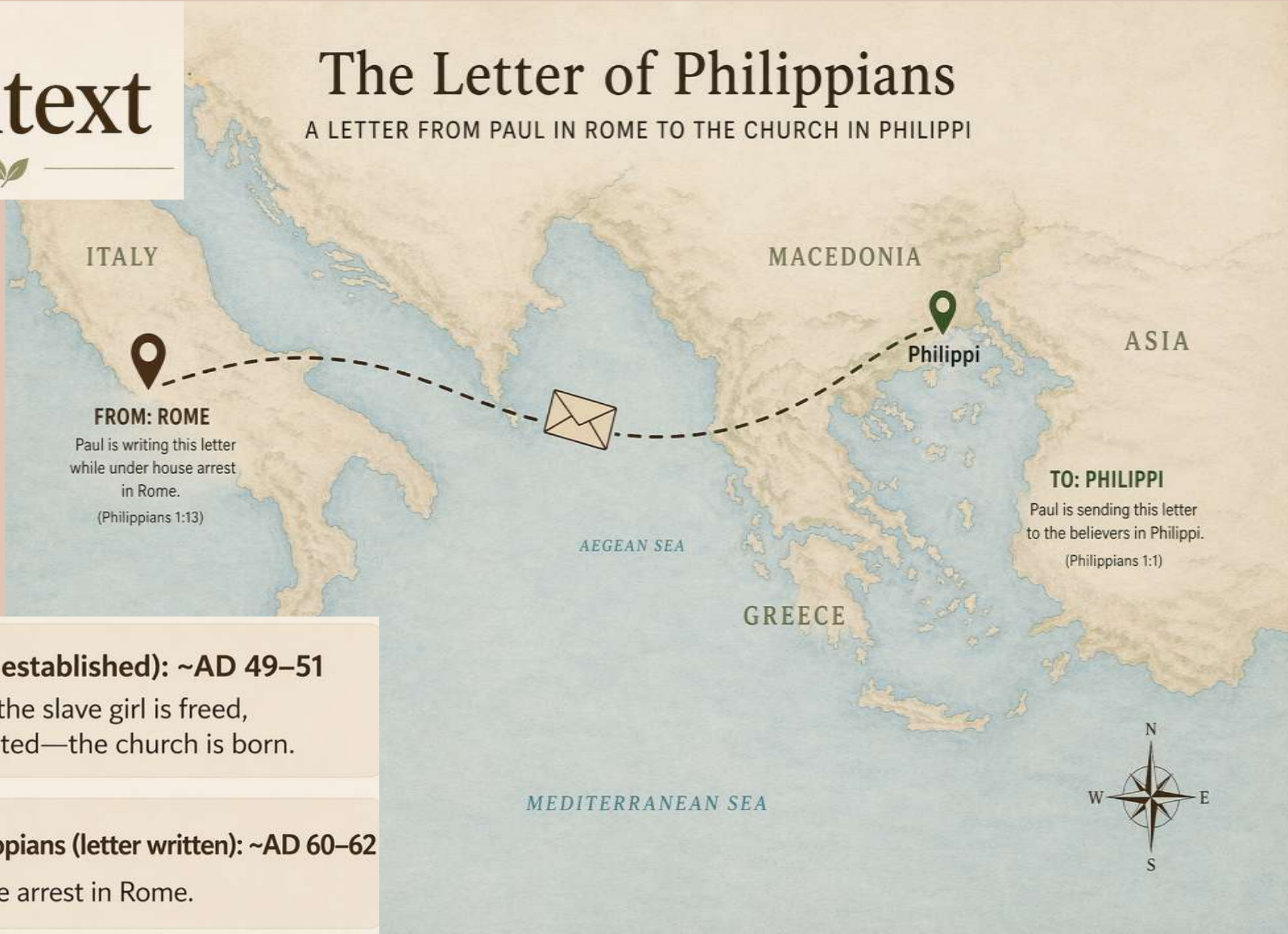


Context



The Letter of Philippians

A LETTER FROM PAUL IN ROME TO THE CHURCH IN PHILIPPI



ITALY

MACEDONIA

ASIA



FROM: ROME

Paul is writing this letter while under house arrest in Rome.
(Philippians 1:13)



Philippi

TO: PHILIPPI

Paul is sending this letter to the believers in Philippi.
(Philippians 1:1)

AEGEAN SEA

GREECE

MEDITERRANEAN SEA



Acts 16 (Philippi established): ~AD 49–51

Paul meets Lydia, the slave girl is freed, the jailer is converted—the church is born.

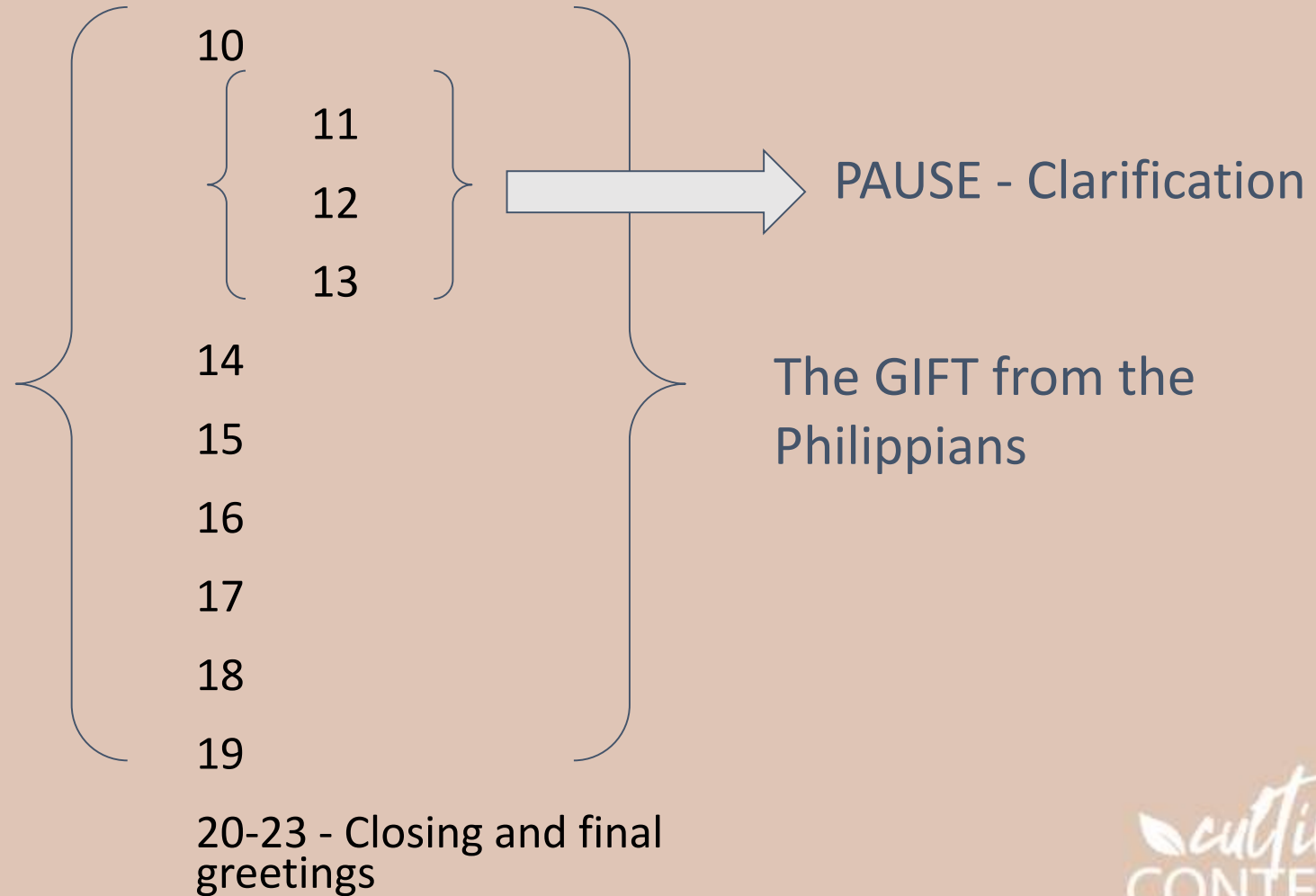


Epistle to the Philippians (letter written): ~AD 60–62

Paul is under house arrest in Rome.



Paul's Thank-You Note: *With a Crucial Clarification!*






Inwardly
Steady


Outwardly
Active


Depend on
Him


Know Him



“I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. (v. 10)

1. Philippians have provided for Paul financially before and have provided again
 - Philippians 1:3-5, 4:15, 4:16, 4:18
2. This gift makes Paul rejoice “in the Lord greatly”
3. “Concern” - *phroneō*
4. “Had no opportunity”





Not that I am speaking of being in need for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content.

(v. 11)

1. Conjunction: **NOT**

a. His REJOICING is NOT dependent upon their monetary gift

2. “**I have learned**” - *manthanō* - to learn through experience, instruction, or practice.

a. Same root behind the English word “mathematics”

3. “**Whatever situation**” - What *situations* has Paul been in?

a. 2 Corinthians 6:4–5

b. 2 Corinthians 11:23-28

4. “**Content**” - *autarkeia*





“Content”

Greek: *autarkeia*

Auto - self

Arkeo - to be enough, to suffice

Latin: *contentus*

continere - to hold together, to contain, to restrain

Self-controlled – satisfied – not needing more

“Being inwardly held together”



not
...enough

- **Self-pity** – What I have is NOT ENOUGH for me
- **Envy** – What I have is NOT ENOUGH compared to others
- **Anxiety** – What I have will NOT BE ENOUGH for what's coming
- **Complaining** – saying “This is NOT ENOUGH... and I’m not okay with it.”





I know how to be brought low,

and **I know** how to abound.

In any and every circumstance,

I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger,
abundance and need. (v. 12)



tapeinoō

pas kai en pas

perisseuō

BROUGHT LOW

(Various Translations)

“in any and every
circumstance”

ABOUND

(Various Translations)



ABASED (KJV, NKJV)

BROUGHT LOW (ESV)

GET ALONG WITH HUMBLE MEANS (NASB)

IN NEED (NIV)

MAKE DO WITH LITTLE (CSB)

LIVE ON ALMOST NOTHING (NLT)

ABOUND (KJV, NKJV, ESV)

ABOUND (NIV)

GET ALONG WITH PLENTY (NASB)

NOT IN NEED (NIV)

MAKE DO WITH MUCH (CSB)

LIVE IN PLENTY (NLT)



“I have learned the secret”

I know οἶδα oida G1492 εἶδω eidō V-RAI-1S	both δὲ de G1161 δέ de CONJ	how to be abased, ταπεινοῦσθαι tapeinousthai G5013 ταπεινώω tapeinoō V-PPN	I know οἶδα oida G1492 εἶδω eidō V-RAI-1S	and καὶ kai G2532 καί kai CONJ	how to abound: περισεύειν perisseuein G4052 περισεύω perisseuō V-PAN	ἐν en G1722 ἐν en PREP	every where παντὶ panti G3956 πᾶς pas A-DSM	and καὶ kai G2532 καί kai CONJ	in ἐν en G1722 ἐν en PREP
all things πᾶσιν pasin G3956 πᾶς pas A-DPM	I am instructed μεμύημαι memyēmai G3453 μυέω myeō V-RPI-1S	both καὶ kai G2532 καί kai CONJ	to be full χορτάζεσθαι chortazesthai G5526 χορτάζω chortazō V-PPN	and καὶ kai G2532 καί kai CONJ	to be hungry, πεινᾶν peinan G3983 πεινάω peinaō V-PAN	both καὶ kai G2532 καί kai CONJ	to abound περισεύειν perisseuein G4052 περισεύω perisseuō V-PAN	and καὶ kai G2532 καί kai CONJ	to suffer need. ὑστερεῖσθαι hystereisthai G5302 ὑστερέω hystereō V-PPN



I can do all things through Him who strengthens me. (v. 13)



- In whatever situation
- Brought low
- Abounding
- In any and every circumstance
- Plenty and hunger
- Abundance and need



We can't depend on someone we don't KNOW. What does it mean to KNOW Him?

- **Phil. 3:8** - Everything that once gave Paul identity or security is now loss: His Jewish heritage, his religious achievement as a Pharisee, his personal righteousness, his reputation. Christ replaces all of it.
 - Knowing Christ is not one goal among many—it *replaces* all others.
- **Phil 3:9** – Christ's righteousness replaces our own
 - Place your full faith in Jesus Christ—who He is and what He has done.
 - And when you do, you are forgiven, made new, and declared righteous because you are now in Him. You BELONG to Him.
- **Phil 3:10** – Share in his sufferings—participate in His life, be transformed by Him, be conformed to Him
 - Ultimately leading to eternal life with Him (Phil. 3:11)





FRUIT:

Contentment during
“any and every”
circumstance--whether
being brought low or
abounding.


**Inwardly
Steady**



**Outwardly
Active**


**Depend on
Him**


ROOT:

To know Christ is to
belong to Him, experience Him,
and be changed by Him.


Know Him



**Is there evidence of
contentment in your life?**



Yet it was kind of you to share my trouble. (v. 14)

1. Returns to the gift he received from the Philippians
2. “Kind” - *kalōs*
3. “Share my trouble”
 - a. Share – *sygkoinōneō*
 - b. Partaker, sharer, partner



And you Philippians yourselves know that in the beginning of the gospel, when I left Macedonia, no church entered into partnership with me in giving and receiving, **except you only**. (v. 15)

Even in Thessalonica you sent me help for my needs **once and again**. (v. 16)

Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the **fruit** that increases to your credit. (v. 17)

- “Except you only”
 - 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - (churches of Macedonia, including Philippi) extraordinarily generous
- Accounting terminology - giving/receiving/credit
- “Fruit that increases to your credit”





I have received full payment, and more. I am well supplied, having received from Epaphroditus the gifts you sent, a fragrant offering, a sacrifice acceptable and pleasing to God. (v. 18)

- Romans 12:1-2 - A sacrifice acceptable to God
- 2 Corinthians 8:1-5 - They gave even out of their poverty





And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus. (v. 19)
To our God and Father be glory forever and ever.
Amen. (v. 20)

- Mark 9:41
- Luke 6:38
- “Every need”
 - Luke 10:42 - Christ is the one necessary thing!
 - Luke 12
- “To our God and Father be glory”

OBSERVATION to MEANING

What does this show us about GOD?

- He values **UNITY** and he **CARES** for His people- “you have done well to share in my trouble”
- He values **sacrificial giving** - WHAT THEIR MONEY represents is actually an eternal investment
- He values their **heart posture** “fragrant/acceptable/pleasing” - not how much is given, but HOW it is given, as worship
- God ultimately wants people to depend **on HIM** - not themselves, not others—HIM.

What does this show us about HUMANITY?

- There is a **responsibility** of believers to partner in the work of the gospel—and specifically here, financially. Believers are expected to ACT.
- Their motivation is not out of obligation, but **GENUINE CARE** and **ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE.**
- They are faithful, again and again. **Repeated giving** even when others did not. It COST them.



Is there evidence—real fruit—in your life of PARTNERING in work of the gospel?

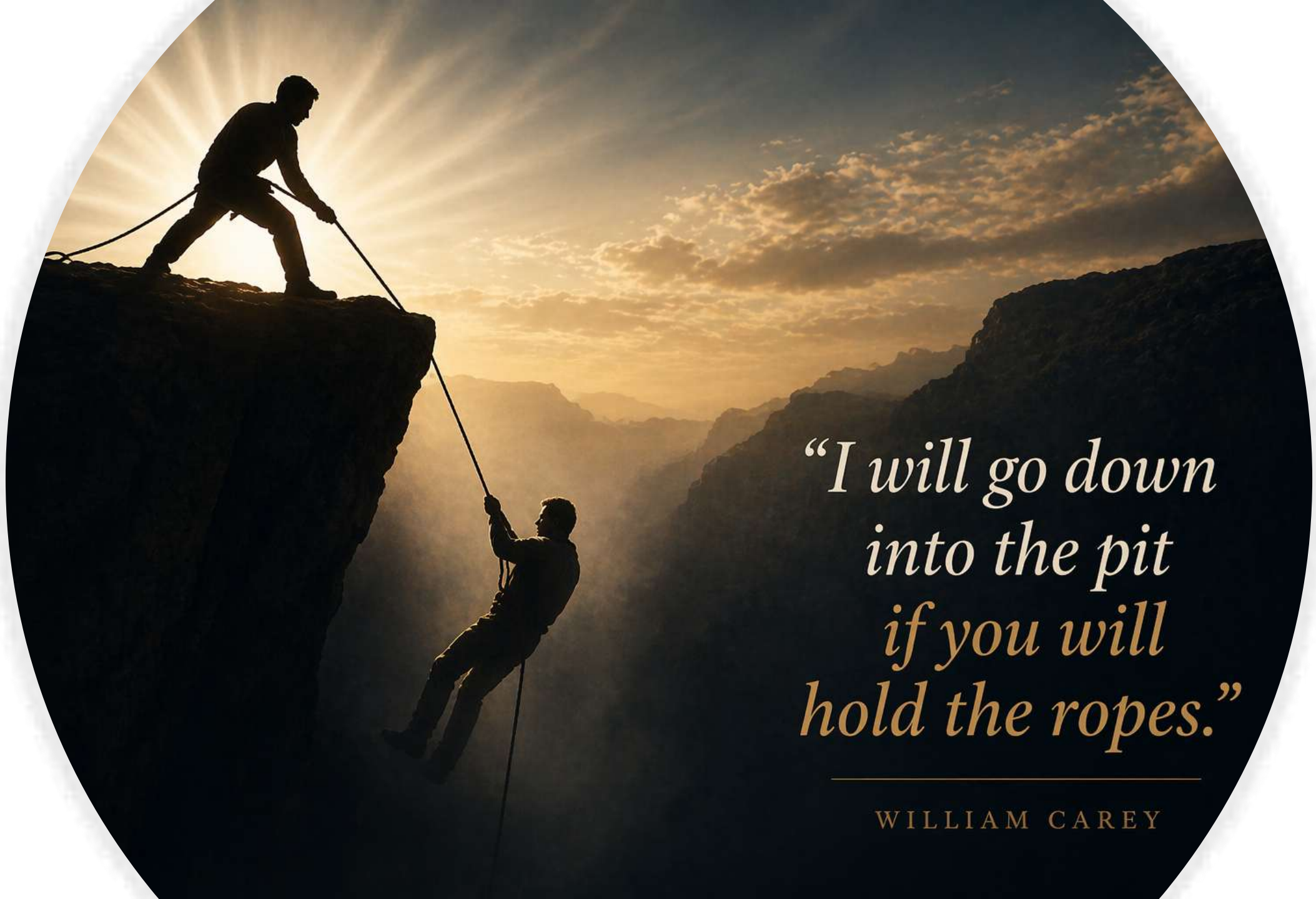
- Matthew 28:19-20
- 2 Corinthians 5:18-20
- Romans 10:14-15
- 1 Corinthians 9:16





Check for FRUIT

- **At Home**: Is there fruit of the gospel in your home?
 - Do your priorities, your conversations, your reactions show that Christ MATTERS MOST there?
- **Around You**: In this church, is there evidence that you are invested in what God is doing here, in this body of believers?
 - Not just “attending,” but participating, serving, giving, engaging?
- **Beyond You**: How are you helping the gospel go further?
 - Is there fruit that shows you are helping the gospel go where you cannot?
 - Who are you supporting, praying for, or sending?
 - And for some of you... is God asking you to go?



*“I will go down
into the pit
if you will
hold the ropes.”*

WILLIAM CAREY



Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you.

All the saints greet you, especially those of Caesar's household.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. (v. 21, 22, 23)

- Community
- Grace





FRUIT:

Contentment during
“any and every”
circumstance--whether
being brought low or
abounding.


**Inwardly
Steady**


**Outwardly
Active**



OUTWARD FRUIT:

Recognizing and seizing
God-given opportunities
to advance the gospel.


**Depend on
Him**



ROOT:

To know Christ is to
belong to Him, experience Him,
and be changed by Him.


Know Him



CULTIVATE
KNOWING HIM





How do you explain how you KNOW someone?

- When you first MET
- Memories of what you've done or gone through together
- What makes that person HAPPY or ANGRY
- What that person LIKES or DOESN'T like
- What makes them KNOW they are SPECIAL to you and SEEN

This is EXPERIENTIAL knowledge.

Can you answer these questions *about JESUS?*





CULTIVATE KNOWING HIM

God WANTS us to KNOW Him.

PRAY – Talk to Him, Remember what He has done

BE IN HIS WORD – Hear from Him

CLEAR OUT YOUR TEMPLE – Know what pleases God and get rid of anything that doesn't

TAKE PART IN THE GOSPEL – He is glorified and honored



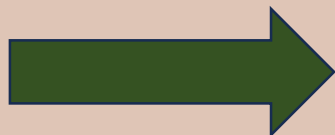
CULTIVATE KNOWING HIM

Jesus to know You



Through SALVATION

then know You more



Through a GROWING
RELATIONSHIP that TRANSFORMS
you from the INSIDE OUT

“For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.”

Romans 8:29.