



The Mystery

Ephesians 3:1 - 13

Ephesians 3: 1 - 6

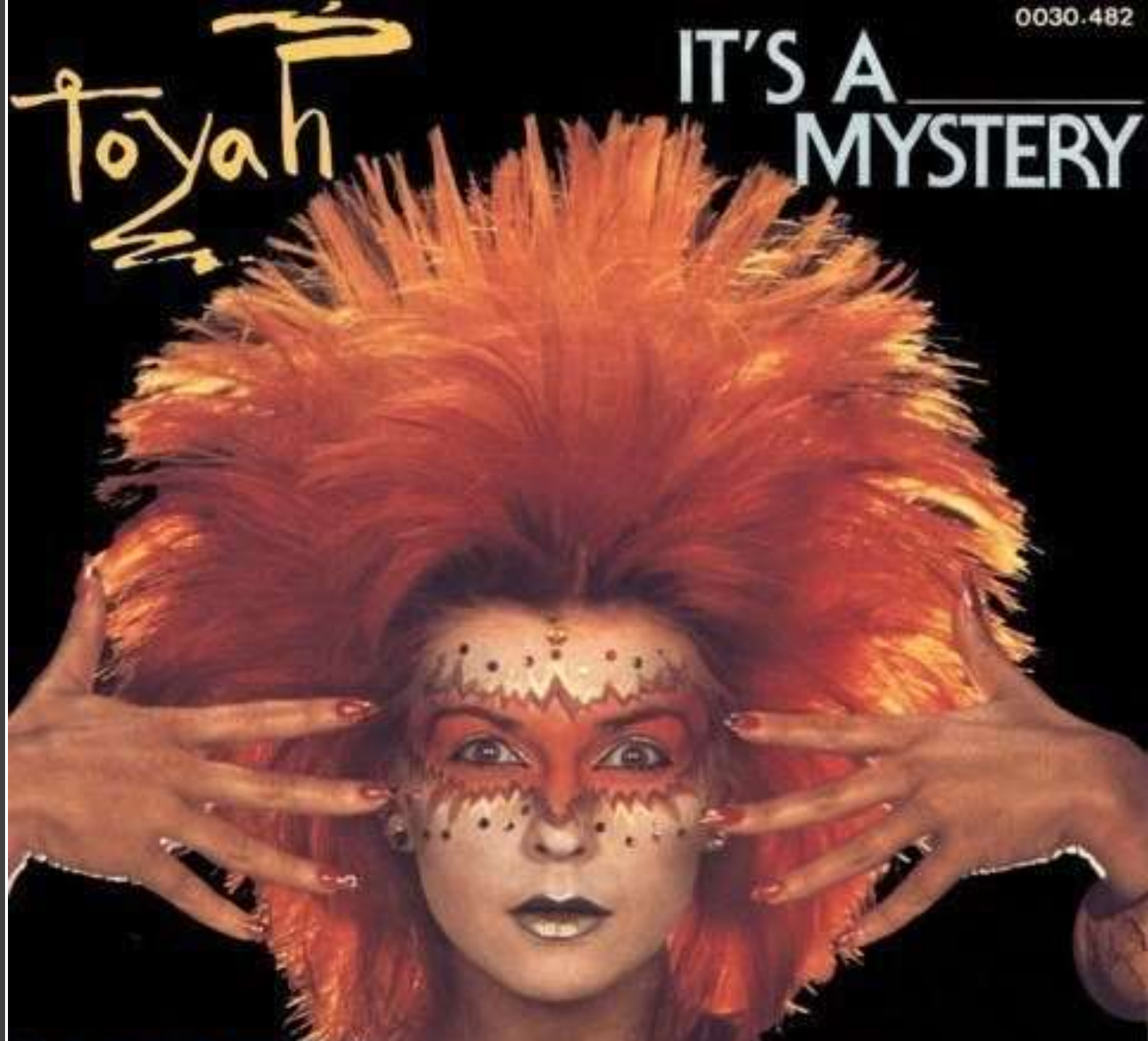
For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles—

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 3:7 - 13

I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence. I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

SESSION 3: THE
DIVINE MYSTERY AND
HOW GOD CHOSE TO
FULFIL HIS INTENTION
THROUGH PAUL AND
THEN THROUGH THE
CHURCH.



For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles

- What reason?!
- Prisoner of Christ?
- House arrest
- Suffering for others



I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!

Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

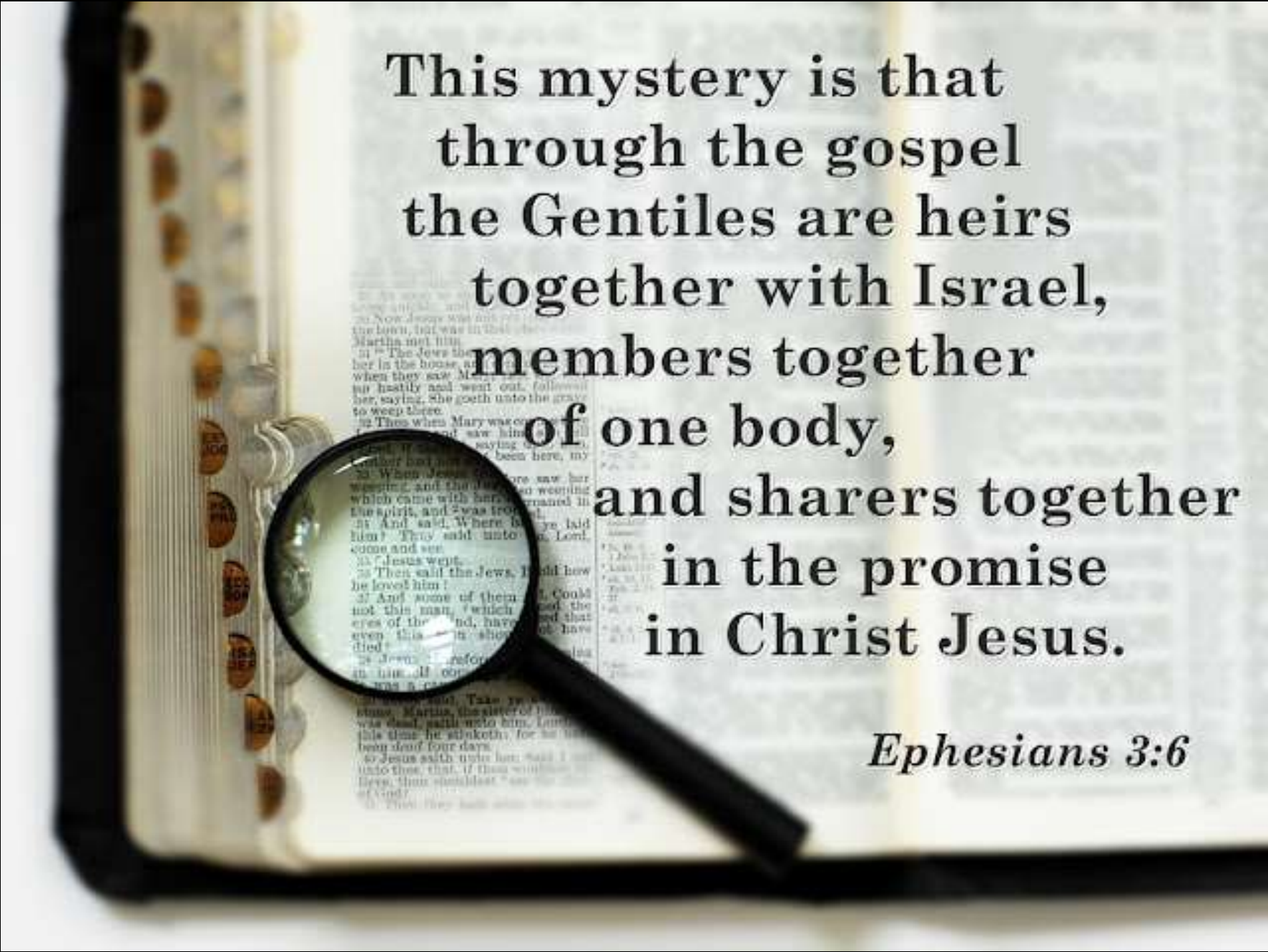
- Mystery?
- Revealed to Paul
- To share with others
- He thinks they already know



In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets.

- Big build up!
- Secret for generations
- Revealed by the Holy Spirit



An open Bible with a magnifying glass resting on the left page. The magnifying glass is focused on the text of Ephesians 3:6. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, black serif font. The background shows the pages of the Bible, with some text visible through the magnifying glass and on the adjacent pages.

**This mystery is that
through the gospel
the Gentiles are heirs
together with Israel,
members together
of one body,
and sharers together
in the promise
in Christ Jesus.**

Ephesians 3:6

Genesis 12:1-3



Now the LORD had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."



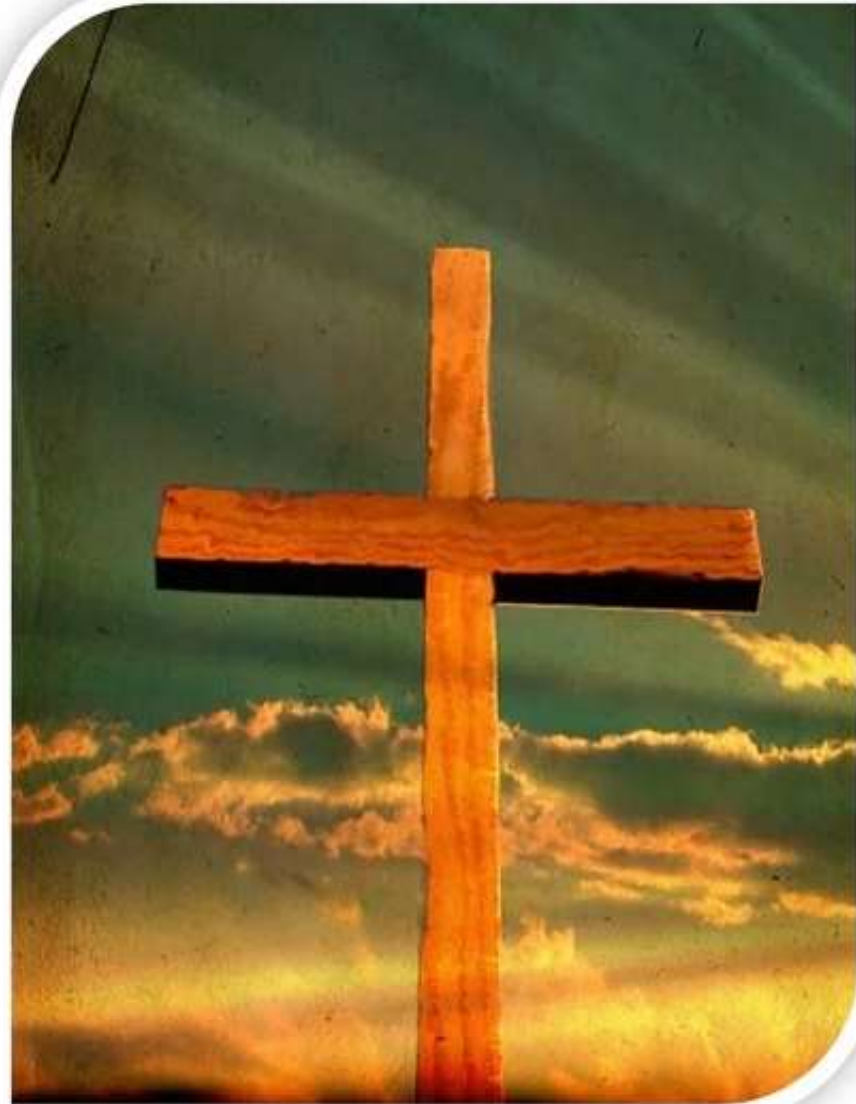
And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.
Isaiah 2:2

ChristianSocialMedia.com



OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES

THE GENTILES



- 1 Are Co-heirs,
- 2 Members of
the Same Body
- 3 Partners of
the Promise in
Christ Jesus

Ephesians 3:6

Co-heirs but what is the inheritance?

- There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you. Galatians 3:28 -29
- It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. Romans 4:13
- For if, by the trespass of the one man, death reigned through that one man, how much more will those who receive God's abundant provision of grace and of the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ!
Romans 5:17

Members of One Body



- And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. Ephesians 1:23
- For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. Romans 12:4 - 5

Sharers together in the promise of Christ Jesus

- Sharers/partners
/partakers
together
- John 4:9
- Promises were
made to the
Jews



I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

- Paul's role in the mystery
- Acts 26:17-18 - enlighten
- Gift of God's grace
- 'Boundless' riches



His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- Now through the Church
- Manifold - of many different kinds/colours
- What is the purpose of this?
- Fallen world/fallen church

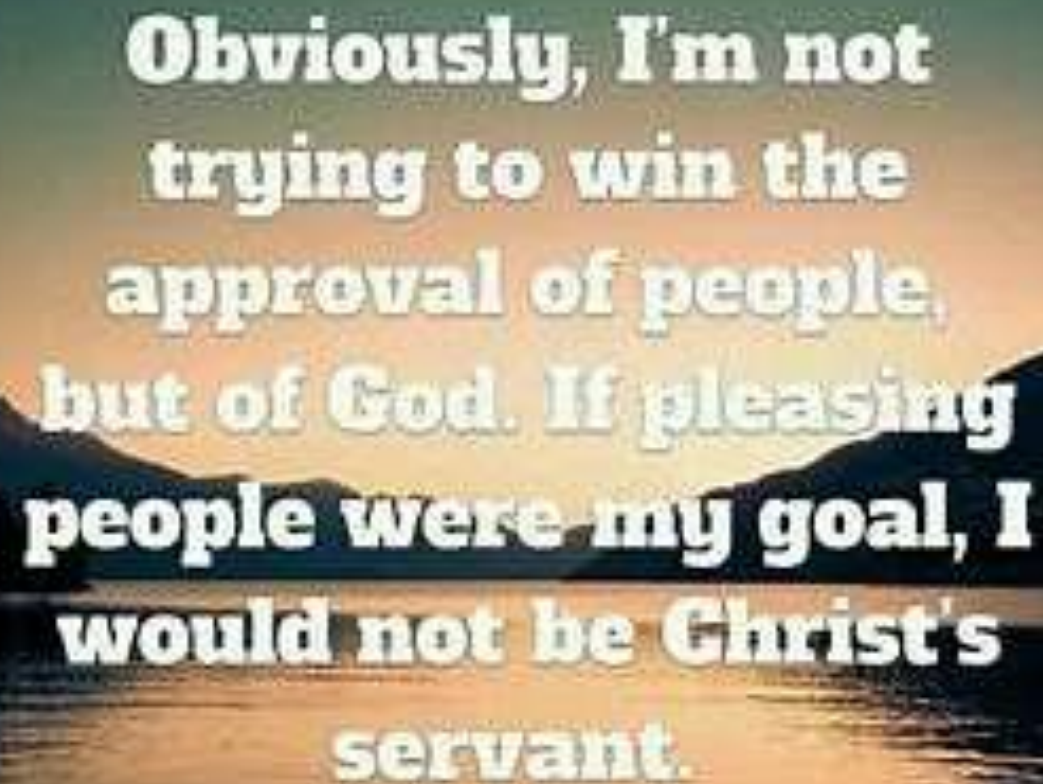


In him and
through faith
in him we may
approach
God with
freedom and
confidence.

Come
Boldly
Into
God's
Presence

Ephesians 3:12





**Obviously, I'm not
trying to win the
approval of people,
but of God. If pleasing
people were my goal, I
would not be Christ's
servant.**

Galatians 1:10

I ask you, therefore, not to be discouraged because of my sufferings for you, which are your glory.

- Are you prepared to suffer for this mystery?

So then, since Christ suffered physical pain, you must arm yourselves with the same attitude he had, and be ready to suffer, too. 1 Peter 4:1

- "We are to be God pleasers, not people pleasers." Joyce Meyer

Application

- What a great gift we have from God!
- Who are we telling about this gift?
- It will come at a cost BUT...

