

Insight for the Issues

Prov. 4:23

NEXT STEPS

“The Issue of Evangelism— Church/Shepherd Relationship”

Prov. 4:23 **Keep thy heart** with all diligence; for **out of it are the issues of life.**

ALL THE TIME.....EVERYWHERE

The last two weeks we have considered a vital issue for churches and members – evangelism. We began by looking at the “great commission” found in Acts 1:8:

Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and **ye shall be witnesses unto me both** in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, **and** unto the uttermost part of the earth.

I. THE CAPABILITY FOR THE MISSION

II. THE COMMITMENT TO THE MISSION

III. THE CULMINATION OF THE MISSION

A. The Finite Faithfulness

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, **neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**

❖ An excellent example of “finite faithfulness” is the life of the Apostle Paul:

2 Tim. 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished *my* course, I have kept the faith:

❖ The testimony at the end of Paul’s life reflects **the focus throughout his lifetime:**

Principles

1. The Source of Authority, 20:17 – “...the church.”
2. The Spiritual Assessment, 20:18-24
 - a. Consistency – v. 18 “...from the first day...with you at all seasons,”
 - b. Conscientiousness – v. 19 “Serving the Lord with all humility of mind...many tears...temptations...”

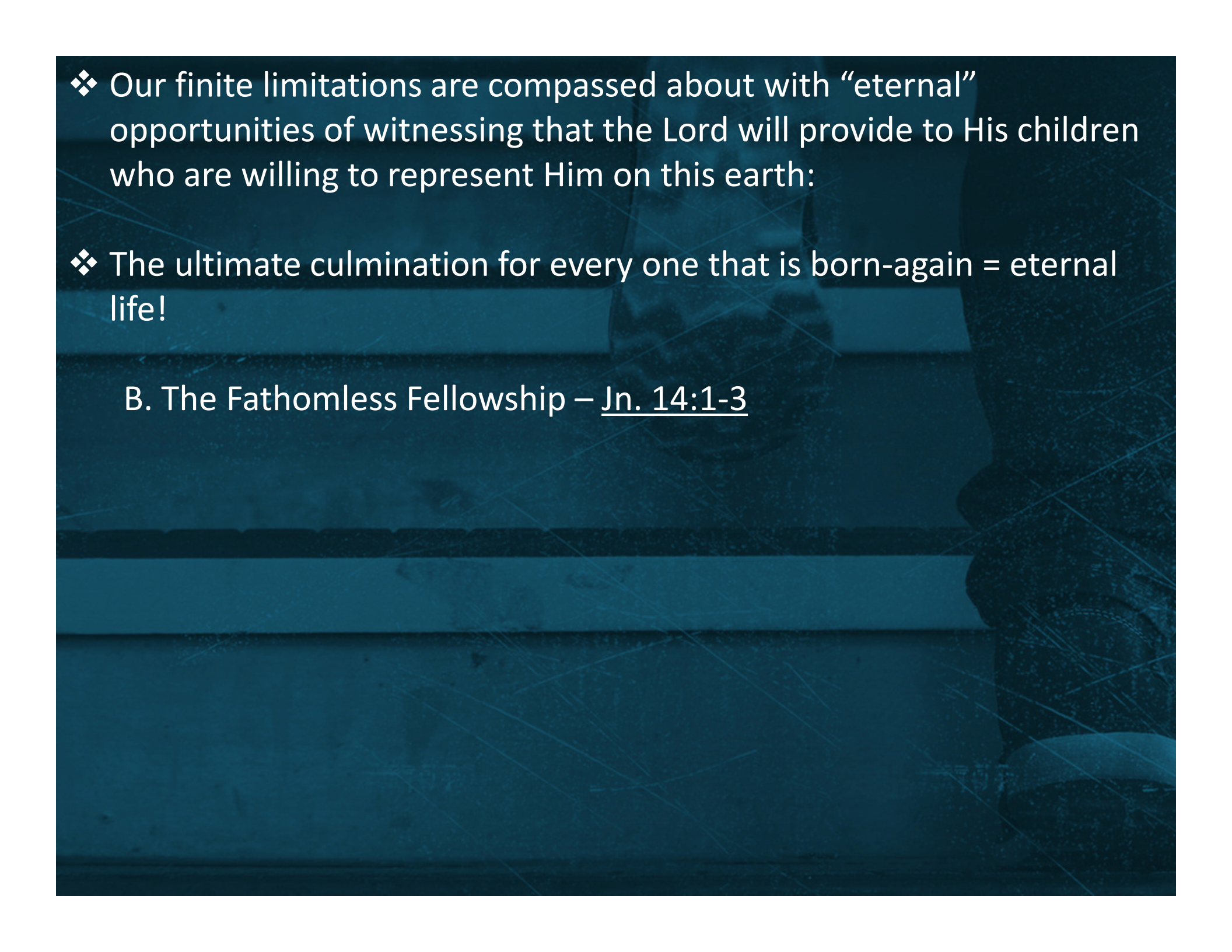
c. Comprehensive – vs. 20-21a “...I kept back nothing...showed you...taught you...(21a) Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks...”

d. Centered – v. 21b “...repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.”

e. Composed – v. 22 “And now, behold I go bound...not knowing the things that shall befall me there:”

f. Confidence – v. 23 “Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city...”

g. Commitment – v. 24 “But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, **so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God.**”

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- ❖ Our finite limitations are compassed about with “eternal” opportunities of witnessing that the Lord will provide to His children who are willing to represent Him on this earth:
 - ❖ The ultimate culmination for every one that is born-again = eternal life!

B. The Fathomless Fellowship – Jn. 14:1-3

Tonight, we continue looking at the issue of evangelism and consider the role a church in representing the Lord Jesus Christ as a shepherd.

I. THE ROLE OF THE SHEPHERD

A. The Symbolism Chosen

Psa. 23:1 **The LORD is my shepherd**; I shall not want.

Jn. 10:11 **I am the good shepherd**: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep. ...

14 **I am the good shepherd**, and know my *sheep*, and am known of mine. ...

Heb. 13:20 Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead **our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep**, through the blood of the everlasting covenant,

1 Pet. 2:25 For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto **the Shepherd and Bishop** of your souls.

1 Pet. 5:4 And when **the chief Shepherd** shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

B. The Service Connection

Mt. 9:35 And Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.

36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, **as sheep having no shepherd.**

37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

1. The Necessity of the Ministry, 9:35-36

a. The Outreach, 9:35

- ❖ The going – “And Jesus went about all the cities and villages...”
- ❖ The Gospel – “...teaching in their synagogues, and preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.”

b. The Obligation, 9:36

9:36 But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, **as sheep having no shepherd.**

❖ The Conviction – “But **when he saw** the multitudes...”

Original Word: ὁράω

Transliteration: horaó

Definition: to see, perceive, attend to

Usage: I see, look upon, experience, perceive, discern, beware.

horáō – **properly, see, often with metaphorical meaning: "to see with the mind" (i.e. spiritually see), i.e. perceive (with inward spiritual perception).**

<https://biblehub.com/greek/3708.htm>

Prov. 29:18 “**Where there is no vision, the people perish...**”

❖ The Compassion – “...he was moved with compassion on them...”

❖ The Comprehension – “...because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, **as sheep having no shepherd.**”

2. The Need of the Ministers

9:37 Then saith he unto his disciples, The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;

38 Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.

- ❖ The Commission – “Then saith he unto his disciples...” = the first church.
- ❖ The Concern – “...The harvest truly *is* plenteous, but the labourers *are* few;”
- ❖ The Calling – “Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest...”
- ❖ The Campaign – “...that he will send forth labourers into his harvest.”

II. THE REPRESENTATION OF THE SHEPHERD

A. A Church Should Represent the Shepherd

❖ Jesus IS the Shepherd.

❖ Each community needs Him and His “shepherding” = a local body.

Col. 1:18 And **he is the head of the body, the church**: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; **that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.**

❖ Our church, as His body, is to represent Him and His shepherding =

ALL THE TIME...EVERYWHERE

B. A Church IS Reflecting the Savior

Col. 2:19 And not holding **the Head, from which all the body by joints and bands having nourishment ministered, and knit together, increaseth with the increase of God.**

Rom. 12:5 So **we, being many, are one body in Christ**, and every one members one of another.

1 Cor. 12:12 For as **the body is one, and hath many members**, and all the members of that one body, **being many, are one body**: so also *is* Christ. ...

20 But now *are they* **many members, yet but one body.**

27 Now **ye are the body of Christ**, and **members in particular.**

Eph. 5:23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as **Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.**

❖ Our church, as His body, is also likened as branches to the Vine:

Jn. 15:5 **I am the vine, ye are the branches:** He that abideth in me, and I in him, **the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

6 If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned.

7 **If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.**

8 **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.**

❖ Our church, His body, must work together in unity and be fruitful for His glory.

Col. 3:15 And let **the peace of God rule in your hearts**, to the which also **ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.**

Conclusion

Eph. 4:3 **Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit** in the bond of peace.

4 *There is* **one body**, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; ...

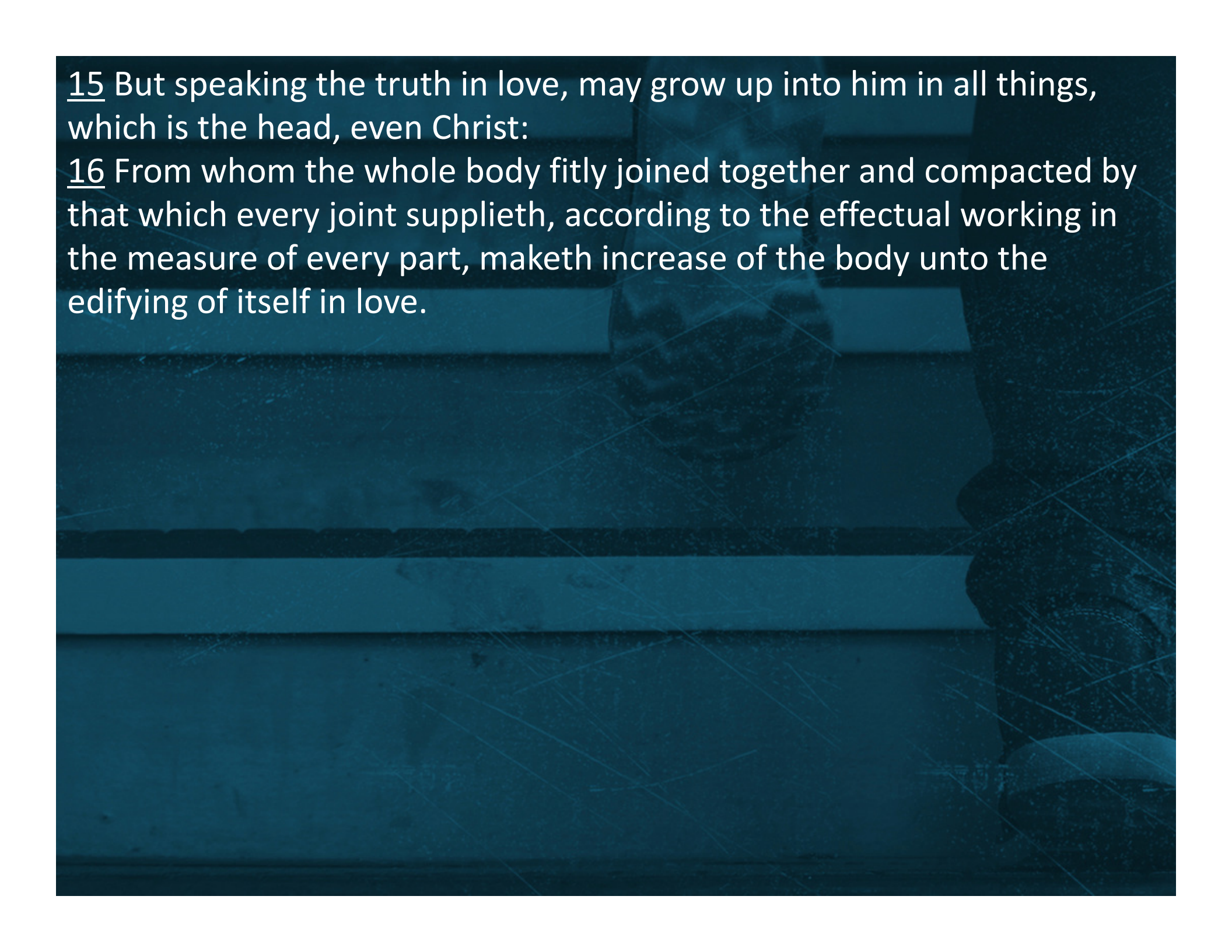
7 But **unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the gift of Christ**. ...

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

12 For **the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ**:

13 **Till we all come in the unity of the faith**, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

14 That **we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro**, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;



15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.