

NEIL THOMAS / JANUARY 2, 2022

BE CAREFUL HOW YOU LIVE.

EPHESIANS 2

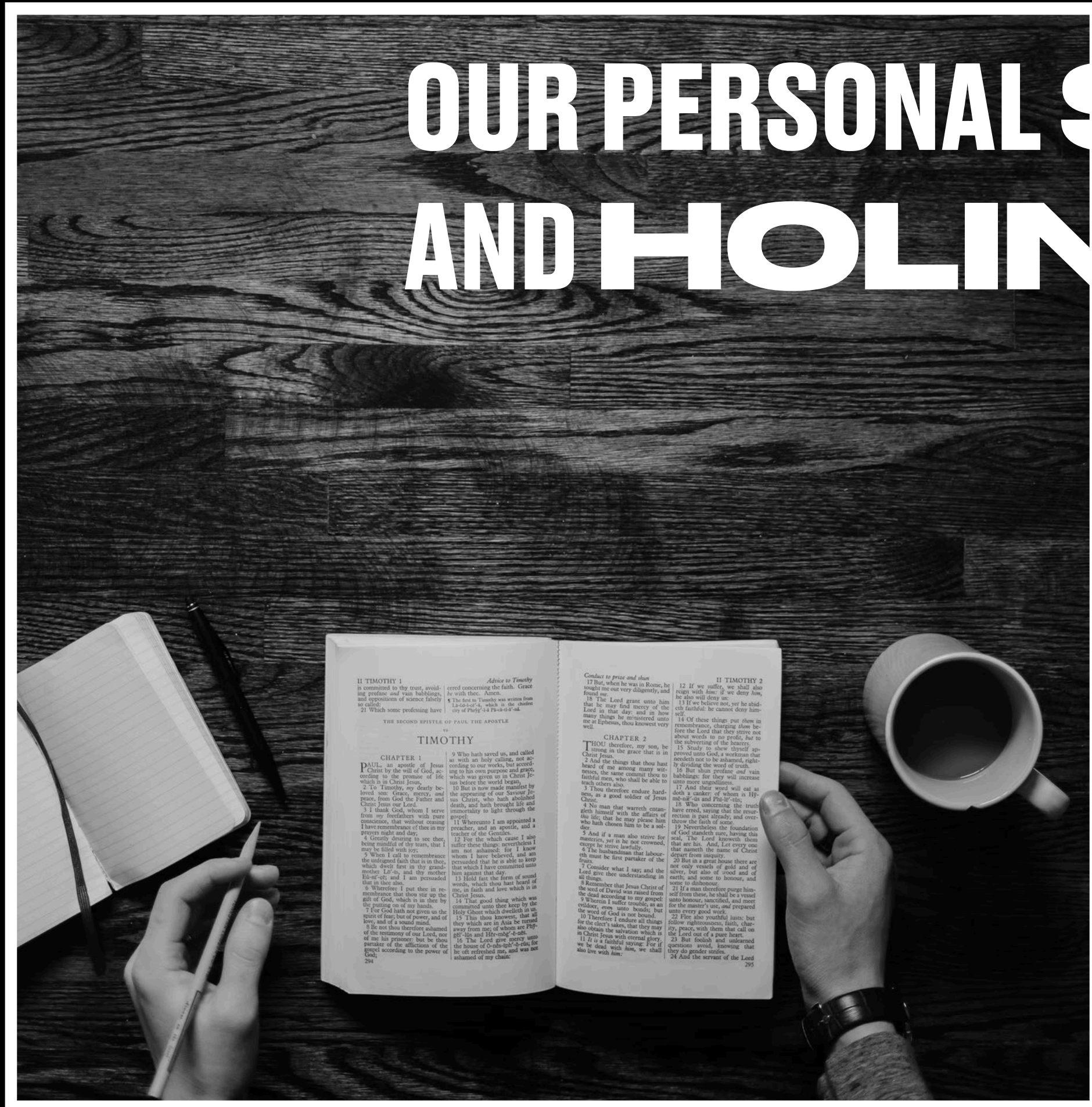
MATTHEW 24:12

**Because of the increase of wickedness,
the love of most will grow cold.**

OUR PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION AND HOLINESS,


is connected to the **beauty, power and attractiveness of the BODY OF CHRIST.**

And the state of the world is connected to the **health of the CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST.**



EPHESIANS 2:1-3

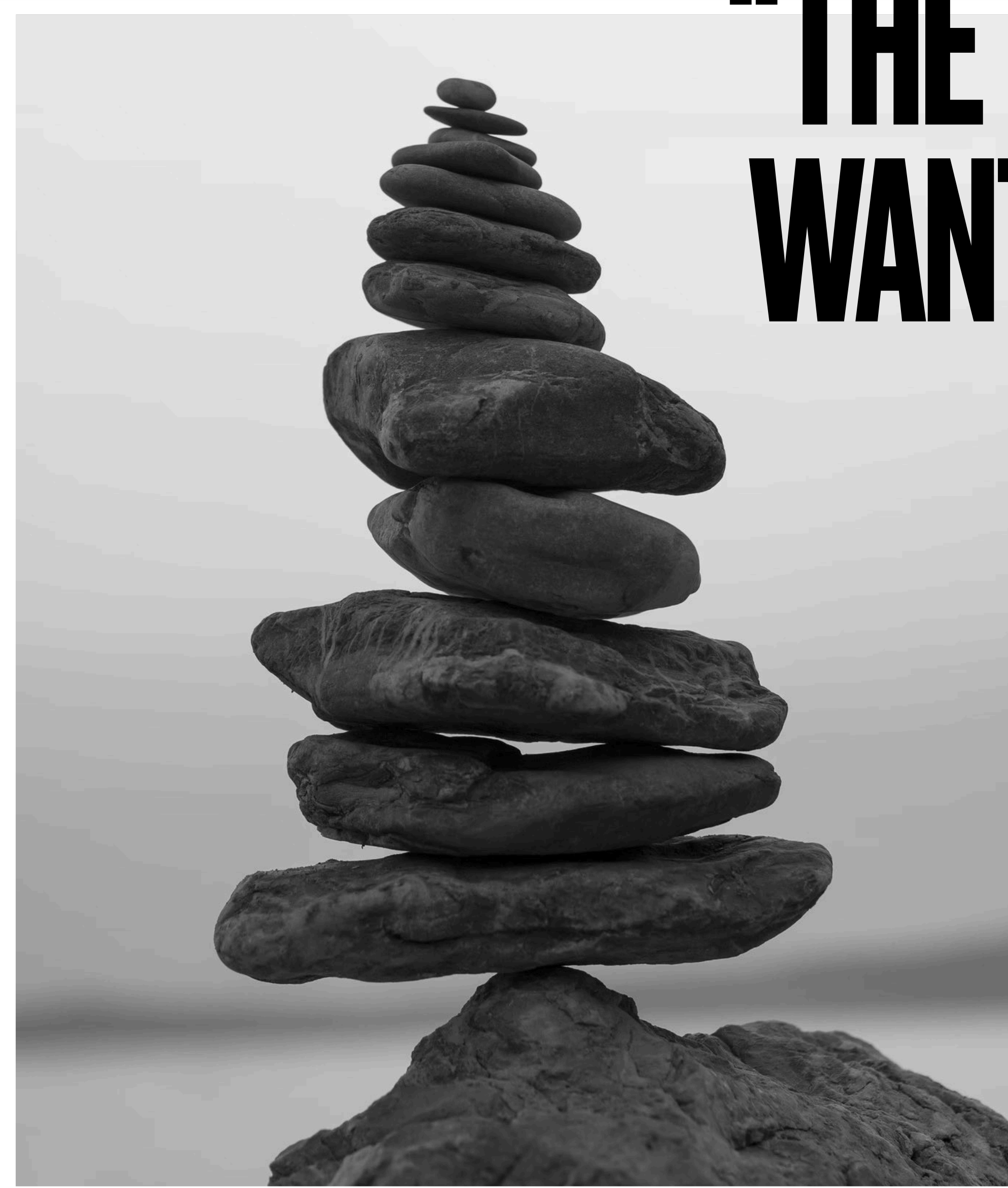
1 As for you, you were dead in the trespasses and sins **2** in which you once walked, **following the course of this world**, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—**3** among whom **we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, carrying out the desires of the body and the mind**, and were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind.



EPHESIANS 2:3 (NIV)

“gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature. and following its desires and thoughts.”





**“THE HEART
WANTS WHAT IT WANTS.”**

“Follow your heart.”

“You do you.”

“Speak your truth.”

“Be true to yourself.”

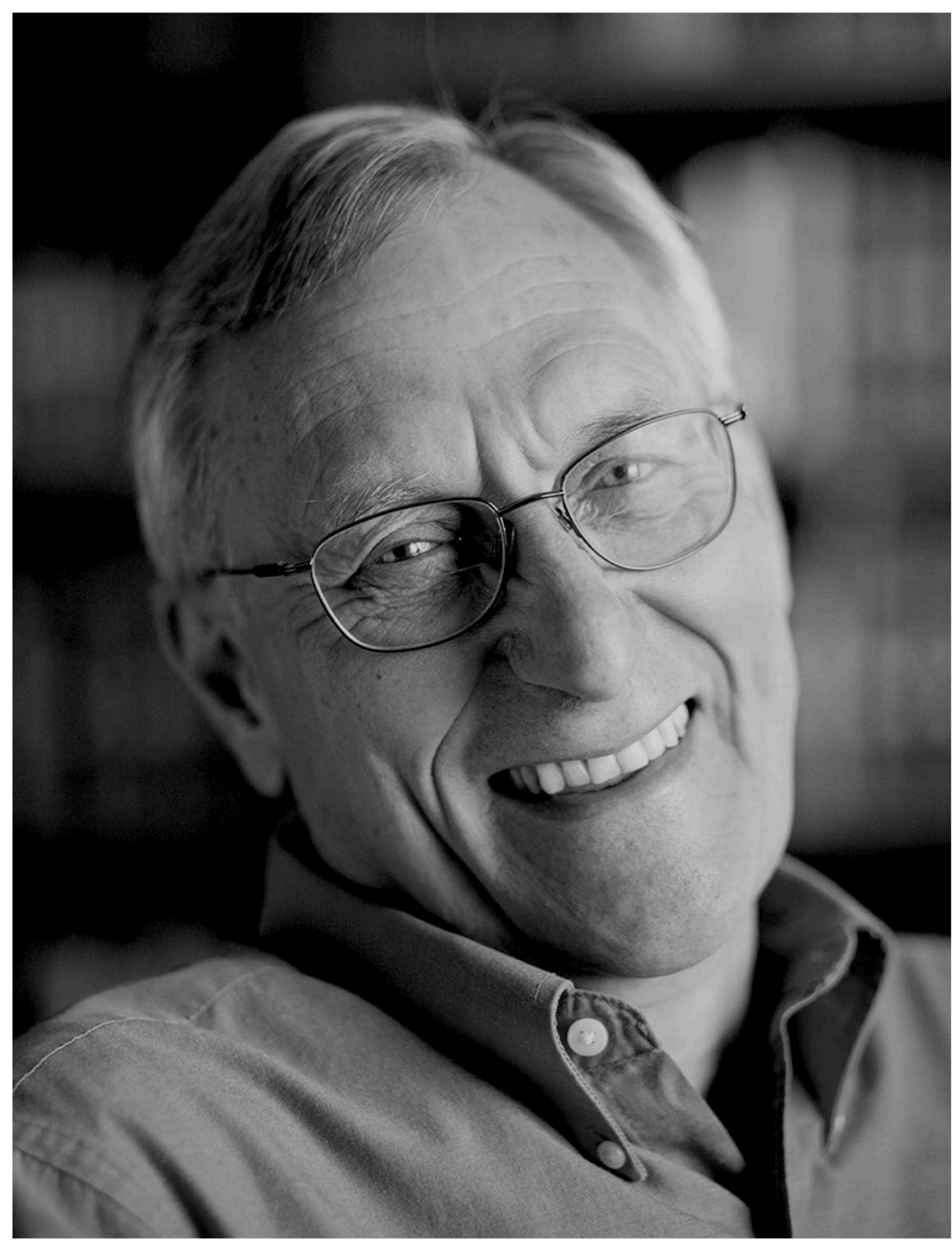


“Happiness has become more about feeling good, not being good. The good life has become about getting what we want, not becoming the kind of people who want truly good things. The self — not God or Scripture — is the new focus of authority in Western culture.”

JOHN MARK COMER

“We have ben led to feel that the self is sacrosanct: just as in an earlier time it was thought never fitting to deny God, so now it seems never right to deny self.”

ROBERT C. ROBERTS



“Theology becomes therapy ... the Biblical interest in righteousness is replaced by a search for happiness, holiness by wholeness, truth by feeling ethics by feeling good about ones self. The world shrinks to the range of personal circumstances. The community of faith shrinks to a circle of personal friends. The past recedes. The church recedes. The world recedes. All that remains is the self.”

DAVID F. WELLS

EPHESIANS 4:22

We were taught in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus Christ. We were taught, with regard to your former way of life, **to put off the old self**, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires.





“As long as the lying false self is the one relating to God, others and ourselves, then grace and truth cannot heal us. The false self tries to “heal” us by its own methods: it always finds false solutions, and the real self that God created to grow into his image stays hidden and unexposed to both grace and truth.”

– CHANGES THAT HEAL


DR. HENRY CLOUD

Don't worry it gets better ...

BUT GOD ...

EPHESIANS 2:4-10

4 But God, being rich in mercy, **because of the great love with which He loved us**, **5** even when we were dead in our trespasses, **made us alive together with Christ**—by grace you have been saved— **6** and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, **7 so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.**



EPHESIANS 2:4-10

8 For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, **9** not a result of works, so that no one may boast. **10** For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, for us to walk in.



1

THE MERCIFUL LOVE OF GOD MAKES US TRULY ALIVE.

4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—

2

OUR CHANGED LIVES ARE TO BE PROOF TO COMING AGES OF GOD'S LOVE AND MERCY.

7 so that in the coming ages He might show the immeasurable riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

1

a

The merciful love of God makes us truly alive.

True love changes how **we think.**

1

The merciful love of God makes
us truly alive.

True love changes how **we think.**

True love changes how **we live.**

b

2
4a

Our changed lives are to be proof to coming ages of God's love and mercy.


Our lives change the world.

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

“Be imitators of Christ therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love just as Christ loved us and gave Himself up for us as fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.”



“With respect to others: **THAT IN THE AGES TO COME**... that God might give a specimen and proof of his great goodness and mercy, for the encouragement of sinners in the future. Observing the goodness of God in converting and saving sinners throughout history is a proper encouragement to others in the ages to come to hope in his grace and mercy, and to apply themselves to these.



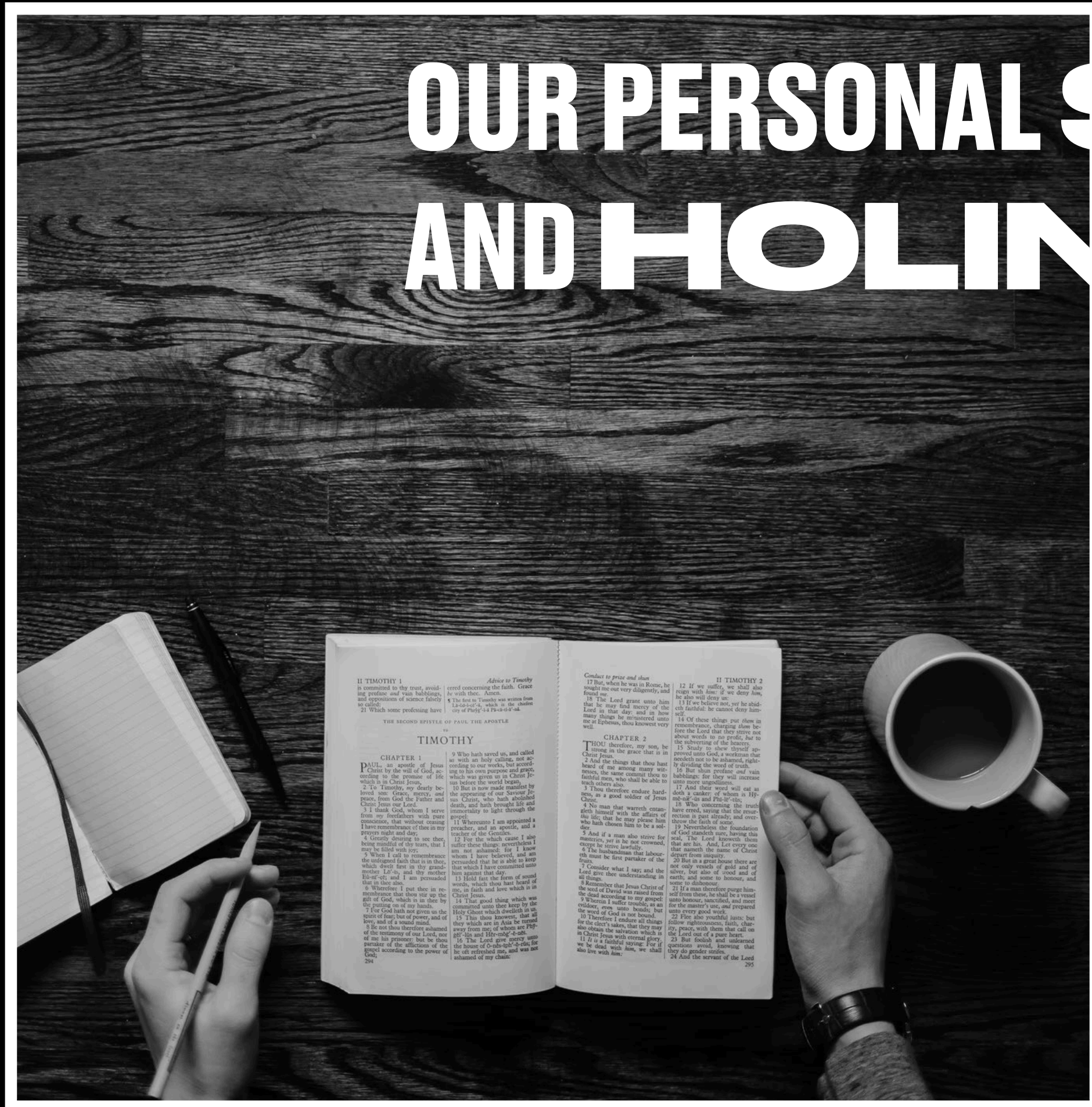
God having this in his design, poor sinners should take great encouragement from it. And what may **WE** not hope for from such grace and kindness, from riches of grace, to which this change is owing? **THROUGH CHRIST JESUS**, by and through whom God conveys all his favor and blessings to us.



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EPHESIANS 2:11-22

11 Therefore, **remember that formerly you who are Gentiles** by birth and called "uncircumcised" by those who call themselves "the circumcision" (which is done in the body by human hands)-- **12 remember that at that time you were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship** in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, **without hope and without God in the world.** **13** But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.



EPHESIANS 2:11-22


14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, **15** by setting aside in His flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in Himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, **16** and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.



EPHESIANS 2:11-22

17 He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. **18** For through Him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the Chief Cornerstone.



EPHESIANS 2:11-22

21 In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22** And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit.



REMEMBER

The hostility in humanity will only find true peace through the **CROSS**.

Remember that you were once **WITHOUT** God and **WITHOUT** hope in the world.

Remember that you are now **CITIZENS** of the Kingdom who has access to the Father.

BE

devoted to **HIM.**

BE

devoted to **HIS PEOPLE.**

BE

devoted to **HIS PURPOSES.**