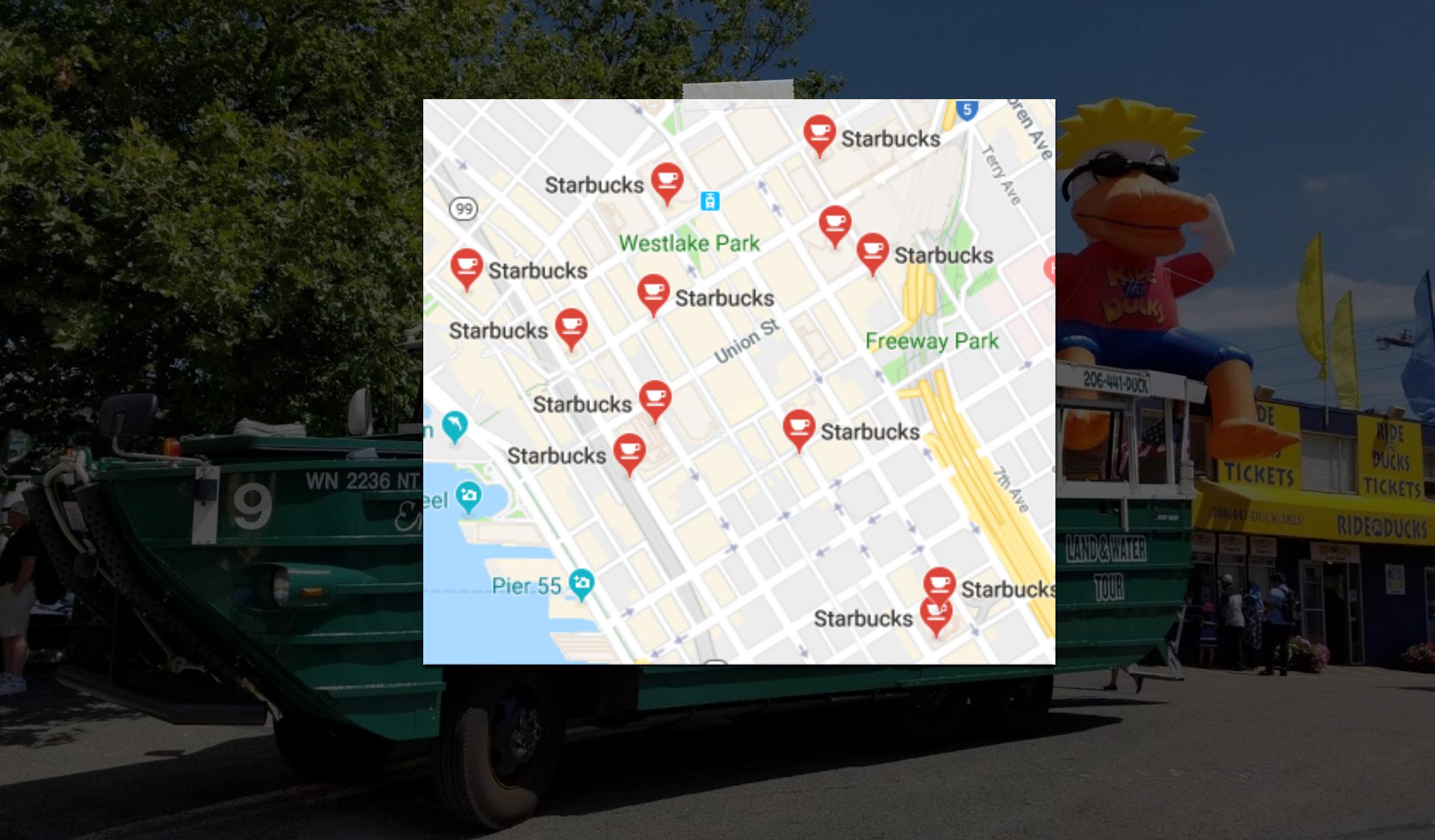


New Series at Mercy Hill Church



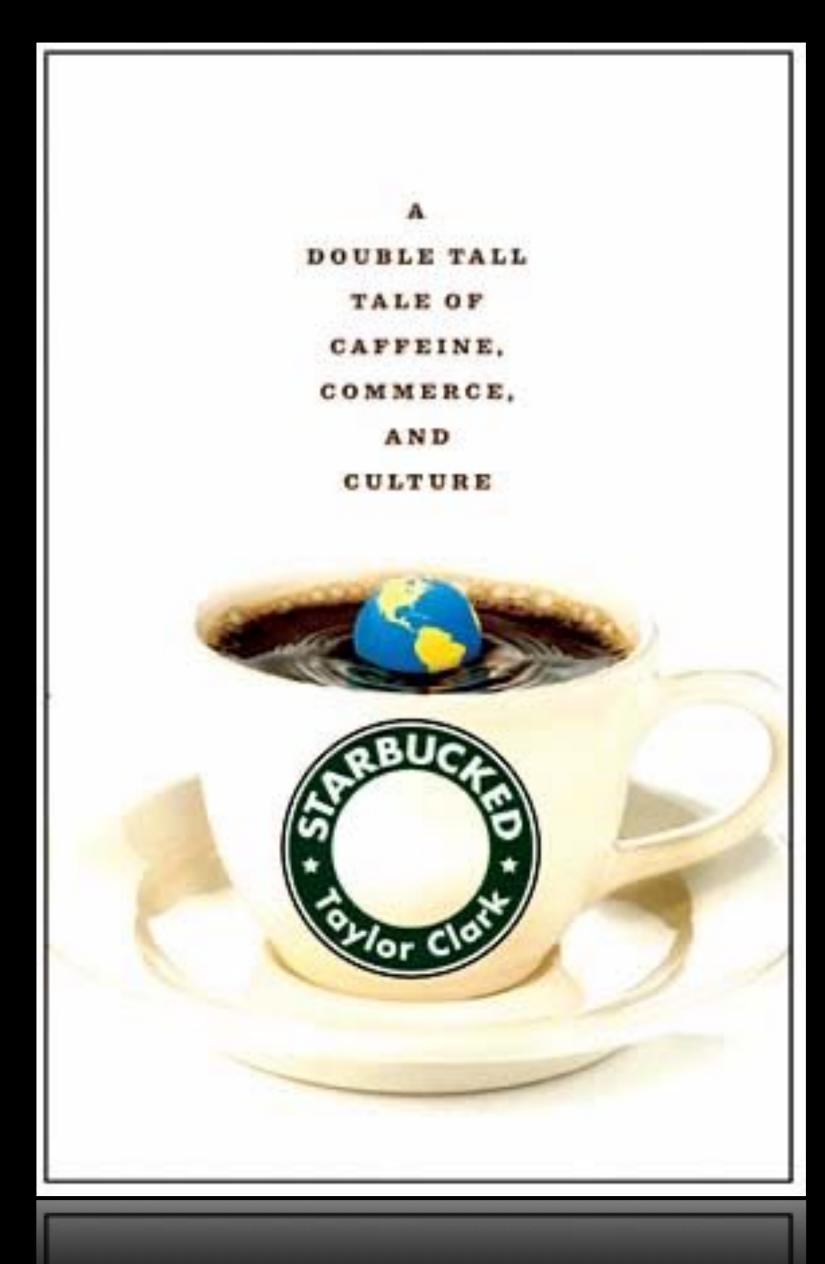






#### In March of 1971, Starbucks opened its 1st coffee shop in Seattle. As of the beginning of March 2025, Starbucks had 40,199 coffee shops worldwide.



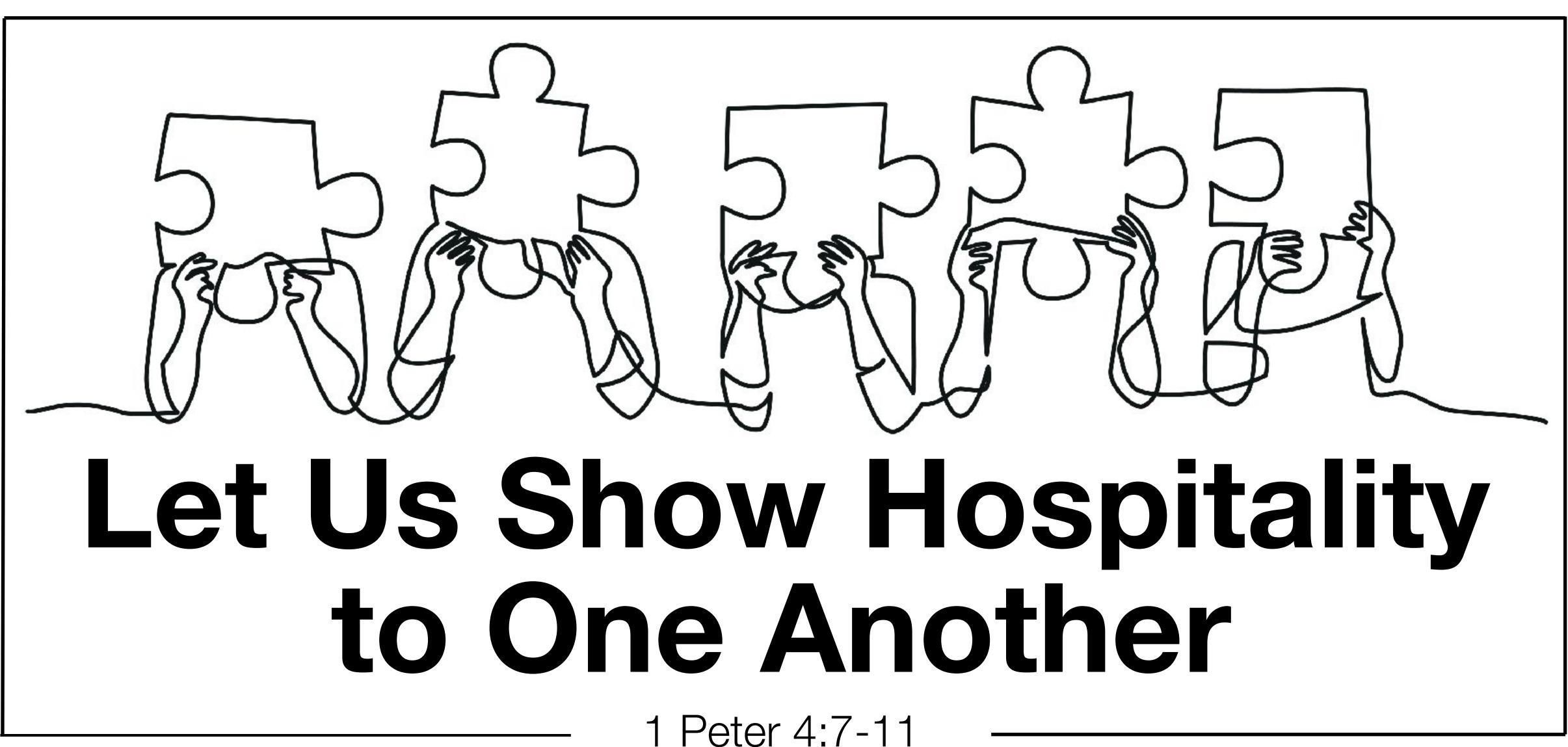


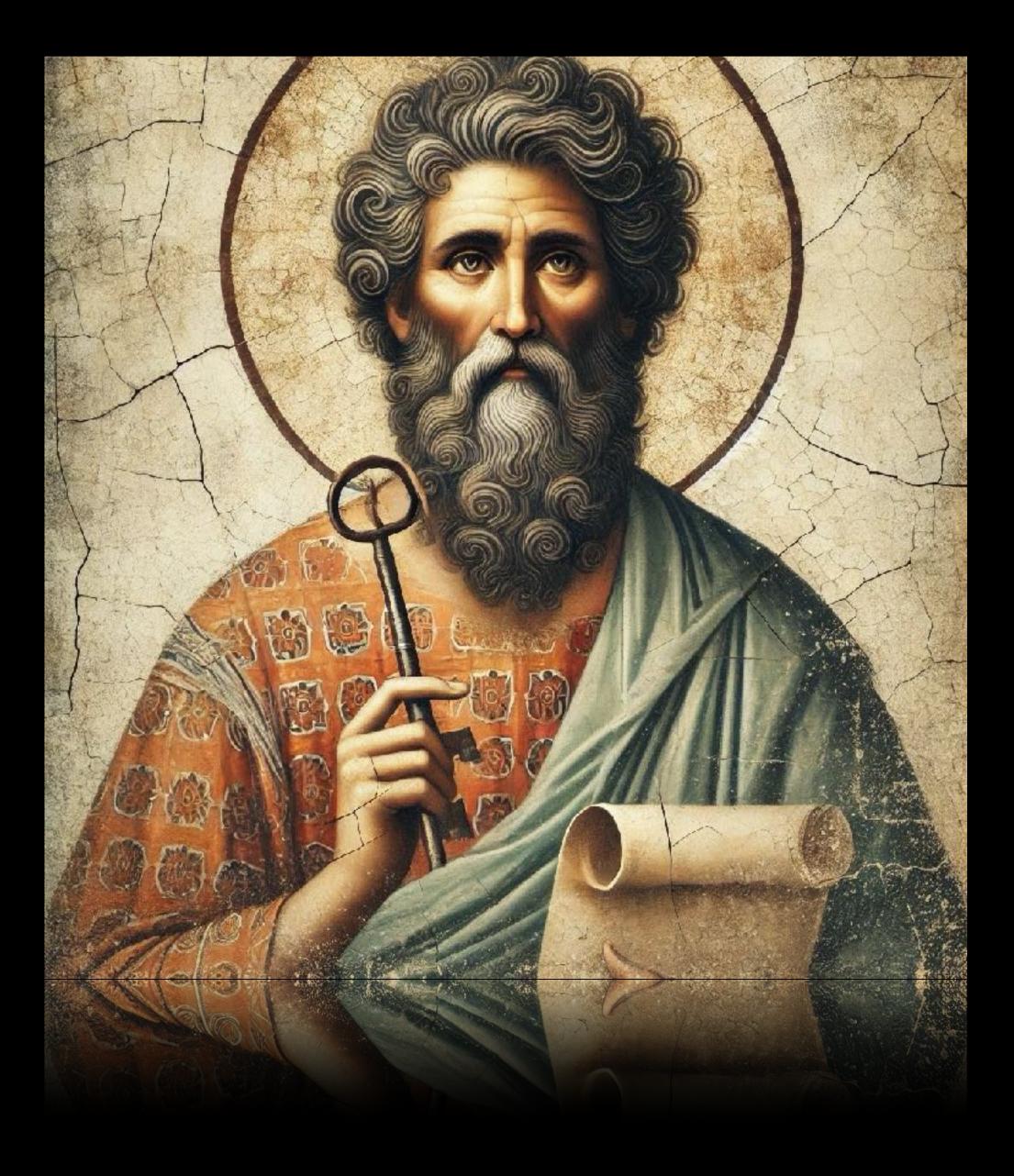
Starbucks own research showed that what people really want is "a cozy social atmosphere above all else.... For those seeking a refuge from the world, the cup of coffee they bought was just the price of admission....

# Starbucks is selling hospitality.

— Tim Chester, A Meal with Jesus —





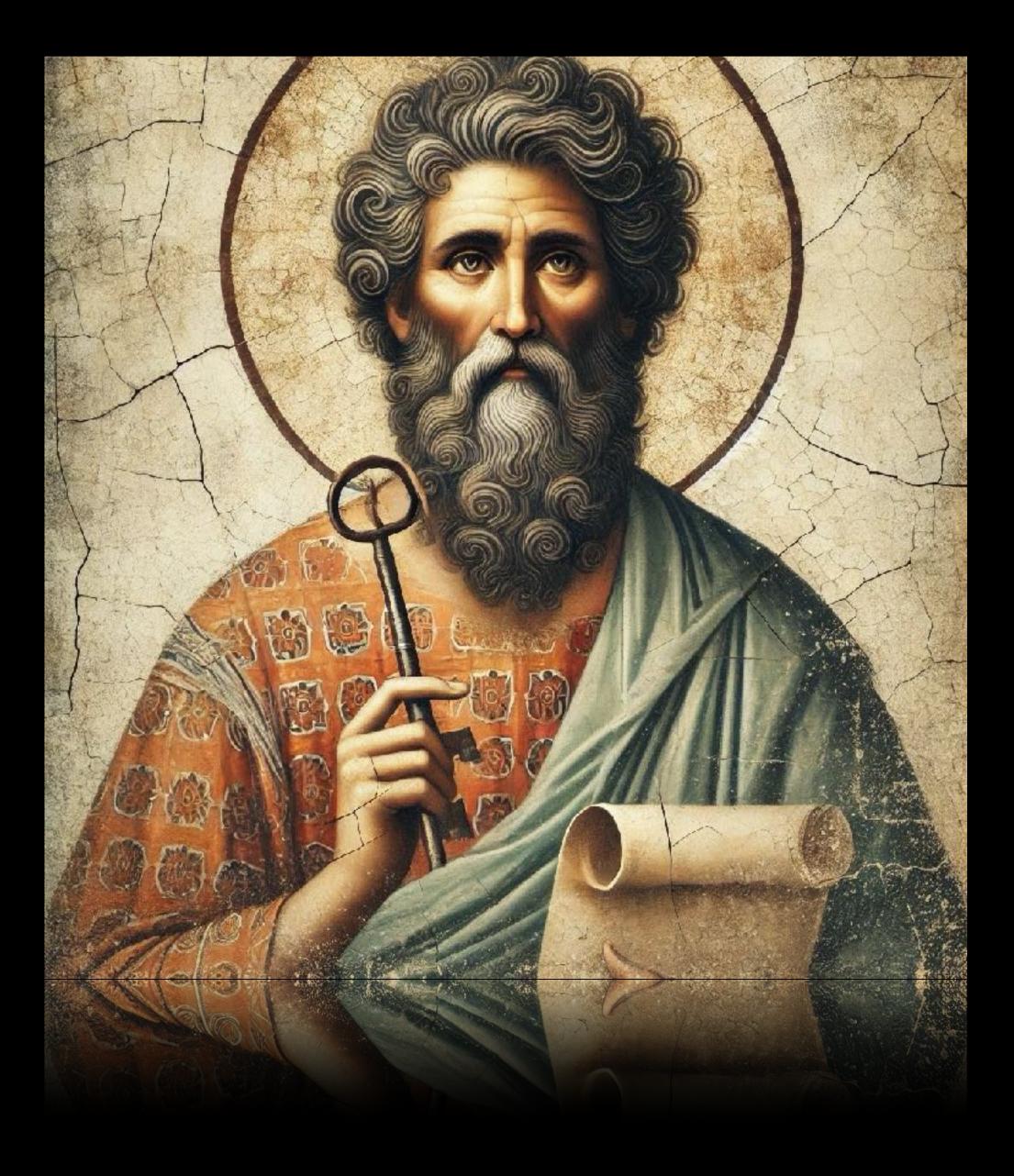


#### **The Apostle Peter**

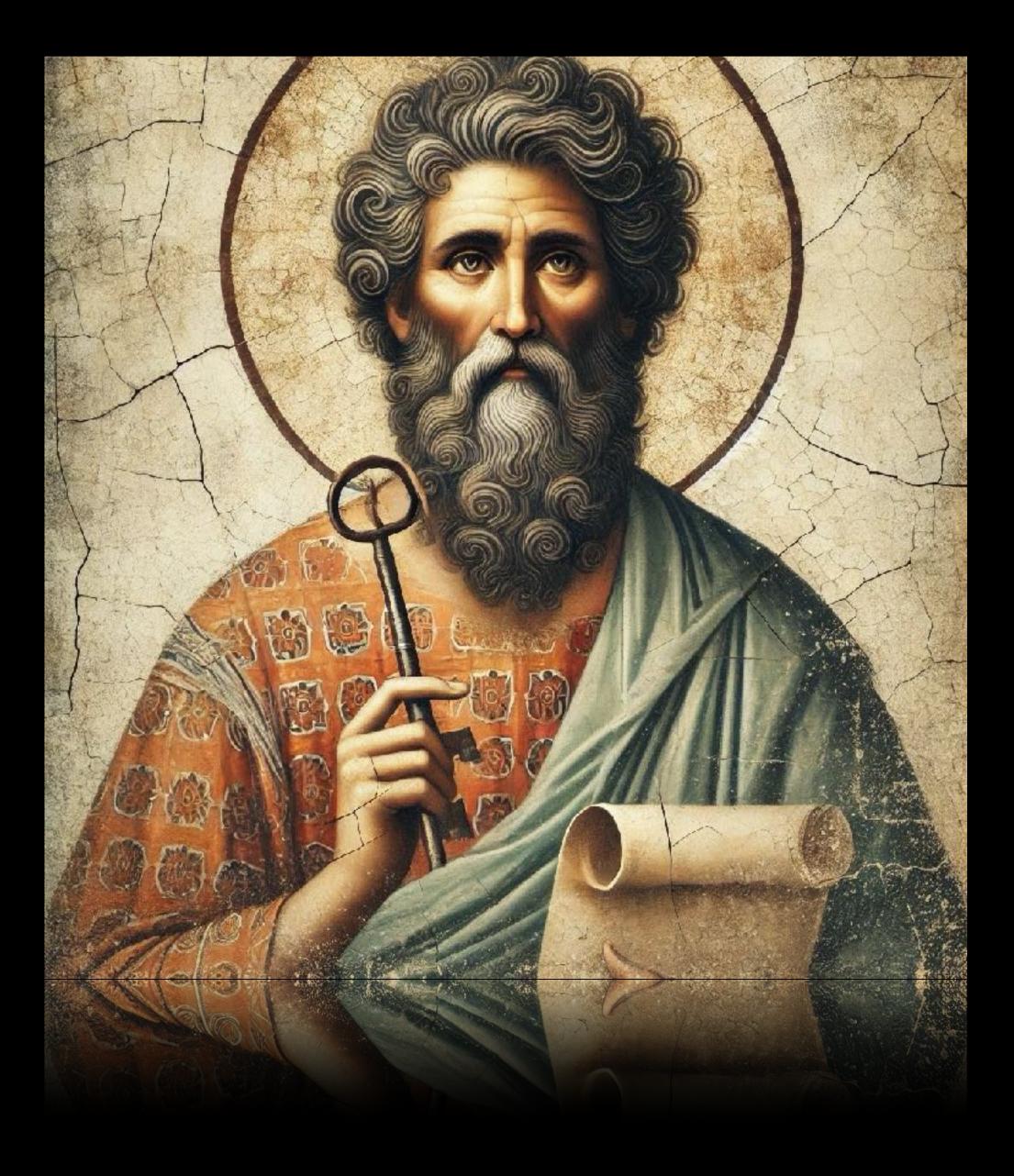
One of the inner circle of Jesus' disciples

Betrayed Jesus, denying he even knew him

Forgiven & restored & commissioned by Jesus

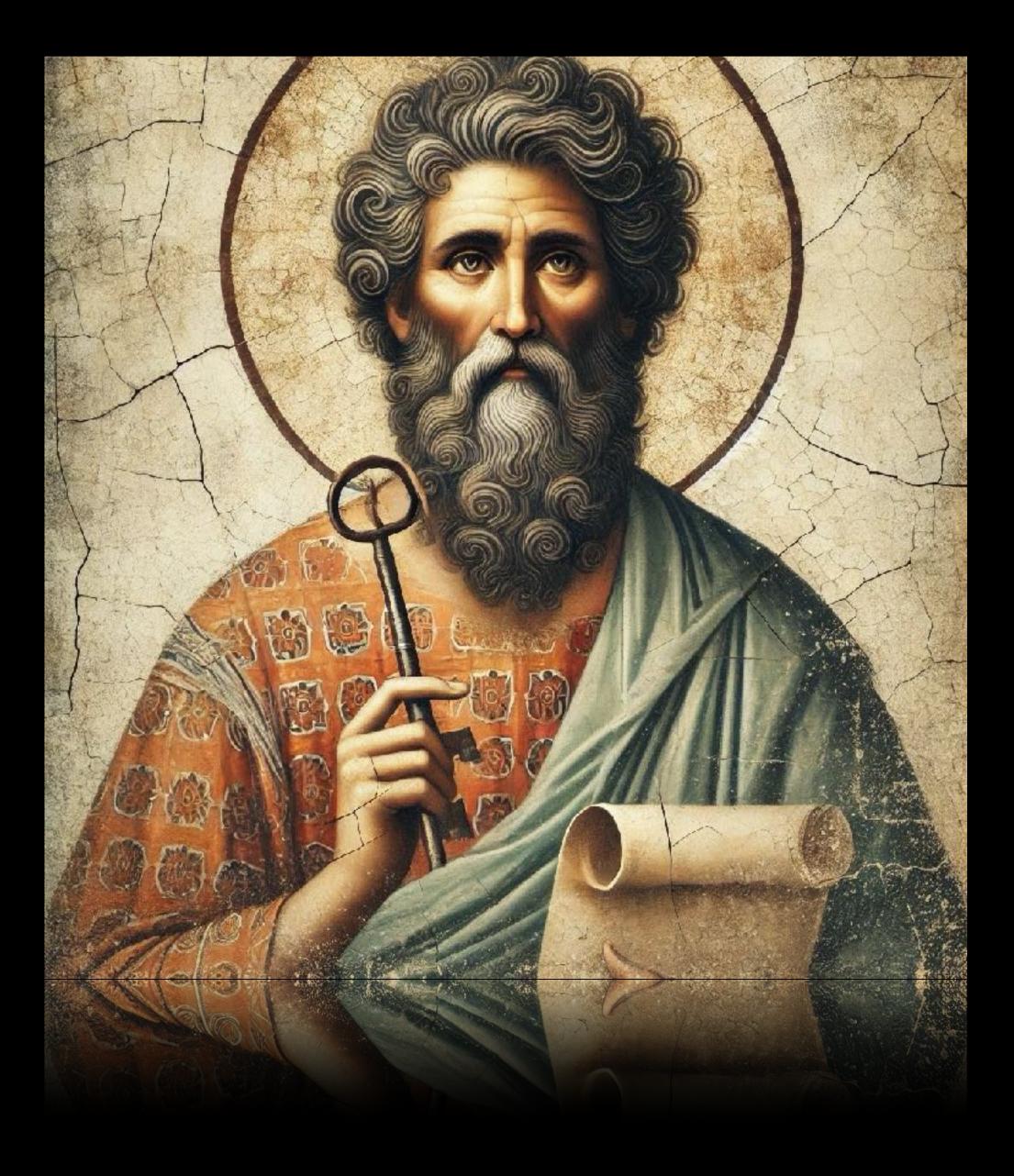


Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus **Christ! In his great mercy** he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade.

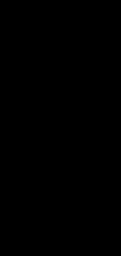


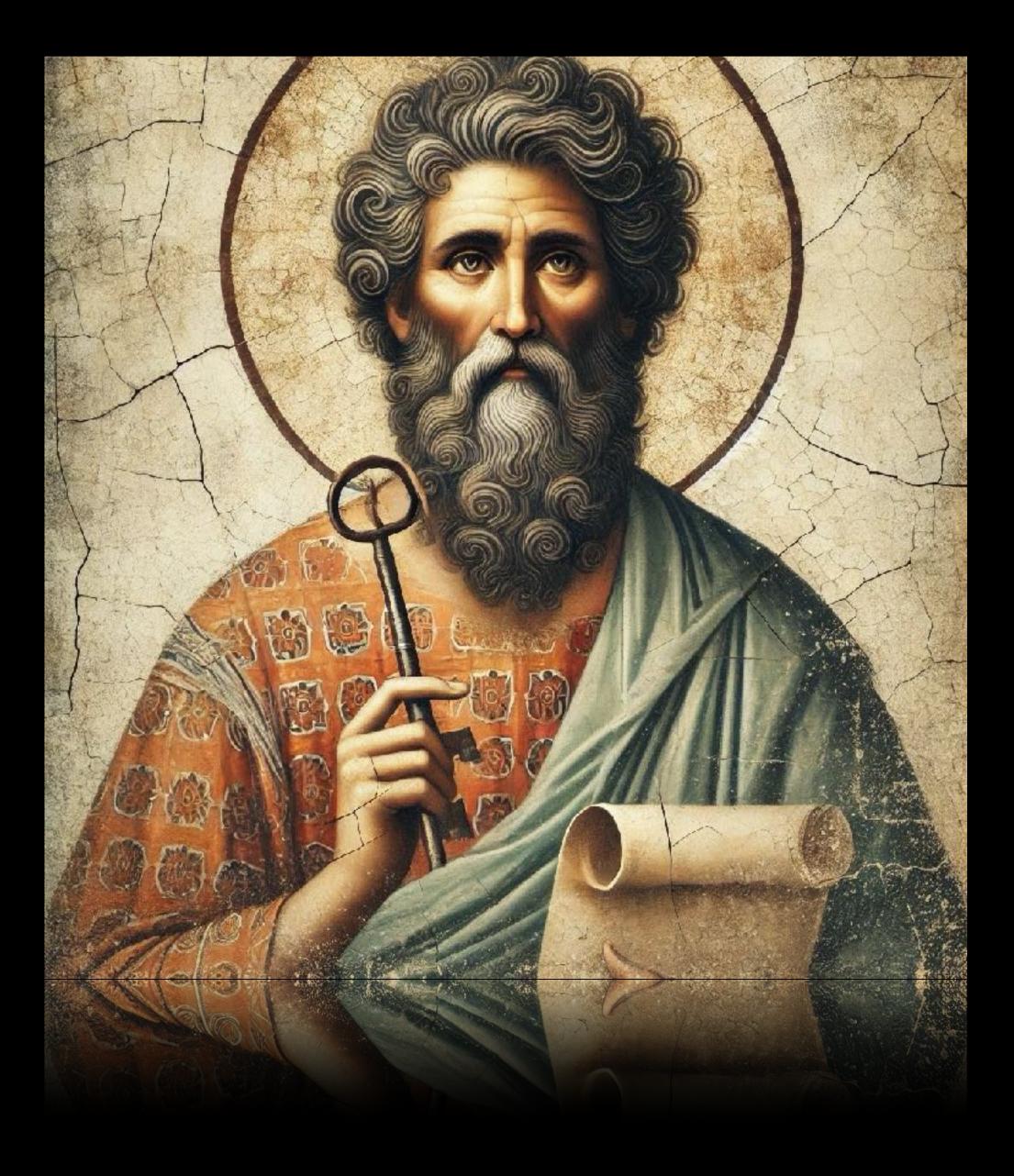
This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.





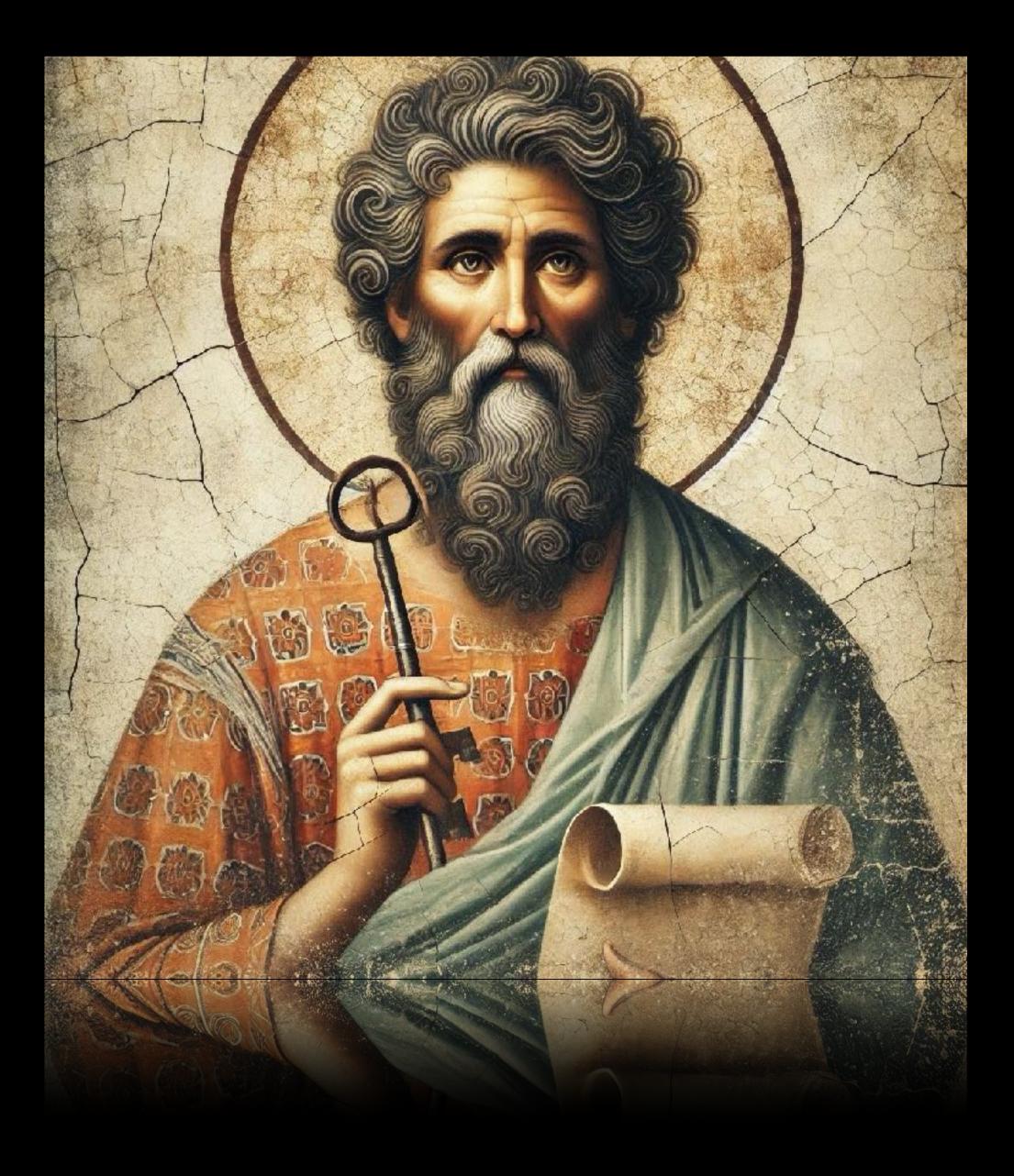
These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire -may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.





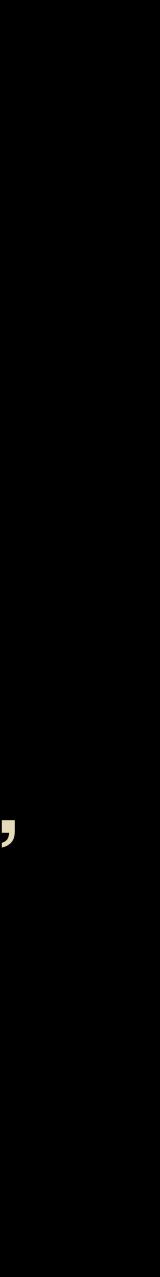
Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

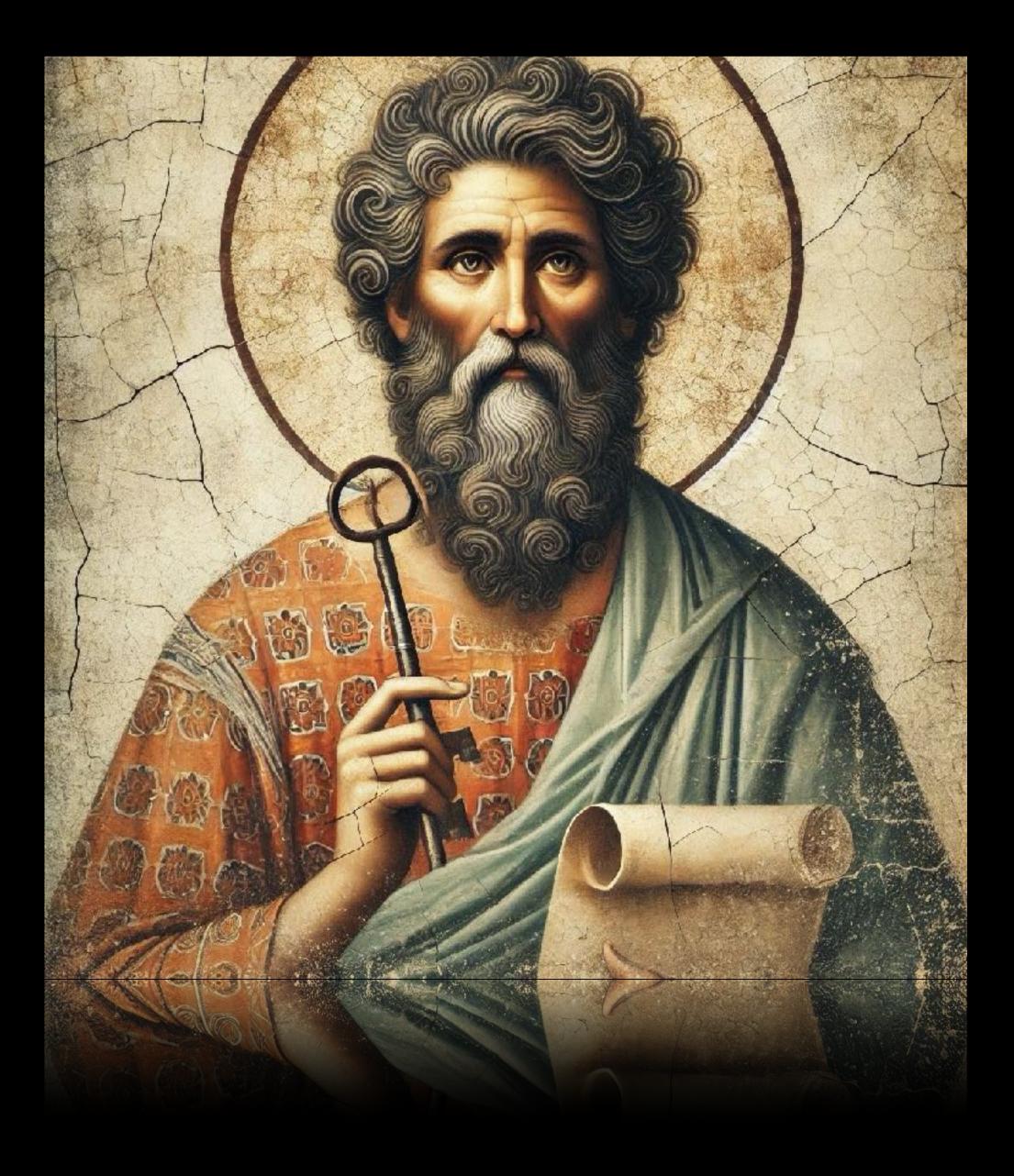
— 1 Peter 1:3-9 (NIV) —



...you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.

— 1 Peter 1:18-19 (ESV) —





For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God....

— 1 Peter 3:18 (ESV) —

## 1 Since therefore Christ suffered in the flesh, arm yourselves with the same way of thinking....



## 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be selfcontrolled and sober-minded for the sake of your prayers.



prayers.

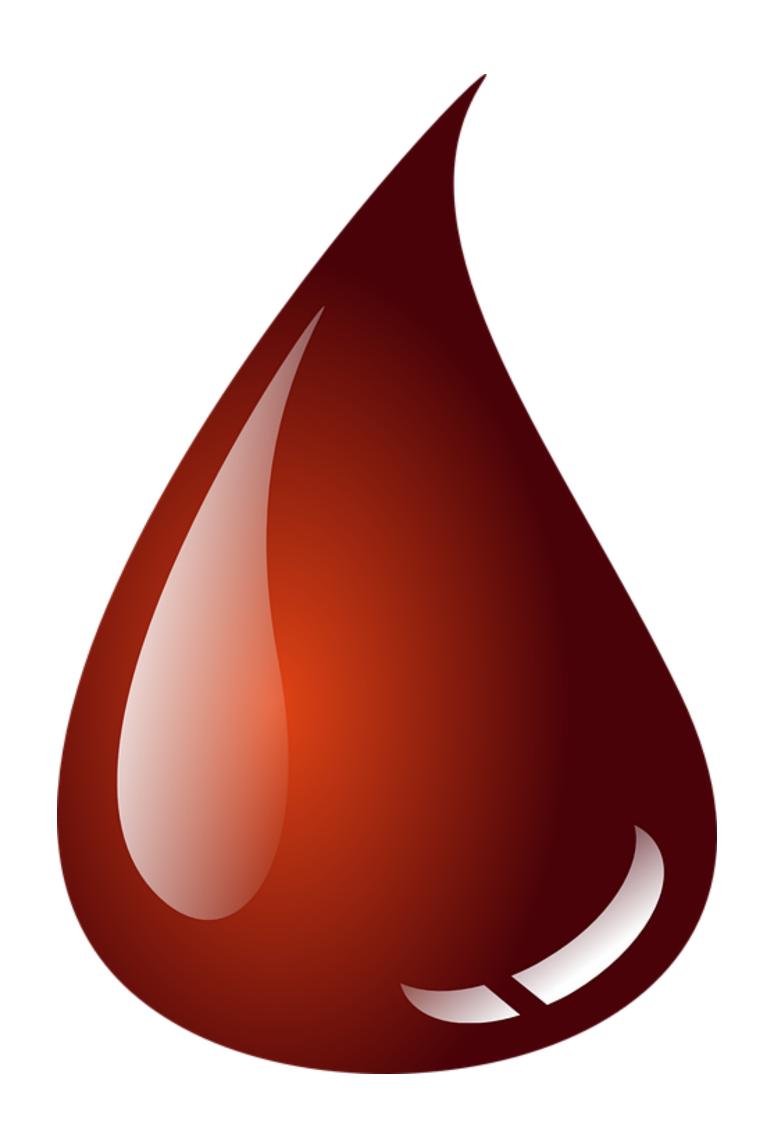
love covers a multitude of sins.



### 7 The end of all things is at hand; therefore be selfcontrolled and sober-minded for the sake of your

## 8 Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since

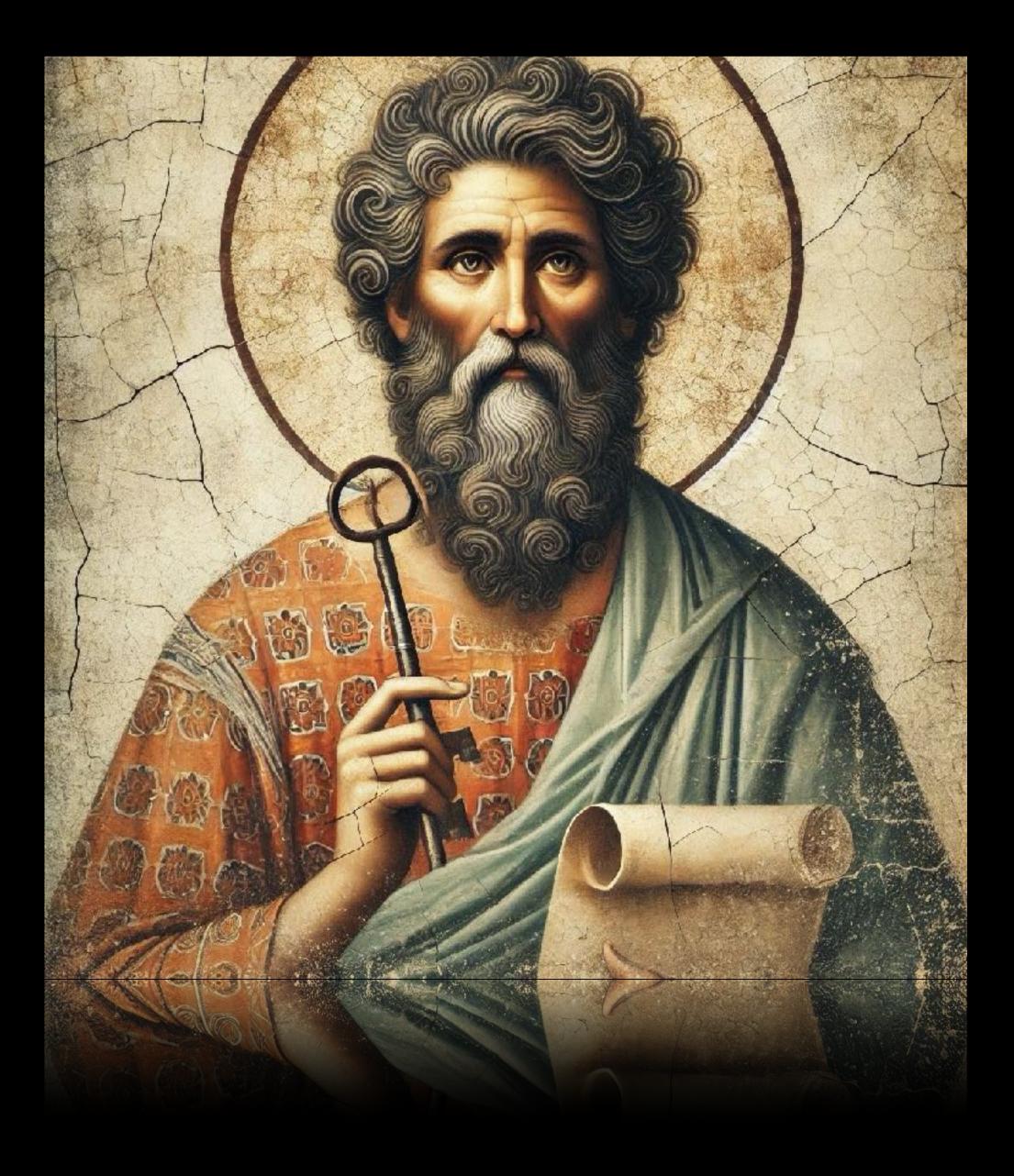




## "...EARNESTLY..."

And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground.

The Gospel of Luke 22:44 —



## Above all, keep loving one another earnestly....

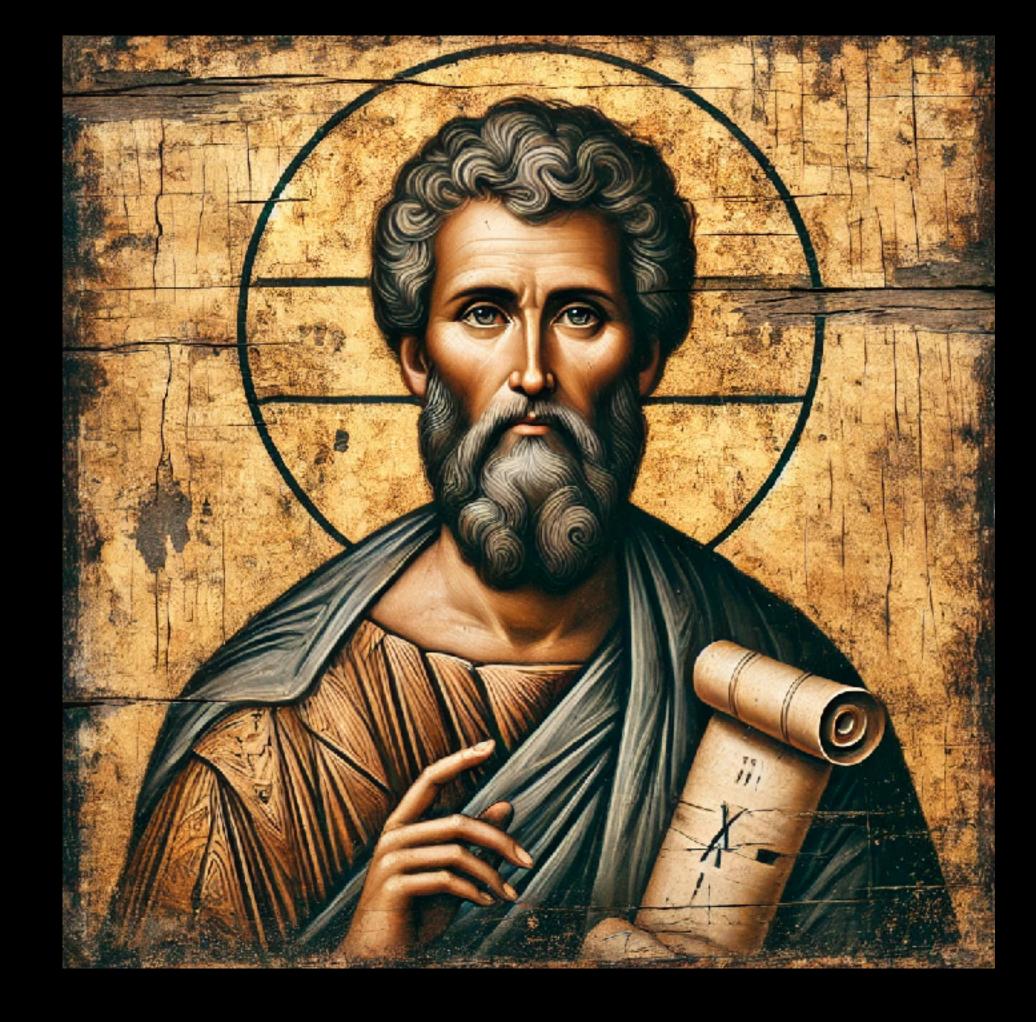
— 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV) —

#### 9 Show hospitality to one another....



Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.... Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

The Apostle Paul in Romans 12:10 & 13 —



### "seek to show hospitality"

#### Literally, "to strive after / to pursue" hospitality.

—Christian Standard Bible —

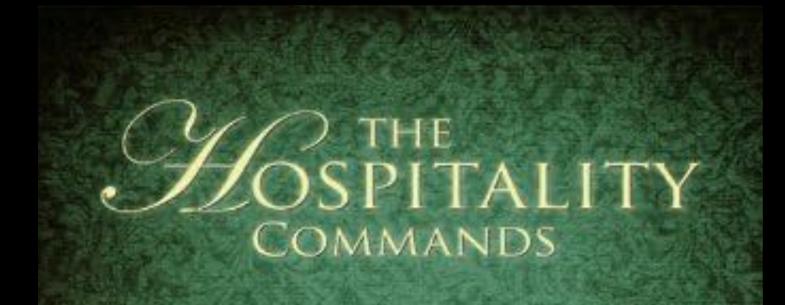
#### "practice hospitality"

— New International Version —

#### "Always be eager to show hospitality."

— New Living Translation —

#### "pursue hospitality"

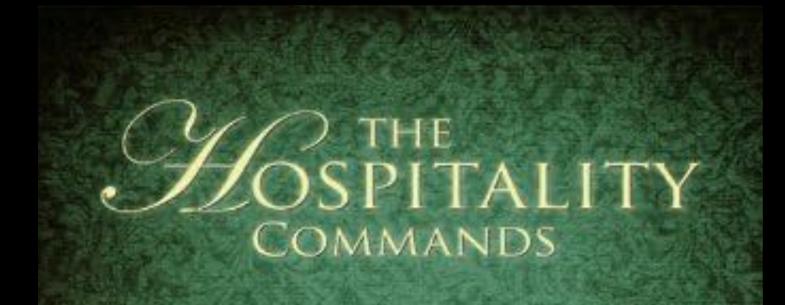




#### ALEXANDER STRAUCH

BUILDING LOVING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING BRIDGES TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

There is nothing in this world like selfsacrificing, genuine **Christian love to** encourage, inspire, comfort, and build others up.





#### ALEXANDER STRAUCH

BUILDING LOVING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING BRIDGES TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

But how, in practical, down-to-earth terms, do we show more genuine, Christian love, and community? One clear answer is hospitality.

## 9 Show hospitality to one another without grumbling.



10 As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace: 11 whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies — in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus **Christ.** To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

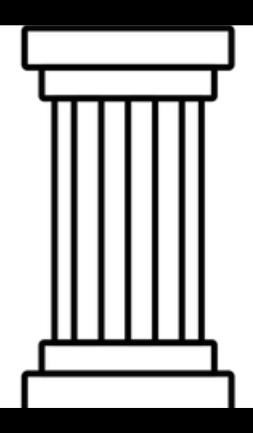


A key, practical, and tangible way that we love one another is by showing hospitality to one another.

**Remember the logic:** If we have experienced the hospitality of God in Jesus Christ, then it should overflow our lives into the lives of others.



## Show Hospitality to One Another Welcome One Another Love One Another The Foundation of the Gospel of Jesus



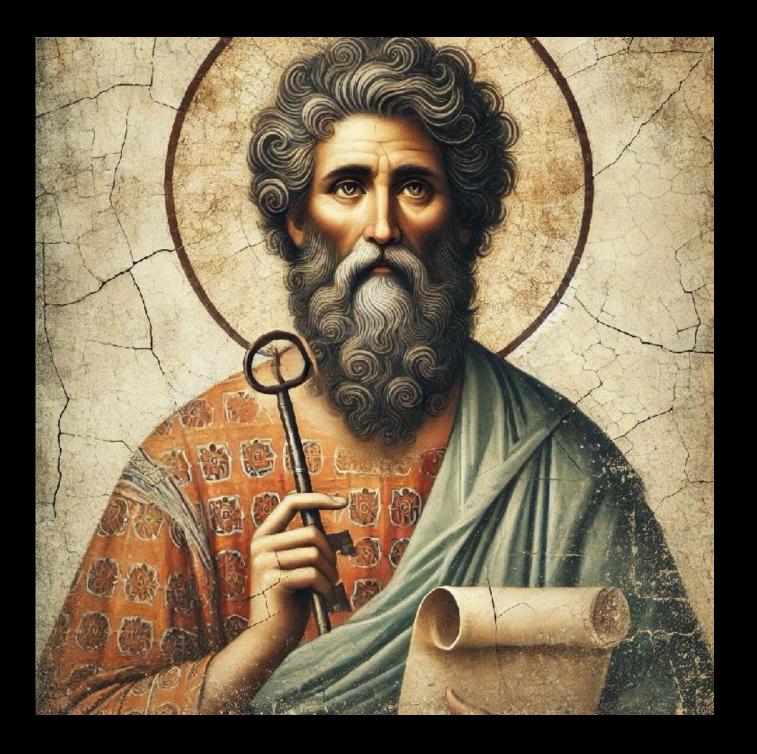


## Let's Evaluate Our Excuses



Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

— The Gospel of Luke 15:1-2 —



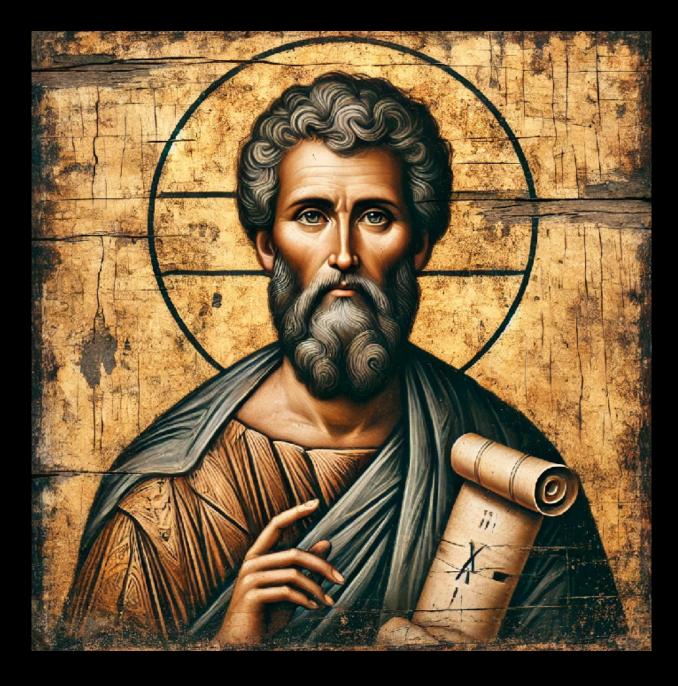
#### "Show hospitality to one another...."

#### "...seek to show hospitality."

--- Romans 12:13 ----

#### — 1 Peter 4:8 (ESV) —







## Do not neglect to show hospitality....

— Hebrews 13:2 —

Carl F. H. Henry Theologian & founding editor of *Christianity Today* 

CHRISTIAN HOSPITALITY is a matter of OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

**Hospitality is not** just one more thing to add to your calendar, but rather it's an overflow of who you are and the kind of human God is making you into.

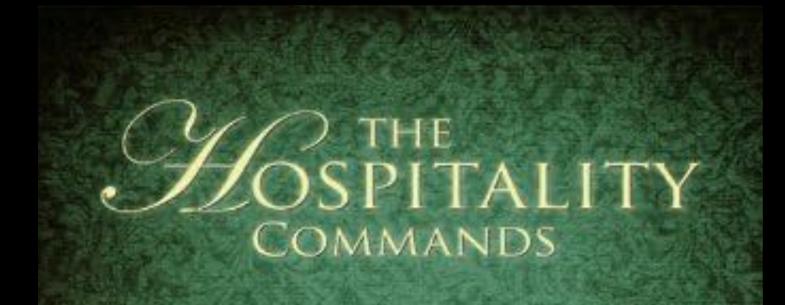






### ALEXANDER STRAUCH

BUILDING LOVING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING BRIDGES TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS I don't think most Christians today understand how essential hospitality is to fanning the flames of love and strengthening the **Christian family. Hospitality** fleshes out love in a uniquely personal and sacrificial way.

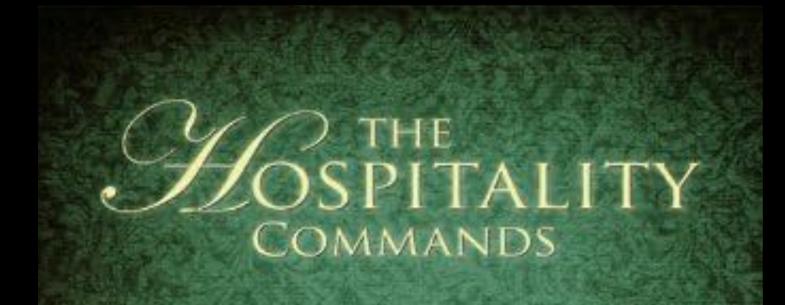




### ALEXANDER STRAUCH

BUILDING LOVING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING BRIDGES TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Through the ministry of hospitality, we share our most prized possessions. We share our family, home, finances, food, privacy, and time. Indeed, we share our very lives. So, hospitality is always costly.





### ALEXANDER STRAUCH

BUILDING LOVING CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BUILDING BRIDGES TO FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS

Through the ministry of hospitality, we provide friendship, acceptance, fellowship, refreshment, comfort, and love in one of the richest and deepest ways possible for humans to understand.

### What is holding you back from seeking to show hospitality?

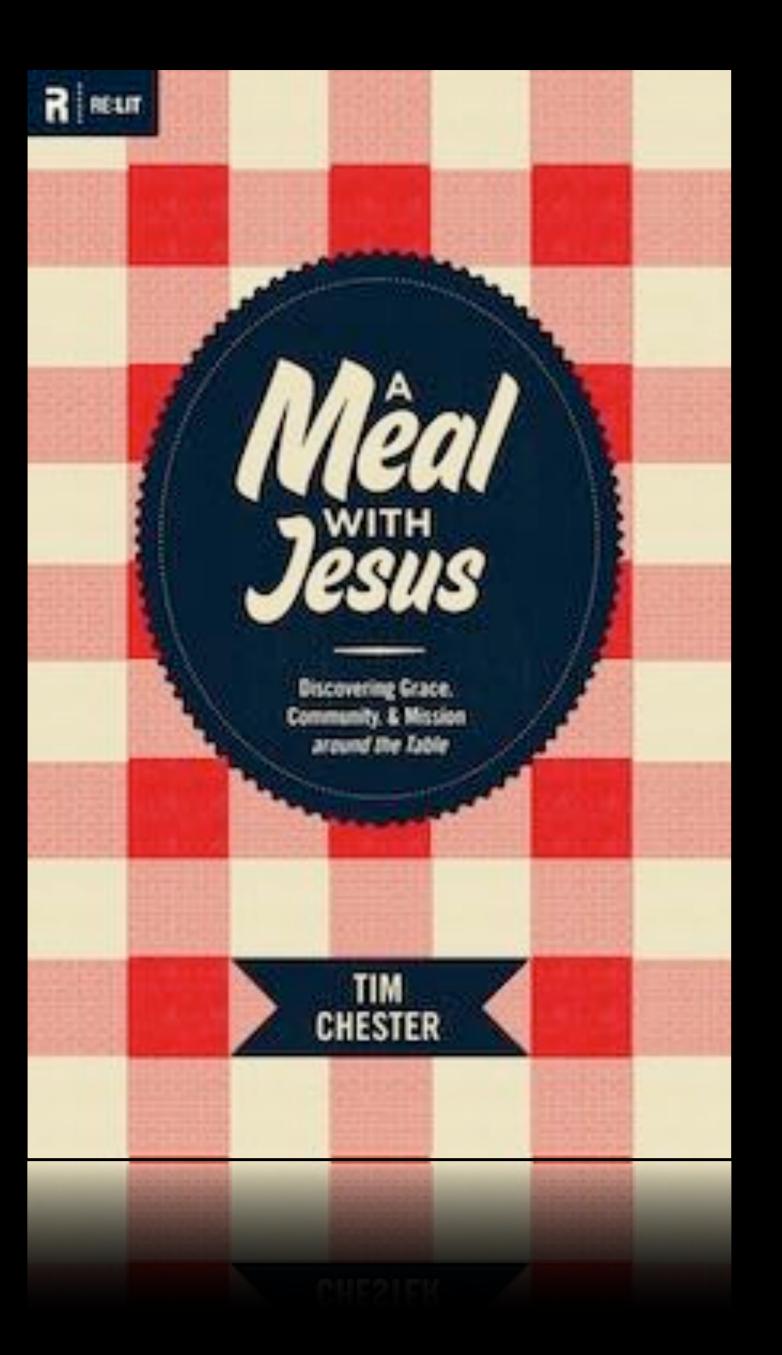


## Let's Redefine Hospitality as Presence, Not Perfection



**Hospitality involves** WELCOMING, CREATING SPACE, LISTENING, PAYING ATTENTION, and PROVIDING. Meals slow things down. Some of us don't like that. We like to get things done.

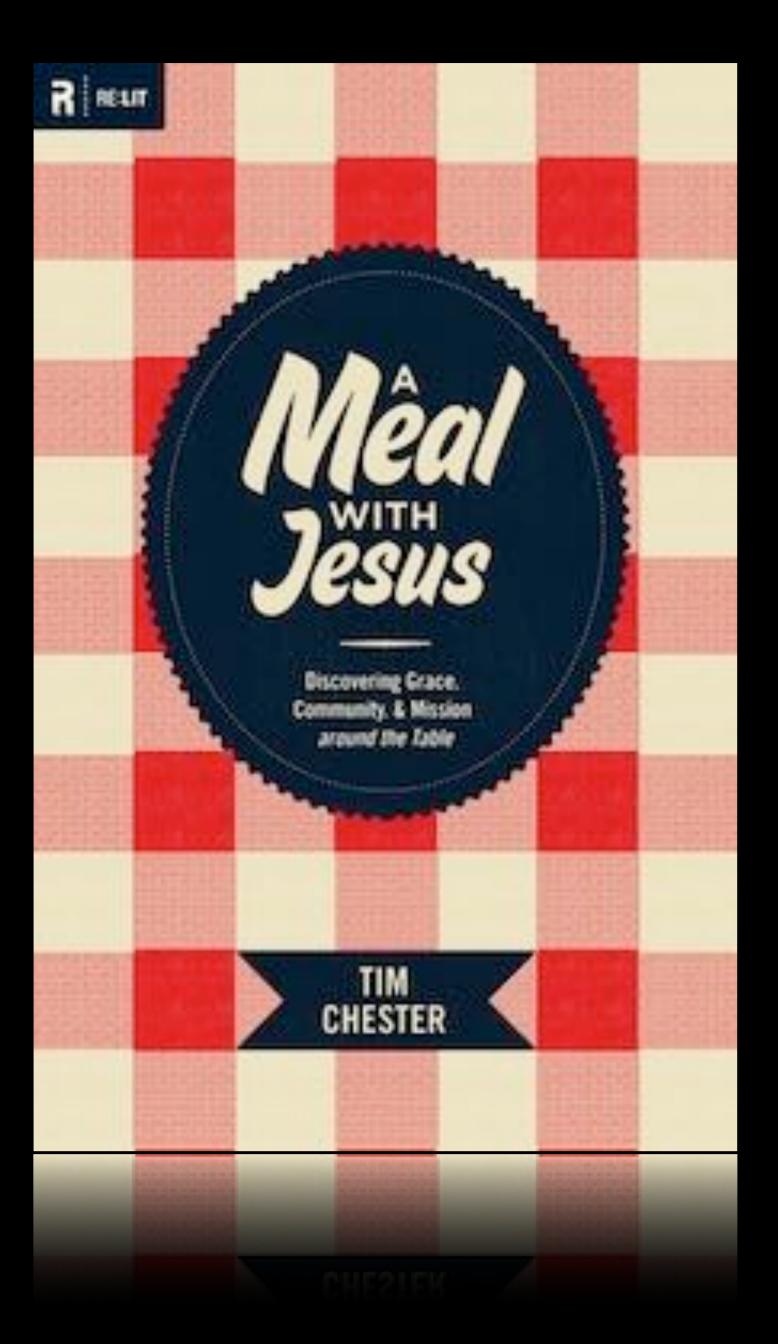




But meals force you to be **PEOPLE ORIENTED** instead of task oriented. Sharing a meal is not the only way to build relationships, but it is NUMBER ONE on the list.







# Biblical hospitality doesn't aim to impress, but to bless.

# Do for one what you wish you could do for everyone.





### The Grinch: his heart was two sizes too small.

is coming!



# He HADN'T stopped Christmas from coming!







**Extending hospitality** to others is both an act of love and a means of growing your capacity to love.





