



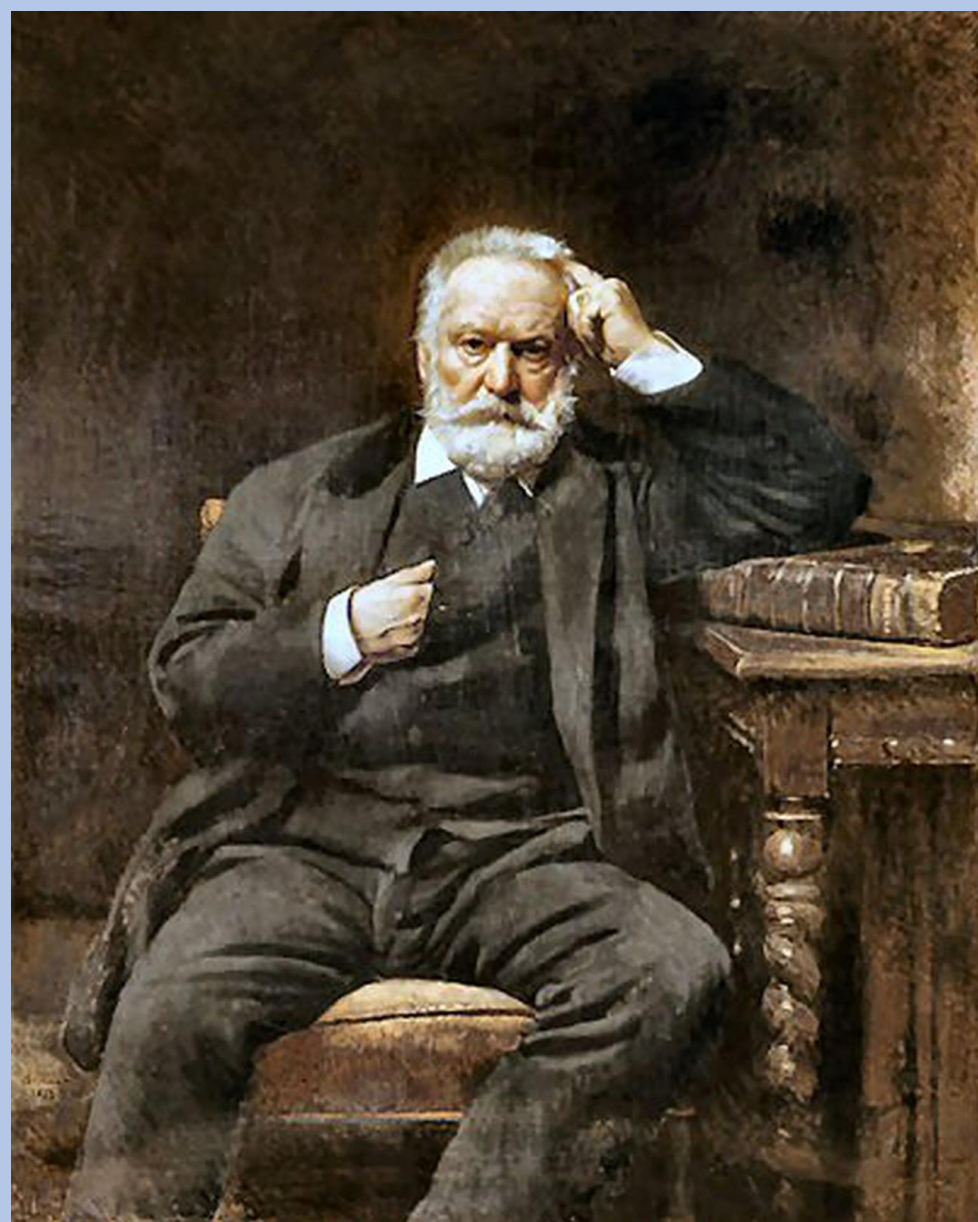
The Church, A Mystery Part III (Ephesians 3:8-13)



(God On Display)

I. Wonder of God's amazing grace.





Romans 11:33

³³ Oh, the depth of the riches
both of the wisdom and
knowledge of God! How
unsearchable are His
judgments and unfathomable
His ways!

“The unsearchable riches of Christ” – literally, ‘the riches that cannot be tracked.’ The idea is difficult to put into one word, though the translators have attempted with words like inexplorable, untraceable, unfathomable, inexhaustible, illimitable, inscrutable, incalculable, and infinite. What are the unsearchable riches? They are *saving* riches, *sanctifying* riches, *relational* riches, *practical* riches, *eternal* riches.”

– K. Hughes

I Corinthians 15:8 & 9

⁸ and last of all, as to one untimely born, He appeared to me also. ⁹ For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

II Corinthians 12:11

¹¹ I have become foolish; you yourselves compelled me. Actually I should have been commended by you, for in no respect was I inferior to the most eminent apostles, even though I am a nobody.

I Timothy 1:15 & 16

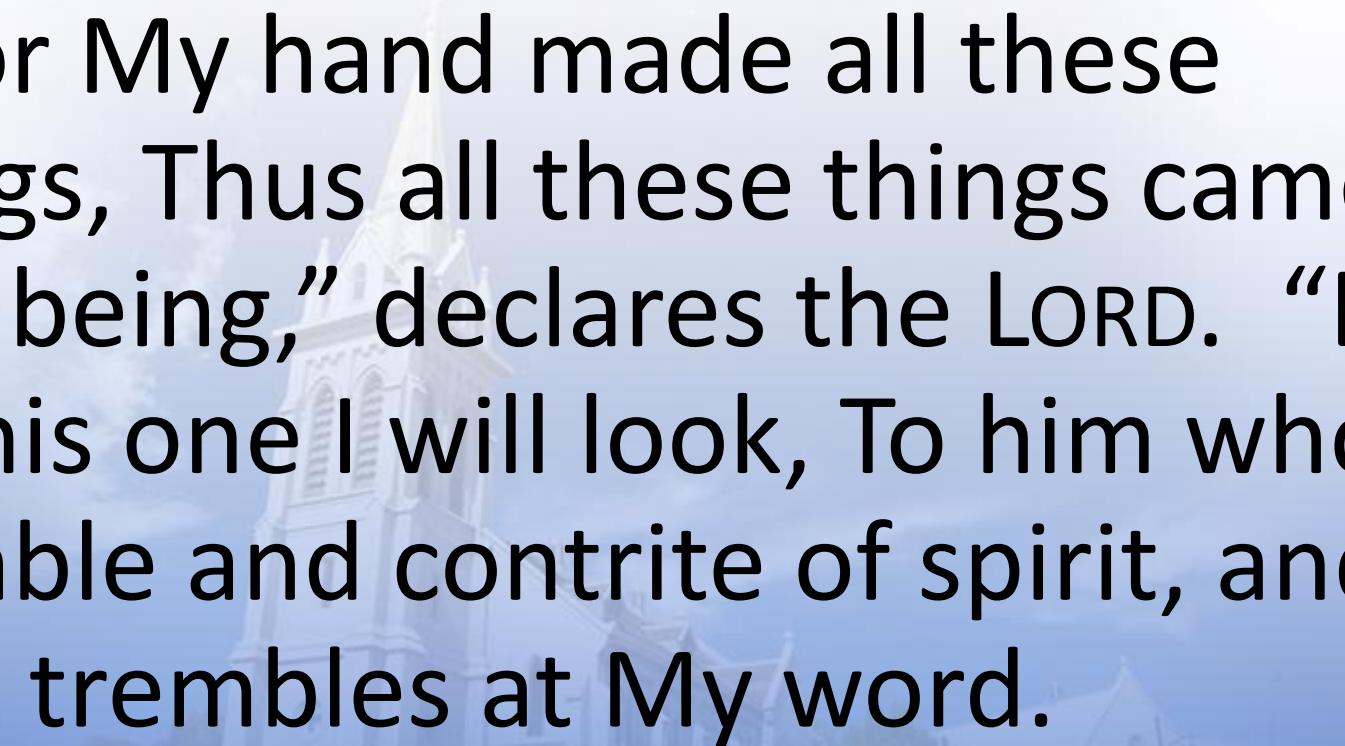
¹⁵ It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost *of all*. ¹⁶ Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

“Humility is honestly assessing ourselves in light of God’s holiness and our sinfulness.”

– C.J. Mahaney

Isaiah 66:2

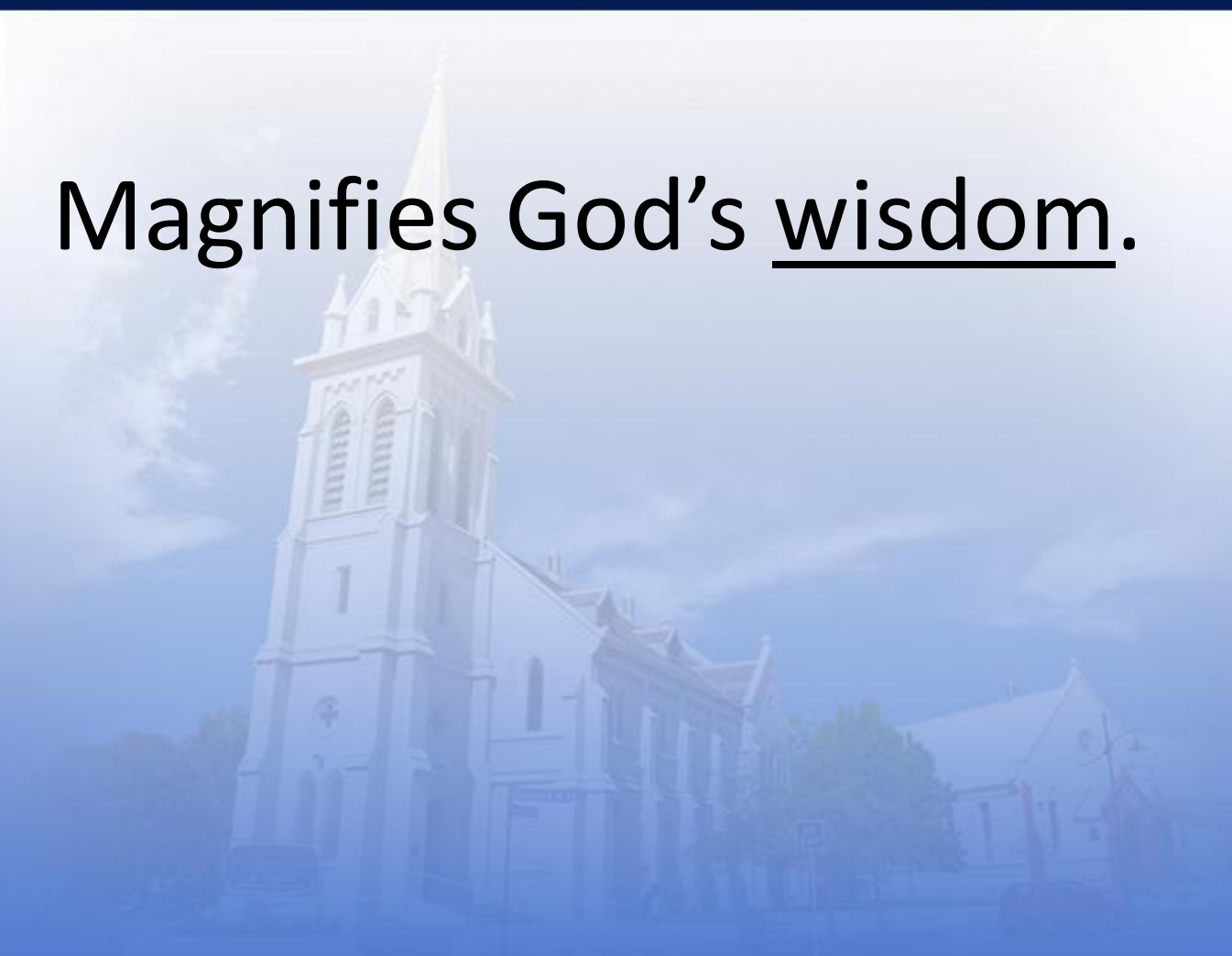
² “For My hand made all these things, Thus all these things came into being,” declares the LORD. “But to this one I will look, To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word.





(God On Display)

II. Magnifies God's wisdom.



Hebrews 1:13 & 14

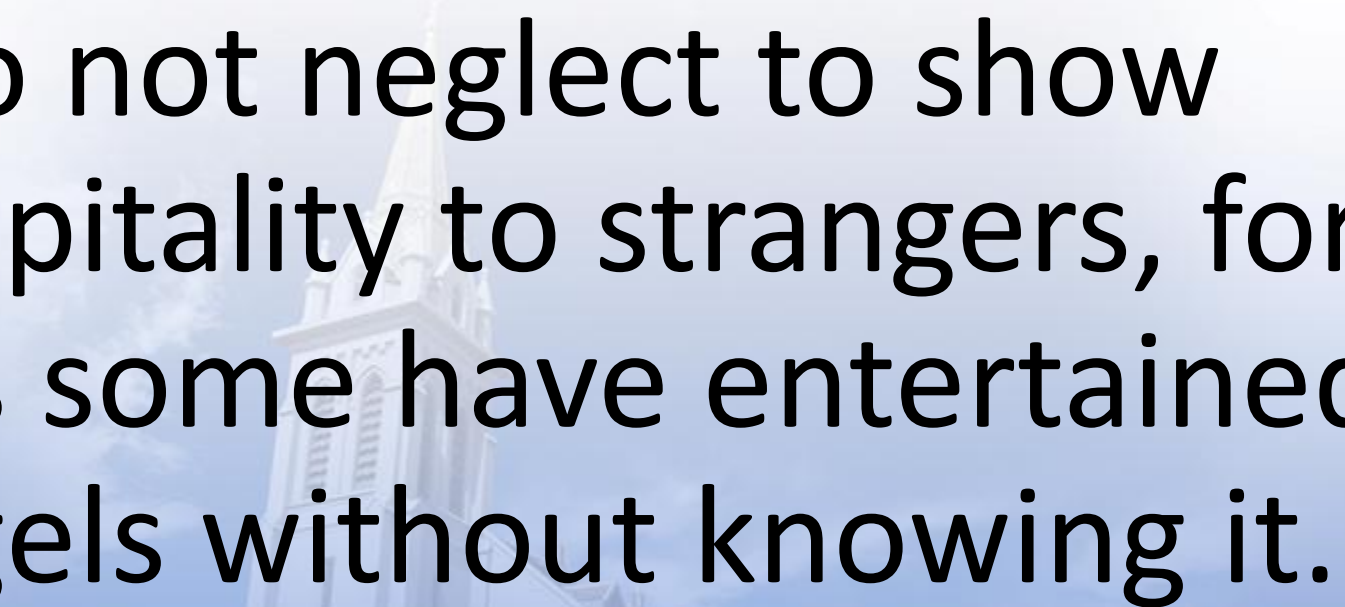
¹³ But to which of the angels has He ever said,

“SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,
UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES
A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET”?

¹⁴ Are they not all ministering spirits,
sent out to render service for the sake
of those who will inherit salvation?

Hebrews 13:2

² Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it.



I Peter 3:22

²² who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him.

“It is through the old creation (the universe) that God reveals His Glory to humans; it is through the new creation (the church) that He reveals His wisdom to angels.” – J. Stott

“The inference of our text (Eph. 3:10) and that in I Peter 1 is that God has not revealed His complete plan for history and the reconciliation of the universe to the angels; so they observe us to learn about it.” – K. Hughes

“God is ‘educating’ the angels by means of the church! By ‘the principalities and powers,’ Paul means the angelic beings created by God, both good and evil (Eph. 1:21; 6:12; Col. 1:16; 2:15). Angels are created beings and are not omniscient. In fact, Peter indicates that during the Old Testament period, the angels were curious about God’s plan of salvation then being worked out on earth (I Peter 1:10-12).” – W. W. Wiersbe

“The angels can see the power of God in creation, the wrath of God at Sinai, and the love of God at Calvary. But above all they see His manifold [multi-colored, multi-faceted] wisdom that is made known through the church. They see Him taking Jew and Gentile, slave and free, male and female – who together murdered the Messiah and were worthy only of Hell – and making them, by that very cross of murder, one spiritual body in Jesus Christ. In the classroom of God’s universe, He is the Teacher, the angels are the students, the church is the illustration, and the subject is the manifold wisdom of God.” – J. MacArthur

(God On Display)

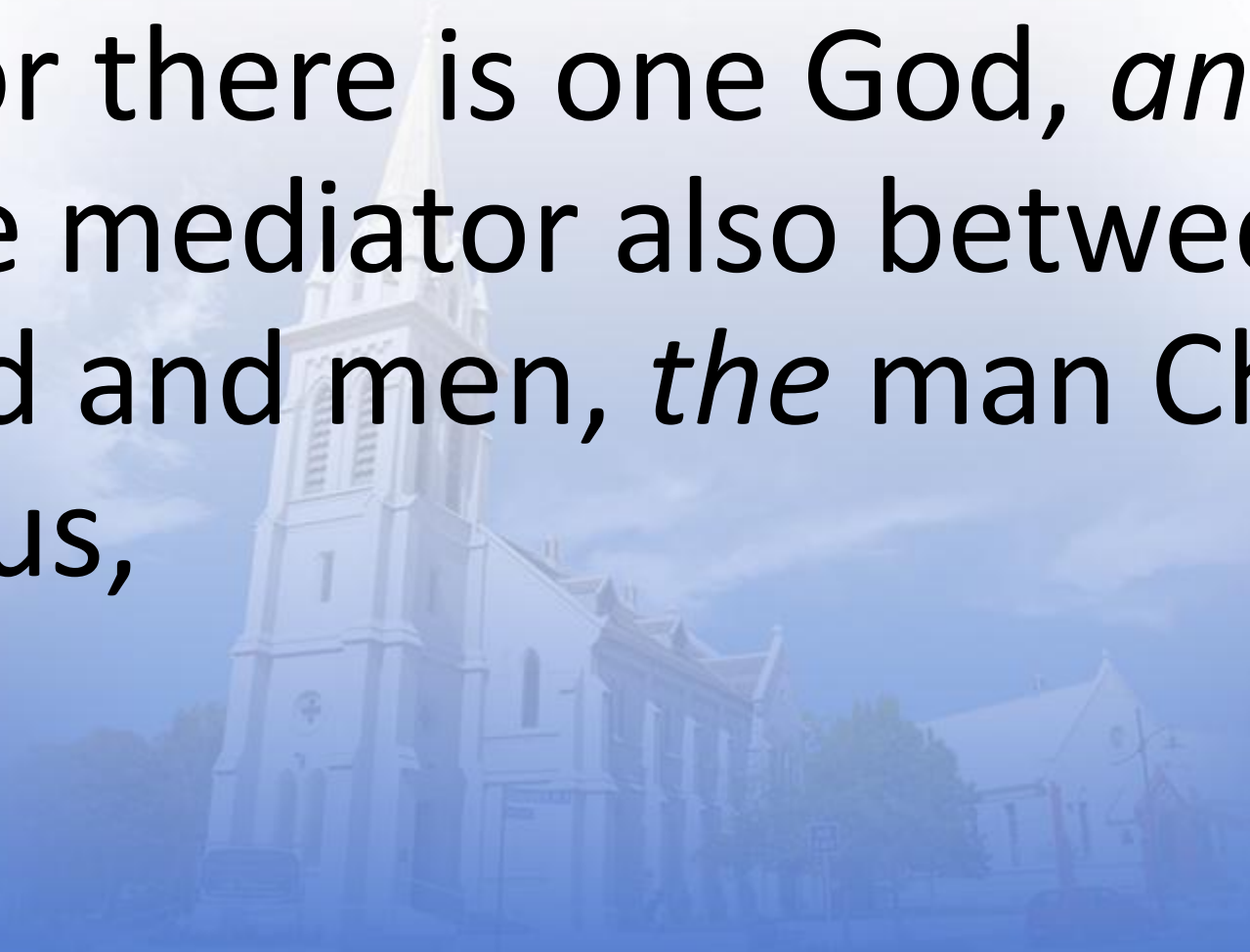
III. Exalts God's Son.



“The redemption of both Jew and Gentile and their inclusion in the church was in accord with God’s eternal purpose. This purpose was formed in connection with Christ. Even though the plan was hidden in past ages, it was fully prepared and merely waited its proper season for fulfillment. Now that Christ has come and accomplished it by His atoning death, the plan has become a fact for all to see – even the angels in heaven.” – H. Kent

1 Timothy 2:5

⁵ For there is one God, *and*
one mediator also between
God and men, *the* man Christ
Jesus,



Hebrews 4:16

¹⁶ Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

