



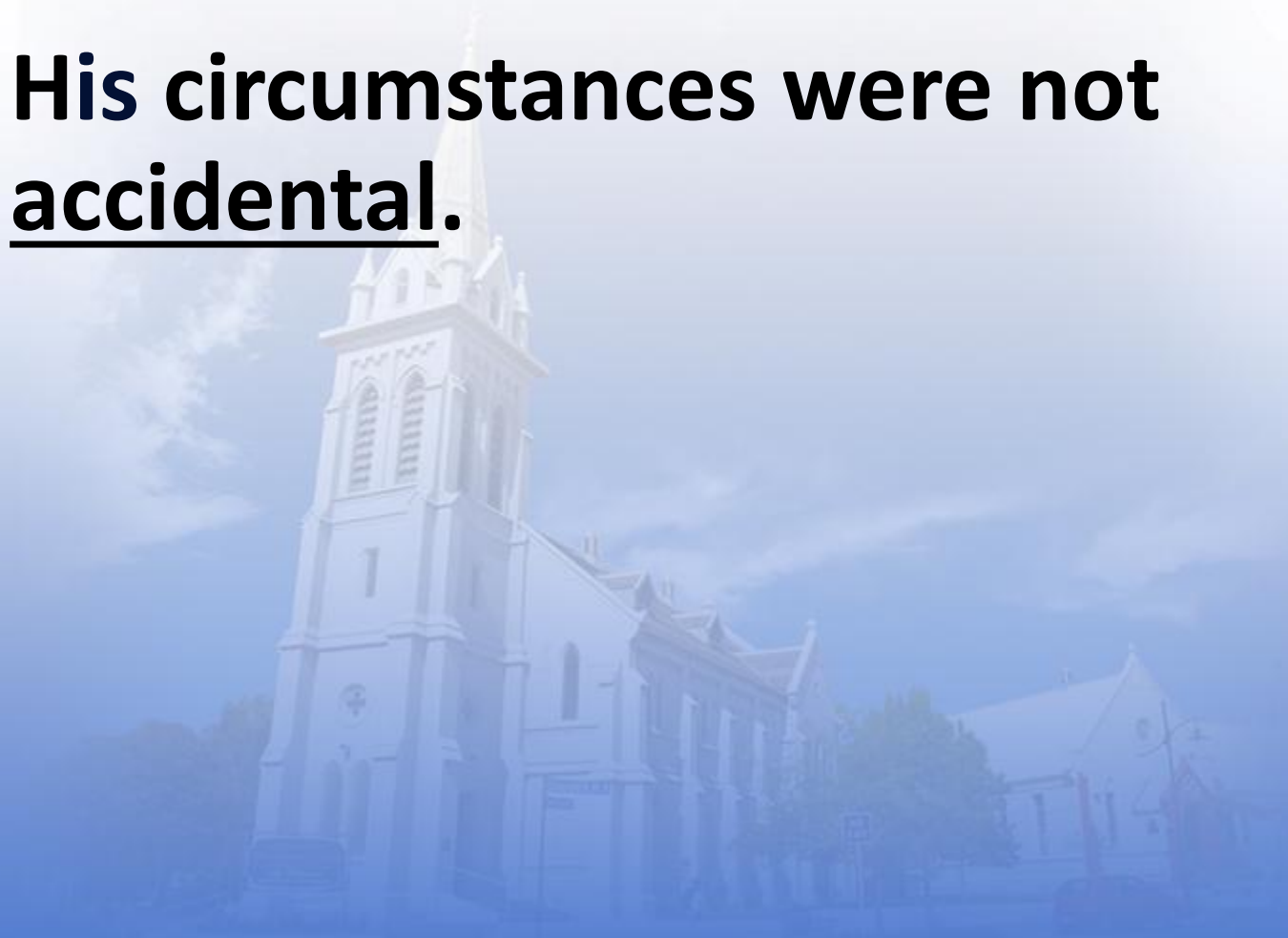
# The Church, A Mystery

“Christ is the source, the sphere, and the guarantee of every spiritual blessing and of all spiritual riches, and those who are in Him have access to all that He is and has. Our riches are based on Christ’s grace (1:2, 6-7; 2:7), His peace (1:2), His will (1:5), His kind intention (1:9), His purpose (1:9, 11); His glory (1:12, 14), His calling (1:18), His inheritance (1:18), His power (1:19), His love (2:4), His workmanship (2:10), His Spirit (3:16), His gifts (4:11), His sacrifice (5:2), His strength (6:10), and His armor (6:11, 13). – *Introduction to Ephesians*

“The miracle of the double union.”  
– *K. Hughes*

# (Paul's Reminders)

- I. **His circumstances were not accidental.**



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- (By Divine providence & purpose).

(Paul's Reminders)

**II. His imprisonment was for them.**



# 1 Corinthians 4:1 & 2

<sup>1</sup>Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries of God.

<sup>2</sup>In this case, moreover, it is required of stewards that one be found trustworthy.

# I Corinthians 9:16 & 17

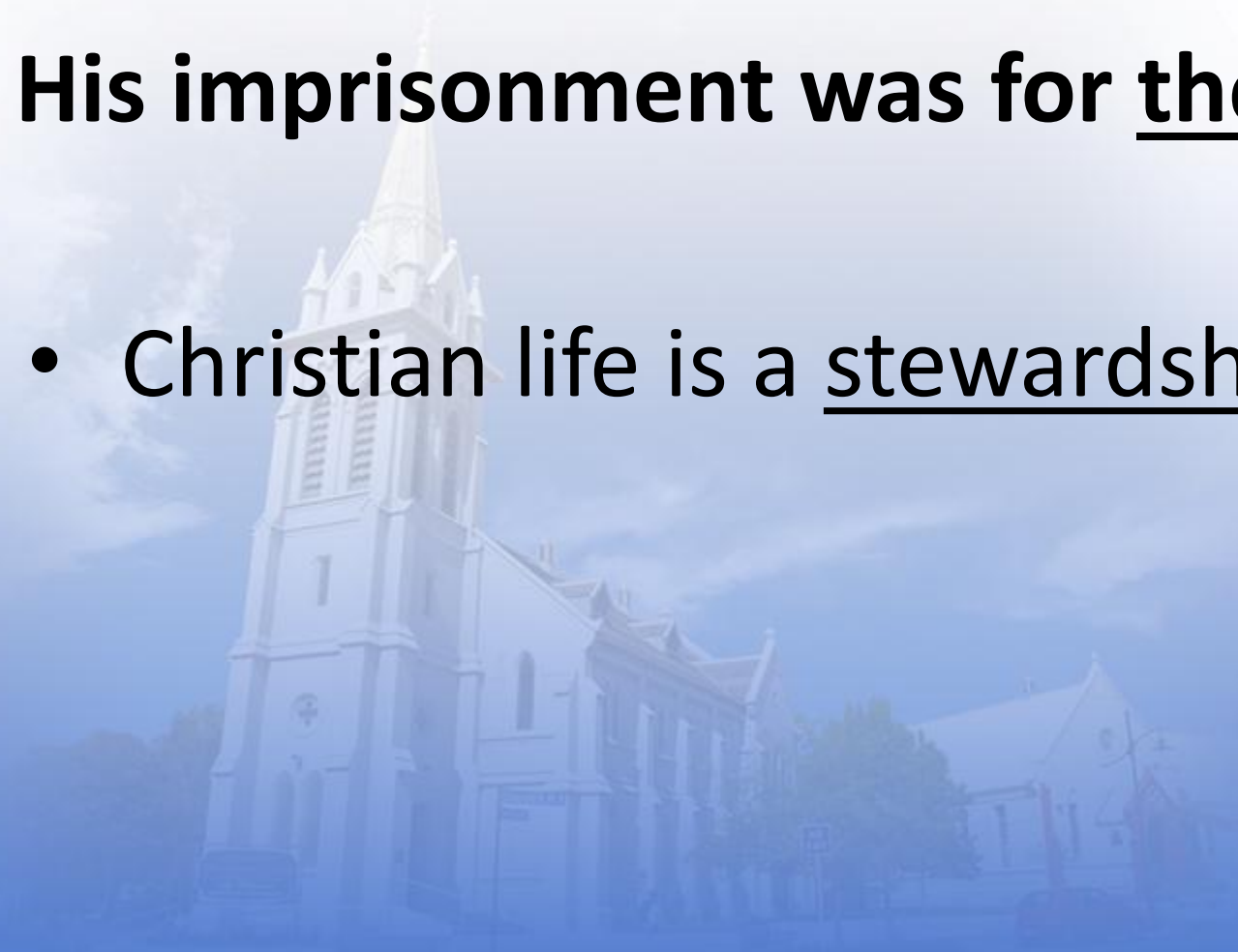
<sup>16</sup> For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for I am under compulsion; for woe is me if I do not preach the gospel. <sup>17</sup> For if I do this voluntarily, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have a stewardship entrusted to me.



# (Paul's Reminders)

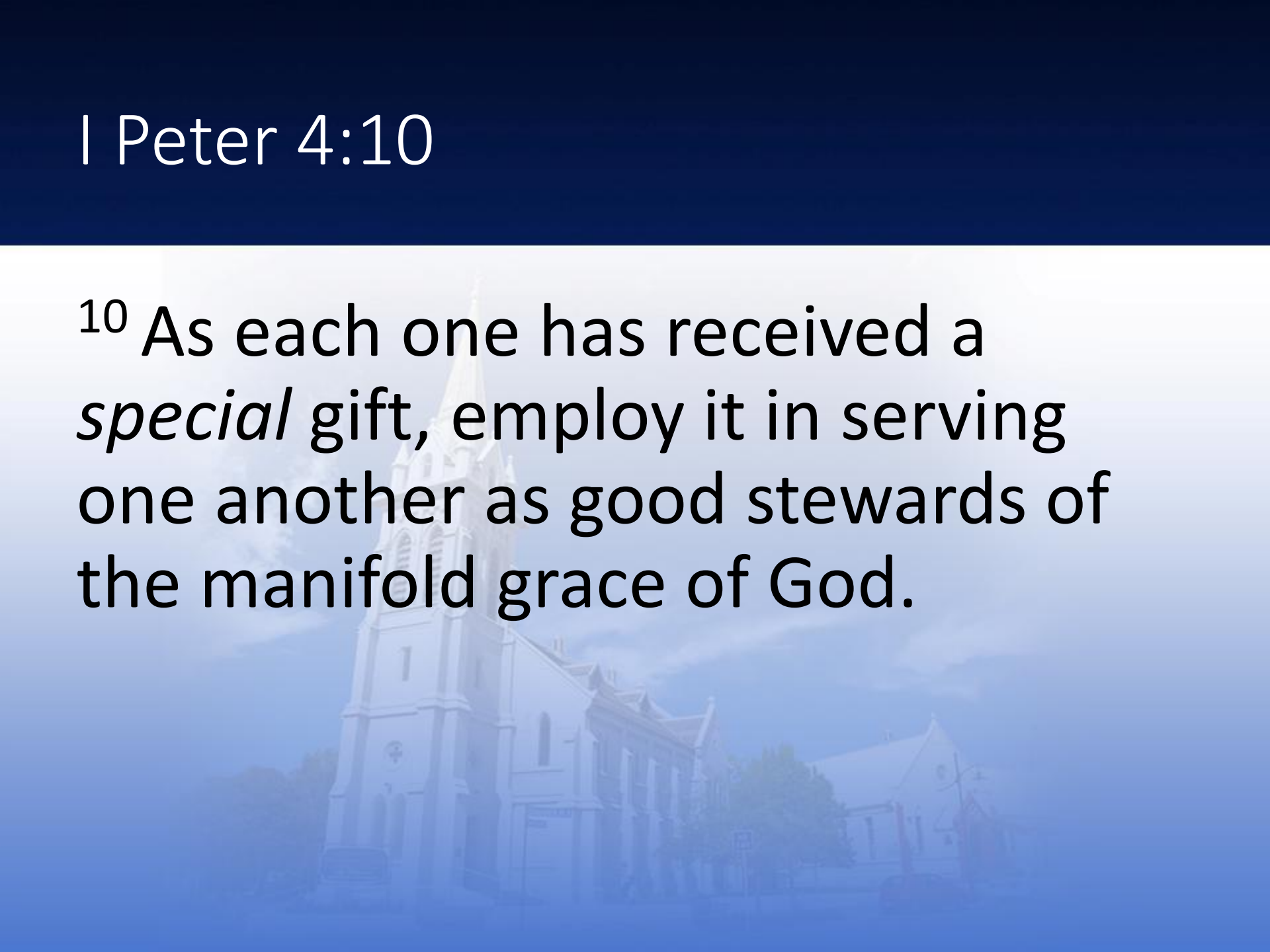
## II. His imprisonment was for them.

- Christian life is a stewardship.



# I Peter 4:10

<sup>10</sup> As each one has received a *special* gift, employ it in serving one another as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.



“Ever believer is a steward of the calling, spiritual gifts, opportunities, skills, knowledge, and every other blessing he has from the Lord. Everything we have belongs to the Lord, and we are therefore entrusted as stewards to manage our lives and everything we possess in behalf of the One to whom they belong. We are faithful stewards when we use what we have to minister to those within the family of God and witness to those who are without.”

– *J. MacArthur*

(Paul's Reminders)

**III. His stewardship involved the mystery.**



“No Jew or Gentile had ever conceived of such a mystery in his wildest dreams!”

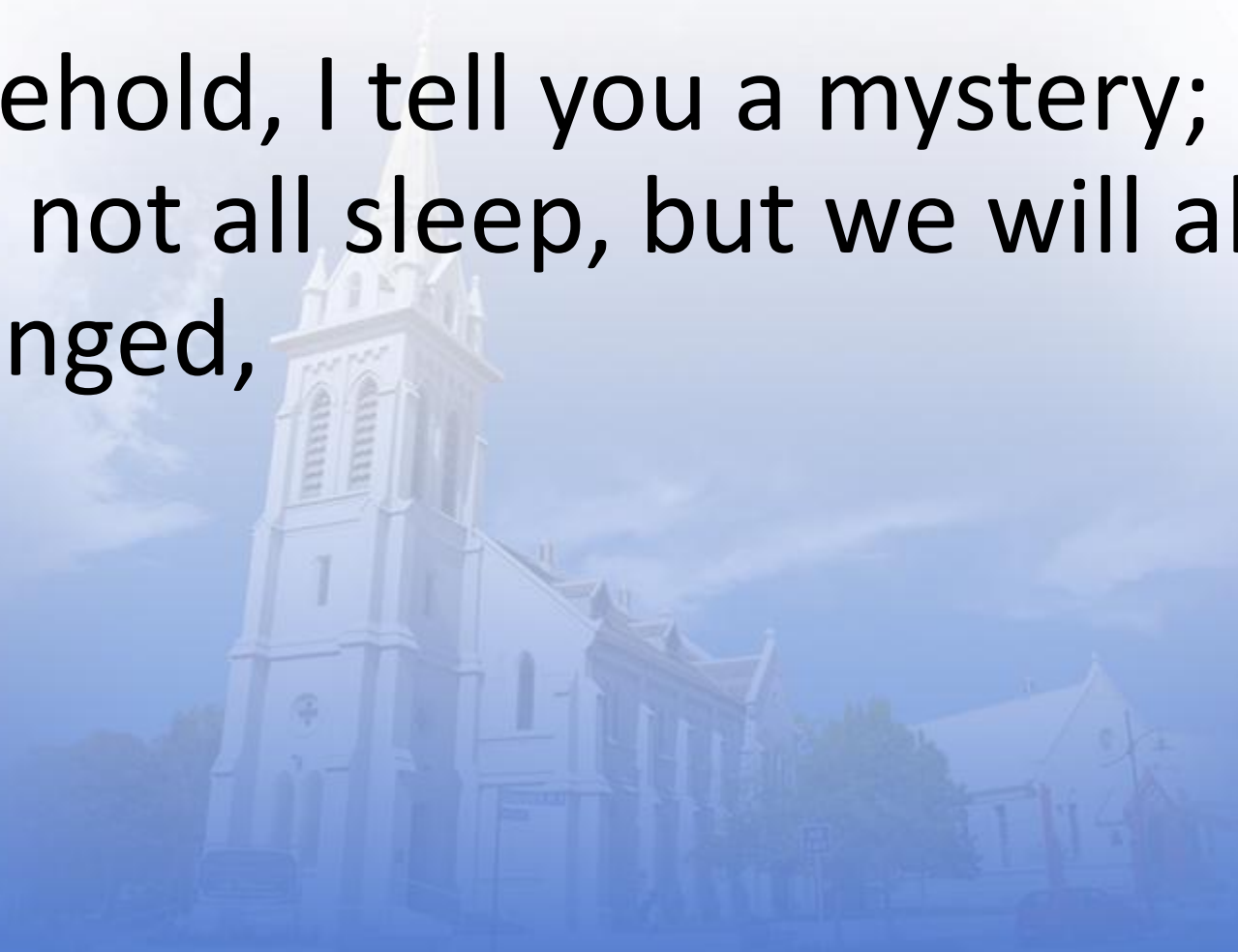
- *K. Hughes*

“What is the mystery? Quite clearly, it is that the Gentiles should be made partakers along with Jews of God’s great blessings in the church.” - *J. Boice*

“A biblical mystery is something previously unknown and unknowable apart from Divine revelation.” – *H. Kent*

# I Corinthians 15:51

<sup>51</sup> Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,





# Galatians 3:26-29

<sup>26</sup> For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup> For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. <sup>28</sup> There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup> And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.

# Implications to PBC

- No supersaints in the Church.
- Gospel brings diversity.
- No lone rangers in the church.