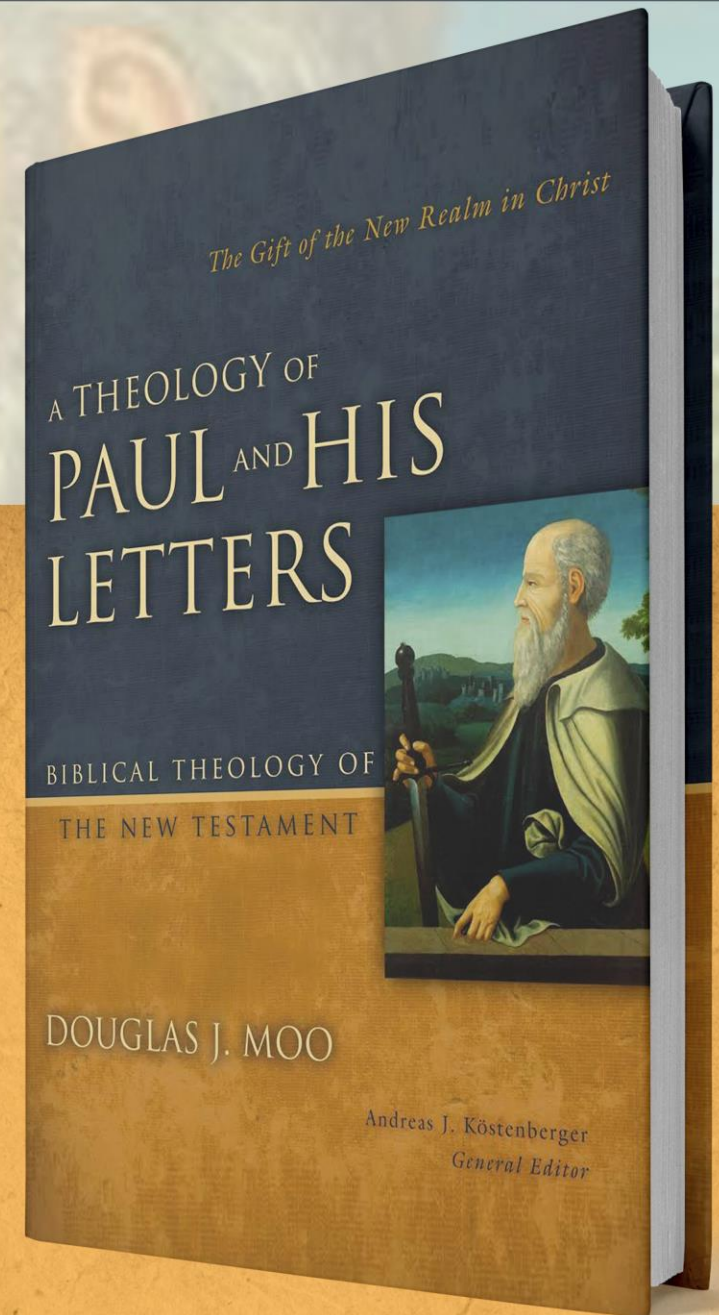
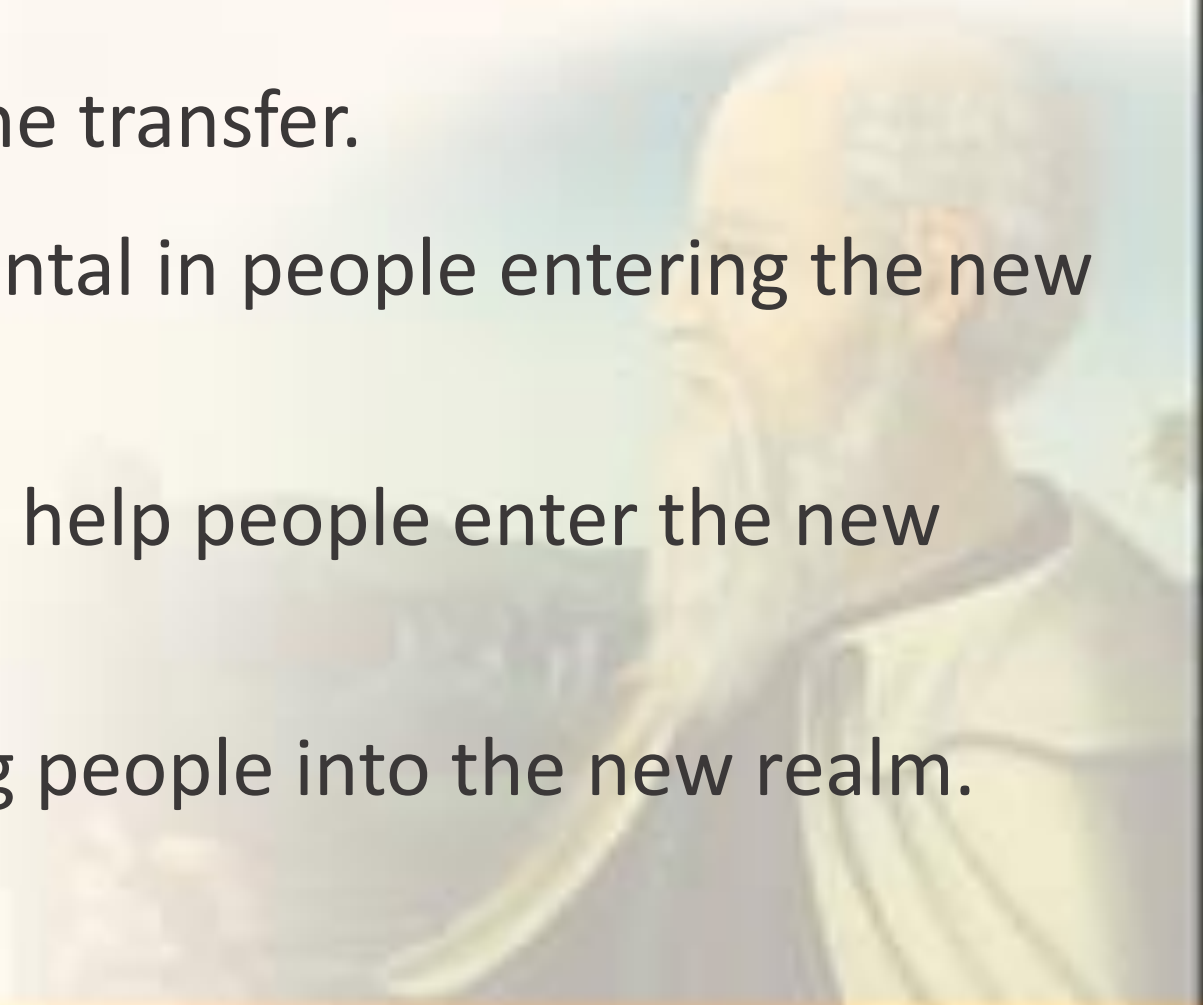


CHAPTER 21

Entering the New Realm

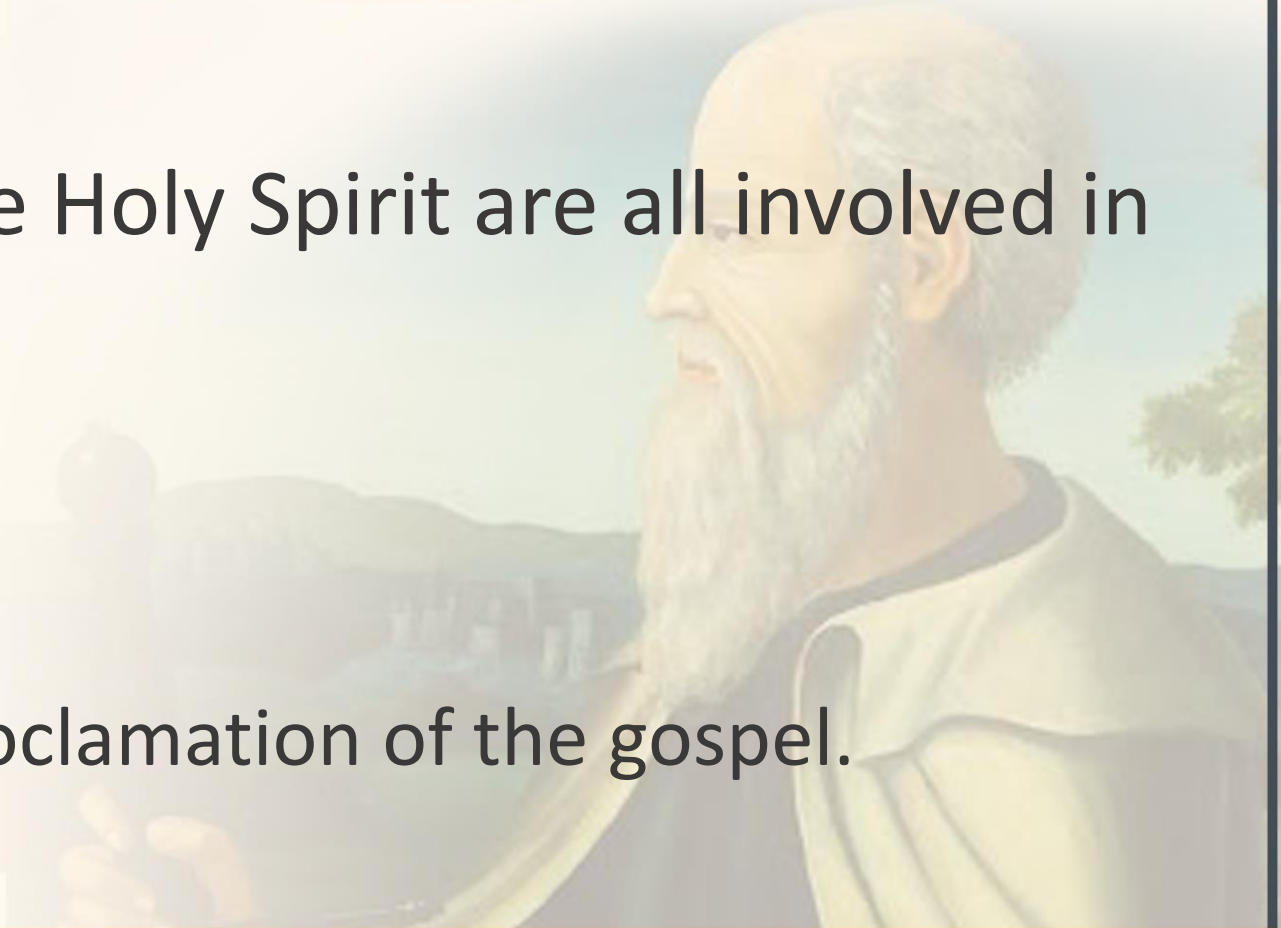


- Paul used four themes to describe the transfer from the old realm to the new realm:
 1. Christ is at the center of the transfer.
 2. The Holy Spirit is instrumental in people entering the new realm.
 3. Other humans are used to help people enter the new realm.
 4. The gospel is used to bring people into the new realm.

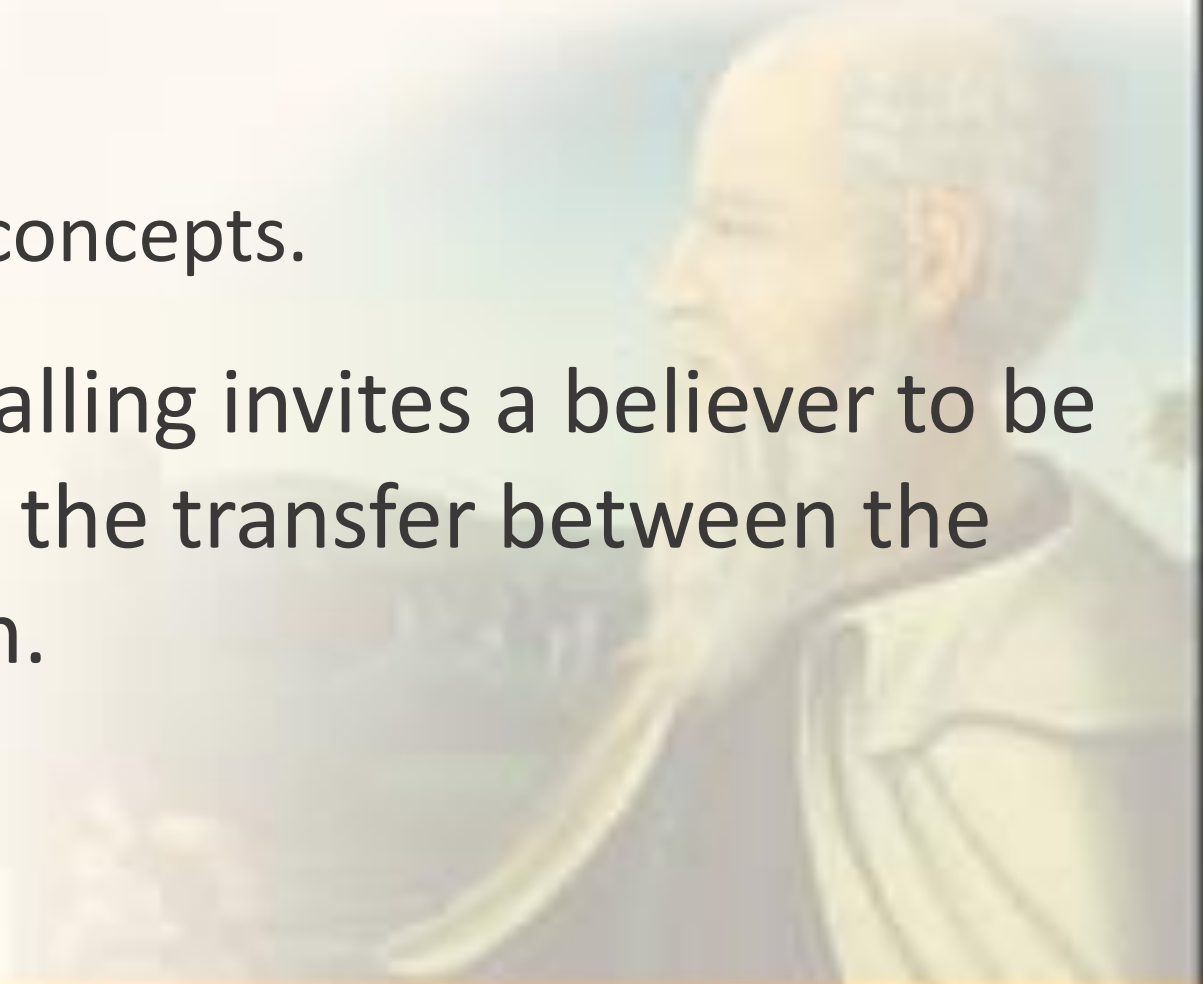


God's Initiative: Calling and Election

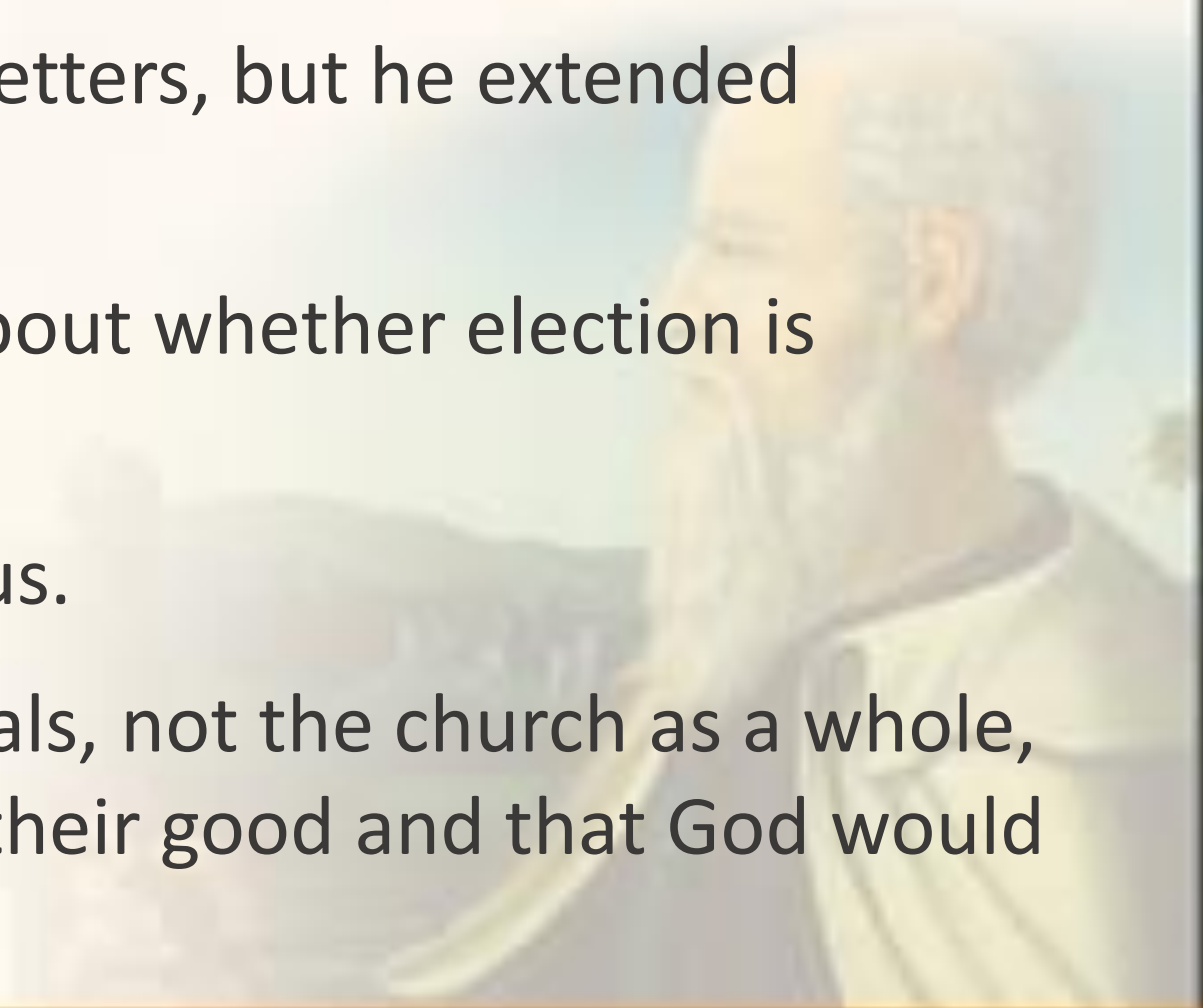
- The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all involved in entering the new realm.
 - The Father sent the Son.
 - The Son opened the doors.
 - The Spirit empowers the proclamation of the gospel.



- Theologians usually distinguish between “election” and “calling.”
 - They are similar but distinct concepts.
- The author believed that a calling invites a believer to be saved but also accomplishes the transfer between the old realm and the new realm.

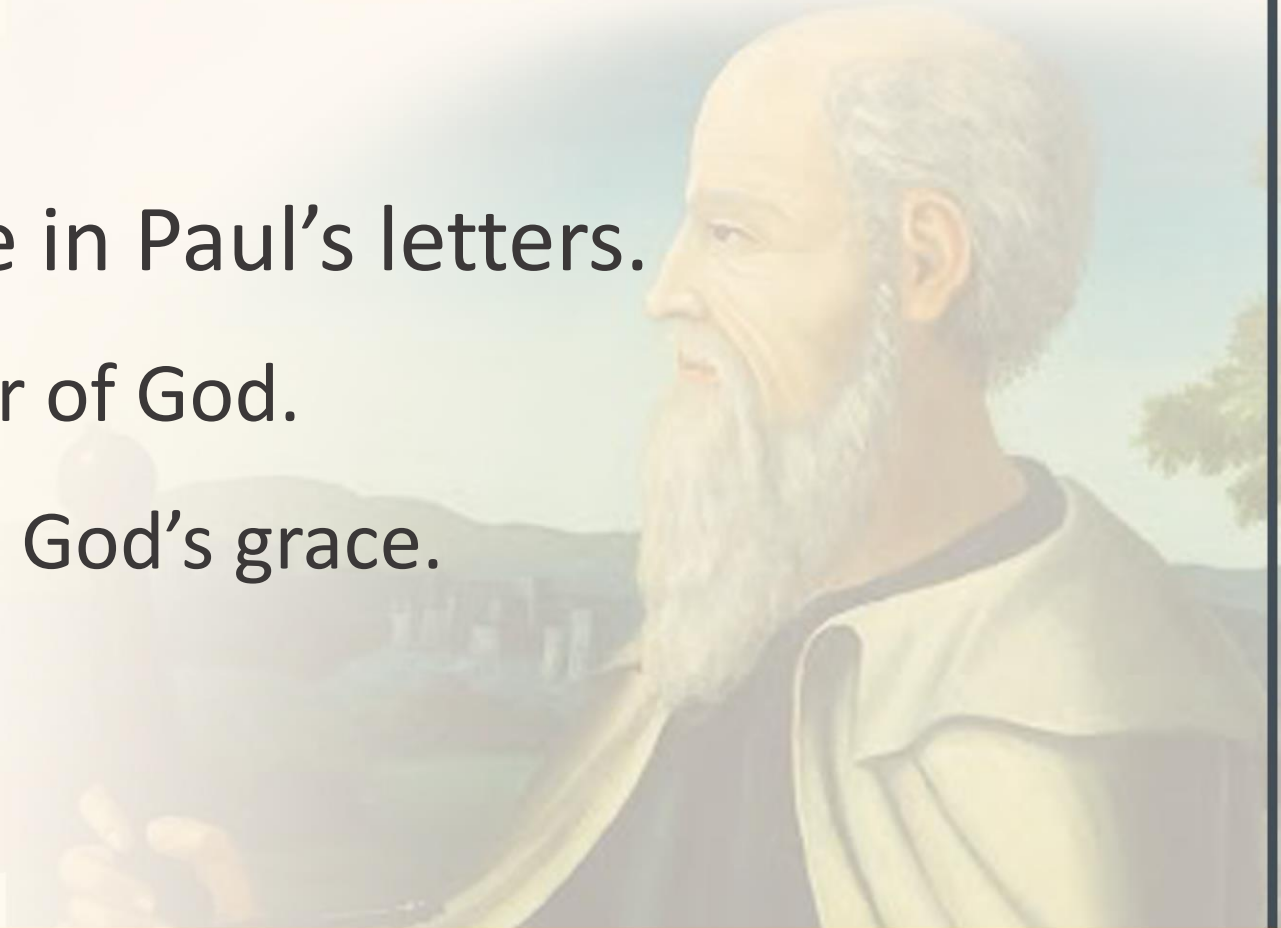


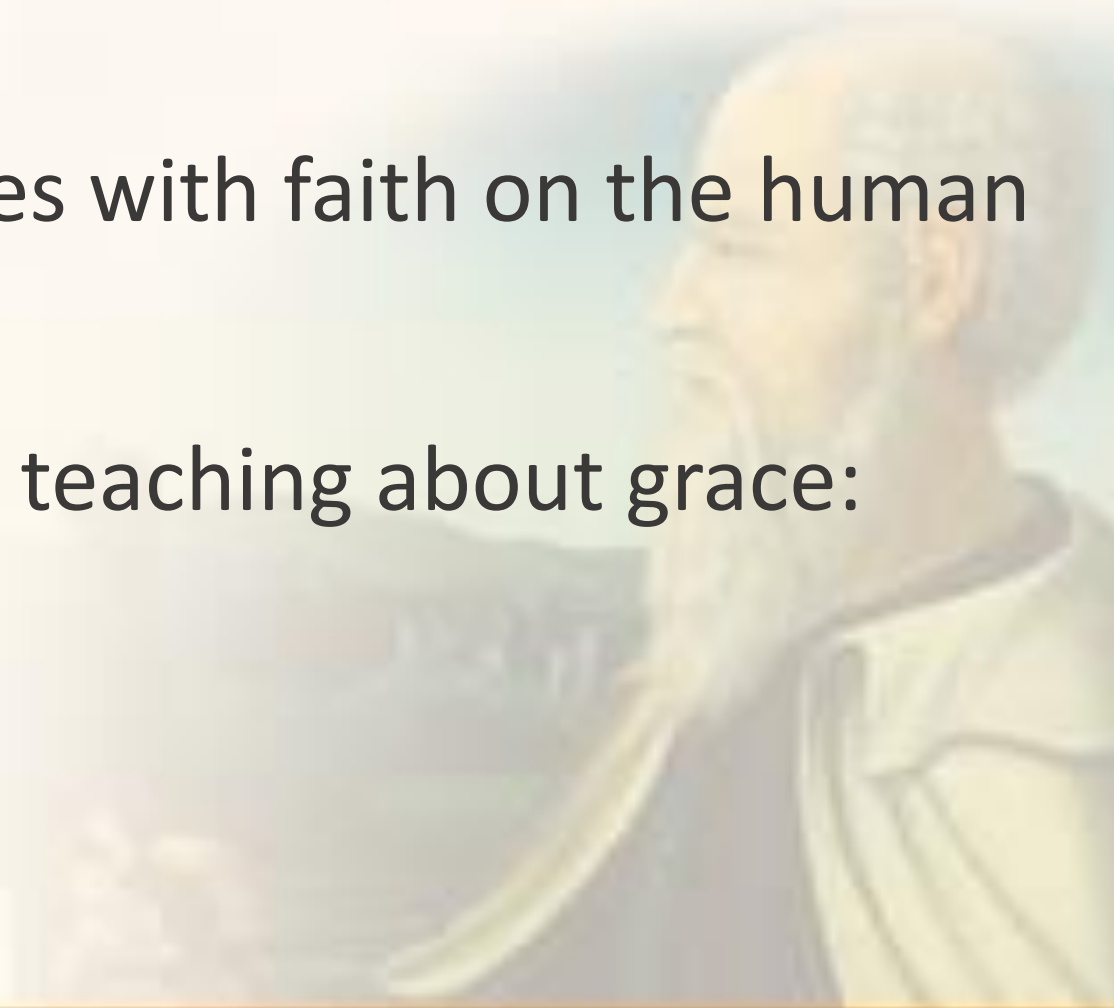
- *Election* is a term used in the Old Testament to refer to God's setting apart Israel as his people.
 - Paul confirmed this in his letters, but he extended election to the gentiles.
 - Scholars have disagreed about whether election is corporate or individual.
 - Paul's letters are ambiguous.
 - Paul was assuring individuals, not the church as a whole, that God was working for their good and that God would glorify each of them.

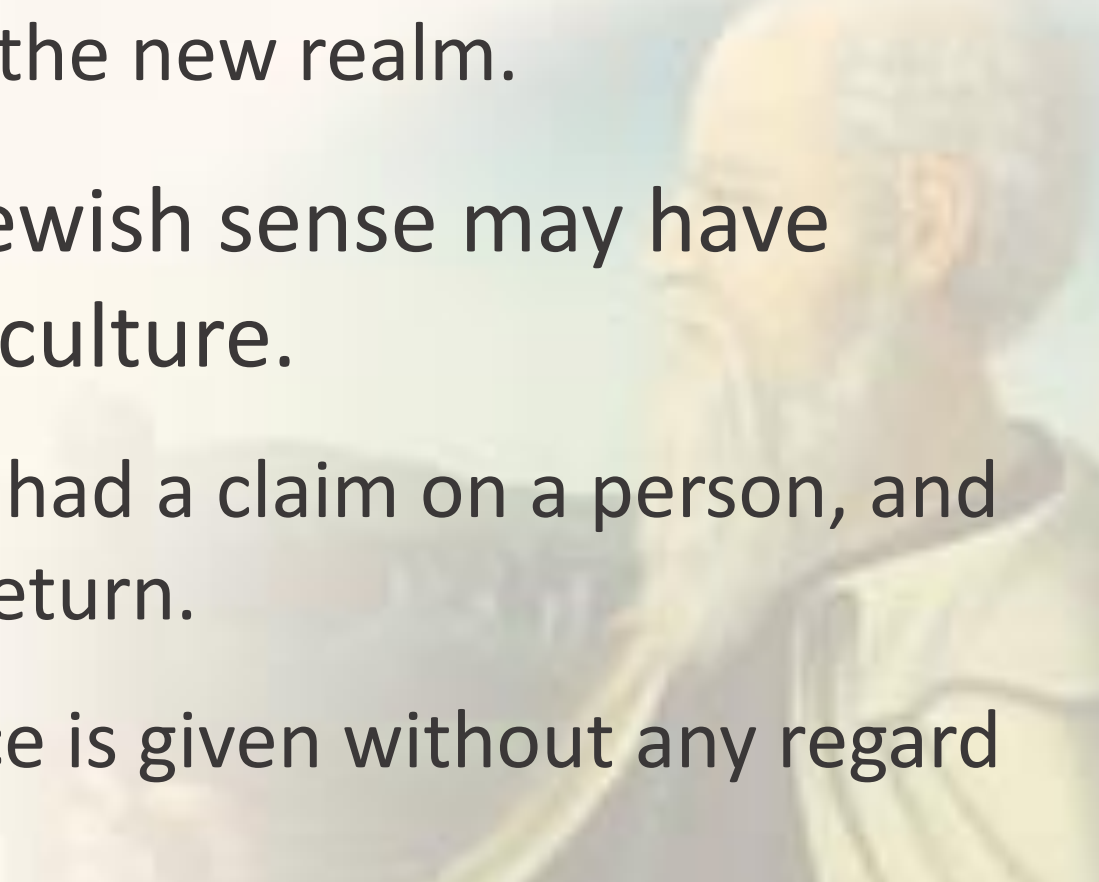


Grace

- Grace is a prominent theme in Paul's letters.
 - It is a fundamental character of God.
 - Paul personally experienced God's grace.

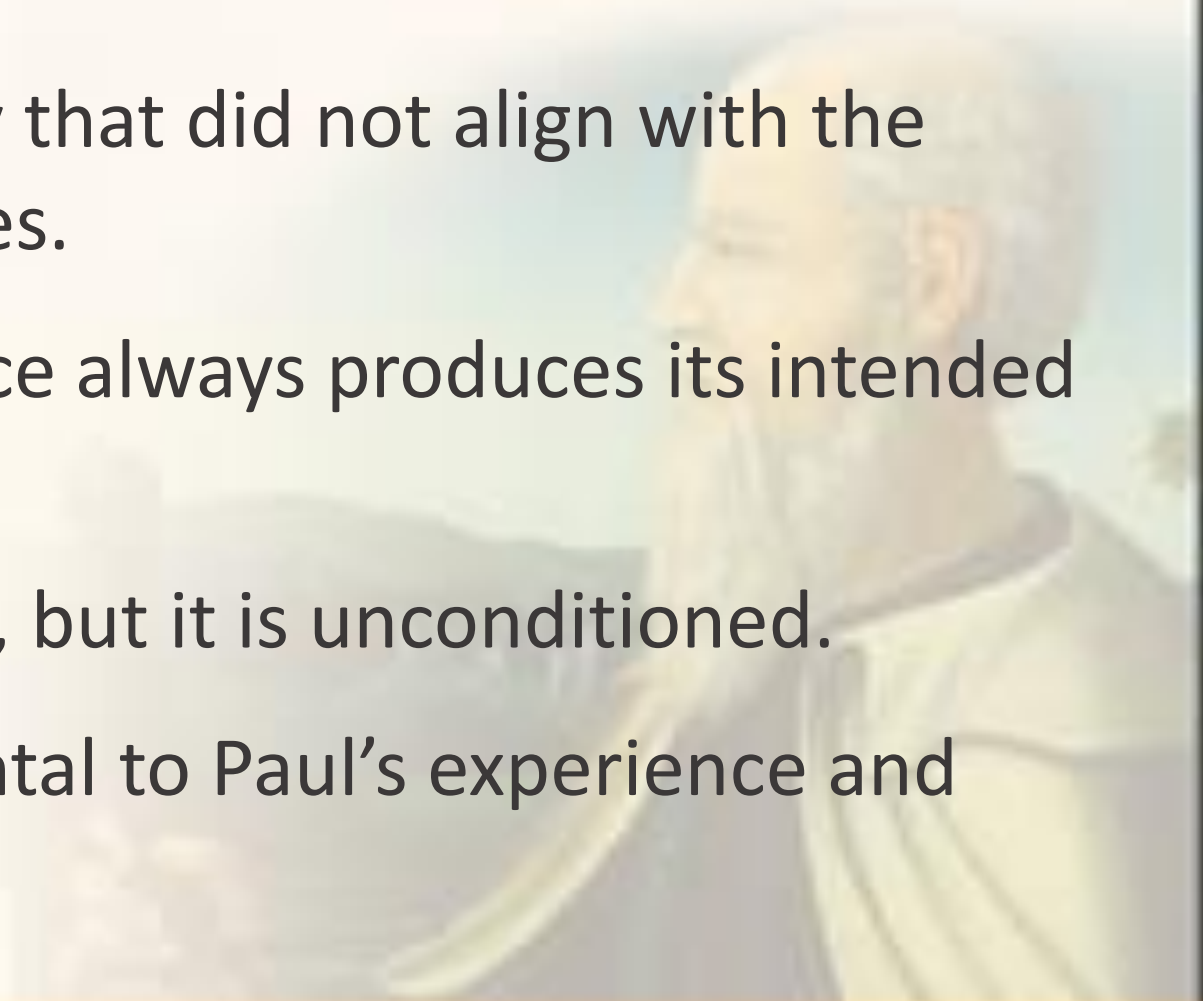


- Paul used different words to refer to grace, but the most common was *charis*.
 - It invokes the notion of a gift.
 - Grace on God's side correlates with faith on the human side.
 - Paul used other words when teaching about grace:
 - "Give freely"
 - "Love"
 - "Mercy"
 - "Kindness" or "goodness"
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- God's grace reigns in the new realm.
 - Grace appears upon entrance to the new realm, but it is also fundamental in all aspects of the new realm.
 - Paul's use of "grace" in the Jewish sense may have differed from that of Roman culture.
 - Romans gave gifts when they had a claim on a person, and they expected something in return.
 - Paul indicated that God's grace is given without any regard for the recipient.
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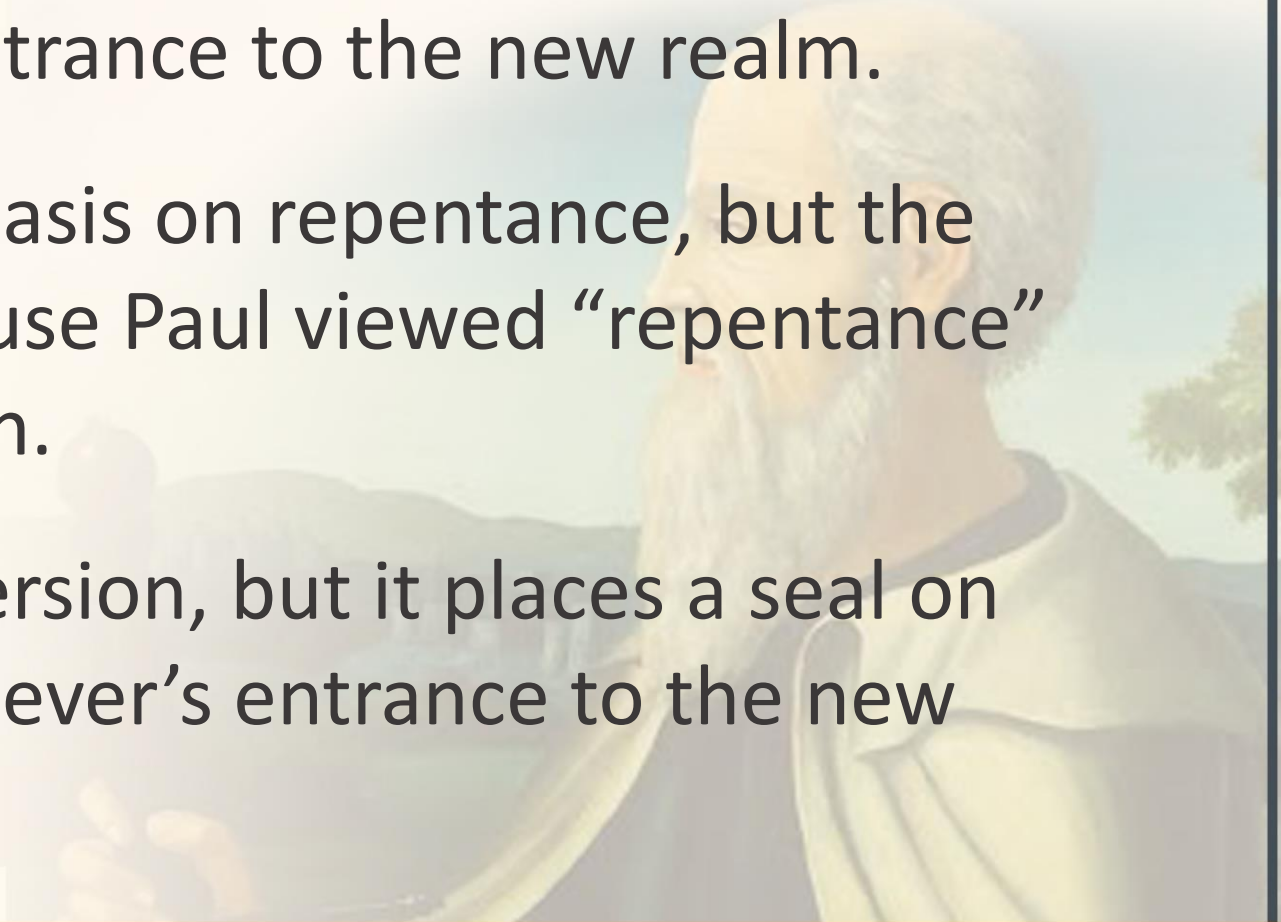
- John M. G. Barclay identified four aspects of grace in Paul's letters:

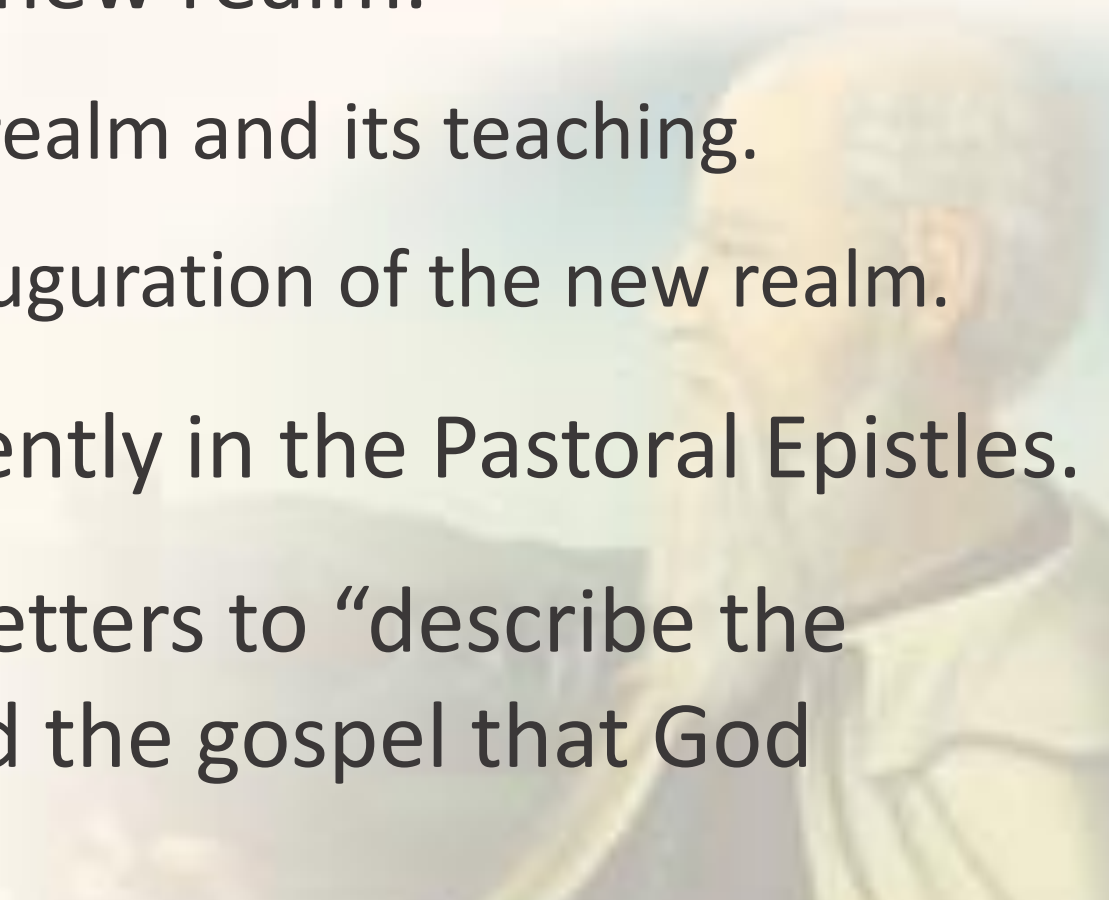
1. Paul viewed grace in a way that did not align with the views of his contemporaries.
2. Paul taught that God's grace always produces its intended purpose.
3. Grace is not unconditional, but it is unconditioned.
4. God's grace was fundamental to Paul's experience and teaching.



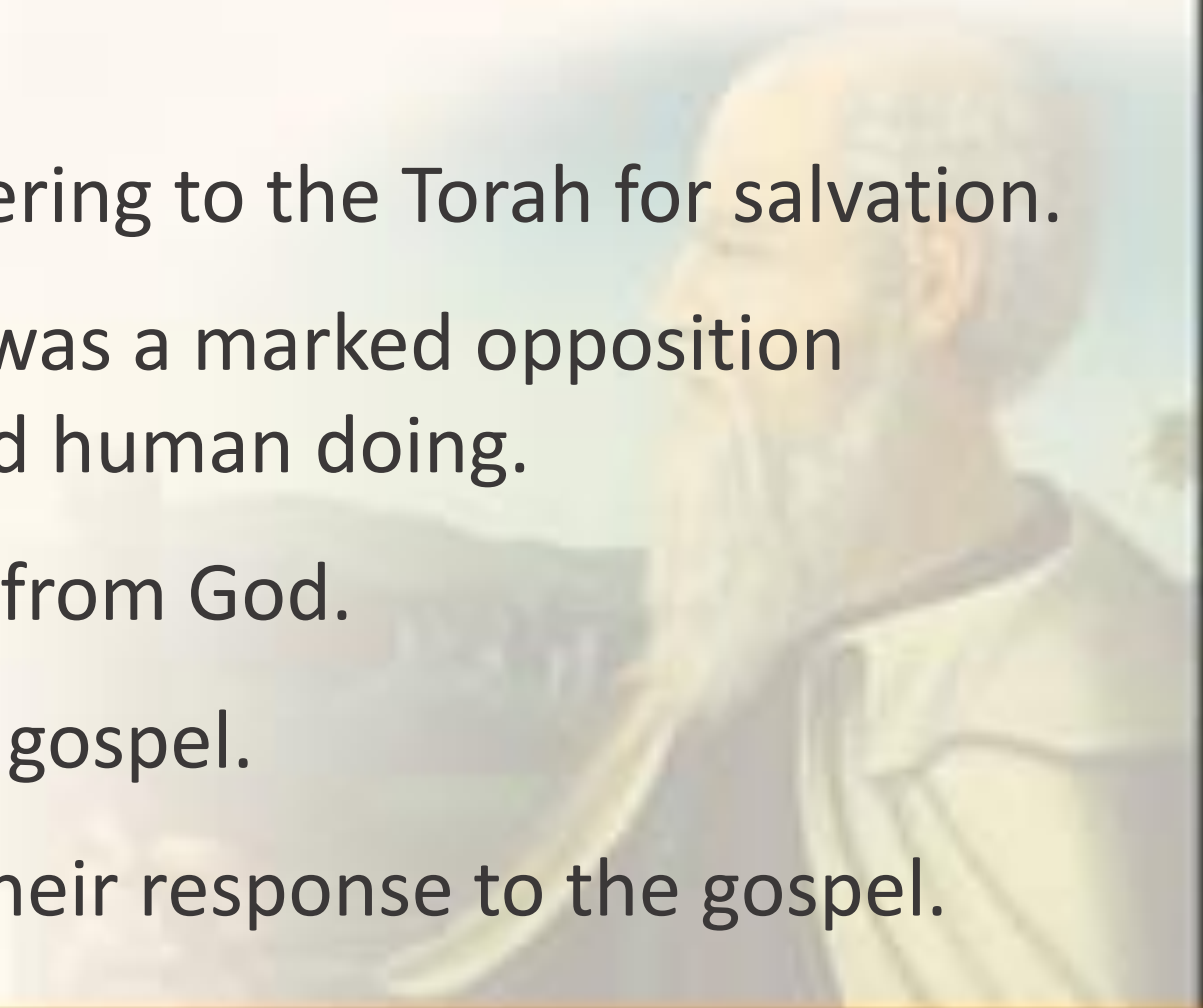
Human Response: Faith

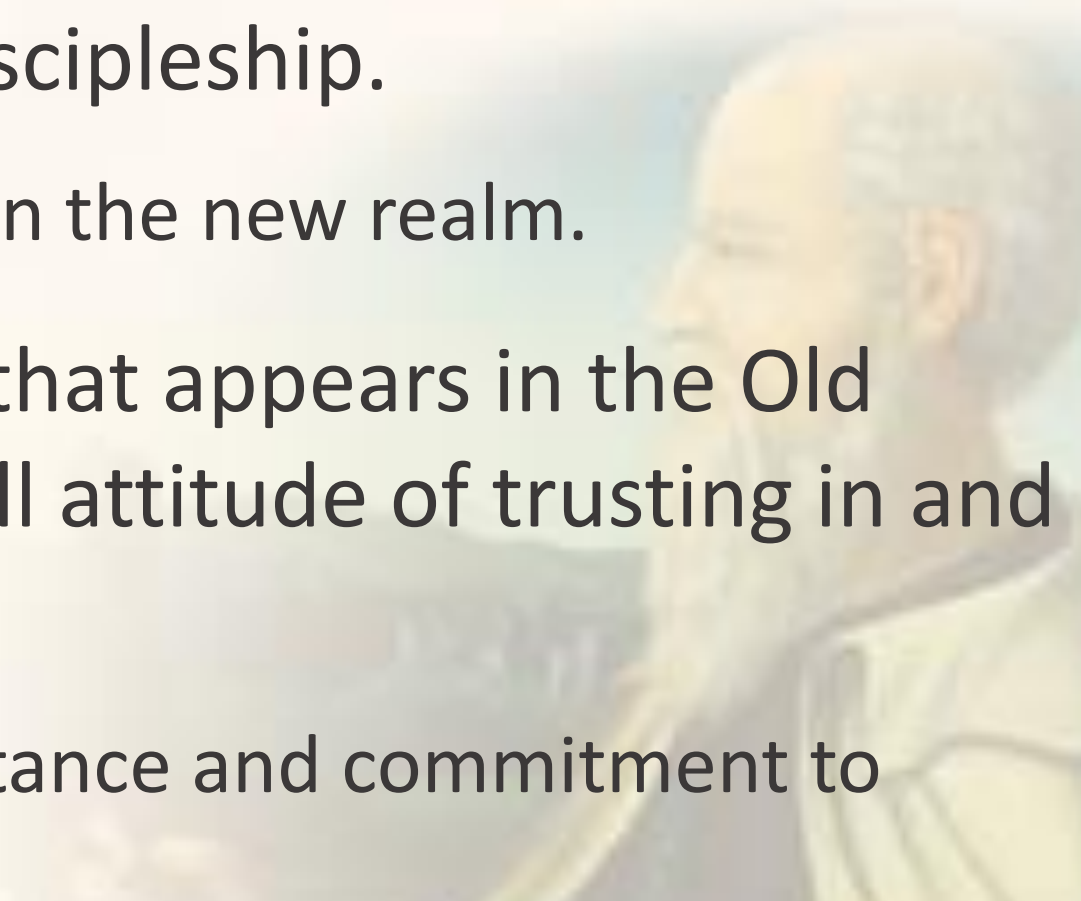
- Humans play a role in their entrance to the new realm.
- Paul did not place great emphasis on repentance, but the author thought this was because Paul viewed “repentance” language as not strong enough.
- Baptism does not effect conversion, but it places a seal on conversion and marks the believer’s entrance to the new realm.

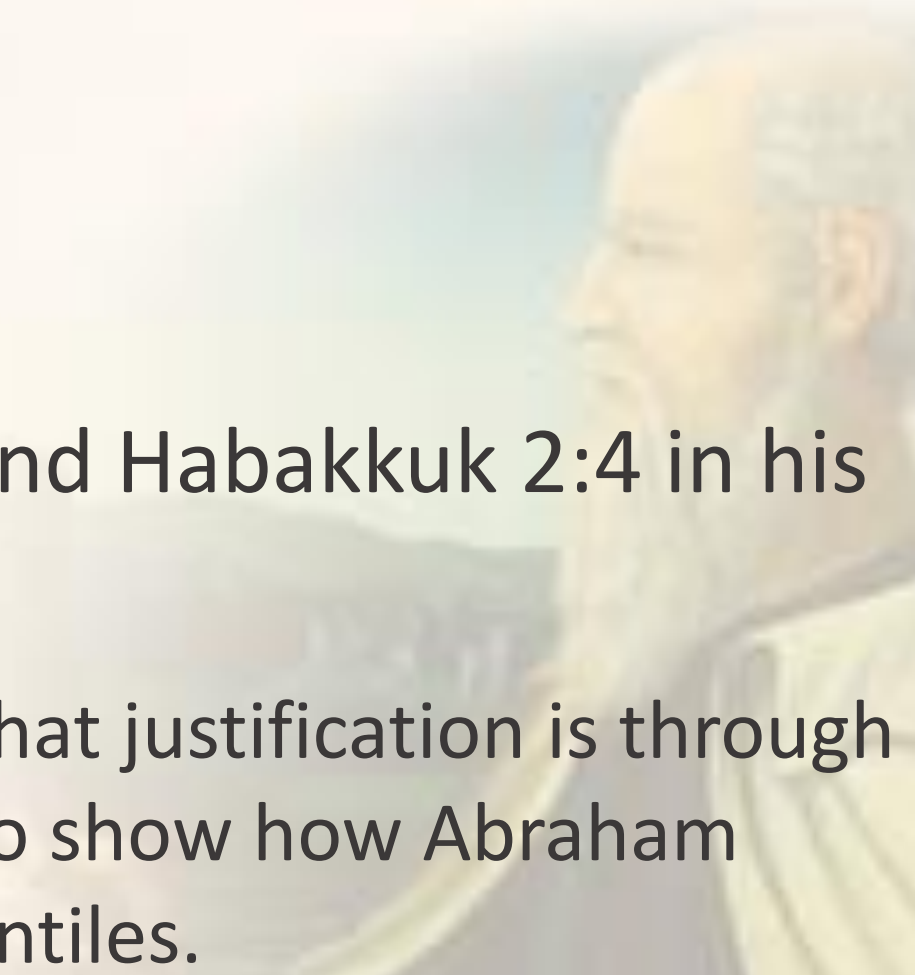


- Faith is the most important language for the role humans play in entering the new realm.
 - Paul joins “faith” to the new realm and its teaching.
 - The coming of faith is the inauguration of the new realm.
 - Faith language is used frequently in the Pastoral Epistles.
 - It is used throughout Paul’s letters to “describe the disposition toward Christ and the gospel that God requires of his people.”
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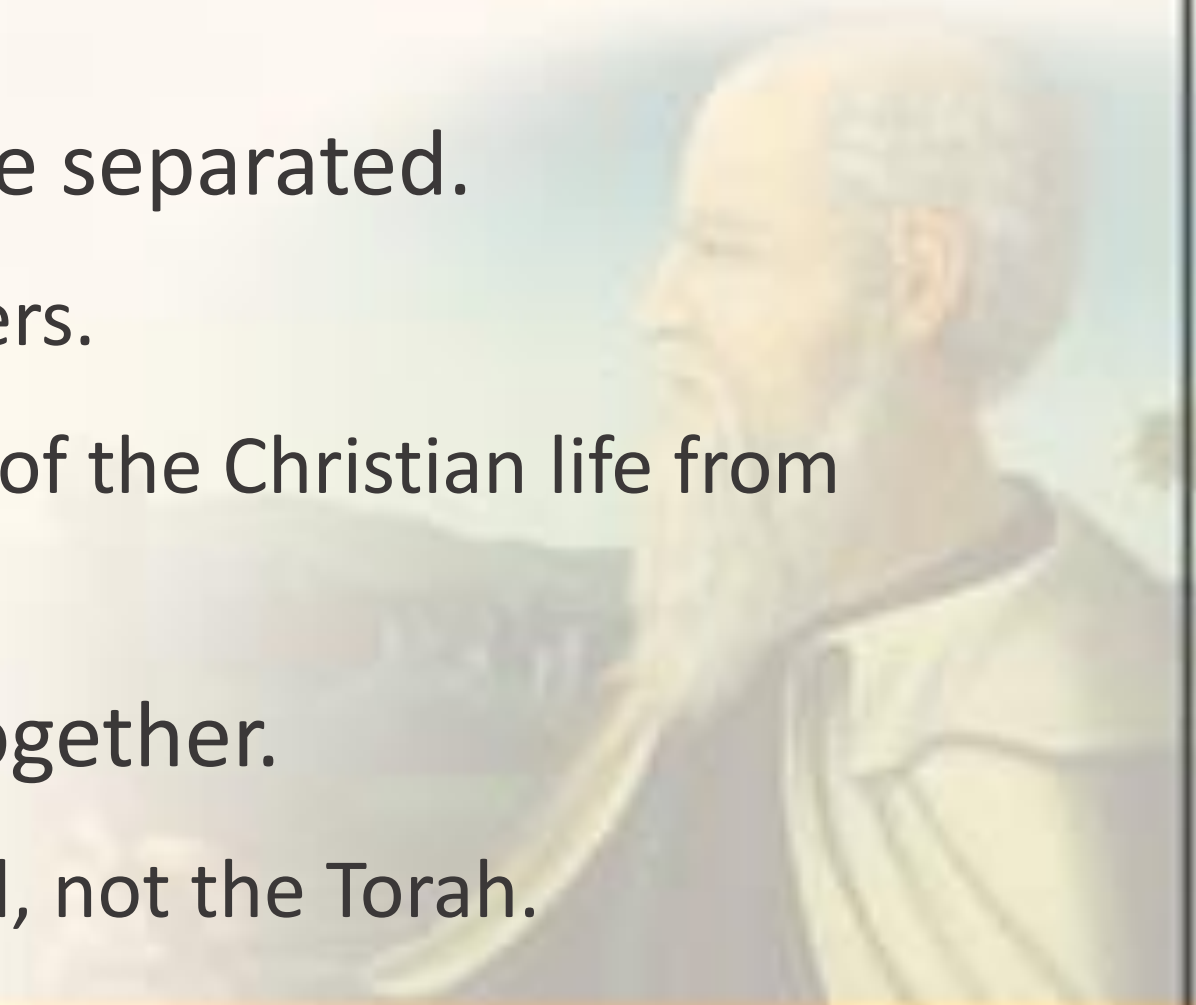
- Paul contrasted faith and works.
 - Many scholars believe “works” should be translated as “works of the law.”
 - Paul was arguing against adhering to the Torah for salvation.
 - Reformers believed that this was a marked opposition between human believing and human doing.
 - Paul taught that faith is a gift from God.
 - Believing is a response to the gospel.
 - Humans are responsible for their response to the gospel.



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- “Faith” versus “works” should not be interpreted to dismiss the importance of discipleship.
 - Faith and obedience overlap in the new realm.
 - The language of “believing” that appears in the Old Testament refers to an overall attitude of trusting in and depending on God.
 - Paul used this to teach acceptance and commitment to Christ.

- Other words in “faith” language:
 - “Rely on” or trust in”
 - “Depend on”
 - “Believe in”
 - “Hope”
 - Paul referred to Genesis 15:6 and Habakkuk 2:4 in his teachings about faith.
 - His purpose was to emphasize that justification is through faith and not works, as well as to show how Abraham foreshadows the inclusion of gentiles.
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- Paul connected faith and obedience.
 - Obedience arises from faith.
- Faith and works should not be separated.
 - Faith points to Christ and others.
 - Faith is a fundamental aspect of the Christian life from beginning to end.
- Faith should bind believers together.
 - Faith marks the people of God, not the Torah.



The Interplay of Divine and Human Agencies

- People are drawn to the new realm by God's power. They respond to that call with faith.
 - God calls people to the new realm. This is an act of his grace.
 - Humans must make a choice about how to respond.
 - The author believed we should view God's agency as primary.
 - It does not erase or erode human agency.

