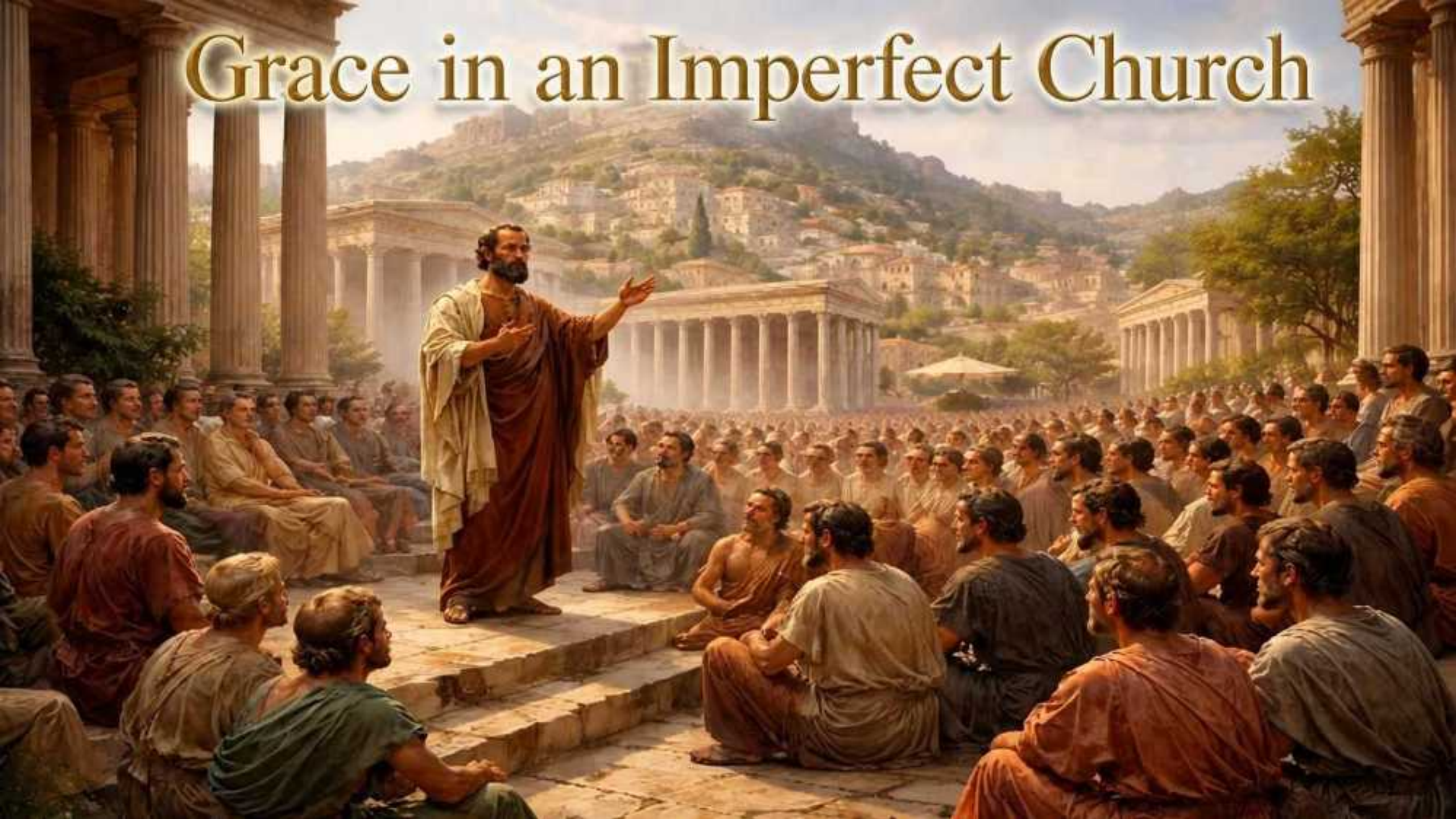


Grace in an Imperfect Church



Message Outline

- Introduction to the Book
- Purpose of the Book
- Plea For Unity
- Warning Against Tribalism
- Appeal to Objective Truth
- Paul's Mission: Preaching Christ: His Inclusivity and Exclusivity



Introduction to the Book

1 Corinthians 1:1–17 Paul, called to be an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes our brother, 2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:...



Purpose of the Book

1 Corinthians 1:1–17 ...3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, 5 that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge, 6 even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you,...



Purpose of the Book

1 Corinthians 1:1–17 ...7 so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord...



Plea For Unity

1 Corinthians 1:1–17 ...10 Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment...



Plea For Unity

Psalms 133:1–3 A Song of Ascents. Of David. Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!

2 It is like the precious oil upon the head, Running down on the beard, The beard of Aaron,,Running down on the edge of his garments...



Plea For Unity

Psalms 133:1–3 ...3 It is like the dew of Hermon, Descending upon the mountains of Zion; For there the LORD commanded the blessing—Life forevermore.



Plea For Unity

John 17:20–23 NKJV "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me...



Plea For Unity

John 17:20–23 NKJV "...22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.



Warning Against Tribalism

1 Corinthians 1:1–17 ...11 For it has been declared to me concerning you, my brethren, by those of Chloe's household, that there are contentions among you. 12 Now I say this, that each of you says, "I am of Paul," or "I am of Apollos," or "I am of Cephas," or "I am of Christ..."



Warning Against Tribalism

1 Samuel 12:23–25 NKJV Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way...



Warning Against Tribalism

1 Samuel 12:23–25 NKJV ...24 Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. 25 But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king."



Appeal to Objective Truth

1 Corinthians 1:1–17 ...13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?
14 I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 lest anyone should say that I had baptized in my own name...



Appeal to Objective Truth

John 14:6 NKJV Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John 3:21 NKJV But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."



Paul's Mission: Preaching Christ His Inclusivity and Exclusivity

1 Corinthians 1:1–17 ...16 Yes, I also baptized the household of Stephanas. Besides, I do not know whether I baptized any other. 17 For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of no effect.



The Inclusivity of Christ

John 3:16–18 NKJV For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned;...



The Absurdity of Limited Atonement | John 3:16-21

With Elect Swapped in Place of World

John 3:16-18 NKJV For God so loved the [elect] that He gave His only begotten Son, that [the elect] believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. 17 For God did not send His Son into the [elect] to condemn the [elect], but that the [elect] through Him might be saved...



The Absurdity of Limited Atonement | John 3:16-18

With Elect Swapped in Place of World

John 3:16-18 NKJV ...18 "He [the elect who] believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he [was not elected to] believe in the name of the only begotten Son of God....



The Exclusivity of Christ

John 3:18–19 NKJV "...but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.



The Exclusivity of Christ

John 14:6 NKJV Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."



The Exclusivity of Christ

Acts 4:10–12 NKJV let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. 11 This is the 'STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY YOU BUILDERS, WHICH HAS BECOME THE CHIEF CORNERSTONE.' 12 Nor is there salvation in any other, **for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.**"



The Exclusivity of Christ

1 Timothy 2:5 NKJV "For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,

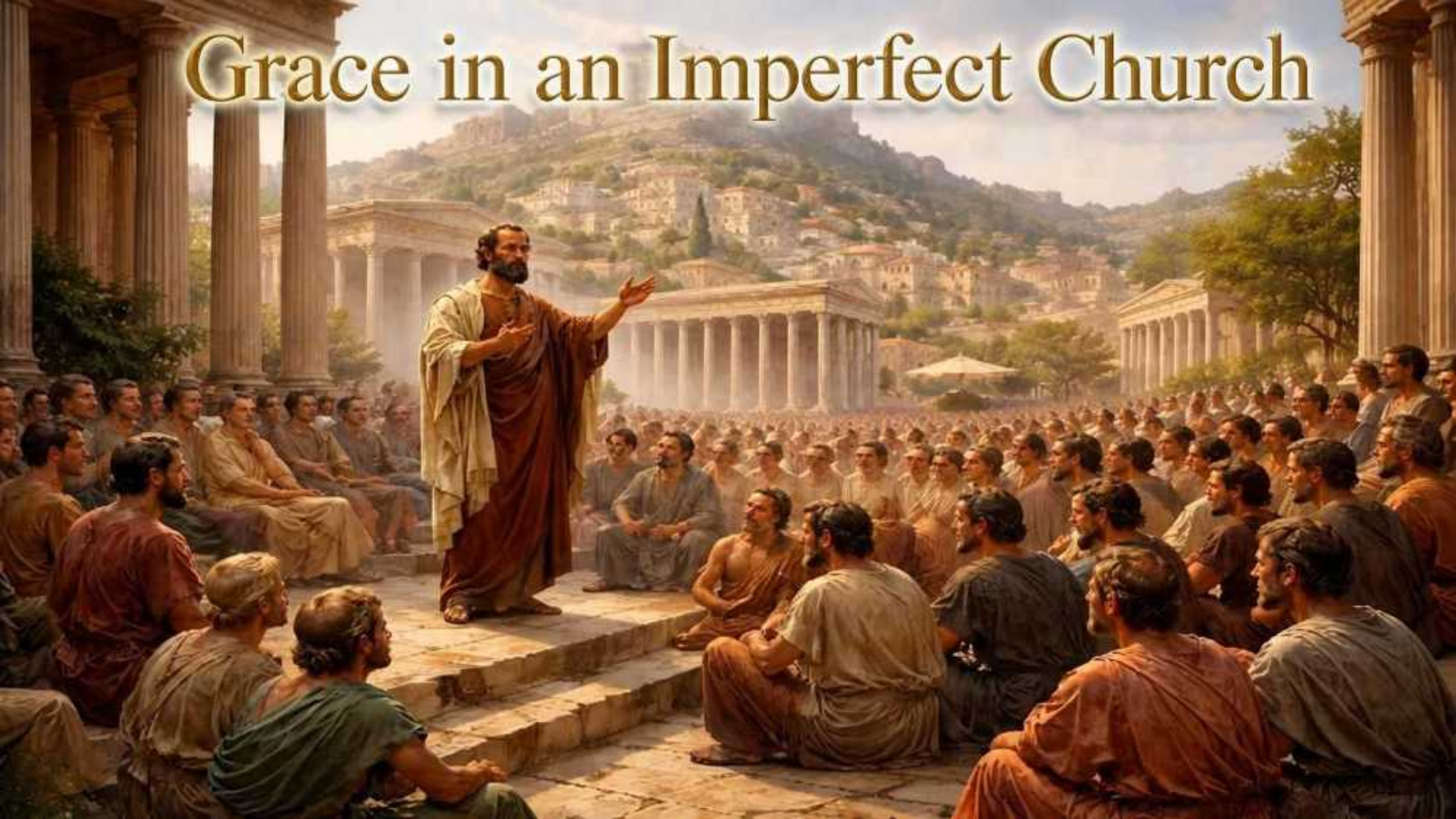


The Inclusivity and Exclusivity of Christ

- Christ is inclusive, as everyone can come,
- He is Exclusive, in that people MUST come
- He is the Exclusive Lord and Savior



Grace in an Imperfect Church



Scripture References

1 Corinthians 1:1–17, Psalms 133:1–3, John 17:20–23, 1 Samuel 12:23–25, John 14:6, John 3:21, John 3:16–19, Acts 4:10–12, 1 Timothy 2:5



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