



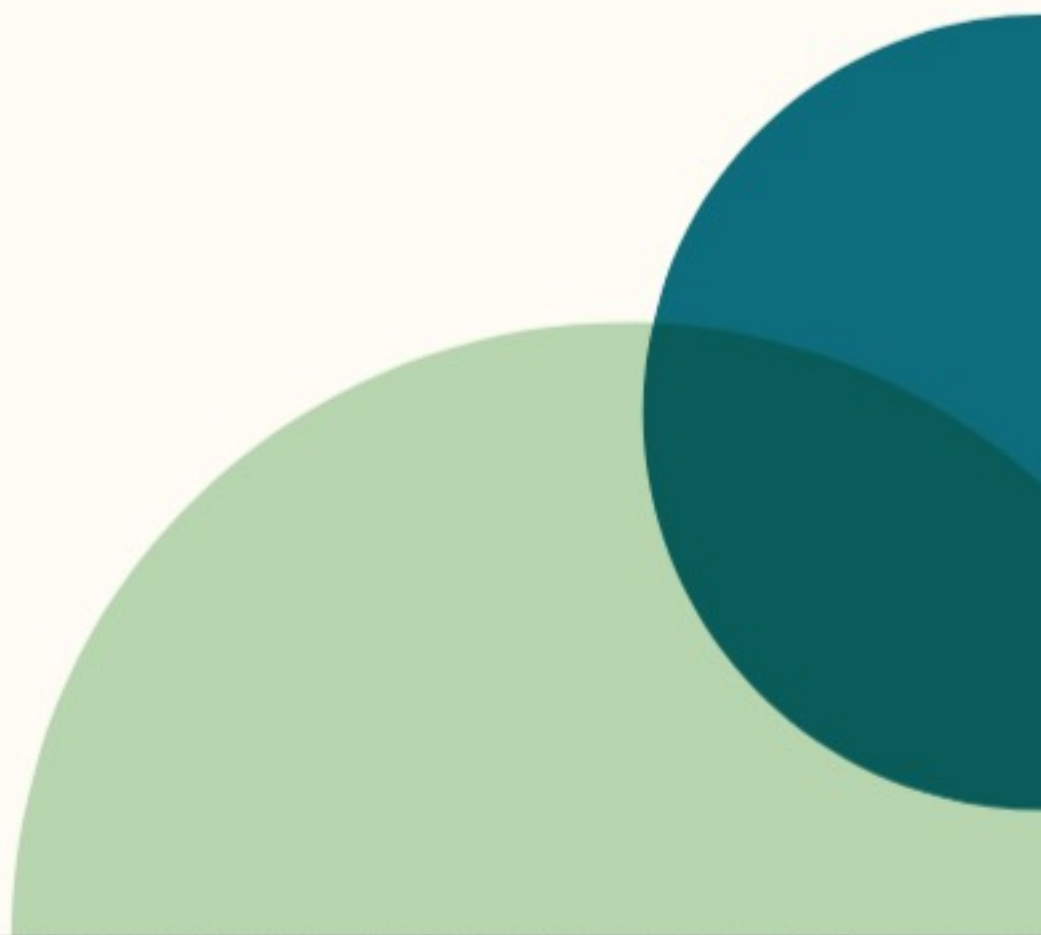
A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

HOLINESS IN FREEDOM: THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

2 Peter 3:15–16 ^{NIV}

Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. ¹⁶ He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. **His letters contain some things that are hard to understand**, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.





A STUDY OF 1 CORINTHIANS

HOLINESS IN FREEDOM: THE GOSPEL

1 Corinthians 9:1-27

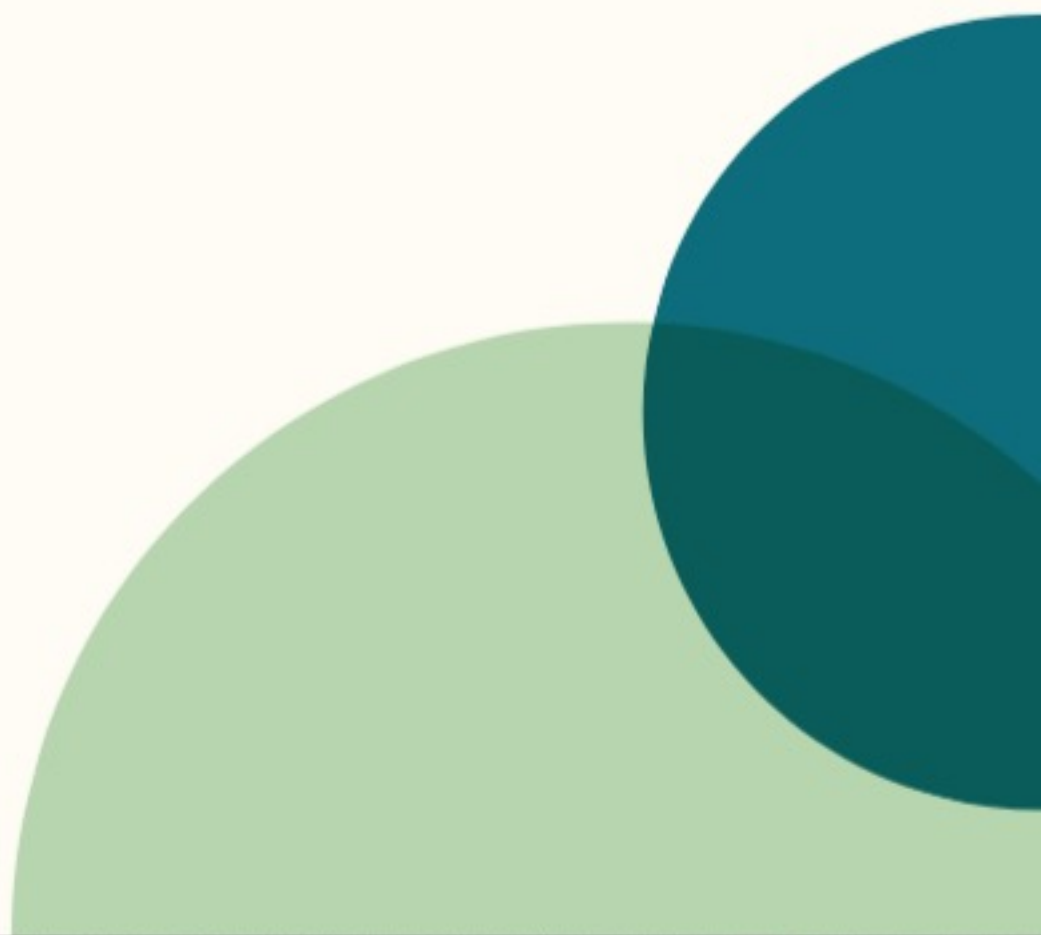
1 Corinthians 9

Paul describes how and why he relinquished his personal rights in order to better serve others for the sake of the gospel.

THE RESISTANCE

1 Corinthians 9:1-6 ^{NIV}

Am I not free? Am I not an apostle? Have I not seen Jesus our Lord? Are you not the result of my work in the Lord? ² Even though I may not be an apostle to others, surely I am to you! For you are the seal of my apostleship in the Lord. ³ This is my defense to those who sit in judgment on me. ⁴ Don't we have the right to food and drink? ⁵ Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas? ⁶ Or is it only I and Barnabas who lack the right to not work for a living?



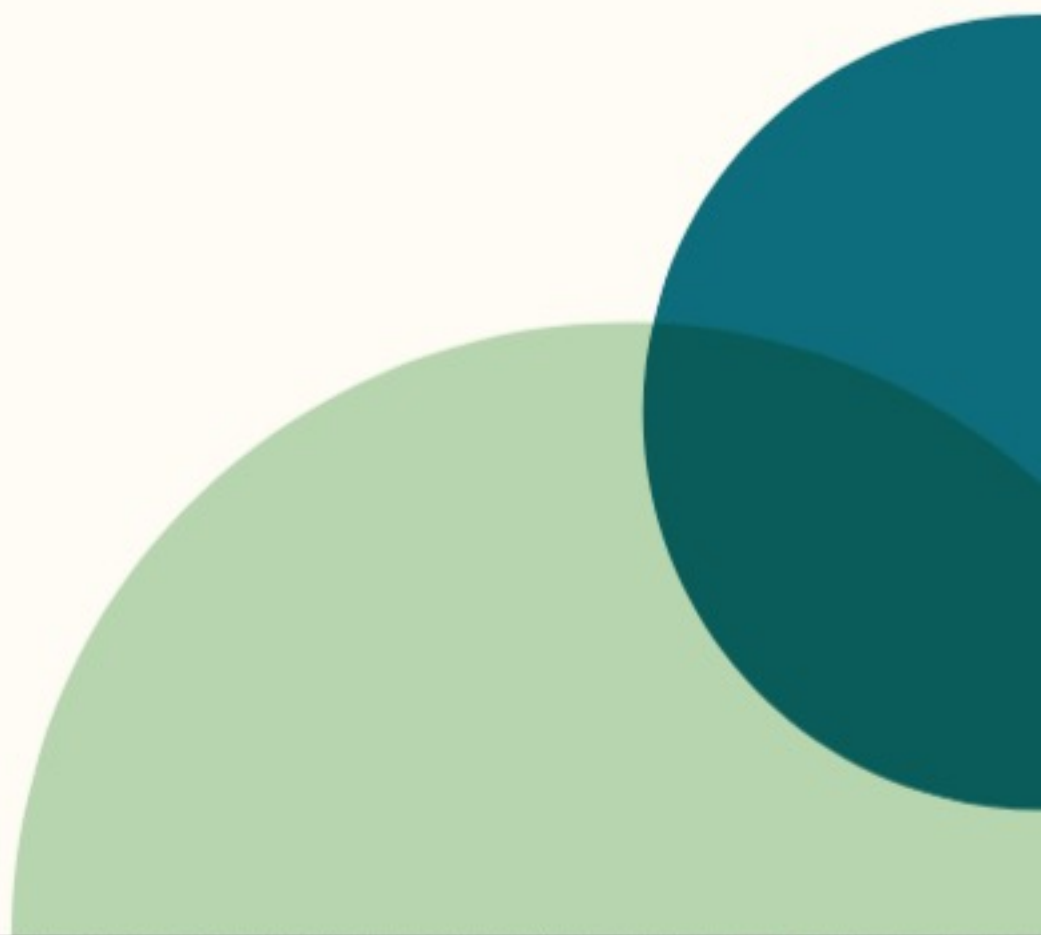
THE RESISTANCE

Acts 19:26 ^{NIV}

And you see and hear how this fellow Paul has convinced and led astray large numbers of people here in Ephesus and in **practically the whole province of Asia**. He says that gods made by human hands are no gods at all.

2 Timothy 1:15 ^{NIV}

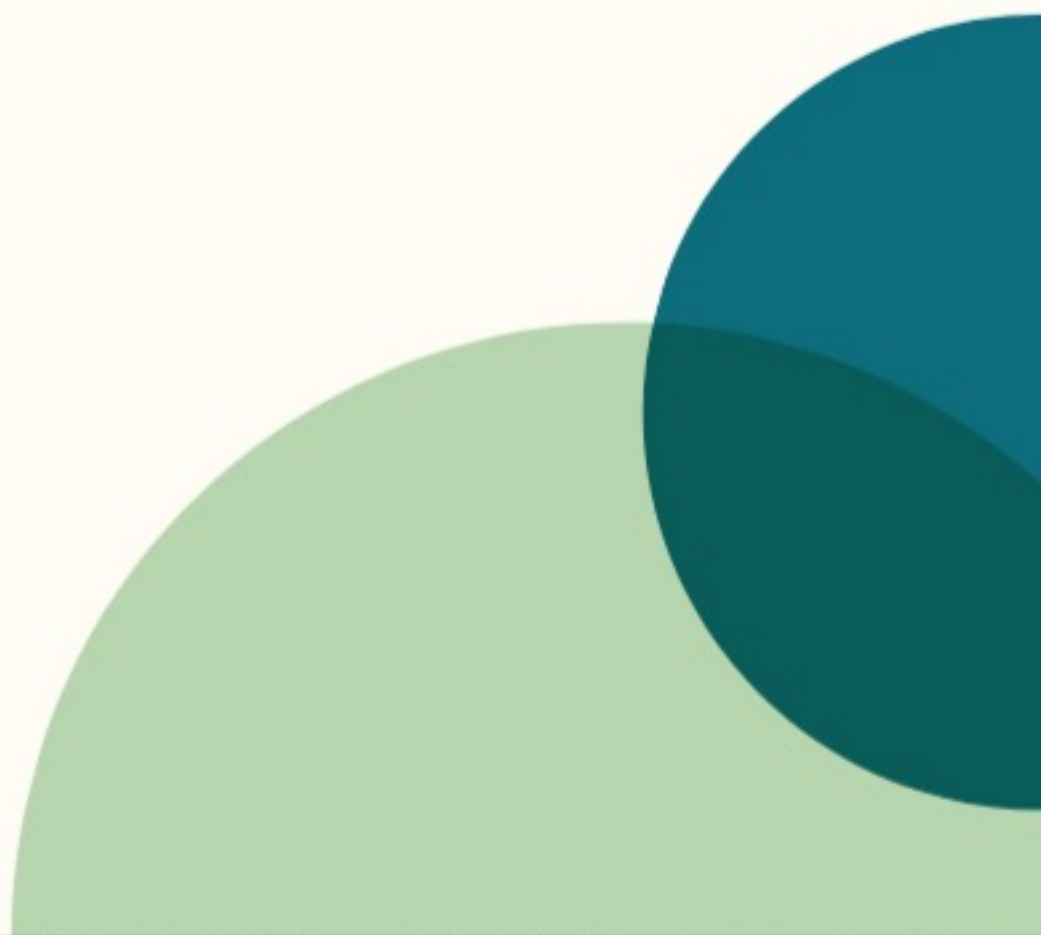
You know that **everyone in the province of Asia** has deserted me, including Phygelus and Hermogenes.



THE RESISTANCE

2 Corinthians 1:8 NIV

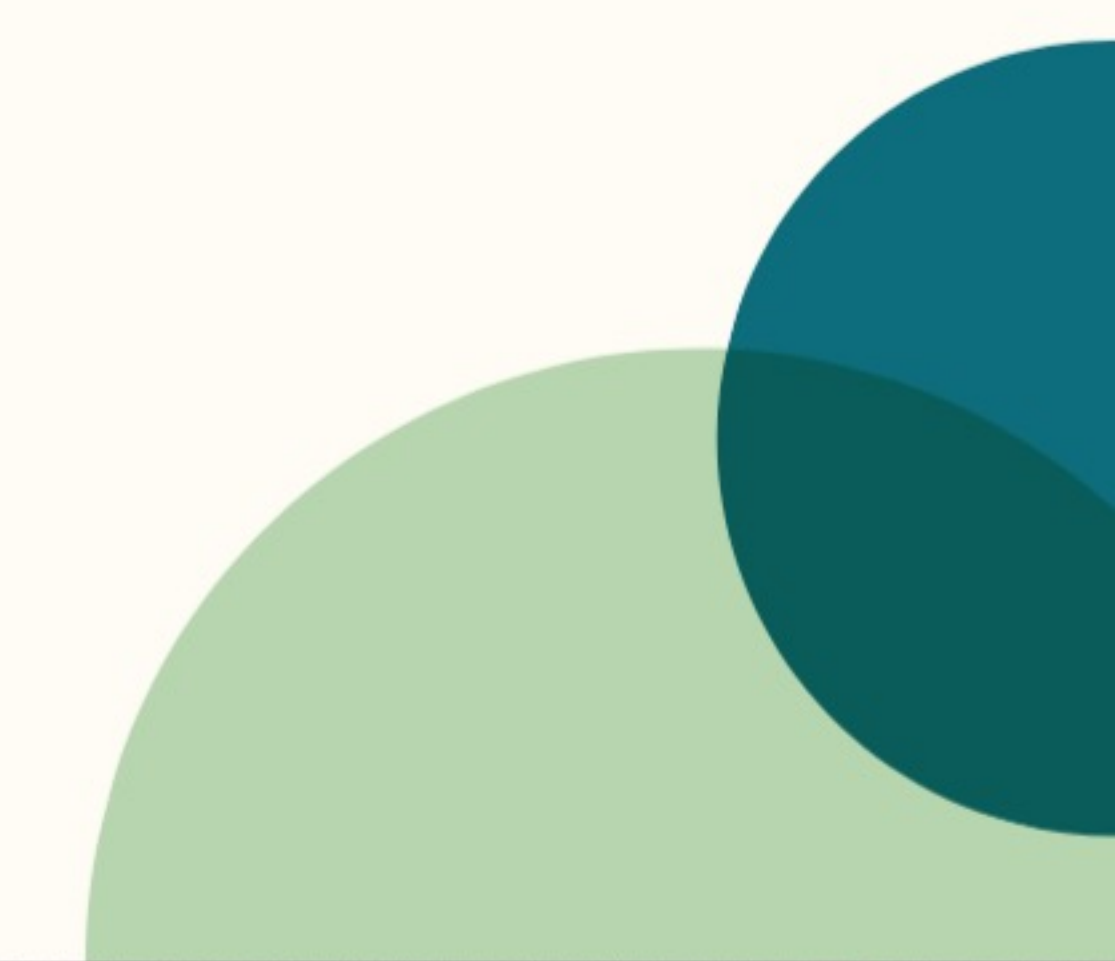
We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about **the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia**. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself.



THE RESISTANCE

Acts 9:20-25 ^{NIV}

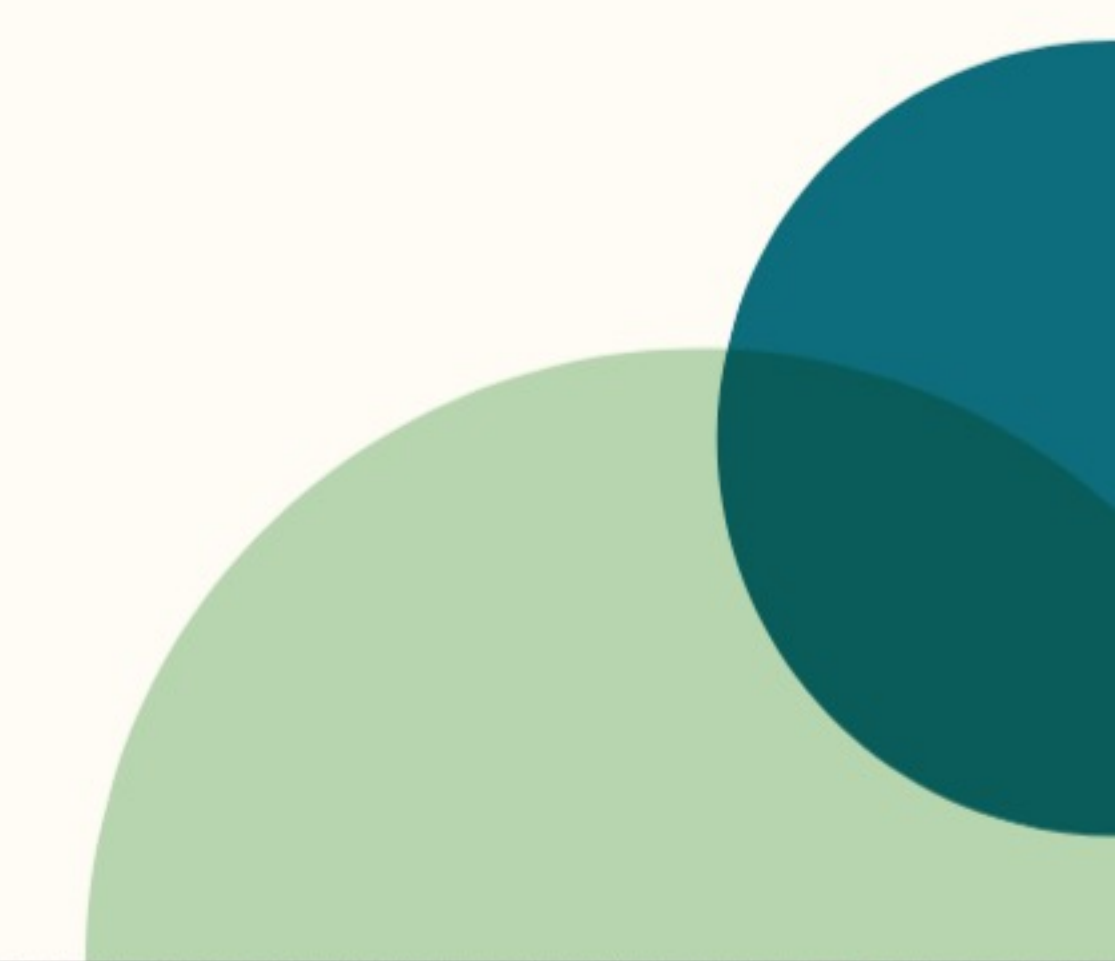
At once he began to preach in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God. ²¹ All those who heard him were astonished and asked, “Isn’t he the man who raised havoc in Jerusalem among those who call on this name? And hasn’t he come here to take them as prisoners to the chief priests?” ²² Yet Saul grew more and more powerful and baffled the Jews living in Damascus by proving that Jesus is the Messiah. ²³ After many days had gone by, there was a conspiracy among the Jews to kill him, ²⁴ but Saul learned of their plan. Day and night they kept close watch on the city gates in order to kill him. ²⁵ But his followers took him by night and lowered him in a basket through an opening in the wall.



THE RESISTANCE

Acts 9:26-30 ^{NIV}

When he came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples, but they were all afraid of him, not believing that he really was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. ²⁸ So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. ²⁹ He talked and debated with the Hellenistic Jews, but they tried to kill him. ³⁰ When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.



1 Corinthians 9:7-14

ILLUSTRATIONS

THE
SOLDIER

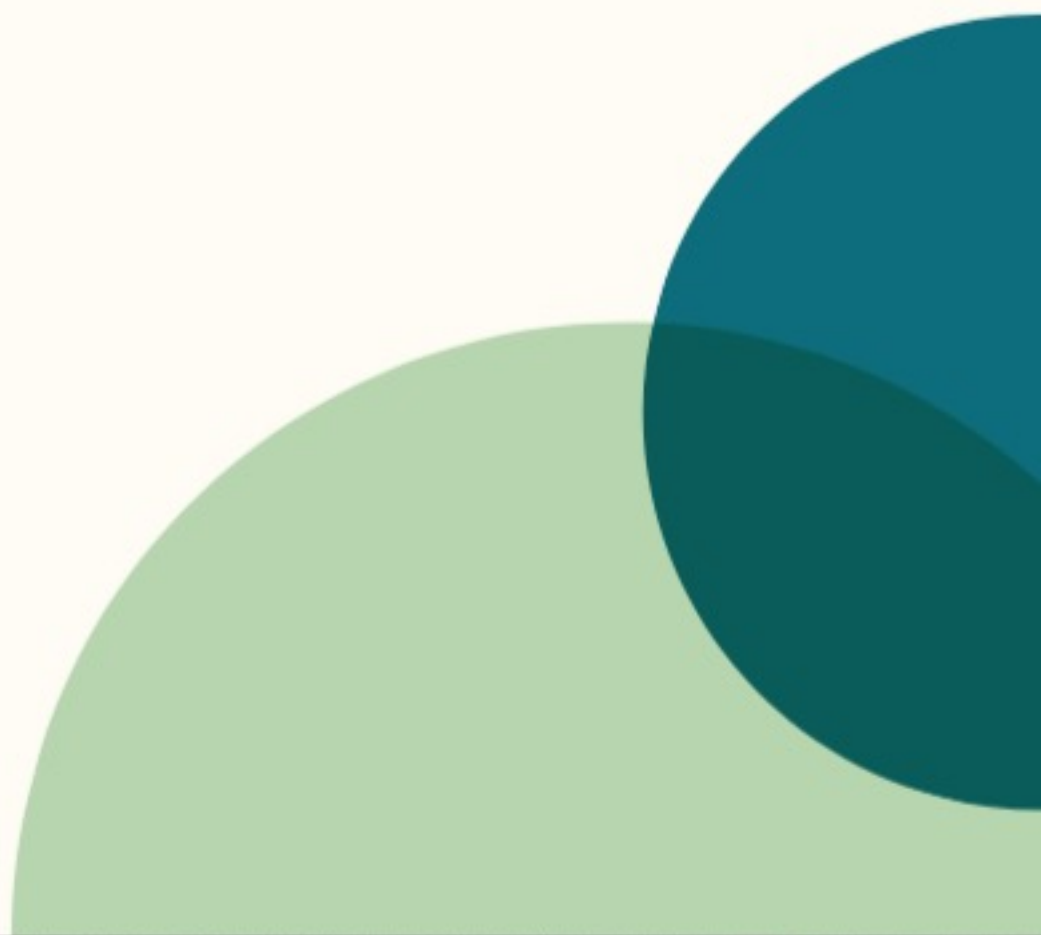
THE
VINEYARD

THE
FLOCK

THE
OX

THE
FARMER

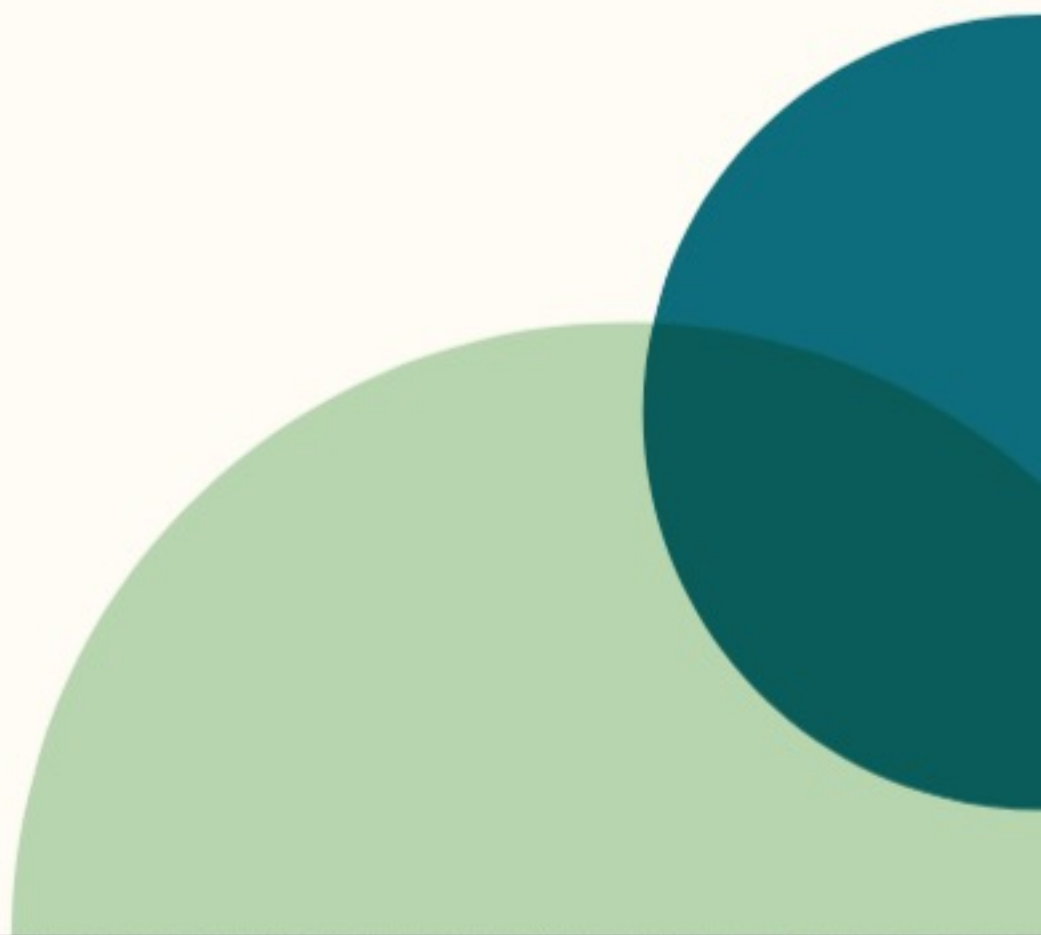
THE
PRIEST



THE RIGHT

1 Corinthians 9:7-10 ^{NIV}

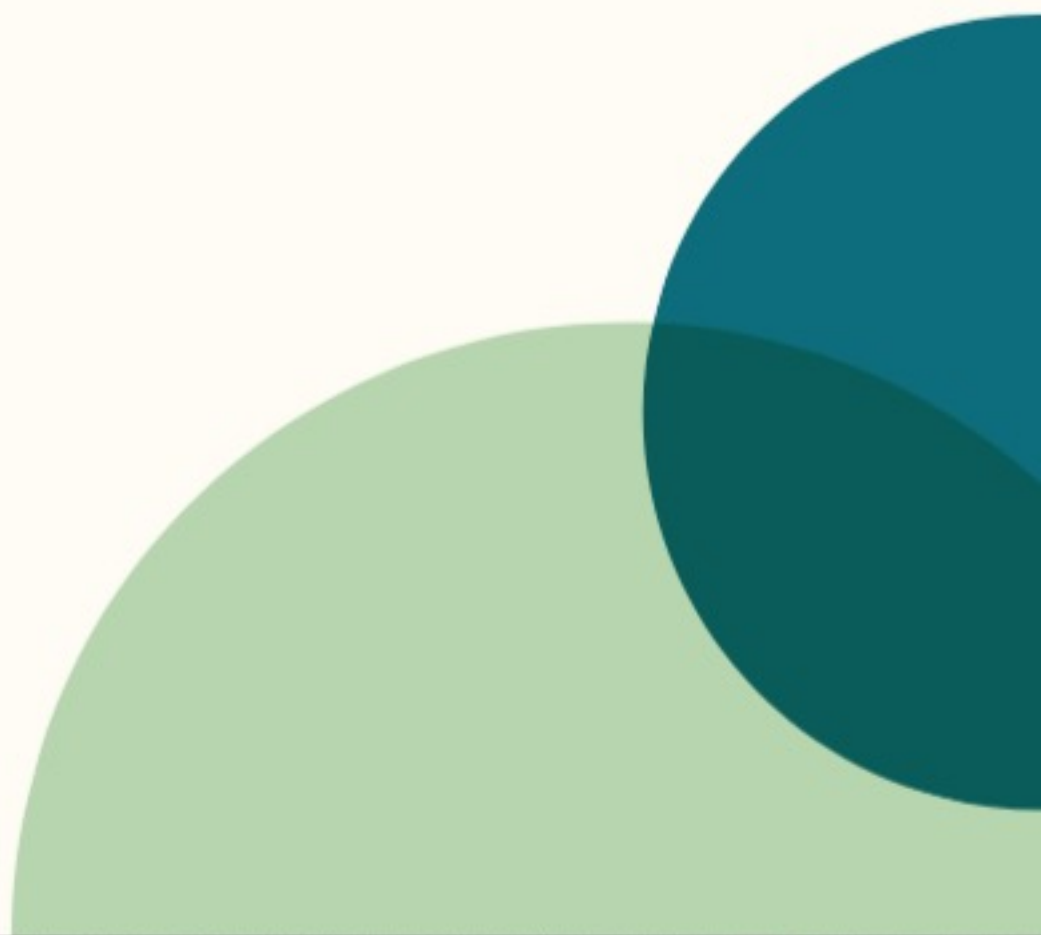
Who serves as a soldier at his own expense? Who plants a vineyard and does not eat its grapes? Who tends a flock and does not drink the milk? ⁸ Do I say this merely on human authority? Doesn't the Law say the same thing? ⁹ For it is written in the Law of Moses: "Do not muzzle an ox while it is treading out the grain." Is it about oxen that God is concerned? ¹⁰ Surely he says this for us, doesn't he? Yes, this was written for us, because whoever plows and threshes should be able to do so in the hope of sharing in the harvest.



THE RIGHT

1 Corinthians 9:11-14 ^{NIV}

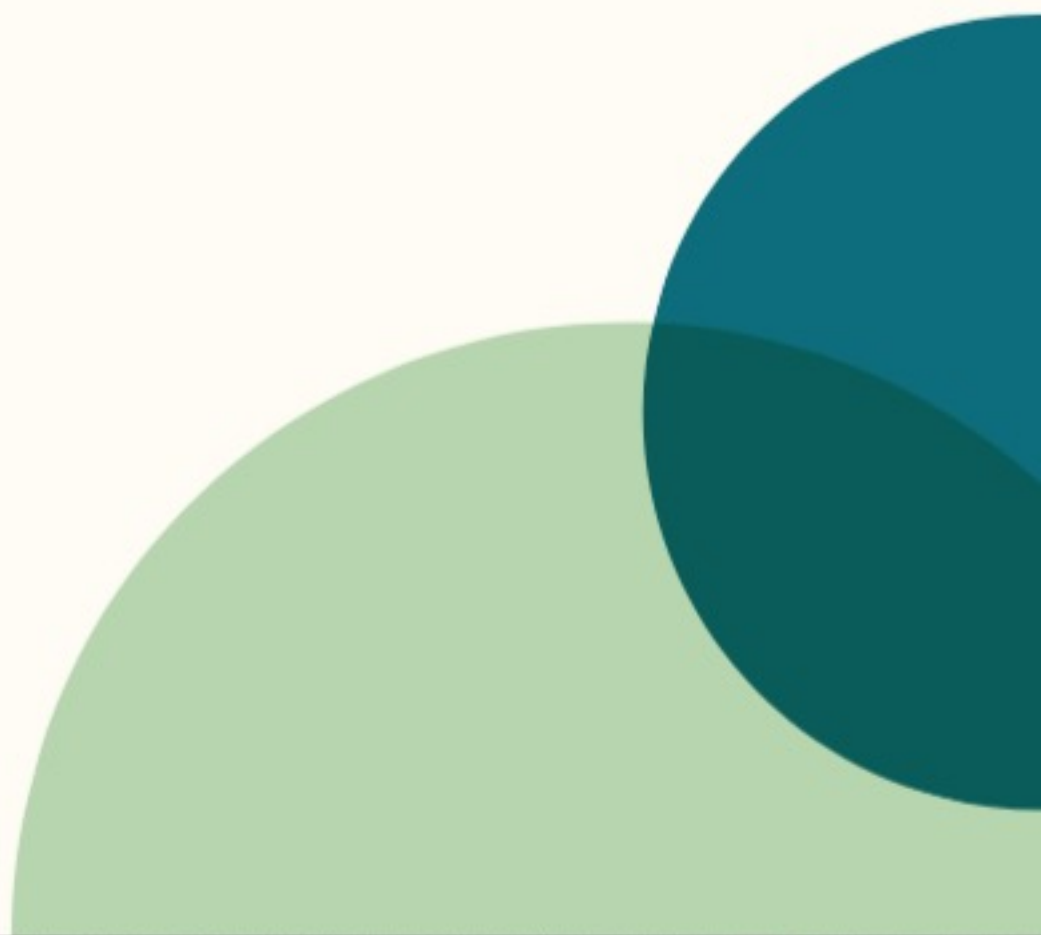
If we have sown spiritual seed among you, is it too much if we reap a material harvest from you? ¹² If others have this right of support from you, shouldn't we have it all the more? **But we did not use this right. On the contrary, we put up with anything rather than hinder the gospel of Christ.** ¹³ Don't you know that those who serve in the temple get their food from the temple and that those who serve at the altar share in what is offered on the altar? ¹⁴ In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.



THE REWARD

1 Corinthians 9:15-18 ^{NIV}

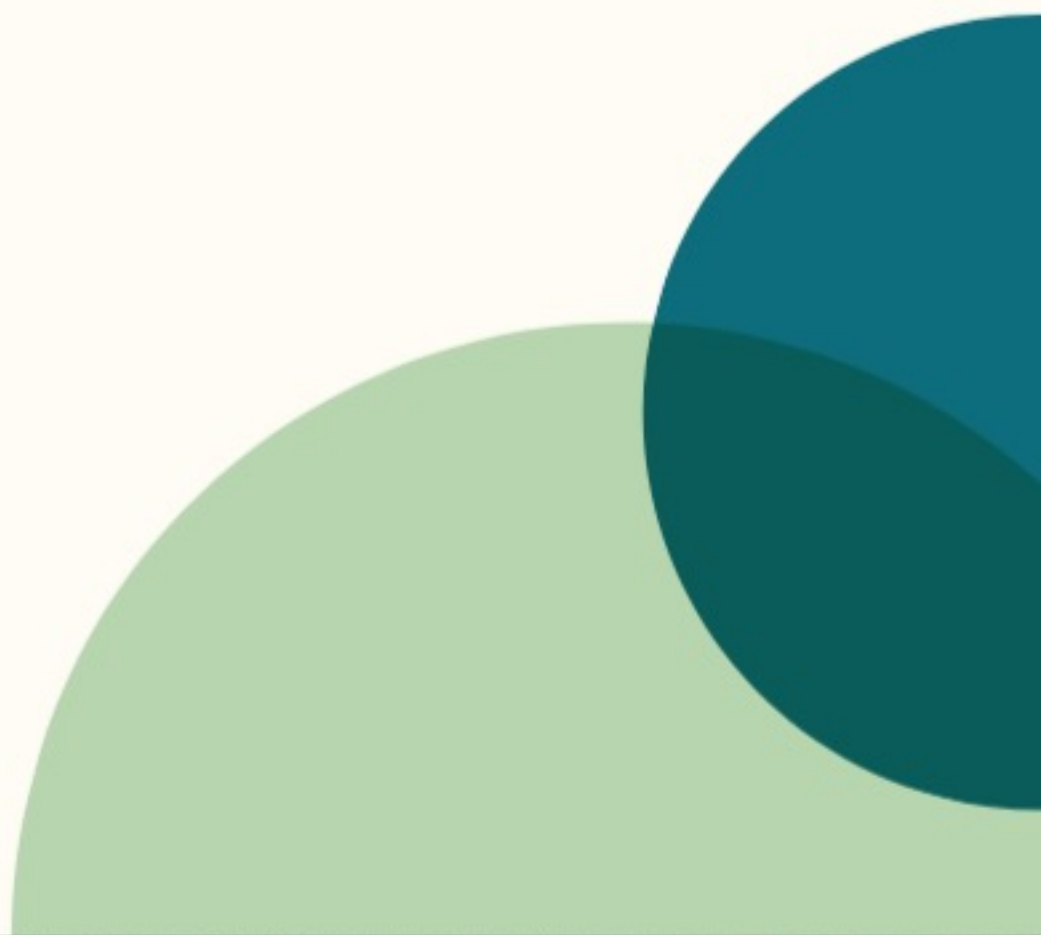
But I have not used any of these rights. And I am not writing this in the hope that you will do such things for me, for I would rather die than allow anyone to deprive me of this boast. ¹⁶ For when I preach the gospel, I cannot boast, since I am compelled to preach. **Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel!** ¹⁷ If I preach voluntarily, I have a reward; if not voluntarily, I am simply discharging the trust committed to me. ¹⁸ What then is my reward? Just this: that in preaching the gospel I may offer it free of charge, and so not make full use of my rights as a preacher of the gospel.



THE RE-FRAMING

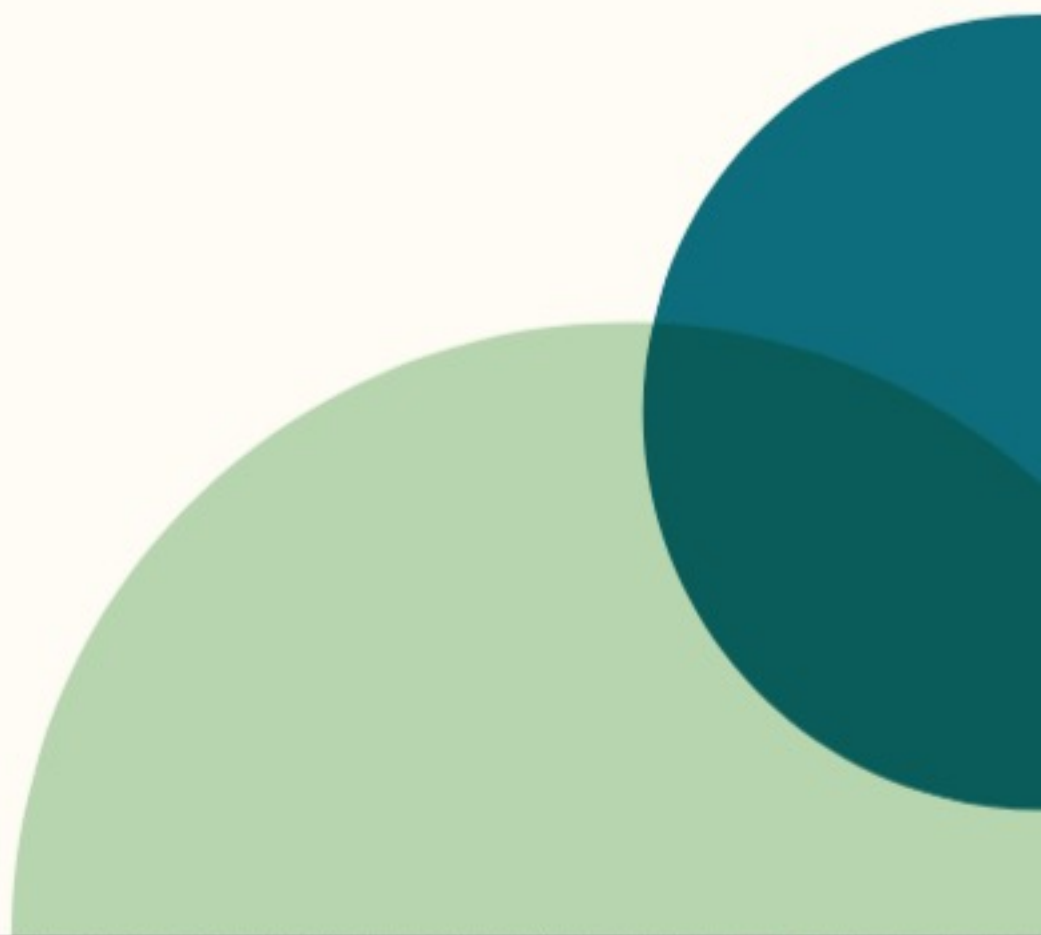
1 Corinthians 9:19-23 ^{NIV}

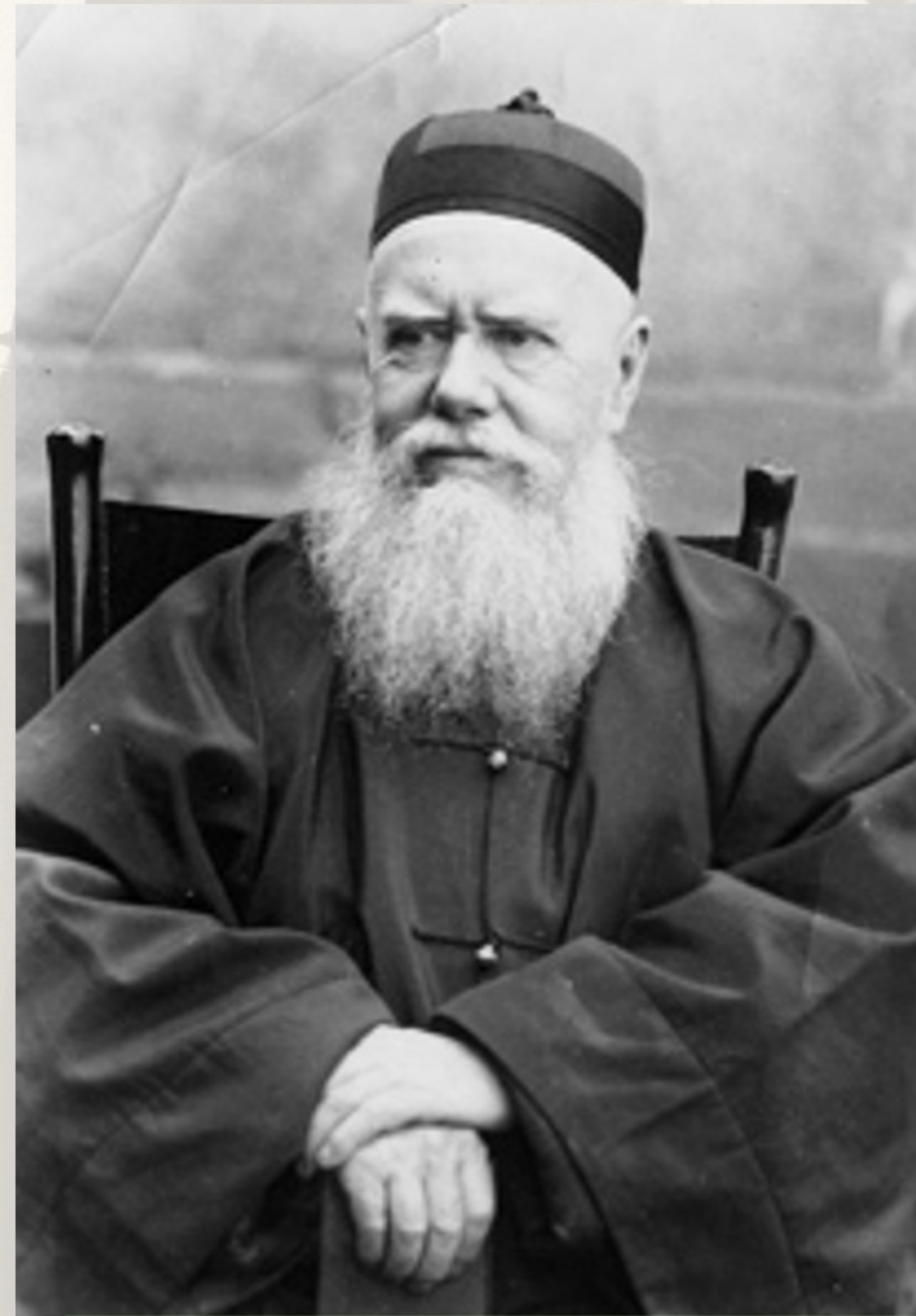
Though I am free and belong to no one, I have made myself a slave to everyone, **to win as many as possible.** ²⁰ To the Jews I became like a Jew, to win the Jews. To those under the law I became like one under the law (though I myself am not under the law), so as to win those under the law. ²¹ To those not having the law I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law), so as to win those not having the law. ²² **To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some.** ²³ **I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.**



THE RE-FRAMING

To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.

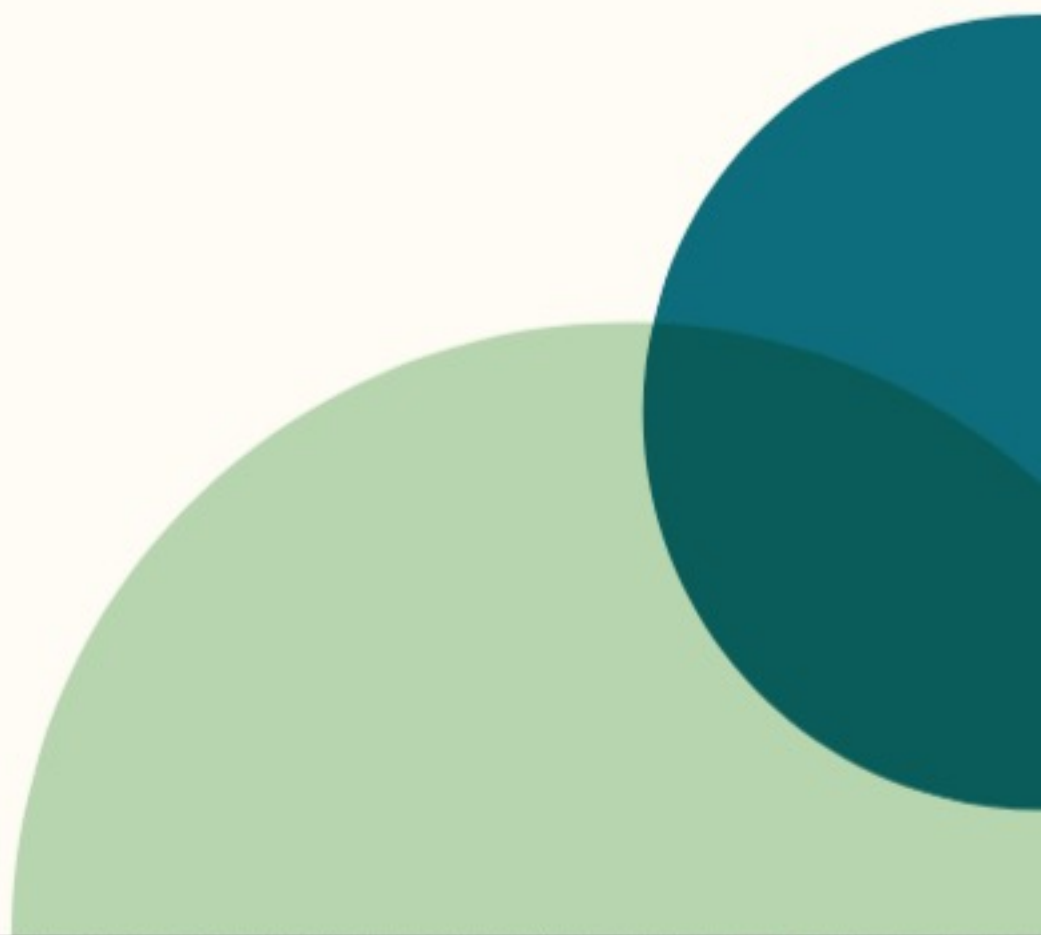




HUDSON TAYLOR

THE RE-FRAMING

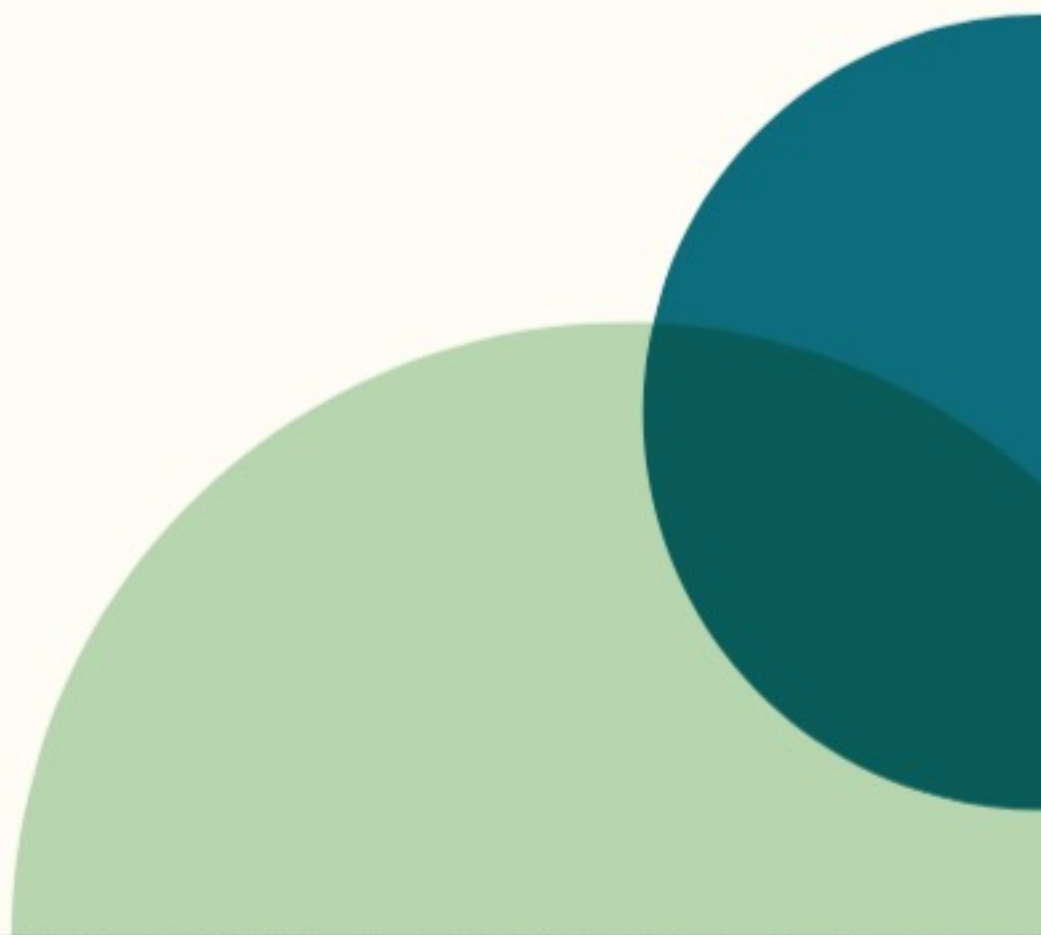
To the weak I became weak, to win the weak. I have become all things to all people so that by all possible means I might save some. I do all this for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings.



THE RACE

1 Corinthians 9:24 ^{NIV}

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.

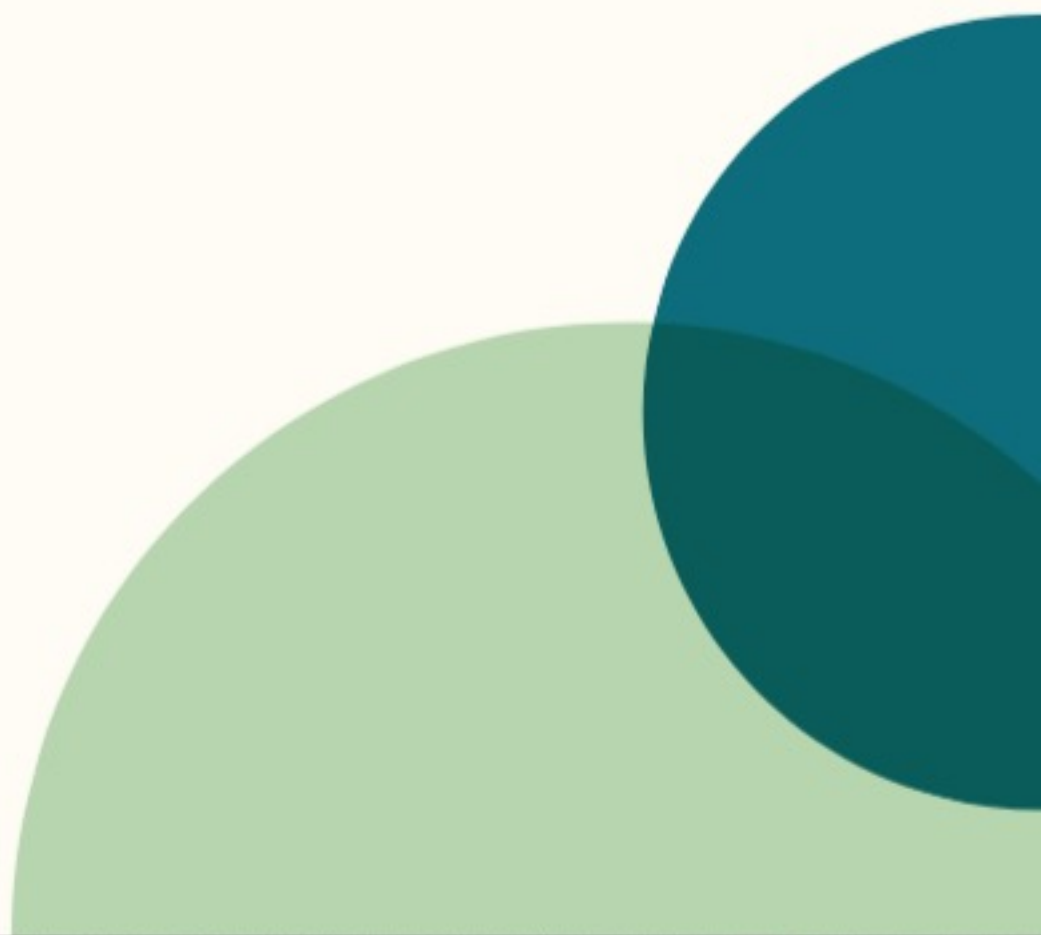




THE RACE

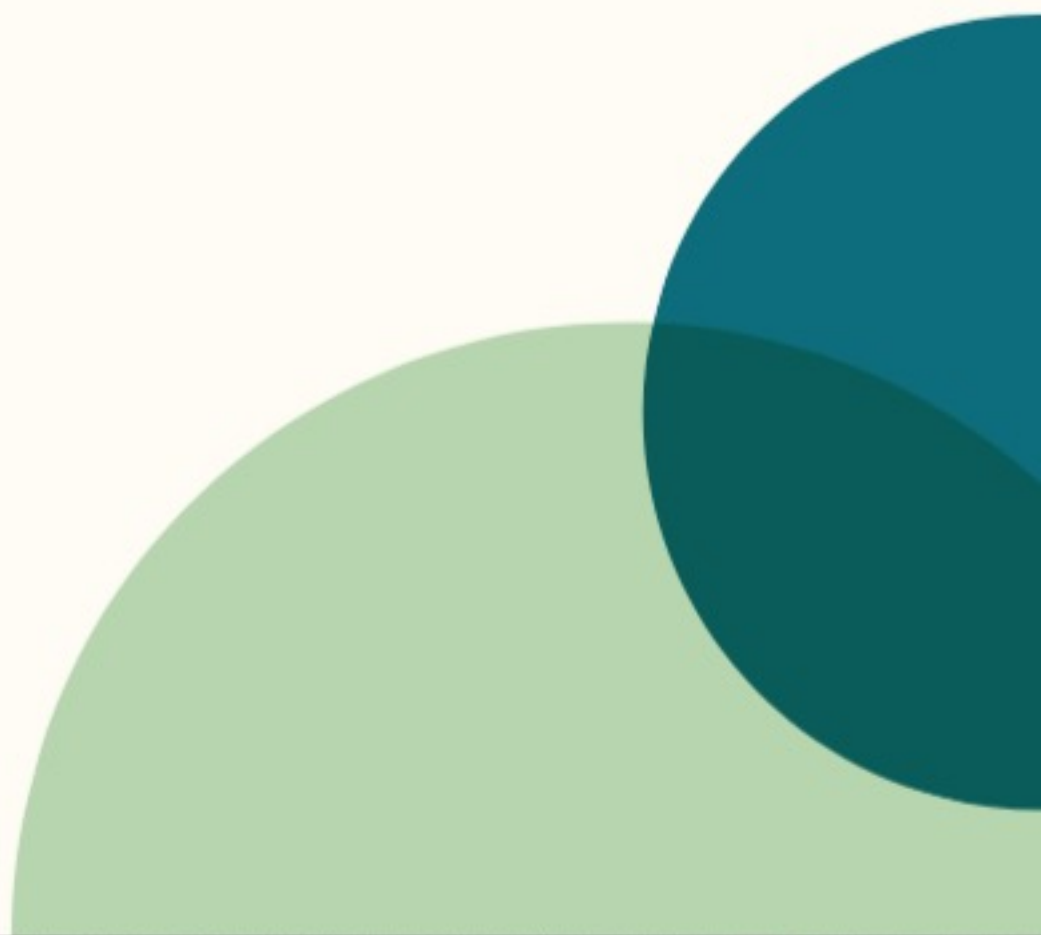
1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ^{NIV}

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. ²⁵ Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. ²⁶ Therefore I do not run like someone running aimlessly; I do not fight like a boxer beating the air. ²⁷ No, I strike a blow to my body and make it my slave so that after I have preached to others, I myself will not be disqualified for the prize.



Paul demonstrated his willingness to relinquish his rights for the sake of the Gospel.

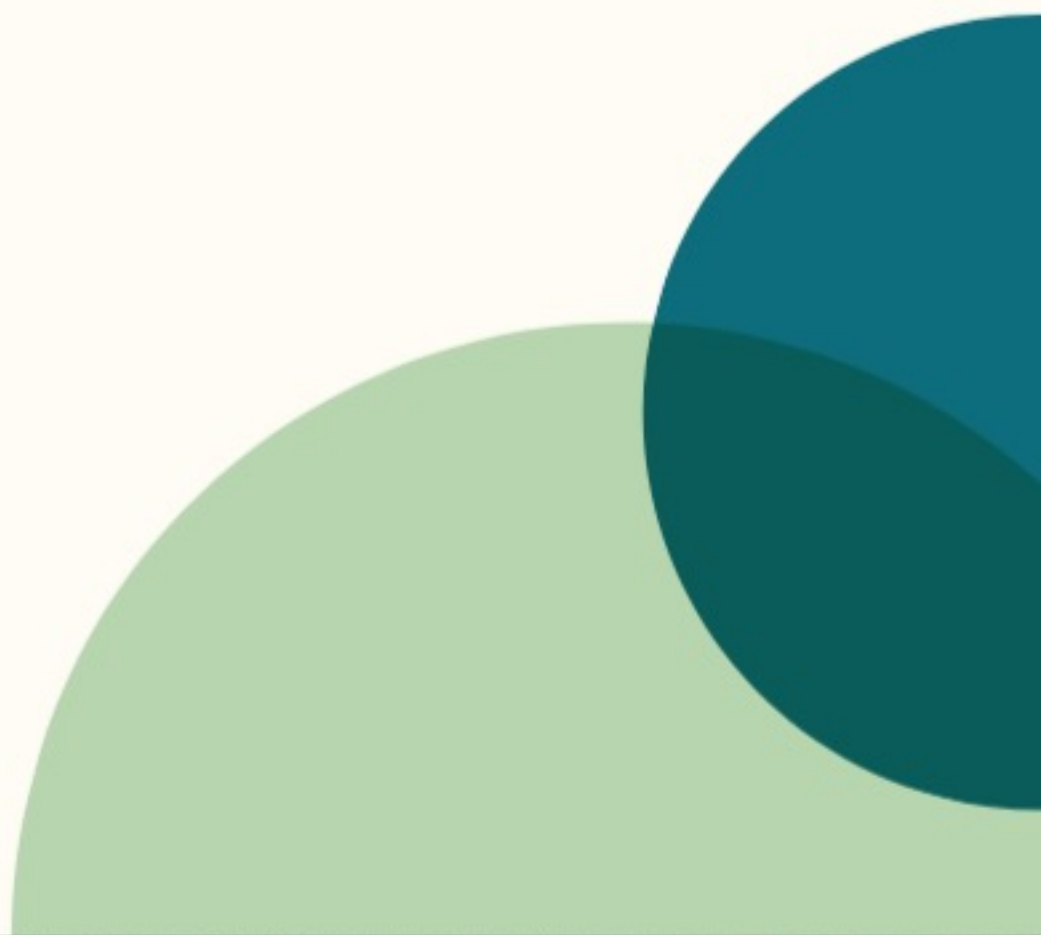
- He gave up the right to marry and travel with a wife. (v. 5)
- He gave up the right to be financially supported by those to whom he ministered. (vv. 6–12)
- He became all things to all people that he might reach some. (vv. 19–23)
- He placed such high worth on heavenly rewards that earthly pleasures were of little value. (vv. 24–27)



The Way to True Peace and Freedom

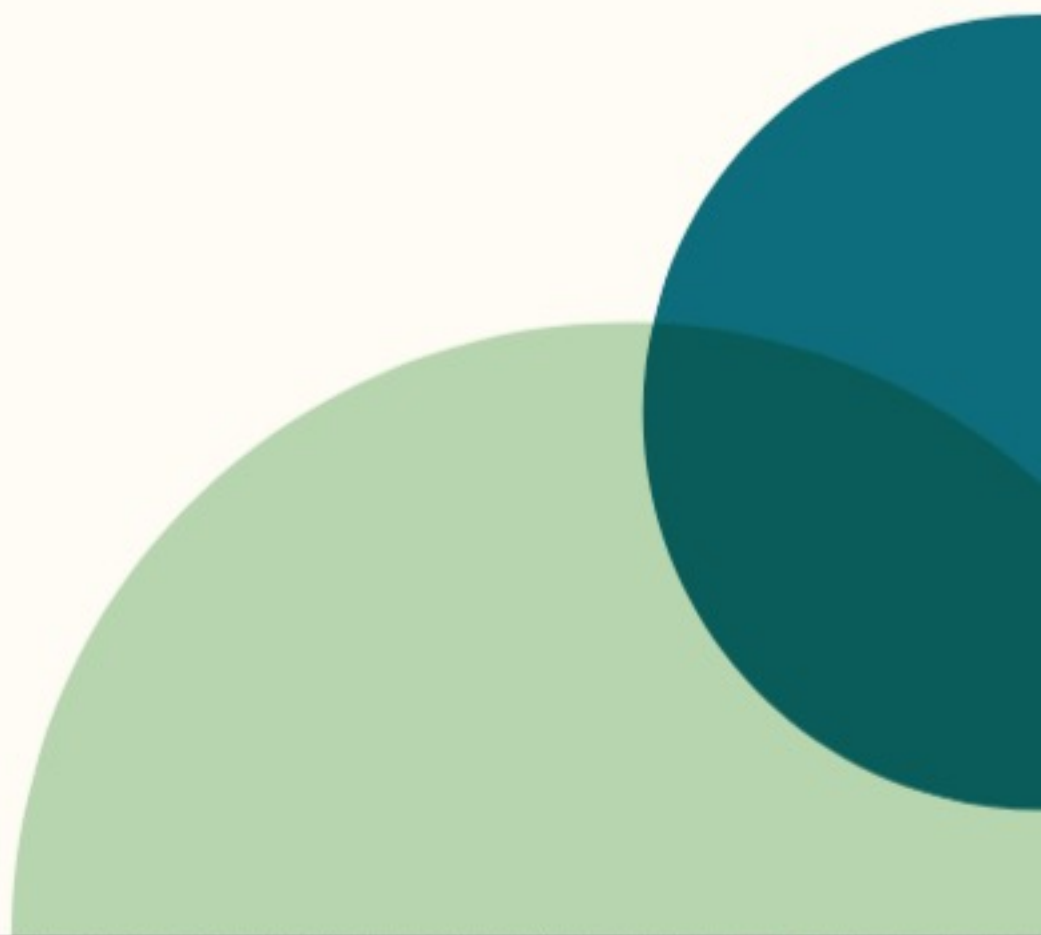
1. Resolve to do the will of others rather than your own.
2. Always choose to possess less rather than more.
3. Always take the lowest place and regard yourself as less than others.
4. Desire and pray always that God's will may be perfectly fulfilled in you.

-The Imitation of Christ, Thomas à Kempis



Luke 12:16-21 ^{NIV}

And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’ ¹⁸ “Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹ And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’ ²⁰ “But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’ ²¹ “This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”





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HOLINESS IN FREEDOM:
THE GOSPEL

