

When Grace Brings Happiness

A person wearing a light blue button-down shirt is holding an open Bible. The Bible has thick, orange-colored pages. The person's hands are visible, holding the edges of the pages. The background is a soft, out-of-focus light blue.

Ephesians 3:8-13

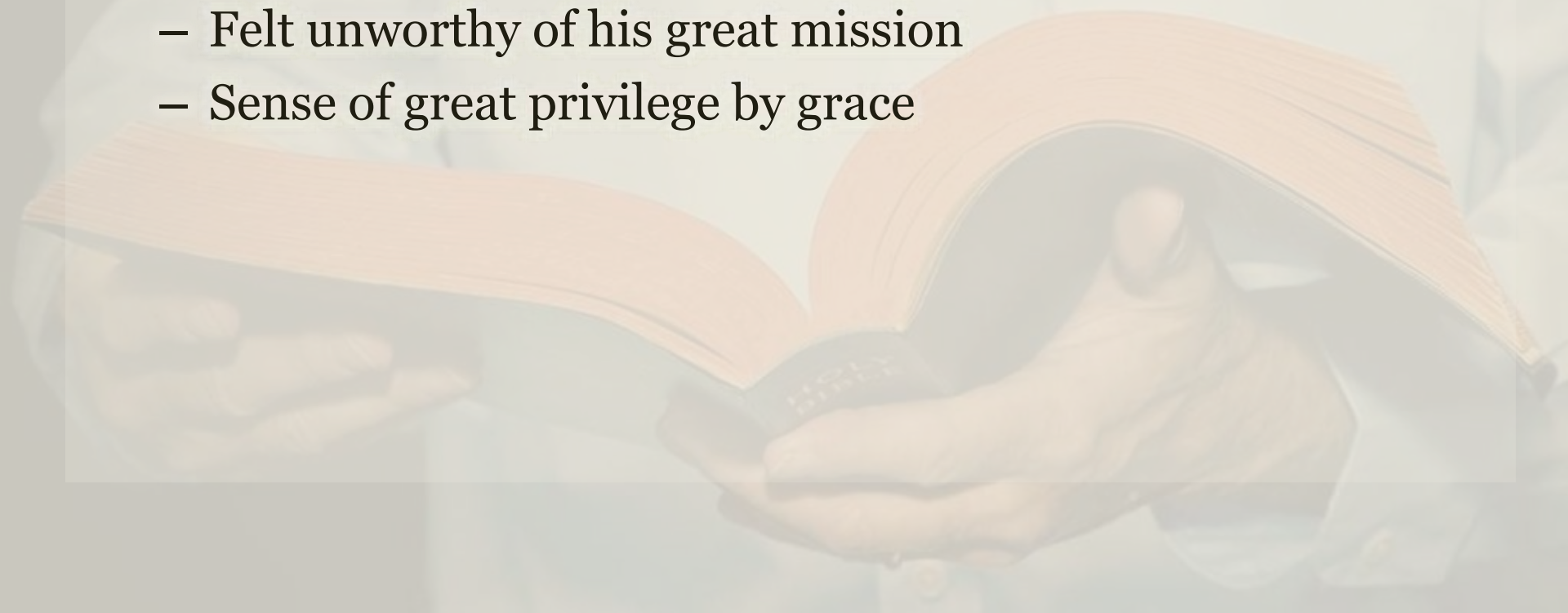
Are Christians Happier?

- Religious active (40%)
 - Rel. inactive (27%)
 - Unaffiliated (34%)
- 36% “very happy”
 - 25%
 - 25%

“regular participation in religious community is clearly linked with higher levels of happiness”

Paul's view of his life..

- Eph 3:8 To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ..
 - A special favor bestowed by God
 - Felt unworthy of his great mission
 - Sense of great privilege by grace



Three purposes..

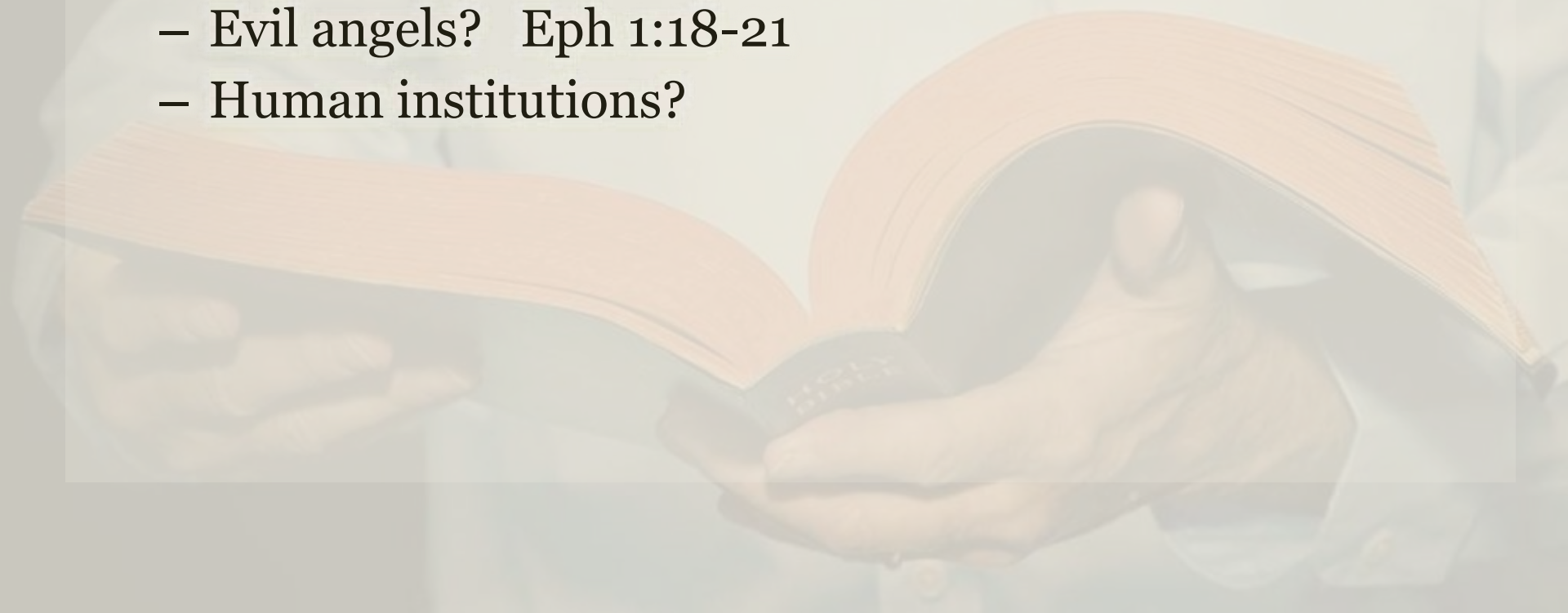
- Preach to the Gentiles the riches of Christ
- Make all men see the mystery revealed



- Make God's Wisdom known by the church
“to the principalities and

Role of the church..

- 3:10 to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly *places*..
 - Good angels? 1 Pet 1:10-12
 - Evil angels? Eph 1:18-21
 - Human institutions?



Place in the eternal purpose

- ¹¹ according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord..
 - God's purpose has been accomplished in Christ
 - God's new creation displays His wisdom for all



How this affects our lives

- Eph 3:12-13 in whom we have boldness and access with confidence through faith in Him.
¹³ Therefore I ask that you do not lose heart at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.
 - Boldness and access with confidence
 - We will never lose heart and give up
 - We know the outcome will turn out good

Are Christians Happier?

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