

## Questions

1. Based on the verses mentioned in these notes, how would you describe what Paul (Col 1:13) and Jesus (Luke 23:53) mean by the domain or power of darkness.
2. What are some of the ways that Satan sought to destroy Jesus?
3. In what ways is the local church to function as a household/family? What does it look like to be a refuge for brothers and sisters who are angry with, tempted by, or discouraged by the culture?
4. What are ways that a local church equips believers to live in the world and engage with unbelievers? What are ways that Satan seeks to toss believers around "by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, and by craftiness in deceitful schemes" (Eph 4:14)?
5. On a more personal basis, how has Grace Bible Church served as a place of refuge and/or equipping in your life? What have we done well? What could we do better?
6. Will you make a commitment to be used by God to enable to grow this work of being a place of refuge and equipping? Will you commit to pray for God to supply to enable us to meet more needs?



## Why We're Here Various Scriptures

*Doug Sachtlen, Lead Pastor*

*April 16, 2023*

One of the necessary roles of Grace Bible Church, in the lives of believers, is a protective one that includes being a refuge from the domain of darkness and a place of equipping for engaging with that domain.

A goal of the Arise & Shine series is to ask you to commit to a vision of GBC's future. To that end, let's first consider a question of necessity: Why is Grace Bible Church here and why do the elders believe it's necessary to move forward with plans for the future?

Colossians 1:13 – "the domain of darkness" (cf. Luke 22:53; Acts 26:17-18; Ephesians 5:8; 1 John 5:19; and Isaiah 60:1-2)

*After each service, if you need prayer,  
someone will be available up front to pray with or for you.*

1 Timothy 3:15

"the household of God" – A place of mutual encouragement and care; a refuge for believers in Jesus Christ.

The domain of darkness wants to destroy the image of God in man, wants people to hate God's law, wants to make human life as worthless as possible, and wants to encourage every person to live to satisfy his or her own desires.

"a pillar and buttress of the truth" – A place where believers are equipped to engage with the domain of darkness that we still live in (In the world, but not of it), and to resist error and temptation.

The domain of darkness is more fully on the offensive than most of us have experienced. That makes local churches, like Grace Bible Church, even more crucial for projecting Christ's love and His gospel to the world (as we'll consider next week) and for protecting believers as a place of refuge and equipping.