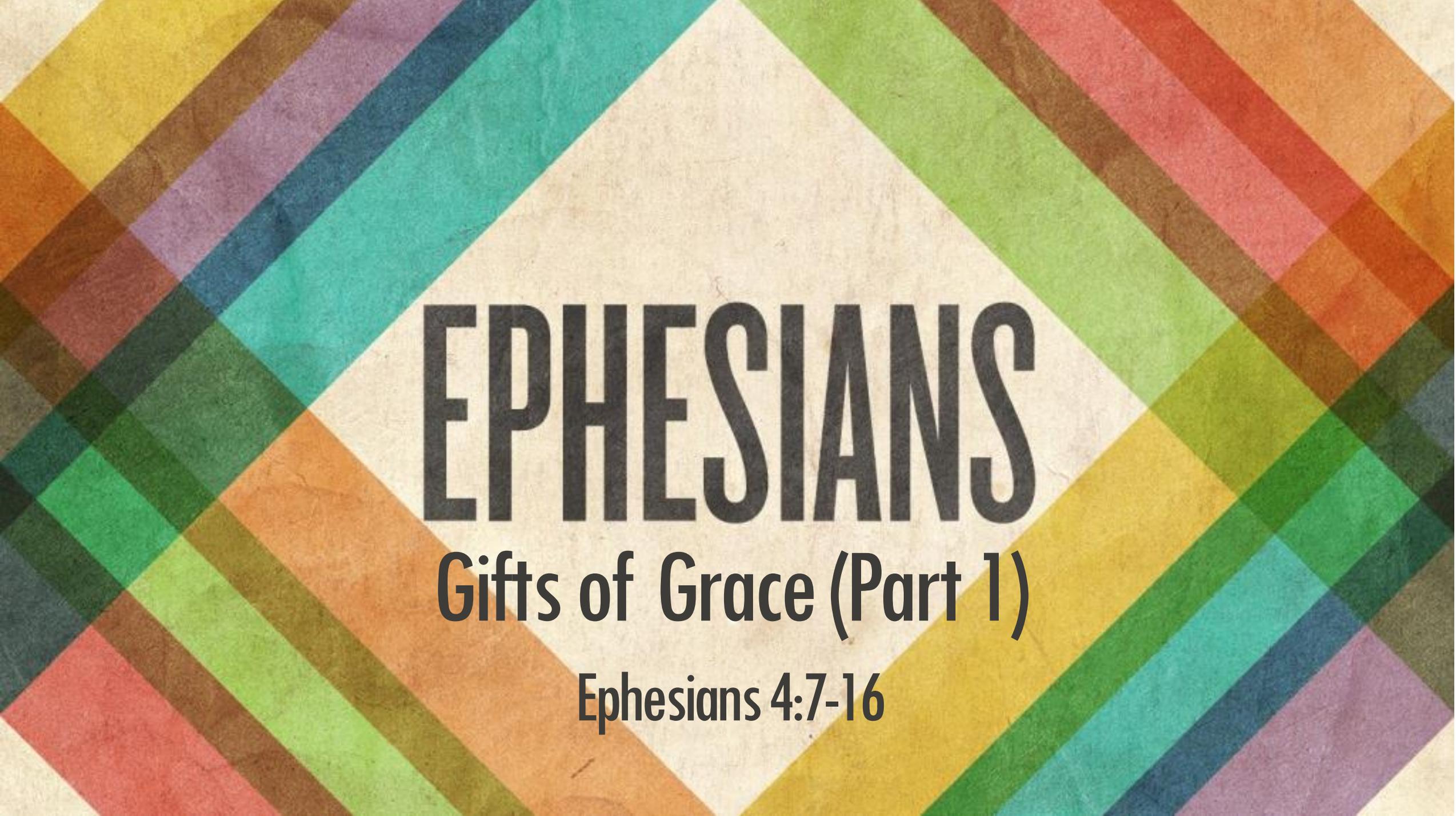




EPHESIANS

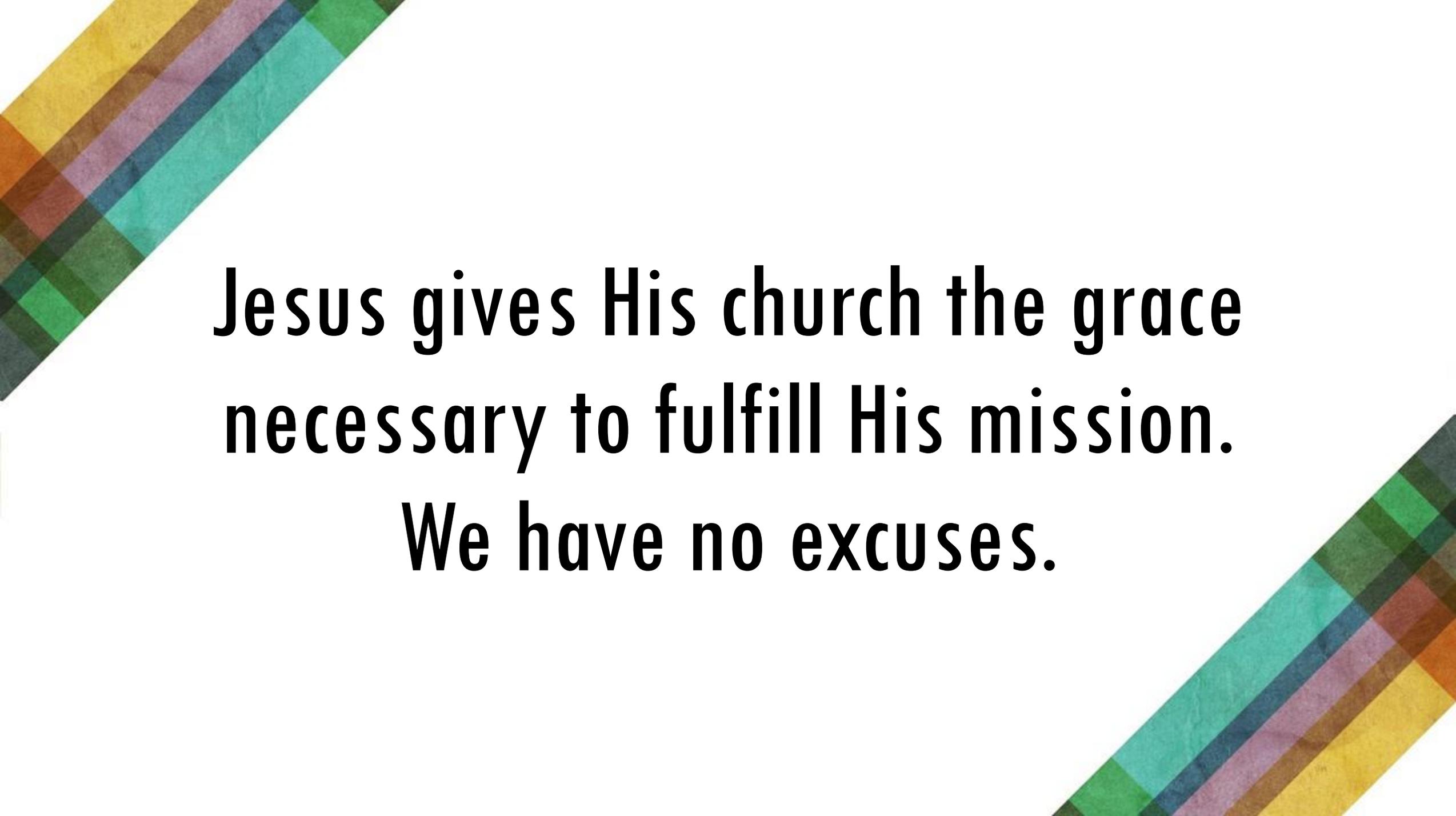
A LIFE SPENT FOLLOWING CHRIST



EPHESIANS

Gifts of Grace (Part 1)

Ephesians 4:7-16



**Jesus gives His church the grace
necessary to fulfill His mission.
We have no excuses.**



You Have all The Grace You Need

- All gifts serve the same purpose

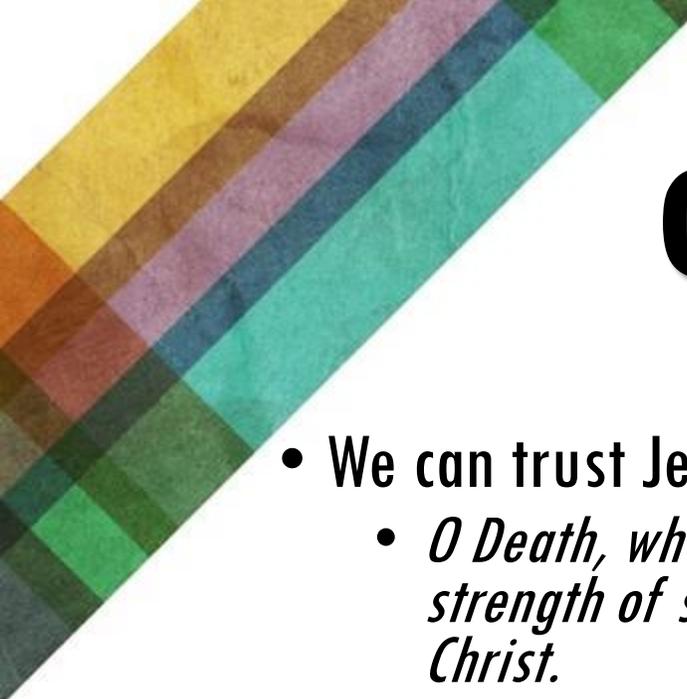
- *There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.*

1 Corinthians 12:4-7

- His grace is enough

- *And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

2 Corinthians 12:9-10



Only Jesus Can Give Grace

- We can trust Jesus because He has already won
 - *O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*
1 Corinthians 15:55-57
- Jesus is worthy to give grace
 - *Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."*
Revelation 5: 2-3, 5, 8-10



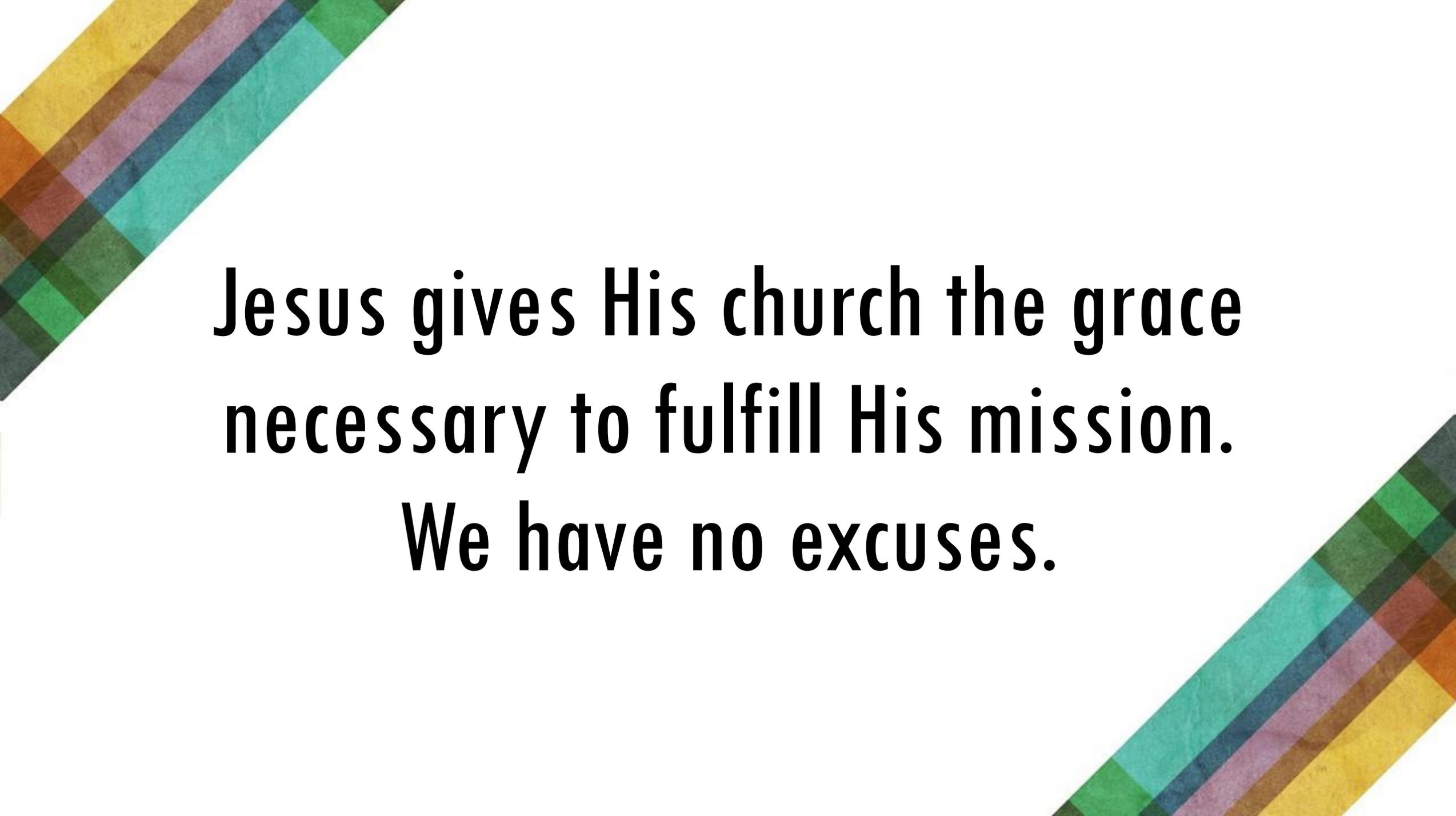
The Most Important Christians

- God created positions of church leadership
 - Apostles — literally “those who are sent”, limited to 12 (the original 11 plus Paul)
 - Luke 6:12-16, Eph 1:1, 1 Corinthians 12:28
 - Prophets — Proclaimer of a message from God, Able to say “Thus says the Lord”
 - Often foretold future events, Main message was always repent, Hebrews 1:1-3
 - Evangelists — Special calling to share gospel, Like we use the word “missionary”
 - Only 1 mentioned in Scripture : Philip Acts 21:8 (Timothy told to do the work 2 Timothy 4:5)
 - Pastor/Teachers — Elder, Overseer, Pastor, Servant leaders of the local church
- These are **not** the most important Christians



The Most Important Christians

- The most important are “normal, average” church members
 - You are not normal and you are not average
- The most important are those who are willing to love (1 Cor 12:29-13:3)
 - *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret? But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.*



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