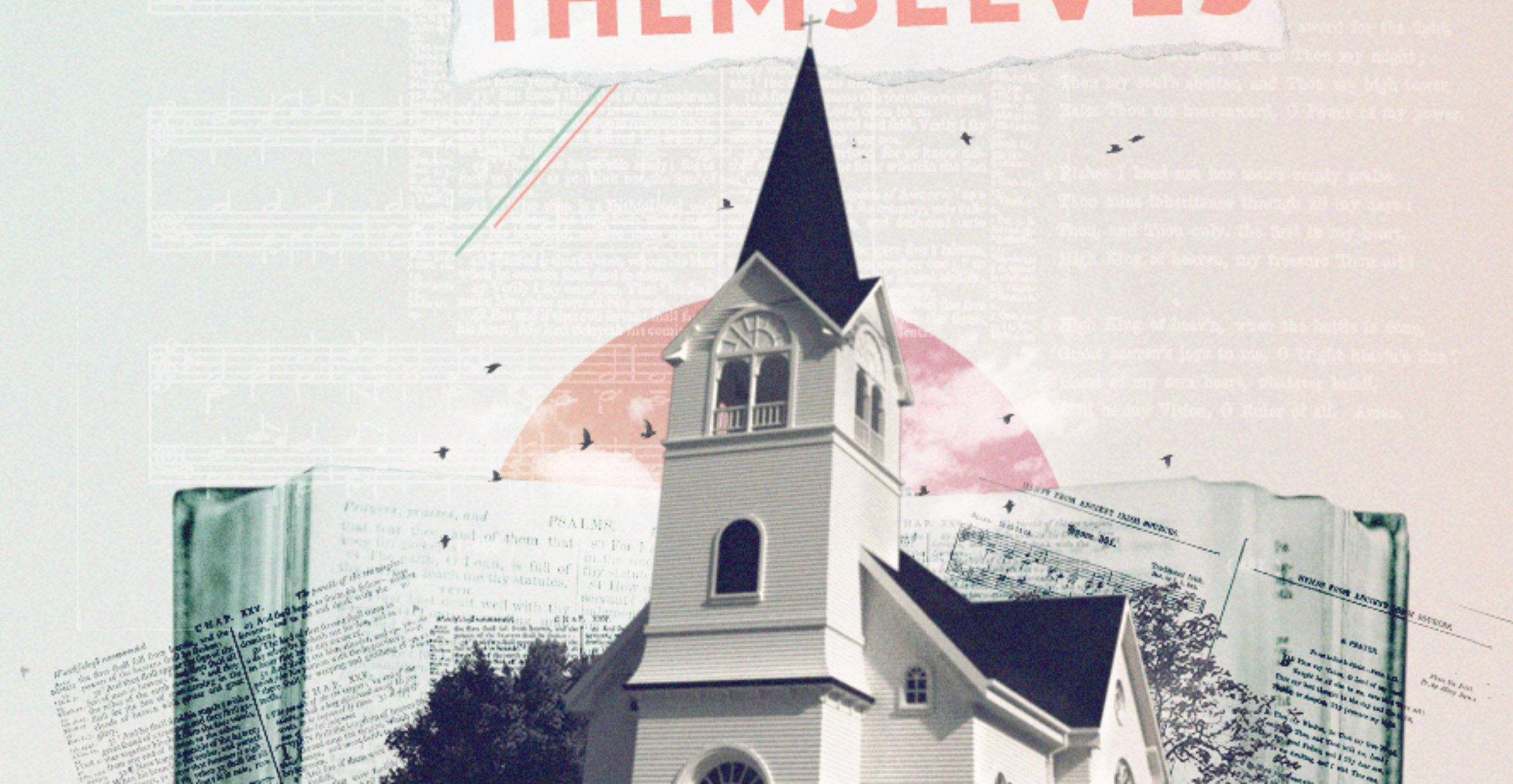


They Devoted THEMSELVES



Devotion Defines

Where is your ladder leading you?

What is your ladder leaning on?

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light." Matthew. 11:28

From the ends of the earth I call to you, I
call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the
rock that is higher than I.
For you have been my refuge, a strong
tower against the foe.

Psalms. 61:2-3

"Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine.""

Acts 2:5-13 ESV

³⁷ **Now when they heard this they were *cut to the heart***, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" ³⁸ And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Acts 2:37-39 ESV

41 So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. 42***And they devoted themselves*** to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food ***with glad and generous hearts***, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

Acts. 2:42-47



**What does a devoted and generous
heart look like?**

Generous Love

"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven. For he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect." Matthew 5:43-48 ESV.

Generous Giving

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, 2 for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. 3 For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, ***and beyond their means, of their own accord, 4 begging us earnestly for the favor[b] of taking part in the relief of the saints—***

2 Corinthians. 8:1-9

5 and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us. 6 Accordingly, we urged Titus that as he had started, so he should complete among you this act of grace. **7** But as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you—***see that you excel in this act of grace also.***

2 Corinthians. 8:1-9

8 I say this not as a command, but to prove by the earnestness of others that your love also is genuine. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.

2 Corinthians. 8:1-9

**A devoted + surrendered heart to
the Spirit
leads to an empowered life by
the Spirit**

**Biblical Generosity is not your
capacity to give,**

**Biblical generosity is your
capacity to surrender to His
Spirit's will.**

11 You will be enriched in every way ***to be generous in every way***, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. 12 For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. 13 By their approval of this service, ***they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others,***

2 Corinthians. 9:11-13

They Devoted THEMSELVES

