

Becoming an Acts 29 witness

# Becoming an Acts 29 witness

## Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”



# Becoming an Acts 29 witness

Matthew 28:19-20

Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”



# Becoming an Acts 29 witness

Matthew 24:14

And this gospel of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.



The Kingdom of God is available for everyone, but only some “find” it.

Matthew 13:44

“The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.”





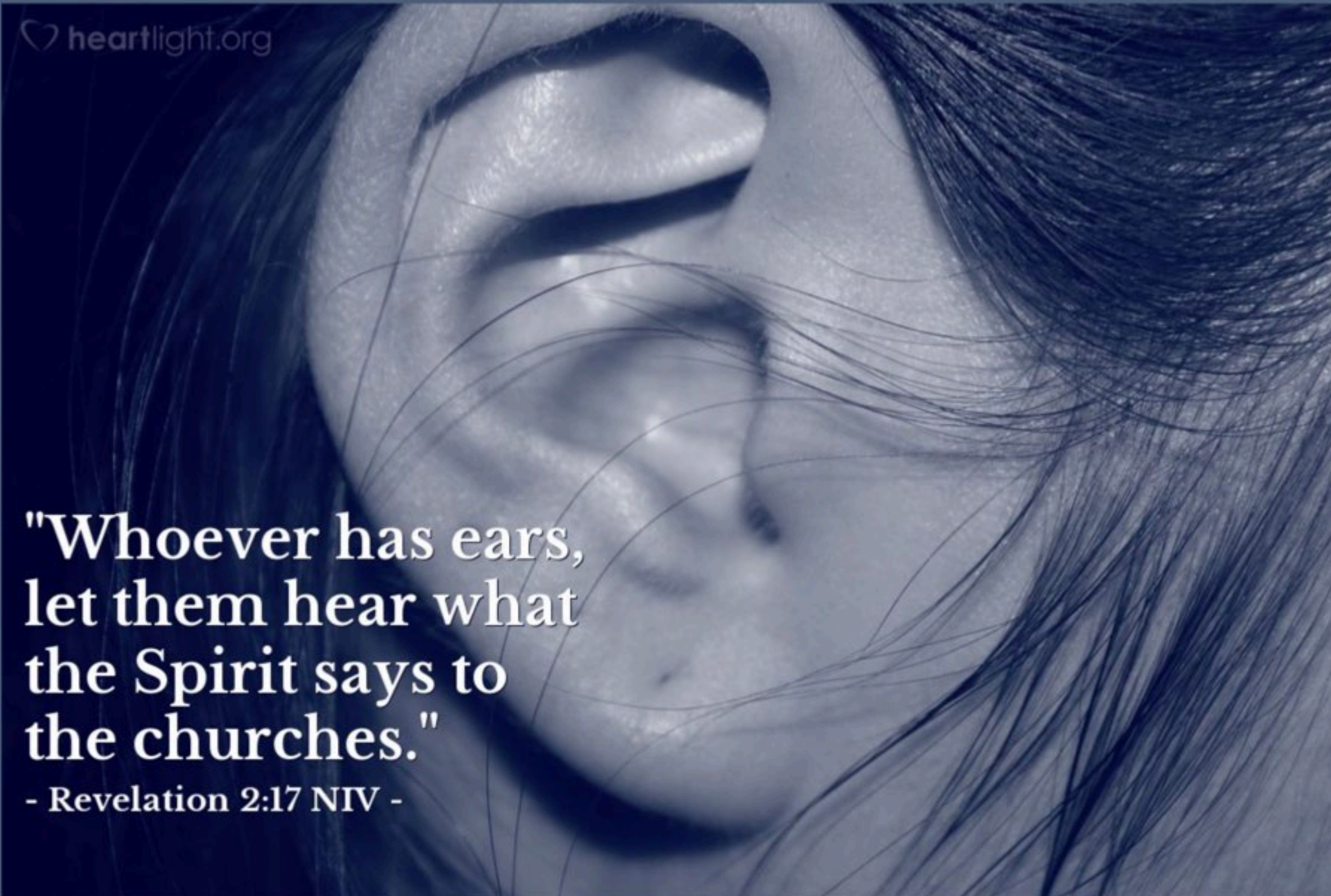
"Whoever has ears,  
let them hear what  
the Spirit says to  
the churches."

- Revelation 2:17 NIV -

## Psalm 51:17

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;  
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will  
not despise.





"Whoever has ears,  
let them hear what  
the Spirit says to  
the churches."

- Revelation 2:17 NIV -

Luke 24:32

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn  
within us while he talked to us on the road, while  
he opened to us the Scriptures?"



Where did it all start?:

Acts 1:15

In those days Peter stood up among the brothers (the company of persons was in all about 120)



PAGAN

CHRISTIAN



0 AD

100 AD

200 AD

300 AD

400 AD

1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY

3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY

4<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY





PAGAN

CHRISTIAN



0 AD

100 AD

200 AD

300 AD

400 AD



1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY

3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY

4<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

27-30 AD

JESUS PERFORMS MINISTRIES

~30 AD

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED BY ROME

30-100 AD

DISCIPLES SPREAD THE WORD

64 AD

BLAMED FOR FIRE OF ROME

70 AD

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM



PAGAN

CHRISTIAN

100 - 300 AD

PERSECUTIONS INCREASE,  
RESULTING IN MARTYRDOMS

100 - 300 AD

CHRISTIANITY GRADUALLY  
SPREADS AND EVOLVES

~100 AD

GOSPELS ARE COMPLETED

0 AD

100 AD

200 AD

300 AD

400 AD

1<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY

2<sup>ND</sup> CENTURY

3<sup>RD</sup> CENTURY

4<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY

27-30 AD

JESUS PERFORMS MINISTRIES

~30 AD

JESUS IS CRUCIFIED BY ROME

30-100 AD

DISCIPLES SPREAD THE WORD

64 AD

BLAMED FOR FIRE OF ROME

70 AD

DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM

~300 AD

~3-10% OF THE POPULATION

311 AD

EDICT OF TOLERATION ISSUED

312 AD

EMP. CONSTANTINE CONVERTS





RODNEY STARK

# THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY



A Sociologist  
Reconsiders History

“BRILLIANT.”—*NEWSWEEK*



“All questions concerning the rise of Christianity are one: How was it done? How did a tiny and obscure messianic movement from the edge of the Roman Empire dislodge classical paganism and become the dominant faith of Western civilization?”



“[A good consensus of the research] estimated that 10 percent of the empire’s population were Christian by the time of Constantine. If we accept 60 million as the total population at that time...This would mean that there were 6 million Christians at the start of the fourth century”



# The Roman Empire in 117 AD

- Senatorial provinces
- Imperial provinces
- Client states





# A Case Study: Paul in Ephesus





**PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY**



## A Case Study: Paul in Ephesus

- Established church on his second missionary journey. (51-53A.D.)
- Went back on his third missionary journey and stayed for 3 years (54-57A.D.)
- Lectured daily in the Hall of Tyrannus for two years
- “All the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord” (Acts 19:10)



# Ephesus: A clash of world-views





Conversion to Christ changes the individual. Mass conversions to Christ (Christianity) change a culture. An entire change in pagan culture is what is at stake in this passage from Acts 19:

## Acts 19:23-24

About that time there arose no little disturbance concerning the Way. For a man named Demetrius, a silversmith, who made silver shrines of Artemis, brought no little business to the craftsmen.





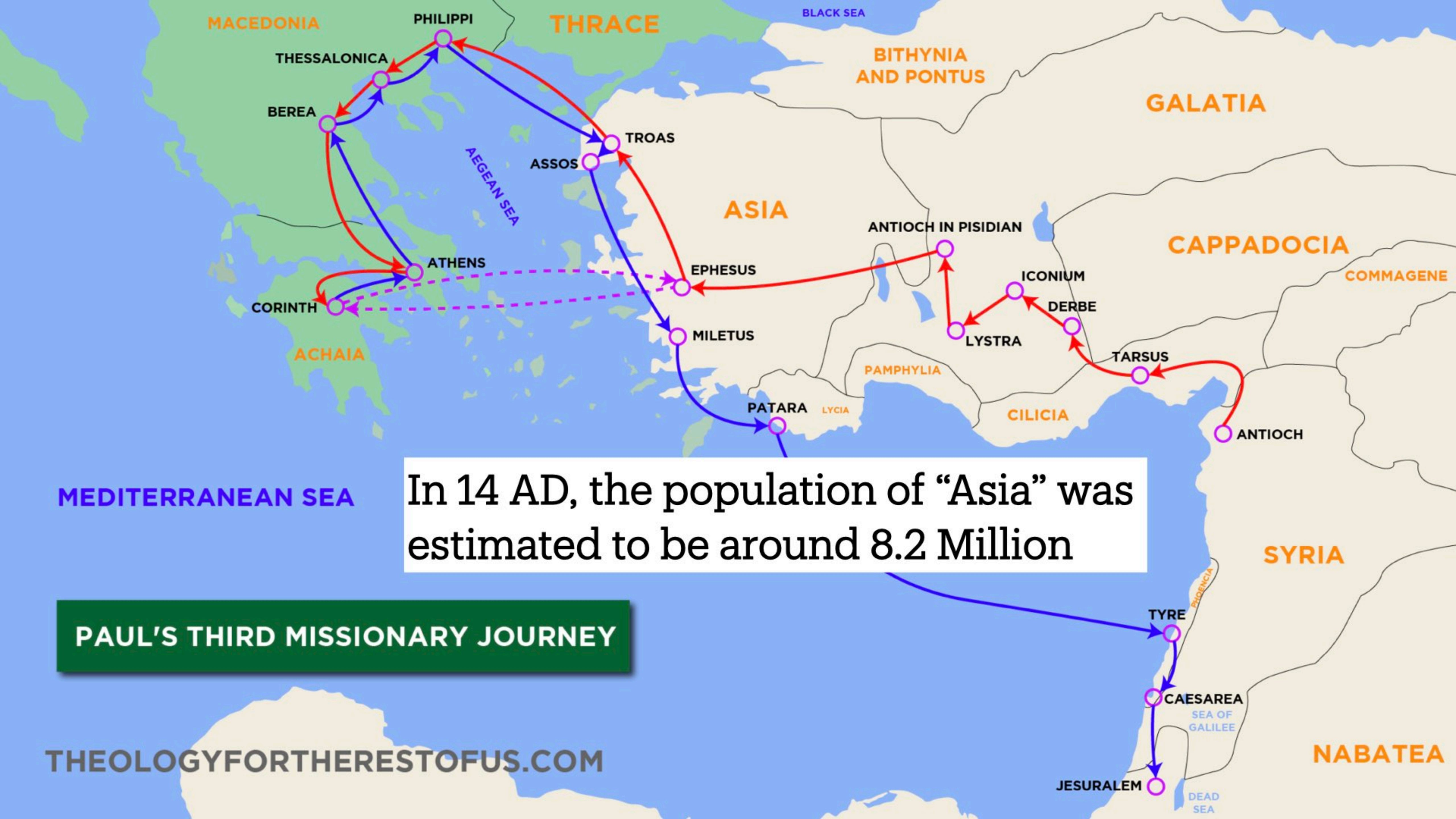
Conversion to Christ changes the individual. Mass conversions to Christ (Christianity) change a culture. An entire change in pagan culture is what is at stake in this passage from Acts 19:

### Acts 19:25-26

These he gathered together, with the workmen in similar trades, and said, “Men, you know that from this business we have our wealth. And you see and hear that not only in Ephesus but in almost all of Asia this Paul has persuaded and turned away a great many people,







MEDITERRANEAN SEA

In 14 AD, the population of "Asia" was estimated to be around 8.2 Million

**PAUL'S THIRD MISSIONARY JOURNEY**





## Acts 19:10

This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.



# TURKEY

In 14 AD, the population of "Asia" was estimated to be around 8.2 Million

This

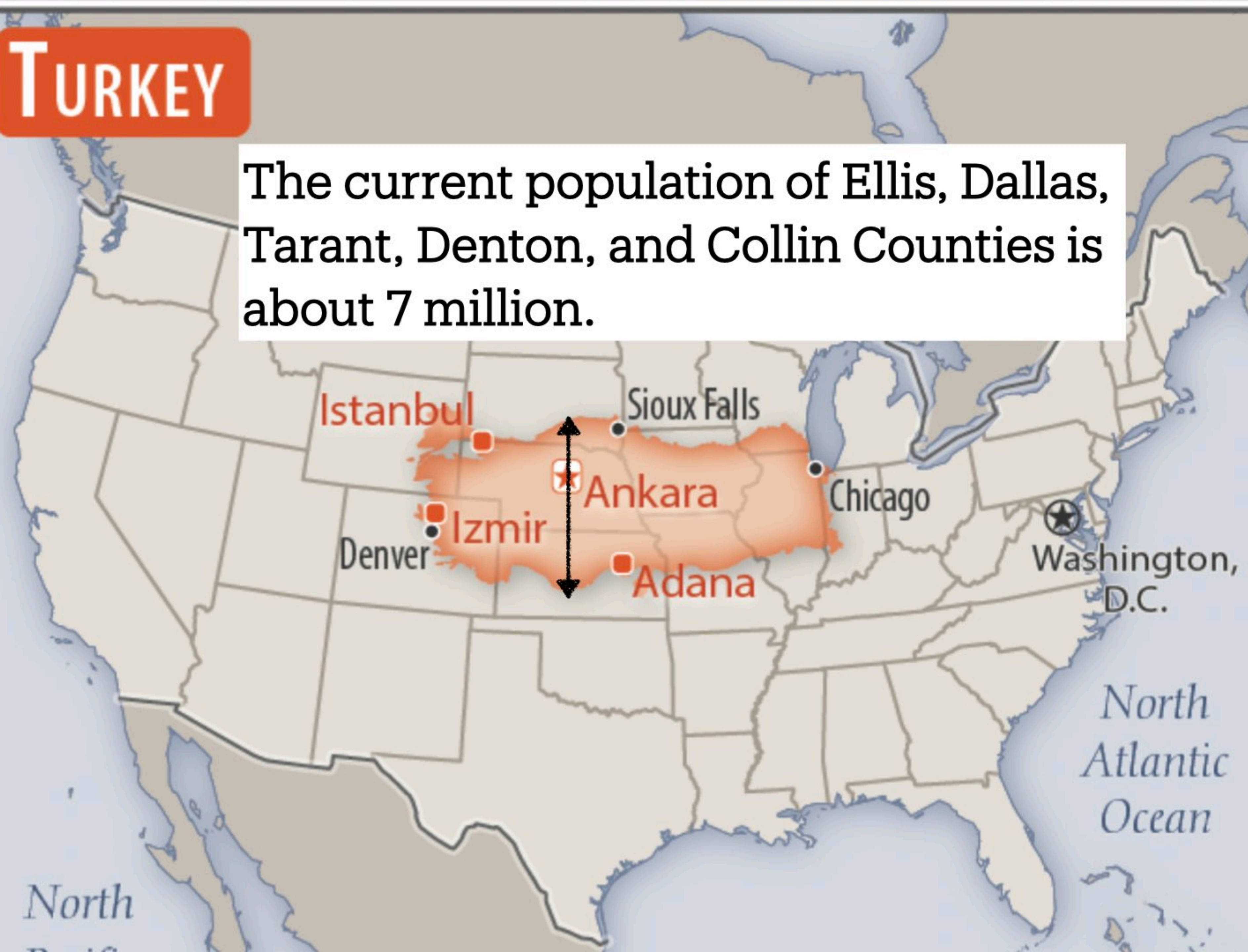




# TURKEY

The current population of Ellis, Dallas, Tarant, Denton, and Collin Counties is about 7 million.

This





# A Case Study: Paul in Ephesus

Romans 15:23-24

But now, since I no longer have any room for work in these regions, and since I have longed for many years to come to you, 24 I hope to see you in passing as I go to Spain, and to be helped on my journey there by you, once I have enjoyed your company for a while.





# PAUL'S JOURNEY TO ROME



So what do we do with this?

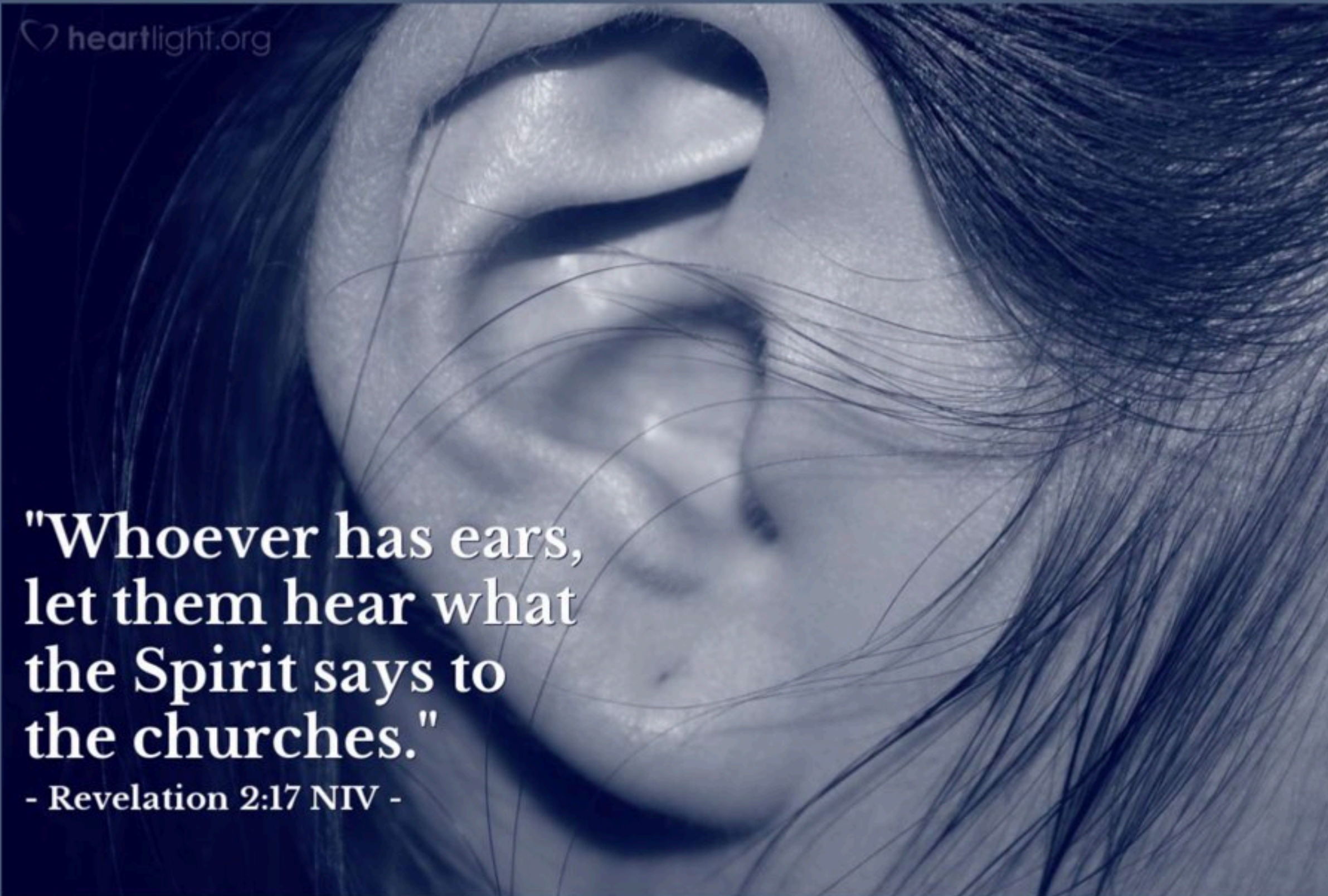


So what do we do with this?

“God, what do you want us to  
know?”

What do you want us to do?”





heartlight.org

"Whoever has ears,  
let them hear what  
the Spirit says to  
the churches."

- Revelation 2:17 NIV -

Luke 24:32

They said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn  
within us while he talked to us on the road, while  
he opened to us the Scriptures?"



So what do we do with this?

GO

Give

Pray



# Who can God use?

Acts 4:13

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus.



## Who can God use?

1 Corinthians 2:1-4

And I, when I came to you, brothers, did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God with lofty speech or wisdom...

And I was with you in weakness and in fear  
and much trembling



# Who can God use?

2 Corinthians 4:7

But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.







