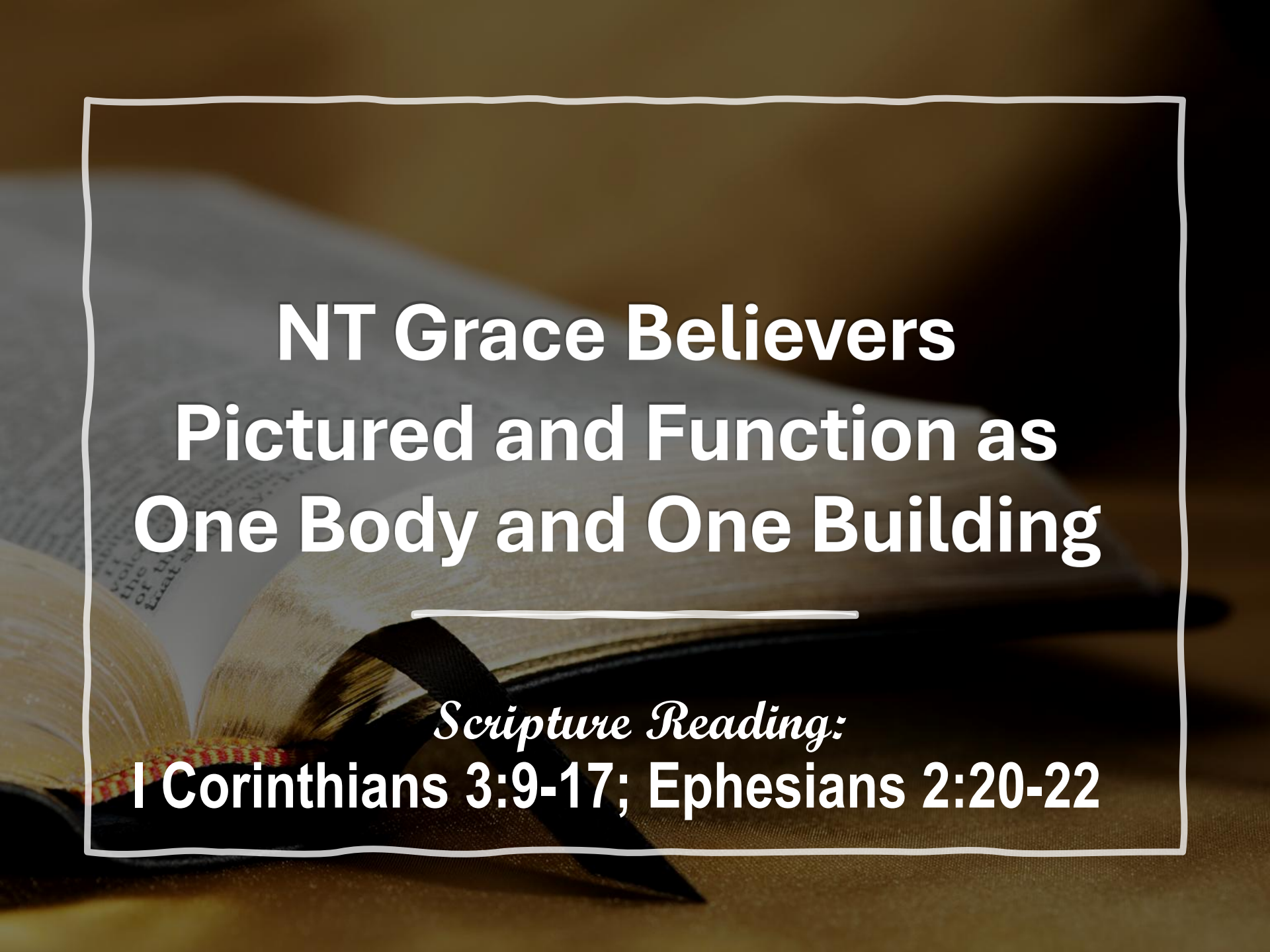


The background of the slide is a photograph of an open book, likely a Bible, with a dark bookmark resting on the pages. The text is overlaid on this image within a white, hand-drawn style rectangular border.

NT Grace Believers Pictured and Function as One Body and One Building

Scripture Reading:
I Corinthians 3:9-17; Ephesians 2:20-22

(Statement by D. Edmund Hiebert on the depth and difficulty of the Ephesian letter “Introduction to the New Testament” Vol. II)

But Ephesians is:

1. Written TO the Church
2. It is FOR the Church
3. Can be understood BY the Church

RECAP

NT grace-believers pictured as THE BODY OF CHRIST

- ***Created in Christ***

- Created in the mind of God by the Holy Spirit baptizing of NT grace believers into Christ – I Cor 12:12,13

- ***Purpose:***

- To build up the Body of Christ by love - Eph 4:15-16, Jn 13:35-36
- To abolish all former disruptive divisions among the members of the Body – Eph 4:15, cf Col 2:14

RECAP

- Therefore, the “body” metaphor emphasizes proper function among the members as they relate properly to the Head of the Body, Jesus Christ

Now, in Ephesians 2:20-22, NT
grace-believers are pictured as a
BUILDING

THE DESCRIPTION OF THIS BUILDING

- **The building site**

- Our heavenly position in Christ – Eph 2:21-22
 - “In Whom” 2x, “In the Lord” 2x

- **The building materials**

- Jesus Christ: the Foundation – I Cor 3:11
- The Cornerstone – Ps 118:22, Isa 28:16, Eph 2:20
- NT grace believers are the **LIVING stones** of this building – Eph 2:20, “you are being built”
 - cf I Pet 2:5, I Cor 3:16 “a temple” (not the temple)

- **The builders**

- NT apostles and prophets – Eph 2:20
 - Paul was a wise master-builder, I Cor 3:10

THE 'MASTER MASON' – THE HOLY SPIRIT

• Eph 2:21-22

- **The exact placement of each believer in this building**
 - Each believer in your immediate surroundings, and those believers known to you in a secondary manner
- **This building is alive and growing**
 - Other individuals are being added to the building through initial salvation, and then proceeding to grow in maturity with the rest of the living stones
- **This building of NT believers is growing into a temple**
 - Grk = “naos” – “the holy of Holies”. All NT grace believers are closer and more intimate with God than even the OT high priest!

CONCLUSION

- THE PURPOSE OF THIS BUILDING:
 - To be a settled dwelling place of God
- Ultimately, God will be settled down in ALL believers at the Rapture of the Church
- The metaphor of the Church being called **The Body of Christ** is used to emphasize the peaceful coordination of the Body members with one another, to build itself up by the means of agape love, thus bringing glory to the Head of the Body, Jesus Christ

CONCLUSION

- The metaphor of the Church being a **Building** is used to emphasize the individual and collective *spiritual growth* of each and all “living stone”, unto a permanent, settled dwelling place for God
 - In our POSITION IN CHRIST, this is already a reality
 - In our PRACTICE here on Earth, this is an on-going growth experience