



# THE ANATOMY OF A THRIVING CHURCH:

Moving from Survival Mode to  
FLOURISHING

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SURVIVING AND THRIVING?

## SURVIVING

- What's necessary to exist?
- Satisfied
- Day-to-Day focused
- Life seen through limitations
- Often characterized by worry
- Coping

## THRIVING

- What's necessary to grow?
- Progressively content
- Future-oriented
- Life seen through possibilities
- Often characterized by trust
- Flourishing

# THE PROBLEM

Just like people, churches can fall into unhealthy patterns of survival mode that do not promote vitality and growth.

WHAT PRECIPITATES

“SURVIVAL MODE?”

# THE FOUR "T'S" OF SURVIVAL MODE




1. TRAUMA
2. TRANSITION
3. TRADITION
4. TROUBLE

# PICTURE OF A THRIVING CHURCH

## EPHESIANS 4:14-16

<sup>14</sup> We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming; <sup>15</sup> but speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, <sup>16</sup> from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.



**OBSERVATION -  
WHAT DOES THE  
TEXT SAY?**

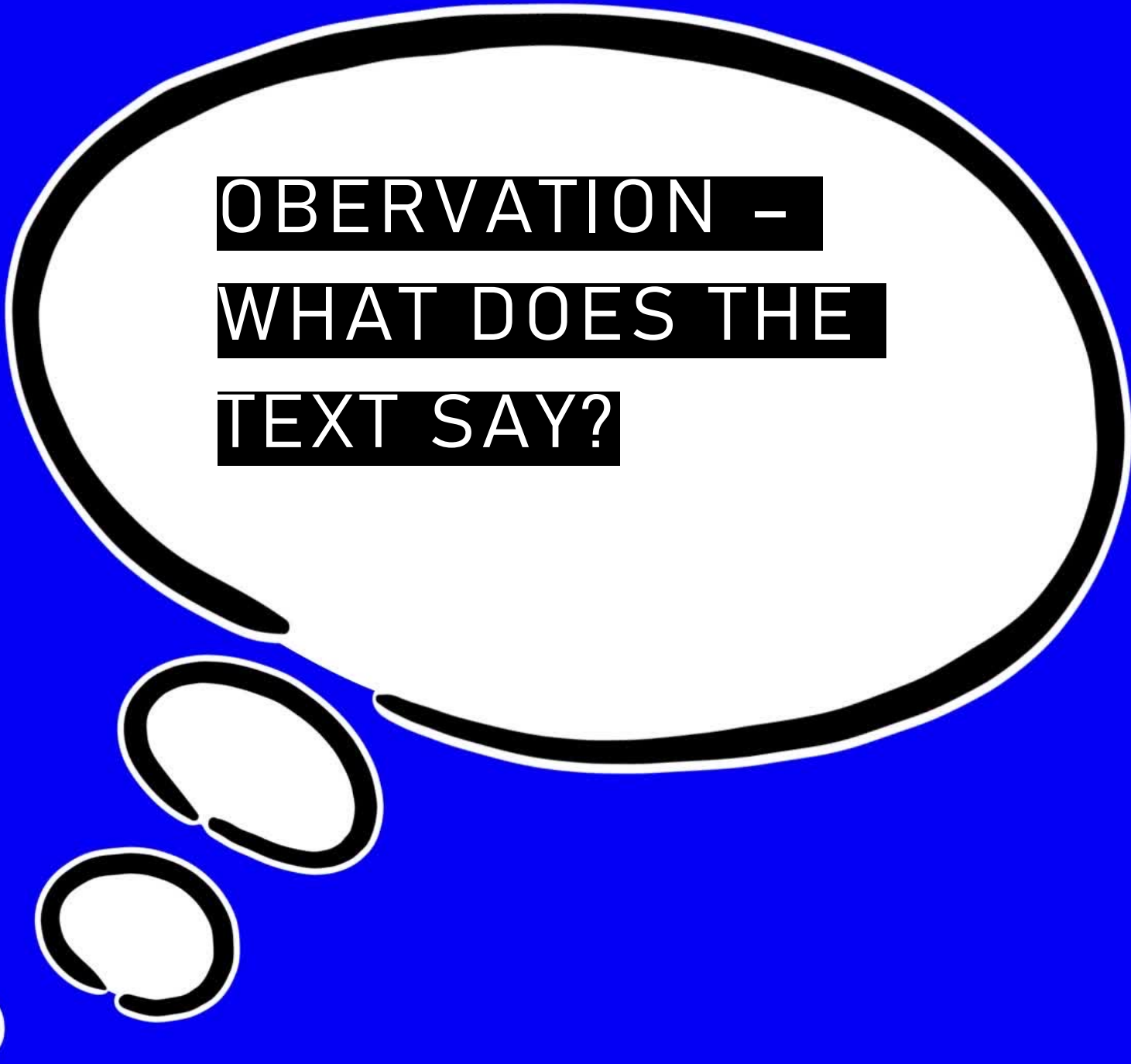
## Background

Location: Ephesus

Date: 58-59; 7-90 AD

Author: Paul (?)

Purpose: God's plan to unite believers through Jesus Christ.



**OBSERVATION –  
WHAT DOES THE  
TEXT SAY?**

Background

Key Themes:

Unity, Death and Resurrection of Jesus, New Life, Holy Spirit, Church as family of God.



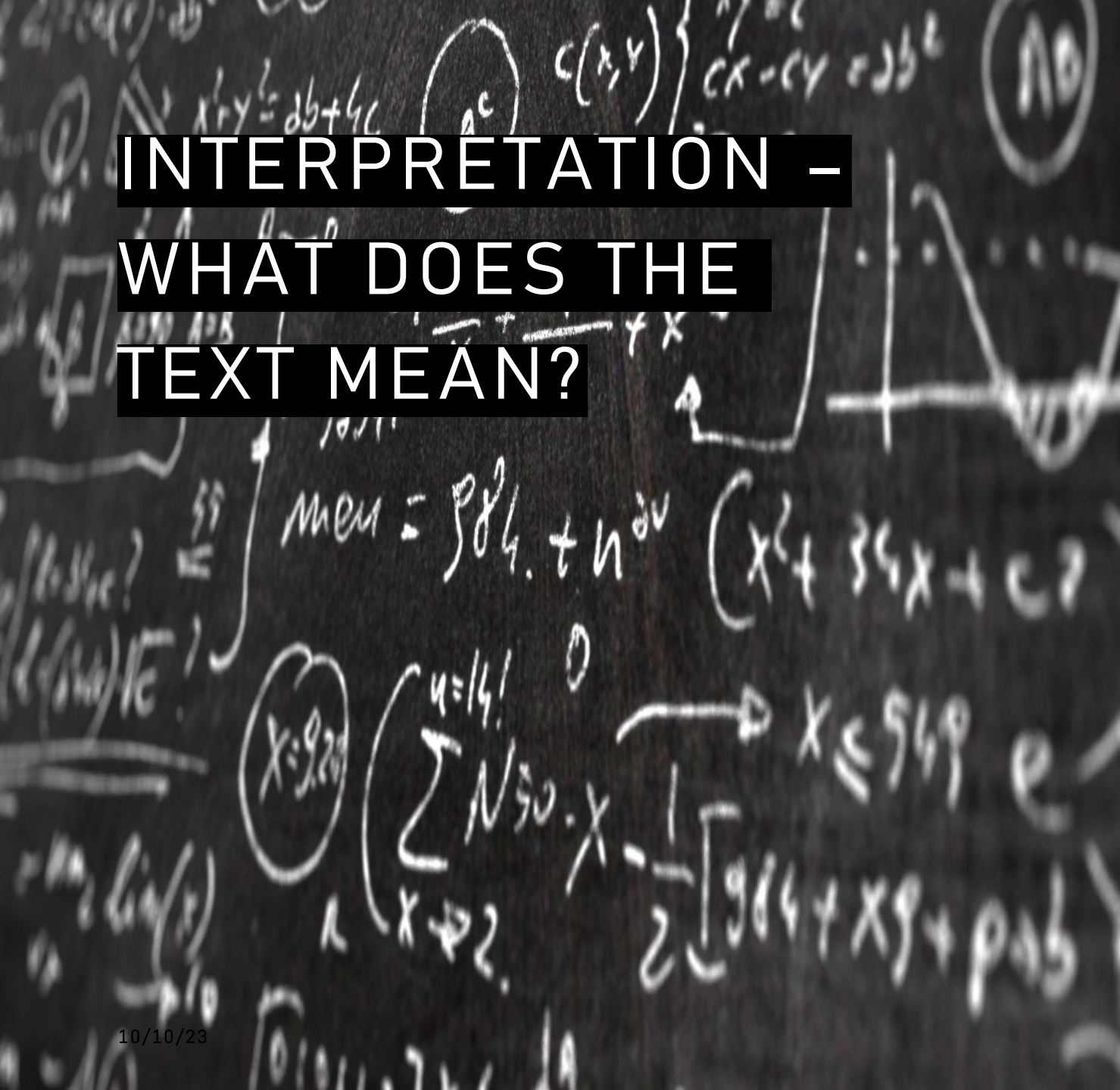


OBSERVATION

- WHAT DOES

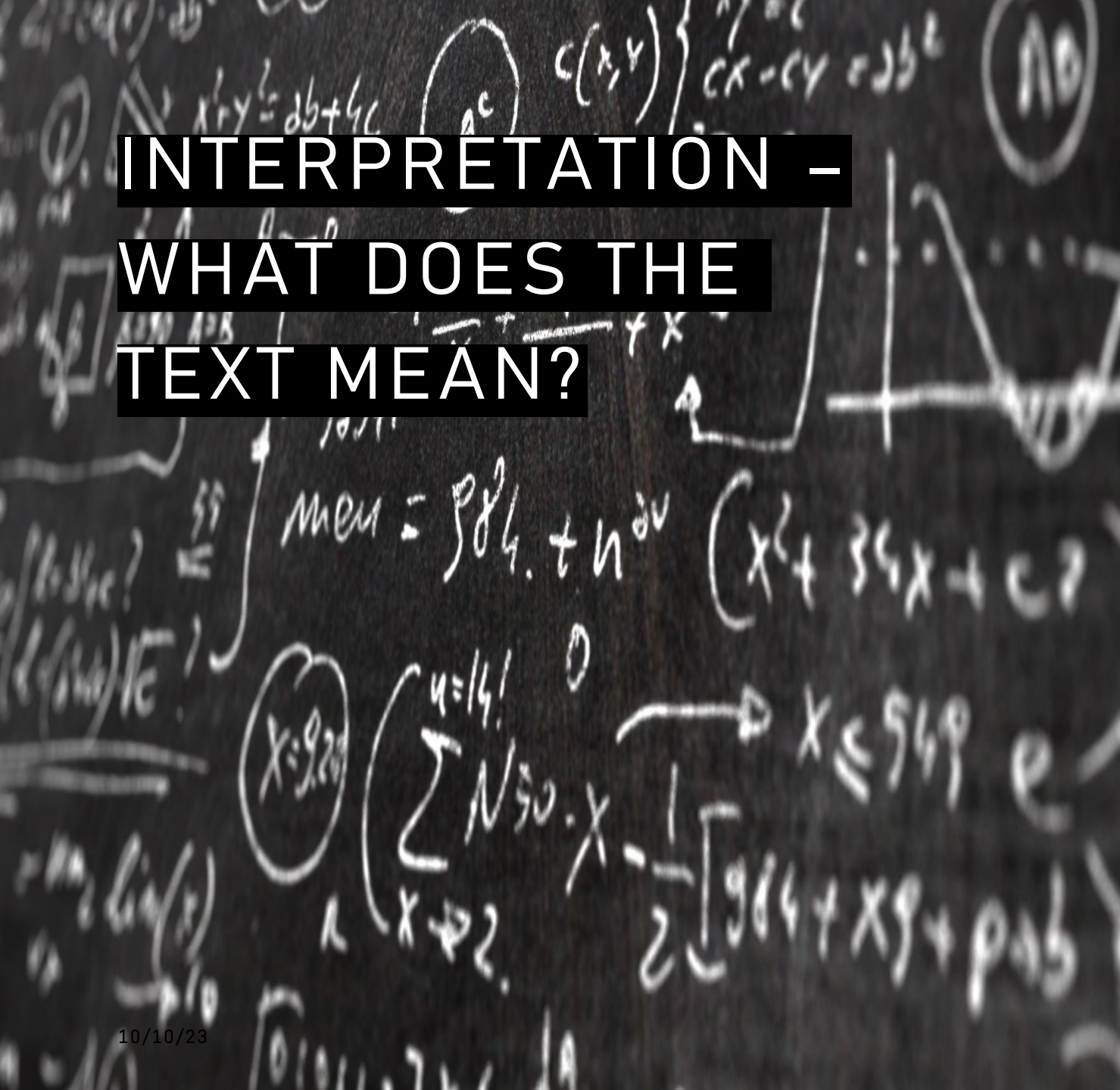
THE TEXT SAY?

- “we must grow” (v. 15); “promotes the body’s growth” (v. 16). = The growth of the Church is not inevitable; we can grow or remain stagnant depending on our choices.
- “as each part is working properly” (v. 16) = The health of the Church is best measured collectively.



# INTERPRETATION - WHAT DOES THE TEXT MEAN?

- V. 14 – Our spiritual maturity as individual believers is related to the health of our spiritual community [The Church].



**INTERPRETATION -  
WHAT DOES THE  
TEXT MEAN?**

- V. 15 – God’s Church is constantly working to maintain health. A Church of health is not a location; it is a reality.

*I am responsible for my church's ability to thrive. Therefore, I must examine my actions, attitudes, and approach as I take an active role in creating my church's health.*



APPLICATION -  
WHAT DOES THE  
PASSAGE MEAN  
FOR US?

# AUTOPSY OF A DYING CHURCH

1. The past is all there is. The past is all there will be.
2. The church refused to look like the community.
3. The budget is internally focused.
4. Reaching people takes a back seat to keeping people.
5. Preference is most important.
6. Toxic culture for Pastor.

# AUTOPSY OF A DYING CHURCH

7. Stopped praying TOGETHER.
8. Lacked clear purpose.
9. The "Idol of Image." – *"Brand before mission."*
10. Church refused to reflect.
11. Unaddressed cultural trauma and/or toxicity.

QUESTIONS

