



RESPONSIVE

2 Corinthians

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
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Hi!

OPEN



CLOSED



God is not apathetic about you.



How can you
be responsive
to God's heart for you?



Background to 2 Corinthians

2 Corinthians was written in AD 56



Divorce (7)

Gifts (12-14)

What was the
early church *really*
like?

1 Corinthians

Idolatry (8-10)

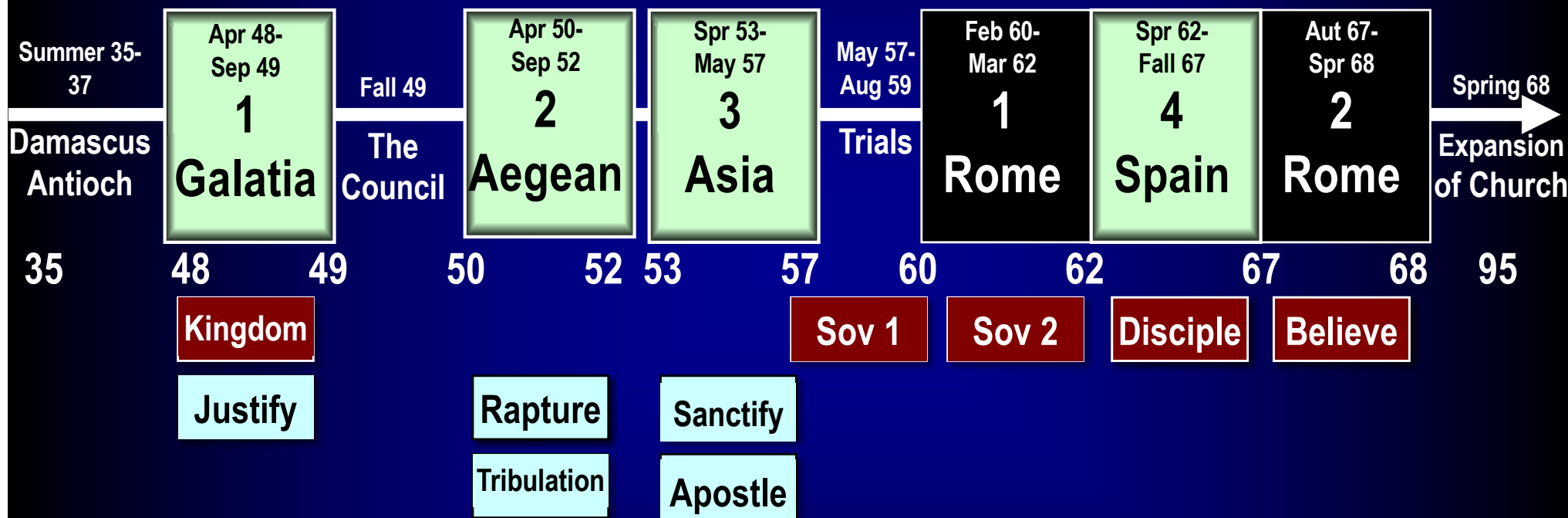
Incest (5)

NT Overview (Missionary Key Words)

38
124
39-41

"To the remotest part of the earth" (Acts 1:8)

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



Gospels & Acts

Pauline Epistles

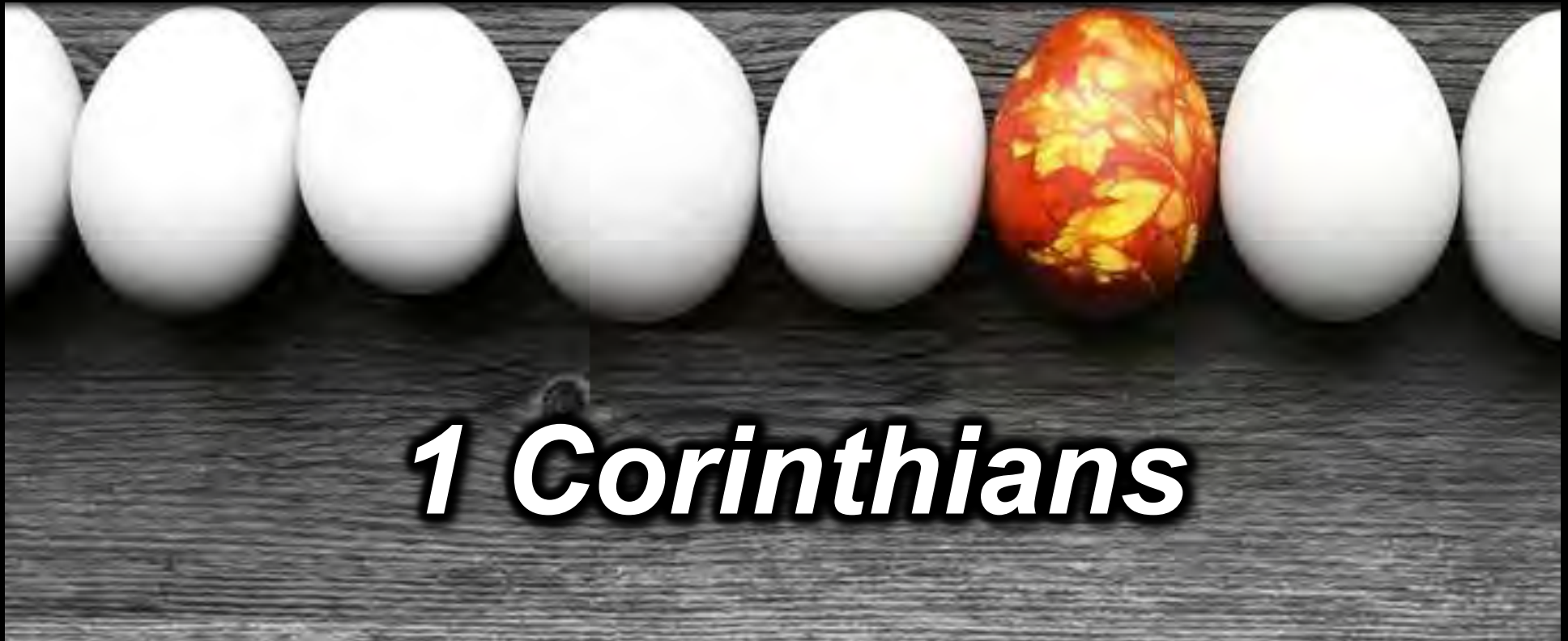
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Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments

Be Different



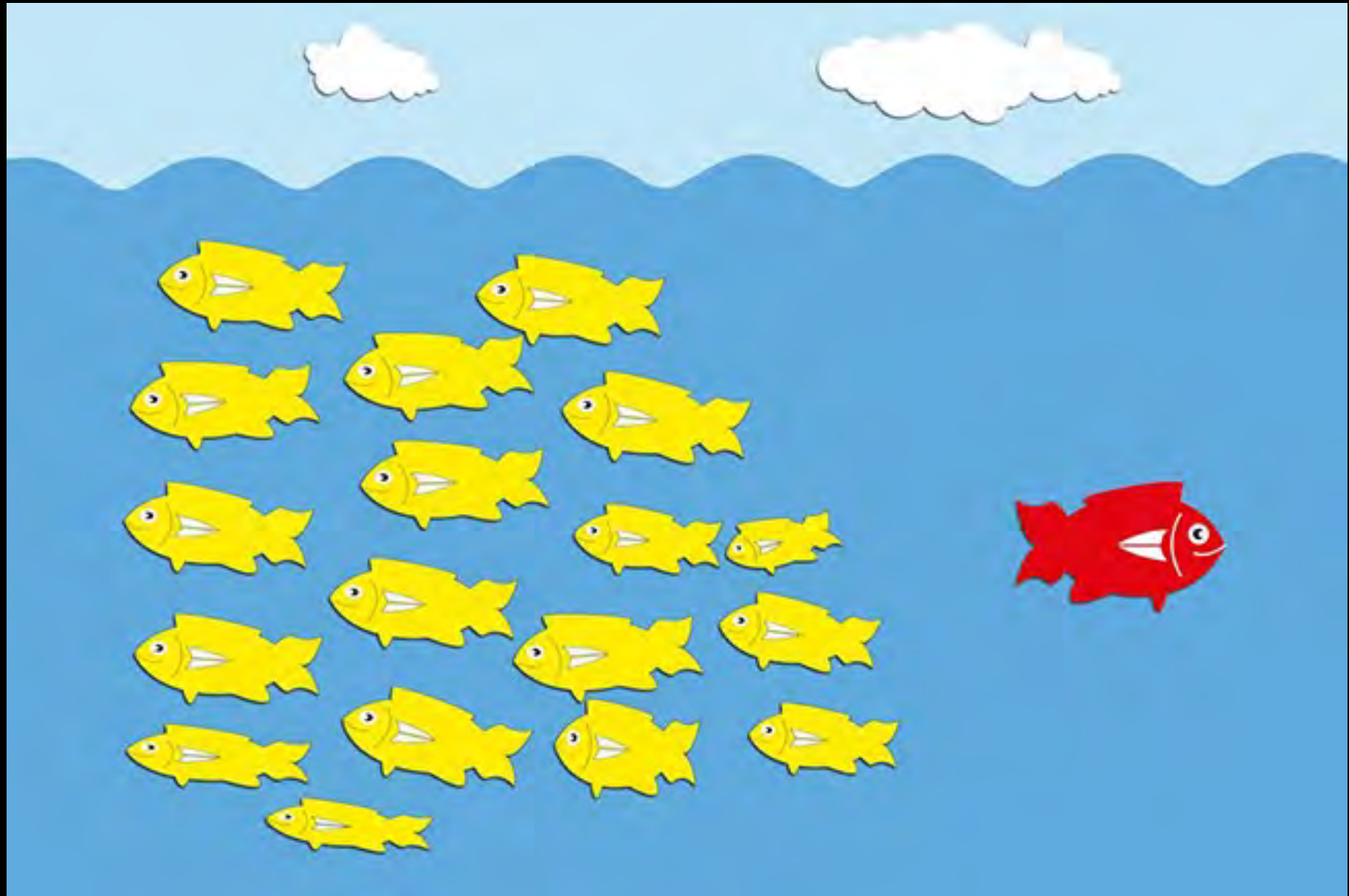
1 Corinthians

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Herd Mentality



Be Different



A field of numerous white paper airplanes scattered across a dark, textured ground. One red paper airplane is positioned in the upper left quadrant, pointing towards the center. A red line extends from the tail of this red airplane, passing through the text below. The background transitions from dark grey to a blue gradient on the right side.

How should we
be **different**
from unbelievers?

How should we...

**BE
UNITED**
(1–4)

**BE
MORAL**
(5–6)

**BE
DIFFERENT**

**BE
SELFLESS**
(7–16)

1 Corinthians


...from unbelievers?



Main Idea

**Be different by being
united, moral and selfless**

1 Corinthians

A large crowd of grey 3D human figures is shown from a high angle. In the center of the crowd, one figure is colored red and stands out. This red figure has its right arm raised, pointing upwards. A soft, circular red glow emanates from the base of the red figure, highlighting its position in the middle of the group. The figures are all stylized, with simple lines for limbs and heads.

**Sanctified = “Set apart by God
as His possession”**

Do you live like this?

Review of 1 Corinthians

157

Date

- 1 Corinthians was written in May AD 56 (1 Cor. 16:5-8).
- 2 Corinthians was written less than a year after 1 Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:10; 9:2).
- 2 Corinthians followed later that year in fall AD 56.

**Destination:
Corinth**

**Origin:
Ephesus**

Origin/Recipients
Paul addressed the church at Corinth from the city of Ephesus across the Aegean Sea

2 Corinthians Context

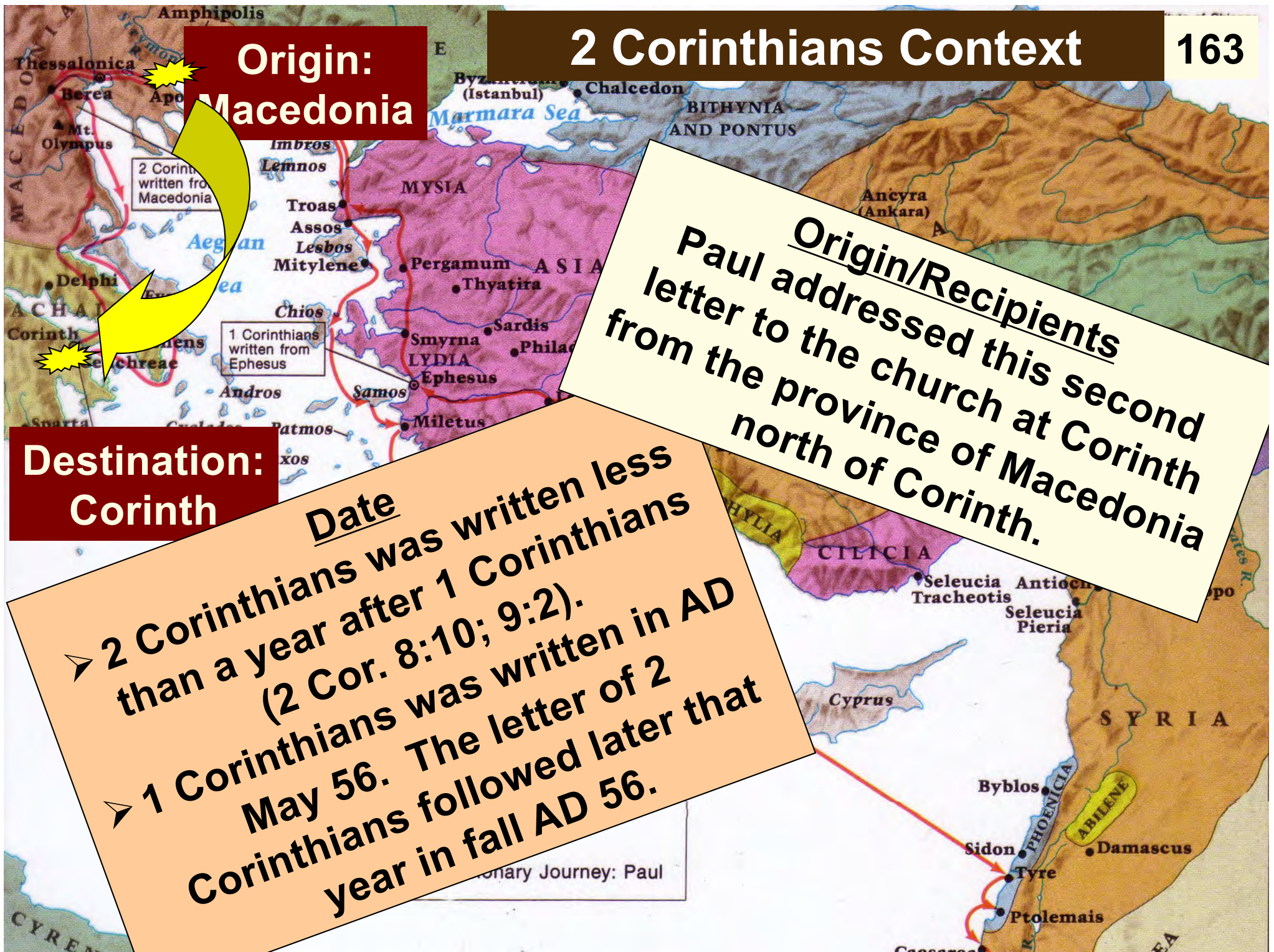
163

**Origin:
Macedonia**

**Destination:
Corinth**

Origin/Recipients
Paul addressed this second letter to the church at Corinth from the province of Macedonia north of Corinth.

- Date
- 2 Corinthians was written less than a year after 1 Corinthians (2 Cor. 8:10; 9:2).
 - 1 Corinthians was written in AD May 56. The letter of 2 Corinthians followed later that year in fall AD 56.



How can you
be responsive
to God's heart for you?

3 ways



Open your heart to...

your **leaders**
(1-7)

2 Corinthians



**Corinth should open their
hearts to Paul since God cared
for them through him
(2 Cor 1–7).**

2 Corinthians 1

Suffering



2 Cor. 1:1-11

2 Corinthians 2

SUFFERING

- *Paul's Suffering*
- *Paul's Attitude Toward Suffering*
- *Christ's Experience*



- C
- H



2 Corinthians 3

Contrasting the Covenants (2 Cor. 3-4)

Old Covenant

New Covenant

166c

initiated by Moses (3:8)

initiated by Christ (3:4)

of the letter (3:6a)

of the Spirit (3:6a, 18b)

kills (3:6b, 7a)

gives life (3:6b)

engraved on stone (3:3b, 7a)

engraved on hearts (3:3b; Jer. 31:33)

glorious (3:7a)

more glorious (3:8, 10)

glory faded (3:7b, 11a, 13b)

glory ever-increases (3:11b, 18)

condemns men (3:9a)

brings righteousness (3:9b)

deception (3:13)

boldness (3:12)

veiled face of Moses (3:13b)

unveiled faces (3:13a, 18a)

veiled minds (3:14a)

unveiled minds (3:14b; 4:3-6)

veiled hearts (3:15)

unveiled hearts (3:16)

dullness (3:14a)

freedom (3:17)

Moses reflected God's glory

all believers reflect Son's glory (3:17)

non-transforming (3:7)

transforming (3:18)

lack of zeal (3:13)

confidence, steadfastness (3:4-5; 4:1)

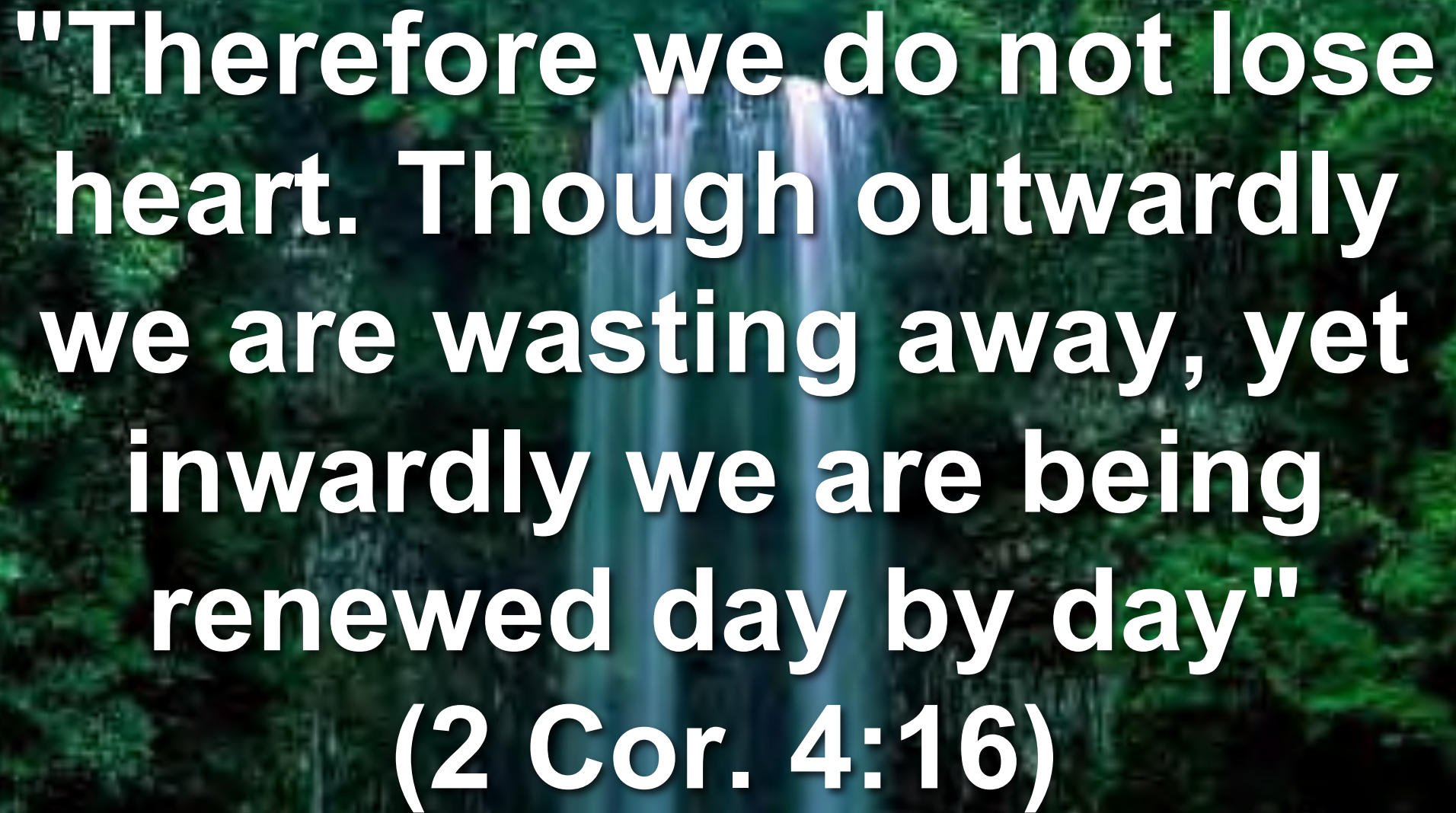
deception (3:13)

sincerity (4:2)

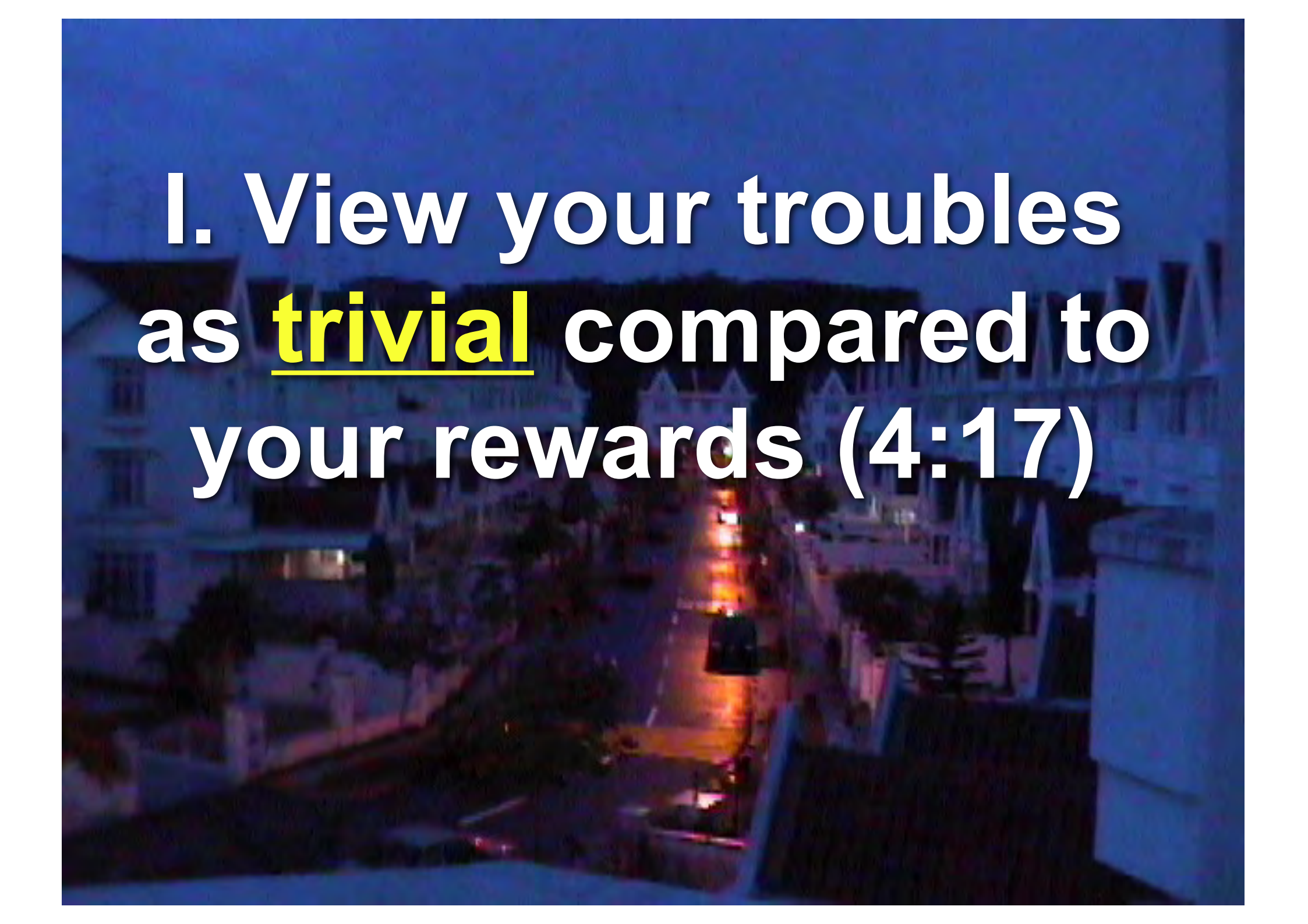
2 Corinthians 4

A person with long, light-colored hair is shown from the chest up, looking down and slightly to the left. They are wearing a dark, sleeveless top. The background is dark, with a bright green light source on the left side, creating a strong glow and casting shadows. A small, colorful light (red, yellow, green) is visible on the left side of the frame. A dark red rectangular box is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

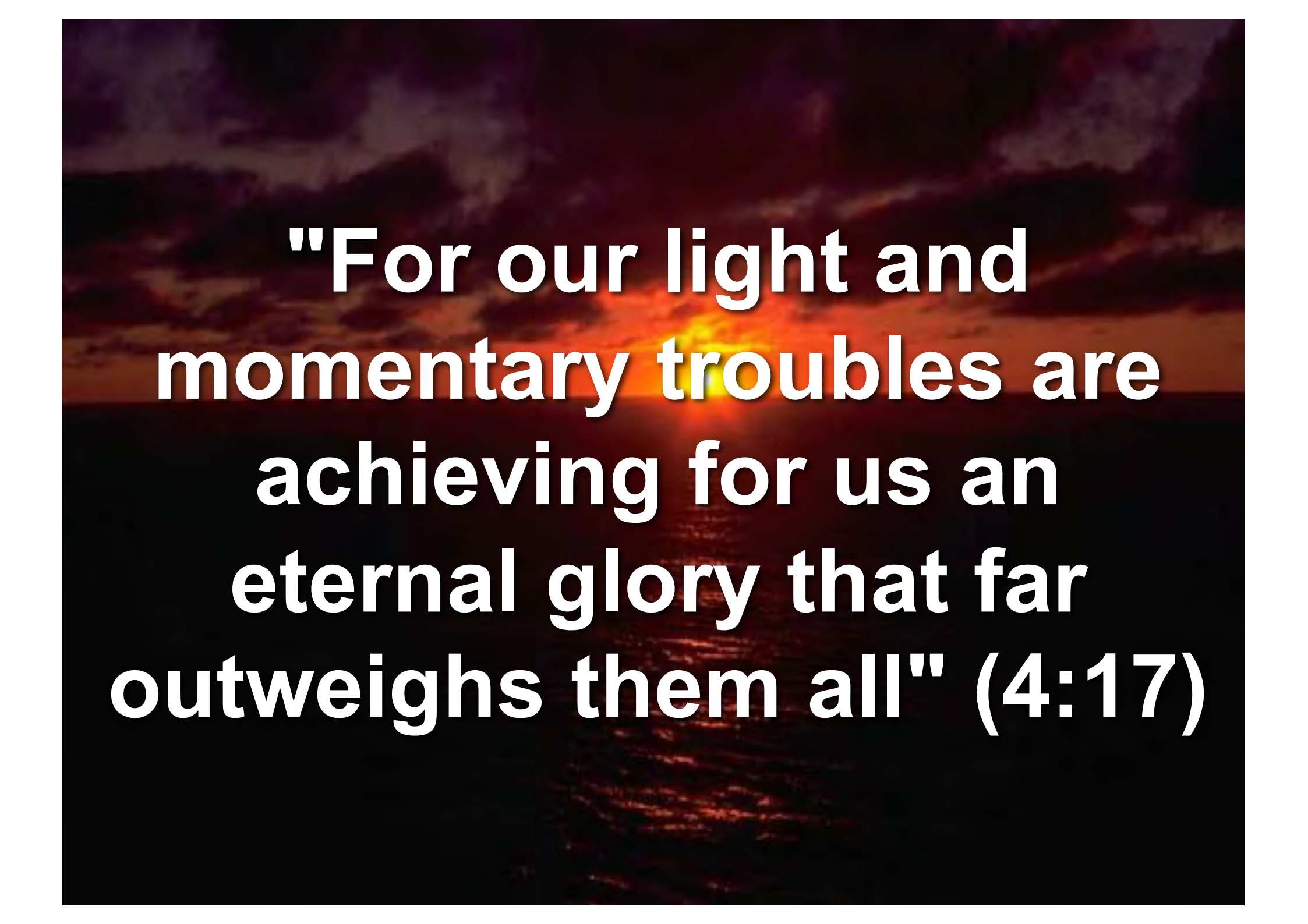
Was Paul discouraged?

A lush green forest with a waterfall in the background. The text is overlaid on the image.

"Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day"
(2 Cor. 4:16)

A night photograph of a city street, likely San Francisco, showing a row of houses and a brightly lit path leading into the distance. The text is overlaid on the image.

I. View your troubles
as trivial compared to
your rewards (4:17)

The background of the image is a dramatic sunset or sunrise. A bright, glowing sun is partially obscured by dark, silhouetted clouds. The light from the sun reflects on the surface of the water, creating a shimmering path of light. The overall color palette is dominated by deep blues, purples, and oranges, with the bright white of the text providing a strong contrast.

**"For our light and
momentary troubles are
achieving for us an
eternal glory that far
outweighs them all" (4:17)**

II. Focus on
invisible,
eternal
realities
(4:18)



See the invisible!

***"So we fix our eyes
not on what is **seen**,
but on what is **unseen**.
For what is **seen is temporary**,
but what is **unseen is eternal**"
(2 Corinthians 4:18)***

What is eternal?

1. God

2. God's Word

3. Souls of People



2 Corinthians 5

**We will put away
"this present tent"
(2 Cor. 5:1)**



New bodies



Duncan Long

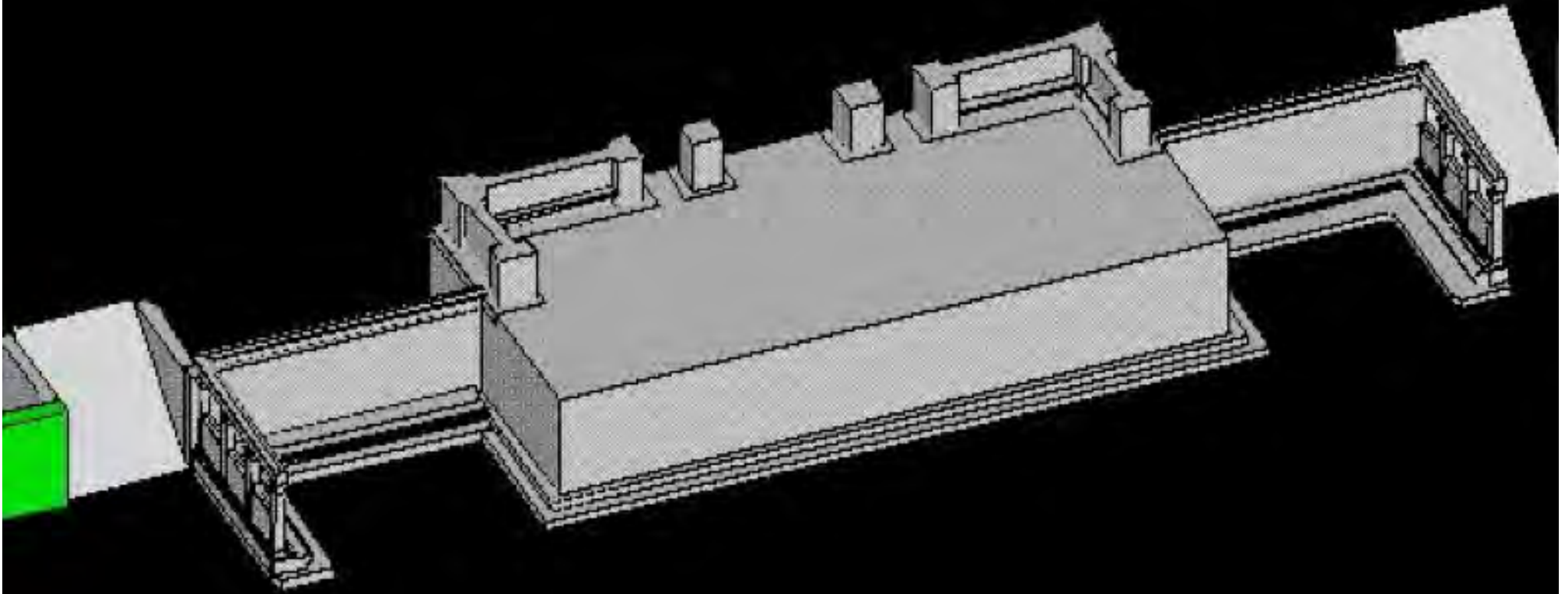


THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

*Is this a judgment to
determine salvation?*

Or is it to reward believers?

Bema Close-up



“So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. ¹⁰For **we must all appear before the judgment seat [bema] of Christ**, that each one may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (2 Cor. 5:9-10 NIV).

The Bema is a Reward Seat



The background of the slide is a textured, light orange surface. On the left side, there are two large, stylized fingerprints. The top fingerprint is colored with a gradient from red at the top to orange and then black at the bottom. The bottom fingerprint is colored with a gradient from blue at the bottom to green and then black at the top. Both fingerprints are oriented vertically, with the ridges running from top to bottom.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ
he is a new creation.**

**The old has passed away;
Behold, the new has come.**

2 Corinthians 6

**"I am asking you to respond as if
you were my own children. Open
your hearts to us!"
(2 Cor 6:13 NLT).**



What does 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1 mean?

"Don't team up with those who are unbelievers. How can righteousness be a partner with wickedness? How can light live with darkness? ¹⁵What harmony can there be between Christ and the devil? How can a believer be a partner with an unbeliever? ¹⁶And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God."

What does 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1 mean?

"As God said:

**'I will live in them
and walk among them.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.**

**¹⁷Therefore, come out from among
unbelievers, and separate yourselves
from them, says the Lord'**

(2 Cor. 6:16b-17)

What does 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1 mean?

**"Don't touch their filthy things,
and I will welcome you. ¹⁸And I will be
your Father, and you will be my sons
and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."**

**¹Because we have these promises, dear
friends, let us cleanse ourselves from
everything that can defile our body or
spirit. And let us work toward complete
holiness because we fear God"**

(2 Cor. 6:17b–7:1)

What does 2 Cor. 6:14–7:1 mean?

"The direct commands to *separate* from other people are always commands to separate *from unbelievers*, not from Christians with whom one disagrees... There are no direct New Testament commands to separate from Christians with whom one has doctrinal differences (unless those differences involve such serious heresies that the Christian faith itself is denied)."

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 877



2 Corinthians 7

"Because we have these promises, dear friends, let us cleanse ourselves from everything that can defile our body or spirit. And let us work toward complete holiness because we fear God. ² Please open your hearts to us. We have not done wrong to anyone, nor led anyone astray, nor taken advantage of anyone" (2 Cor 7:1-2 NLT).

**“I’m not saying this to
condemn you. I said before
that **you are in our hearts,
and we live or die together
with you.** ⁴I have the
highest confidence in you,
and I take great pride in you.
You have greatly
encouraged me and made
me happy despite all our
troubles”
(2 Cor 7:3-4 NLT).**

**We should encourage our
spiritual leaders also.**



How can you
be responsive
to God's heart for you?



Open your heart to...

your **leaders**

(1–7)

those in **need**

(8–9)

2 Corinthians

**Corinth should respond to
God's care by giving to the
Jerusalem saints
(2 Cor 8–9).**

2 Corinthians 8

A Revealing Checkbook...





Ron Blue on faking...

"You can't fake stewardship. Your checkbook reveals all you really believe about stewardship...your goals, priorities, convictions, relationships, and even the use of your time. A person who has been a Christian even for a short while can fake prayer, Bible study, evangelism, going to church, and so on, but he can't fake what his checkbook reveals"

(Ron Blue, *Master Your Money*, 20)

"Rich" in 2 Corinthians 8-9



Paul redefines true wealth

The Macedonians gave way beyond what their means could support (8:1-3a)

"¹And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. ²Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. ³For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."

Another example of generosity...

Christ also gave sacrificially by laying aside His rights as God to become human (8:8-9).

I am not commanding you, but I want to test the sincerity of your love by comparing it with the earnestness of others. ⁹For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that you through his poverty might become rich.

The Three Principles

Procrastination
Proportion
Purpose



What if Jesus saw **your**
chequebook?

DATE	AMOUNT	TRANSACTION DESCRIPTION	MARK
10/3	8/1	Geoff	
8/30	8/30	Amex Payoff!	★
8/30	8/30	DiscoverCard #1	★
8/30	8/30	DiscoverCard #2	★
8/30	8/30	Panda Express	★
8/30	8/30	Fynn	

Life



Finances



Forgiveness



Generosity

If I knew the exact amount God wanted me to give, would I give it?

2 Corinthians 9

Sowing Lessons

2 Corinthians 9:6-15



Two questions on giving:



2 Corinthians 9:6

How **much**?

- Key Principle

What **results**?

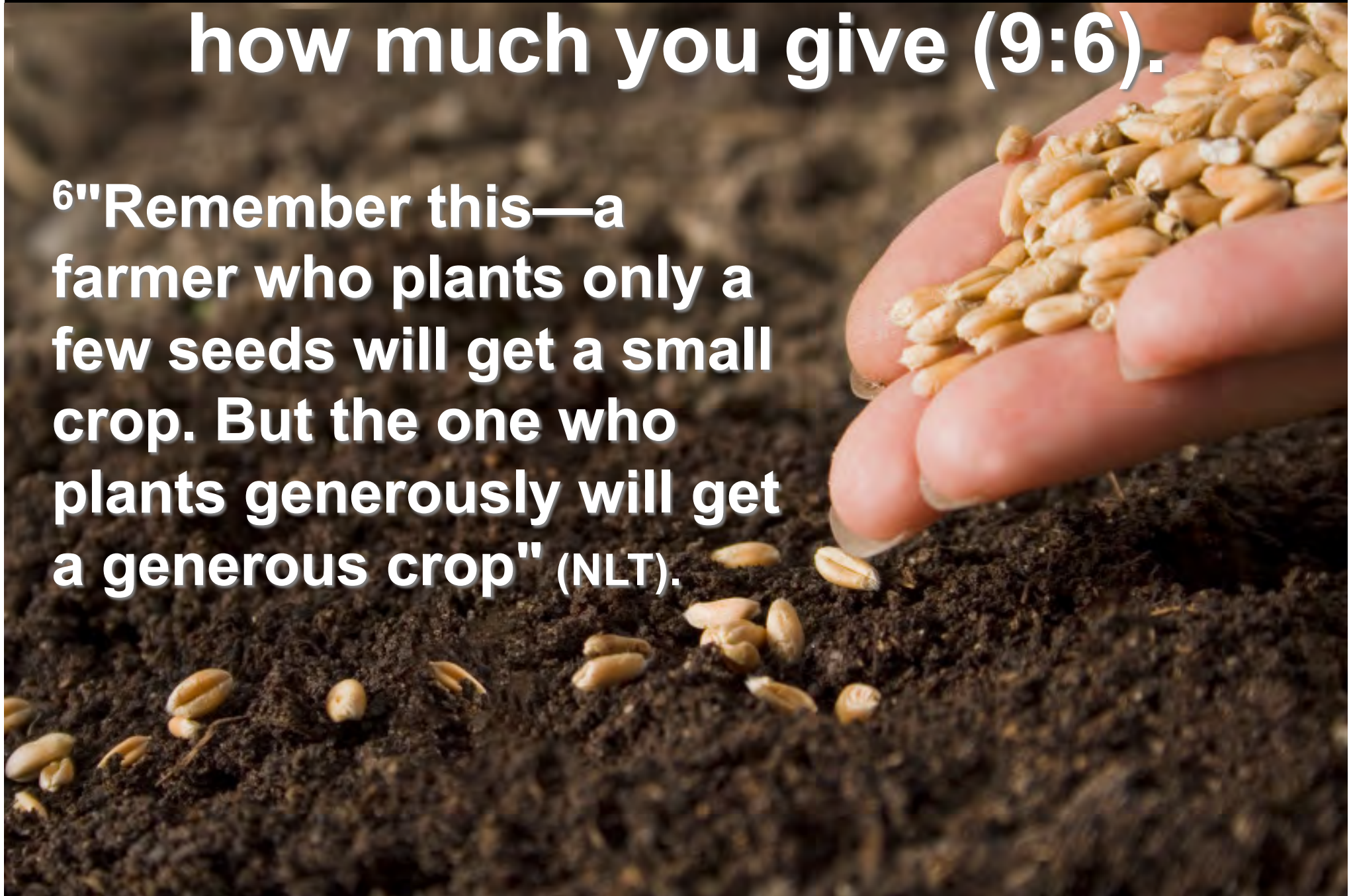
- Benefits

I. **Principle**: You decide how much you want to get blessed (9:6-7a).



A. God blesses you according to how much you give (9:6).

6"Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop" (NLT).



Rule #1 of Agriculture...

**Plant little, harvest little
Plant much, harvest much**

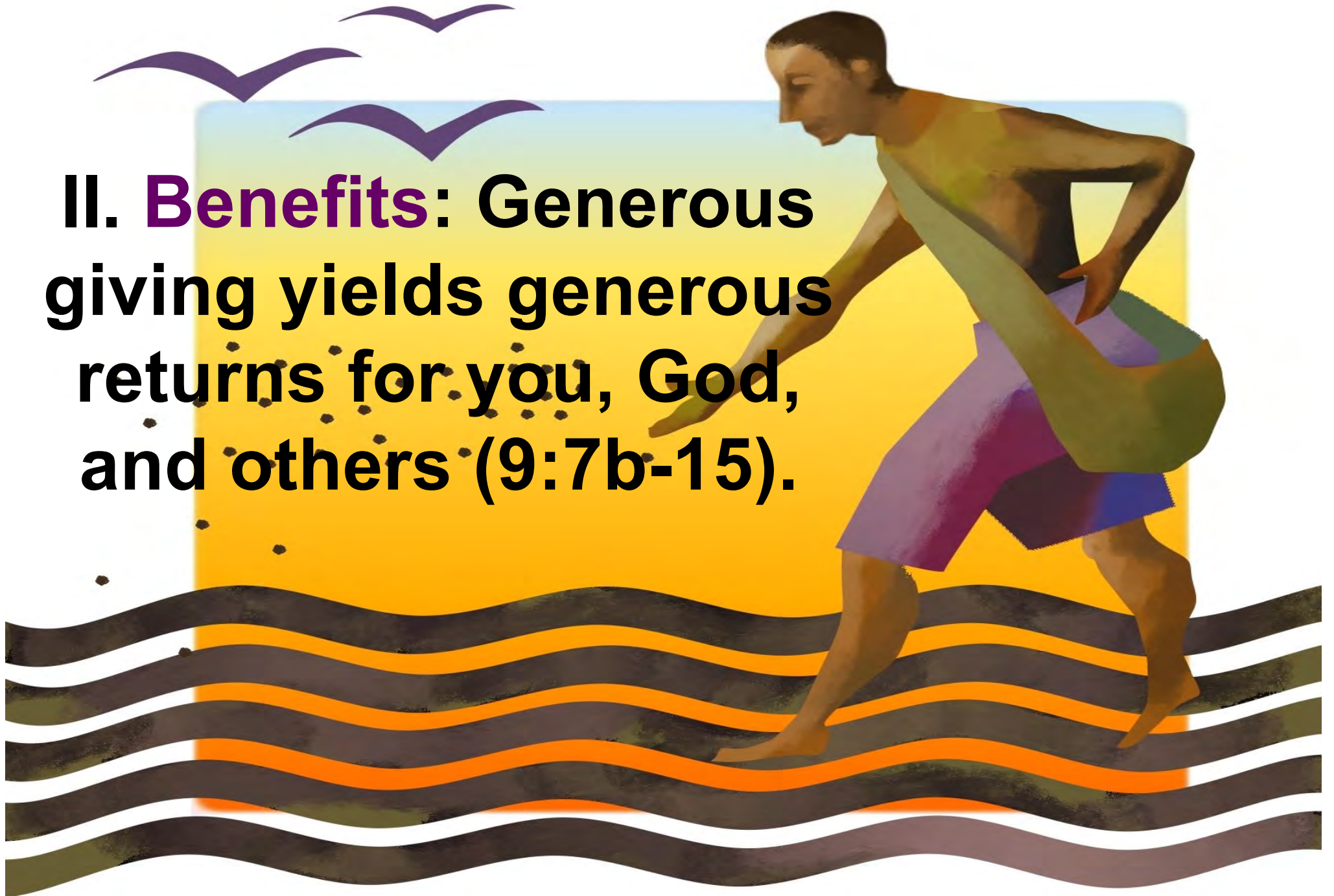


B. How much you give is a personal decision (9:7a).

⁷ **You must each decide** in your heart how much to give (NLT).



II. Benefits: Generous giving yields generous returns for you, God, and others (9:7b-15).





OPEN YOUR HEART

TO THE HUNGRY
AND HOMELESS

2 Corinthians 10

Open your heart to...

your **leaders**

(1–7)

God

(10–13)

those in **need**

(8–9)

2 Corinthians

**Corinth should respond to
God's care by submitting to
his authority
(2 Cor 10–13).**

"Now I, Paul, appeal to you with the gentleness and kindness of Christ—though I realize you think I am timid in person and bold only when I write from far away. ²Well, I am begging you now so that when I come I won't have to be bold with those who think we act from human motives" (2 Cor 10:1-2 NLT).

2 Corinthians 11

Paul's Sacrifices...

2 Corinthians 11:23-28 I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been **flogged** more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the **forty lashes minus one**. ²⁵Three times I was **beaten with rods**, once I was **stoned**, three times I was **shipwrecked**, I spent a night and a day **in the open sea**, ²⁶I have been constantly **on the move**. I have been in danger from **rivers**, in danger from **bandits**, in danger from my own

Paul's Sacrifices...

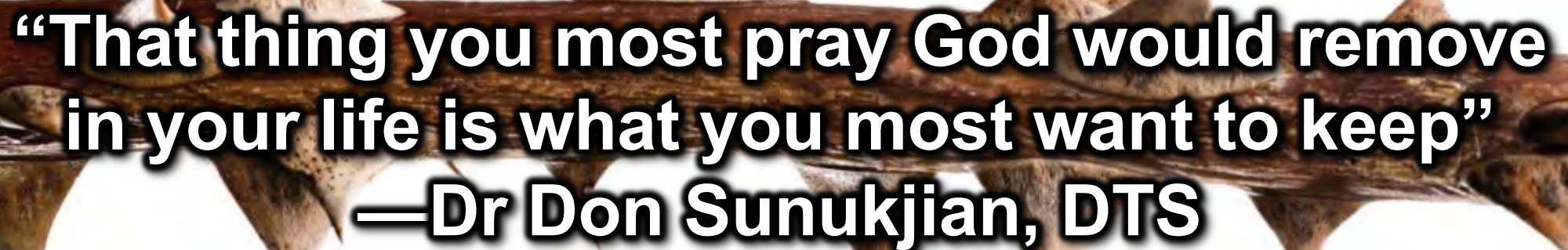
countrymen, in danger from **Gentiles**; in danger in the **city**, in danger in the **country**, in danger at **sea**; and in danger from **false brothers**. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone **without sleep**; I have known **hunger** and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been **cold and naked**. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my **concern for all the churches**.

2 Corinthians 12

“This boasting will do no good, but I must go on. I will reluctantly tell about visions and revelations from the Lord. ²I was caught up to the third heaven fourteen years ago. Whether I was in my body or out of my body, I don’t know—only God knows. ³Yes, only God knows whether I was in my body or outside my body. But I do know ⁴that I was caught up to paradise and heard things so astounding that they cannot be expressed in words, things no human is allowed to tell”

(2 Cor 12:1-4 NLT).

PAUL'S **THORN** IN THE FLESH



**“That thing you most pray God would remove
in your life is what you most want to keep”
—Dr Don Sunukjian, DTS**

**“My grace is sufficient for you,
for my power is made perfect in weakness.”
—Jesus (2 Cor 12:9a)**

Thorn in The Flesh

- *Meaning of Thorn*
- *What does these "thorn" refer to?*
 - i. *Spiritual Harassment*
 - ii. *Persecution*
 - iii. *Physical Ailment*
- *Lessons from Paul*



2 Corinthians 13

**“May the grace of the Lord Jesus
Christ, the love of God, and the
fellowship of the Holy Spirit be
with you all”**

(2 Cor 13:14 NLT)

**Do you offer your life to God
with open hands and heart?**



How can you
be responsive
to God's heart for you?



Open your heart to...

your **leaders**

(1–7)

God

(10–13)

the **needy**

(8–9)

Main Idea of 2 Corinthians



Open your heart to...

your **leaders**

(1–7)

God

(10–13)

those in **need**

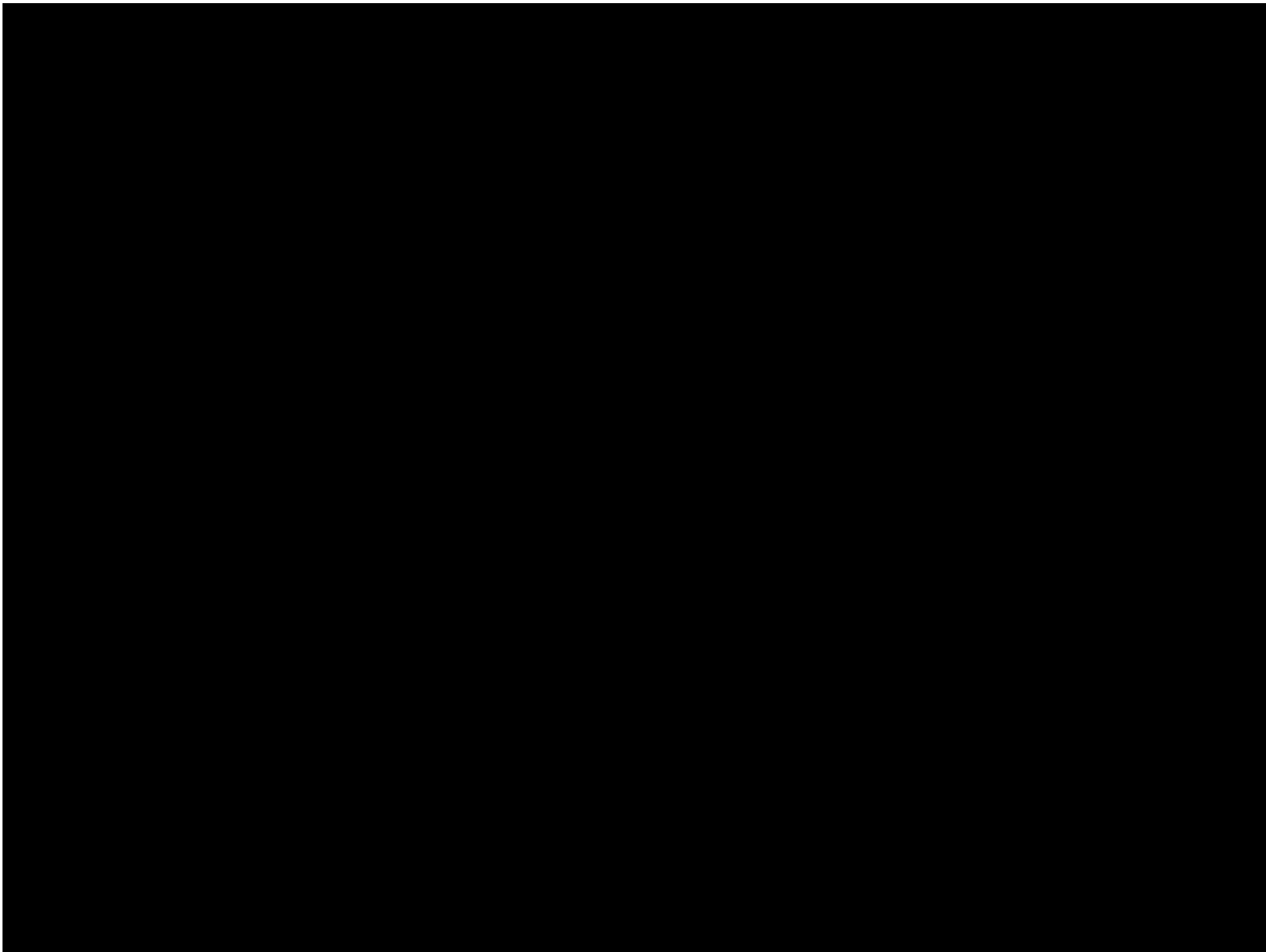
(8–9)

Which relates most to you?

I can best open my heart to God by...



Applying 2 Corinthians



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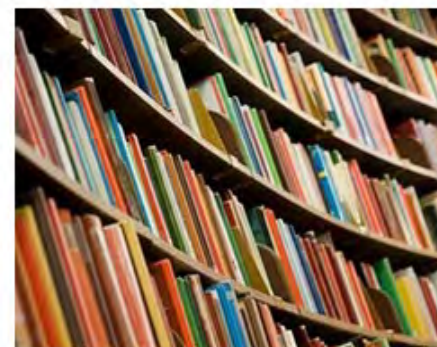


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A large background image for the main banner showing a close-up of a person's hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. The book has a small gold cross emblem on the front cover.

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