

Be Protected



Colossians

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore
BibleStudyDownloads.org

False Teachers Deny the Deity and Work of Christ



False Teaching



"The 'American Family In Crises Research' by the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life uncovered some disturbing facts. Of the children raised in evangelical homes, 88% leave the church at age 18 and never return."

Pastor's Weekly Briefing, Focus on the Family, 26 July 2002, quoted in Gary Foster, The Foster Letter, 10 Aug. 2002, p. 1.

general books

Already Gone

by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer,
with Todd Hillard



answersingenesis.org

False Teaching



False Teaching



Be Protected

How can you be **protected**
from false teaching?



Colossae & The 7 Churches (Rev. 2–3)



Lycus River Valley

Meander R.

Hierapolis
Hot springs

Lycus R.

Laodicea
Lukewarm

Colossae
Cold springs

0 5 10 15 20 mi

Laodicea had money but no water

- **Paul had never visited Colosse before he wrote this letter. However, during his nearly three year ministry in nearby Ephesus, he probably met (& may have converted) Epaphras, who likely went to Colosse and started the church.**
- **Epaphras brought news of a serious heresy plaguing the church. This prompted Paul to pen the epistle to the Colossians for Tychicus to deliver since he was returning to Colosse with Onesimus.**

Asia Minor was the seedbed for what developed into 2nd century Gnosticism. Paul's counterattack tells us this about the heresy:

1. **Jewish**—legalism of following OT laws and ceremonies (2:16-17)
2. **Greek philosophy**—followed a so-called "deeper knowledge" revealed only to a special "elite" (2:2b-4, 8-10)
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5. **Ascetic** nature had a low view of the body (2:20-23)

What was the Colossian heresy? The above shows it was a syncretistic Jewish-Greek-Ascetic-Pagan cult. Paul's method to fight the heresy is to emphasize the deity & supremacy of Christ.

Jewish: The Law is Good




but...

No Legalism!



"So don't let anyone condemn you for what you eat or drink, or for not celebrating certain holy days or new moon ceremonies or Sabbaths. ¹⁷For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality" (Col. 2:16-17 NLT)

A photograph of a middle-aged man and a woman smiling. The man is on the left, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a striped tie. The woman is on the right, wearing a red scarf and a dark top. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a red curtain or wall. Overlaid on the left side of the image is a large block of text in white and yellow. In the top right corner, the words "No Shadows!" are written in white on a black background.

**"So don't let anyone
condemn you for
what you eat or
drink, or for not
celebrating certain
holy days or new
moon ceremonies or
Sabbaths. ¹⁷For
these rules are only
shadows of the
reality yet to come.
And Christ himself
is that reality"
(2:16-17 NLT)**

**No
Shadows!**

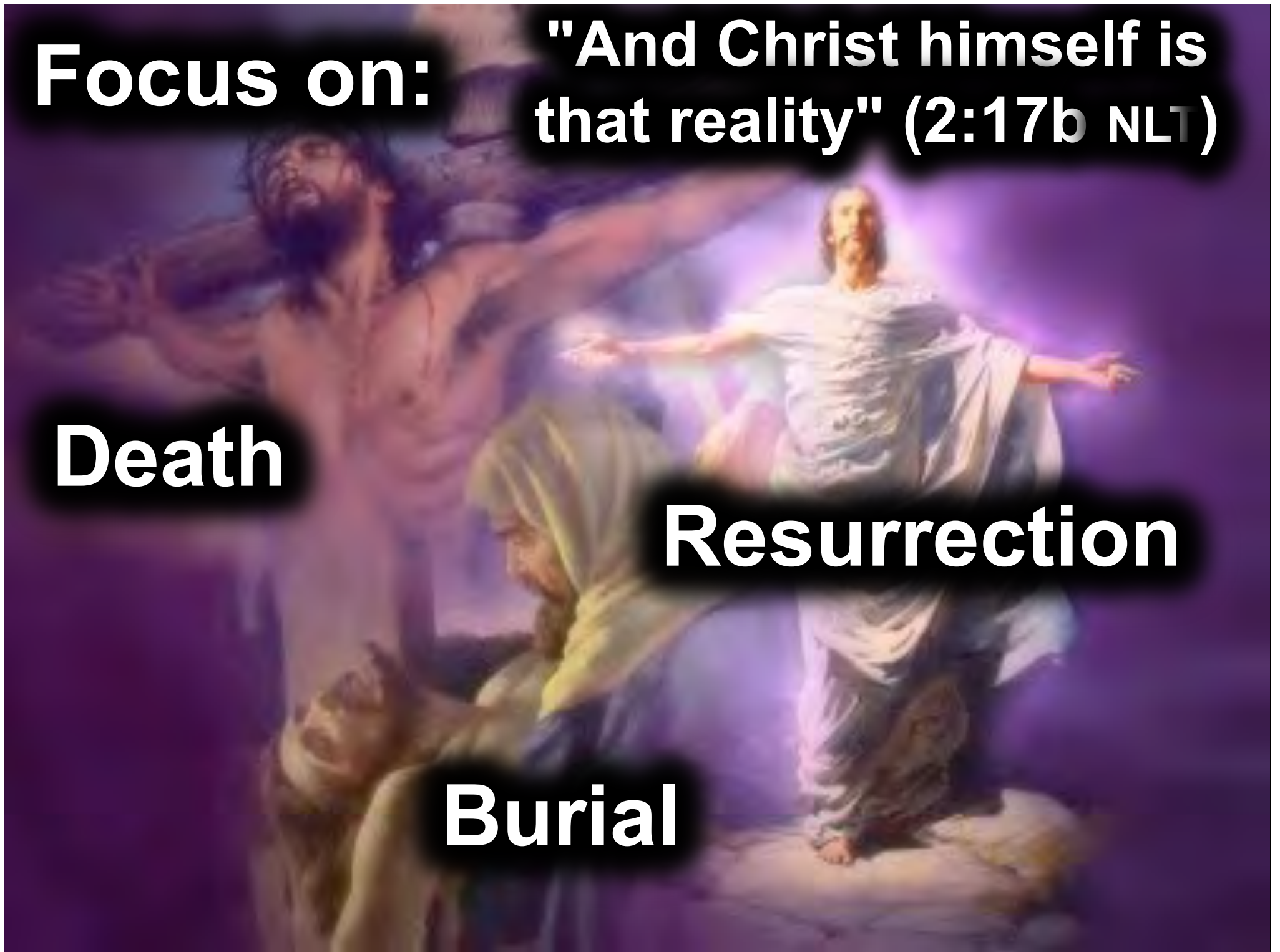
Focus on:

**"And Christ himself is
that reality" (2:17b NLT)**

Death

Resurrection

Burial



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Greek Philosophy

"Good people do
not go to the gods to
ask them to help them
to be good, but rather
they go to the gods to
ask them to help them
to be good, while they
find the gods around
the laws"

—Plato
423-348 BC

Don't let anyone capture
you with empty
philosophies and high-
sounding nonsense that
come from human
thinking and from the
spiritual powers of this
world, rather than from

Christ

(2:8 NLT)

Key Verse

187

**"For in Christ all the fullness of
the Deity lives in bodily form"
(Colossians 2:9).**

Colossians

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**"Don't let anyone
condemn you by
insisting on pious
self-denial or the
worship of
angels..."**

Angel Worship

**"...saying
they have
had visions
about these
things.
Their sinful
minds have
made them
proud"
(2:18 NLT)**



She says, Jesus went to hell to pay for our sins.¹
Bible says, Jesus paid for sin in full on the cross.²

She says, Jesus was the first, born-again man.³
Bible says, We are the one's who need to be born again because of sin.⁴

She says, we are little gods.⁵
Bible says, God alone is God.⁶

She says, we can speak things into existence like God.⁷
Bible says, there is only one creator.⁸

She says, she receives messages from angels.⁹
Bible says, God's word is sufficient and the canon is closed.¹⁰

She says, the gospel will make you materially wealthy.¹¹
Bible says, Christ suffered, so will we, if we follow Him.¹²

1 Meyer, Joyce. (1991) *The most important decision you will ever make*. Tulsa: Harrison House, 35-36

2 John 19:30; 1 Peter 3:18; Hebrews 9:28; 10:10/ 3 Meyer, Joyce. (1991) The most important decision you will ever make. Tulsa: Harrison House, 35-36/ 4 John 3:3; 6:8; Titus 3:1-7/ 5 Recording of Joyce Meyer, Retrieved November 19, 2009 from <http://www.wmfm.com/watchfy.asp?CD=CHS6/> 6 Isaiah 45:21-22; 45:11; 45:18/

7 Recording of Joyce Meyer. Retrieved February 14, 2009 from <http://www.false-teachers.com/audio/meyer/>

joyce4meyer.mp3 8 Isaiah 42:5; 44:24; 45:11-12; 45:18/ 9 Meyer, Joyce. Withcraft & related spirits (audiotape, part 1)

10 2 Timothy 3:15-17; Hebrews 1:1-3; Jude 3; Revelation 22:18/ 11 Meyer, J. FAQ-Does Joyce ministries teach a prosperity

gospel? Retrieved February 14, 2009 from <http://www.4mat.org/about/4s/faq/faq.htm/> 12 Luke 6:24; John 15:18-21;

² Timothy 3:12/ ¹³ Her greed is cataloged in Smith, B. & Tuff, C. (2003). *From Fenton to fortune in the name of God*. St. Louis:

Post-Dispatch website. Retrieved February 14, 2009 from <http://www.postdispatch.com/CRateday/news/special/03jcmeyar.html>

14 2 Peter 3:1-3 Applying directly to Joyce Meyer

AskAnAngel.org

Dear St. Michael, the Archangel.
Protect us, our bodies, our home, our property
and possessions during times of storm,
from all dangers of lightning,
high winds, hail and flood waters.

Amen.

Visit www.AskAnAngel.org



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Christ's Deity

**"Christ is the visible image of the
invisible God. He existed before
anything was created and is supreme
over all creation" (1:15 NLT)**

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Asceticism



"You have died with Christ, and he has set you free from the spiritual powers of this world. So why do you keep on following the rules of the world, such as, ²¹'Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!'? ²²Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. ²³These rules may seem wise because they require strong devotion, pious self-denial, and severe bodily discipline. But they provide no help in conquering a person's evil desires"

(2:20-23 NLT)

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How can you be **protected**
from false teaching?



Colossians

Key Word
Deity

Key Verse

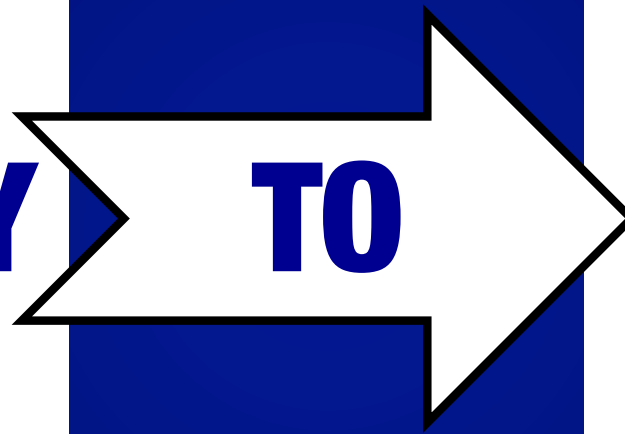
**"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity
lives in bodily form"
(Colossians 2:9).**

OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS

THEOLOGY

TO

PRACTICE



Supremacy/Deity

Practical Instruction

Chapters 1–2

Chapters 3–4

Heretical Living

Holy Living

Belief

Behaviour

Greeting
&
Prayer

Supremacy
&
Deity

Syncretistic
Heresy

Position:
Union
with
Christ

Practice:
Holiness in
Relation-
ships

Conclusion

1:1-14

1:15–2:5

2:6-23

3:1-4

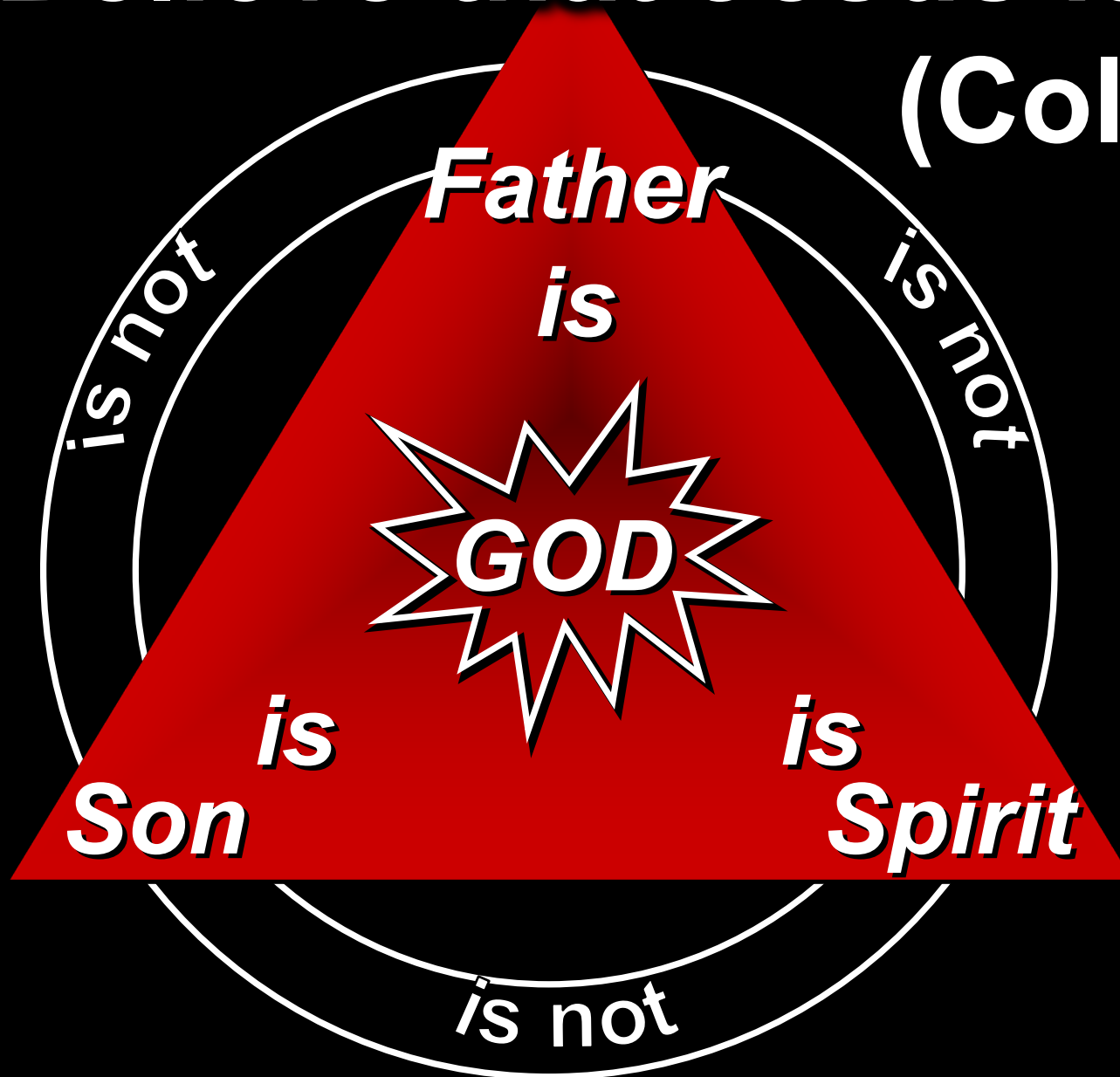
3:5–4:6

4:7-18

Rome

Autumn AD 61 (first Roman imprisonment)

I. Believe that Jesus is **God** (Col 1–2).



How to be protected from false teaching

Colossians 1

"This letter is from Paul, chosen by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and from our brother Timothy. We are writing to God's holy people in the city of Colosse, who are faithful brothers and sisters in Christ. May God our Father give you grace and peace"
(Col 1:1-2 NLT).

"We always pray for you, and we give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, ⁵which come from your confident hope of what God has reserved for you in heaven. You have had this expectation ever since you first heard the truth of the Good News" (Col 1:3-5 NLT).

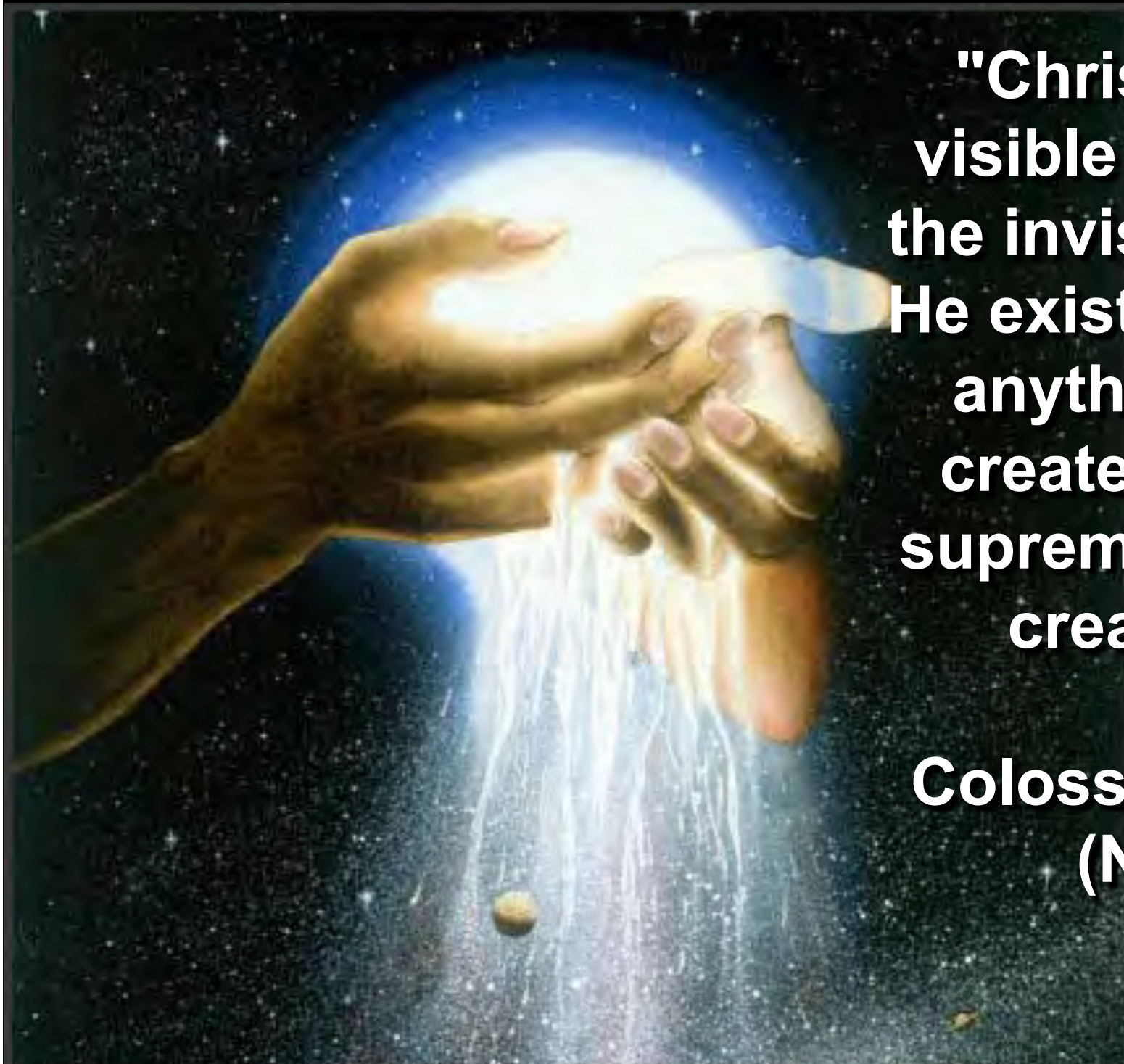
The Great Transfer

A person is walking away from the viewer on a dark, wet surface at night. The person's reflection is clearly visible in a puddle on the ground. The scene is dimly lit, with a bright light source creating a strong reflection on the wet pavement.

**"For he has
rescued us
from the
kingdom of
darkness**

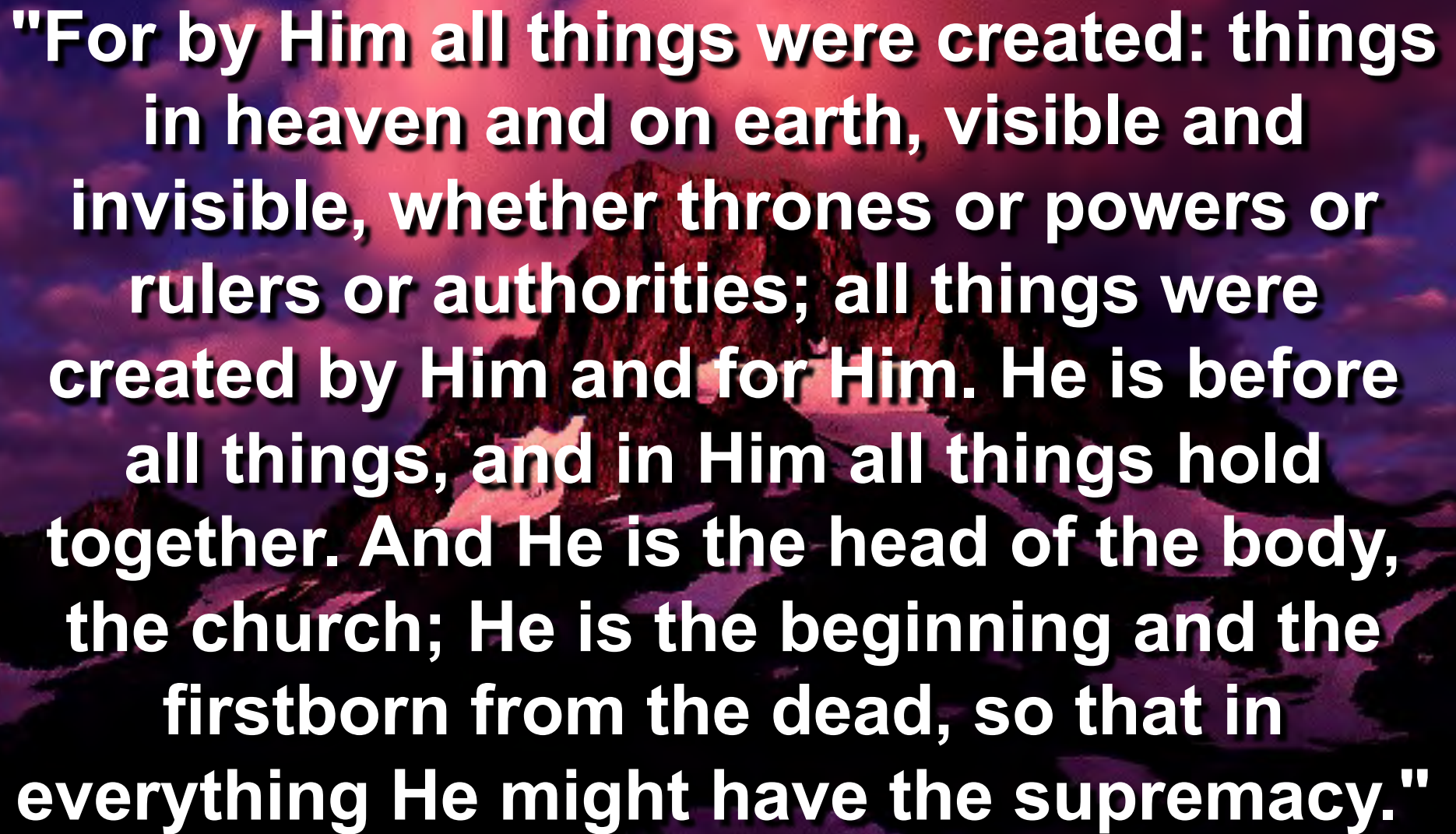
**and
transferred
us into the
Kingdom of
his dear Son**

**¹⁴ who purchased our
freedom and forgave
our sins"
(Col. 1:13-14)**



**"Christ is the
visible image of
the invisible God.
He existed before
anything was
created and is
supreme over all
creation."**

**Colossians 1:15
(NLT)**

The background of the image is a dramatic landscape. A dark, jagged mountain peak rises from a body of water, its silhouette partially illuminated by a soft, pinkish-purple light. The sky is filled with wispy clouds, tinted with the same vibrant purple and pink hues, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall atmosphere is mystical and awe-inspiring.

"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is the beginning and the firstborn from the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy."

Colossians 1:16-18 (NIV)

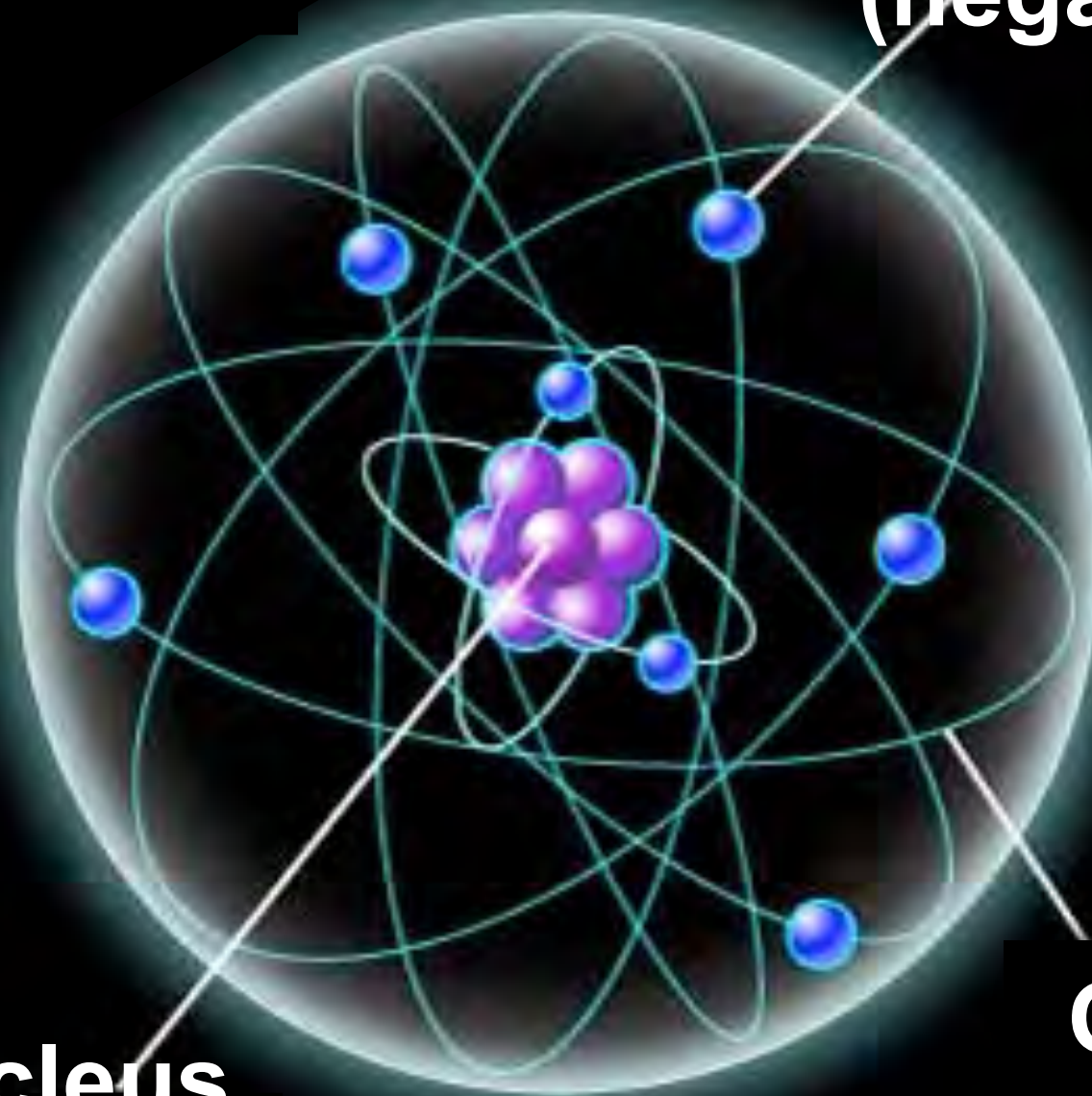
Inside an Atom

"...in Him
all things
hold
together"
(2:17)

Proton Nucleus
(positive)

Electron
(negative)

Orbit



**¹⁹ For God in all his fullness
was pleased to live in Christ,
²⁰ and through him God reconciled
everything to himself.
He made peace with everything in heaven
and on earth
by means of Christ's blood on the cross.**

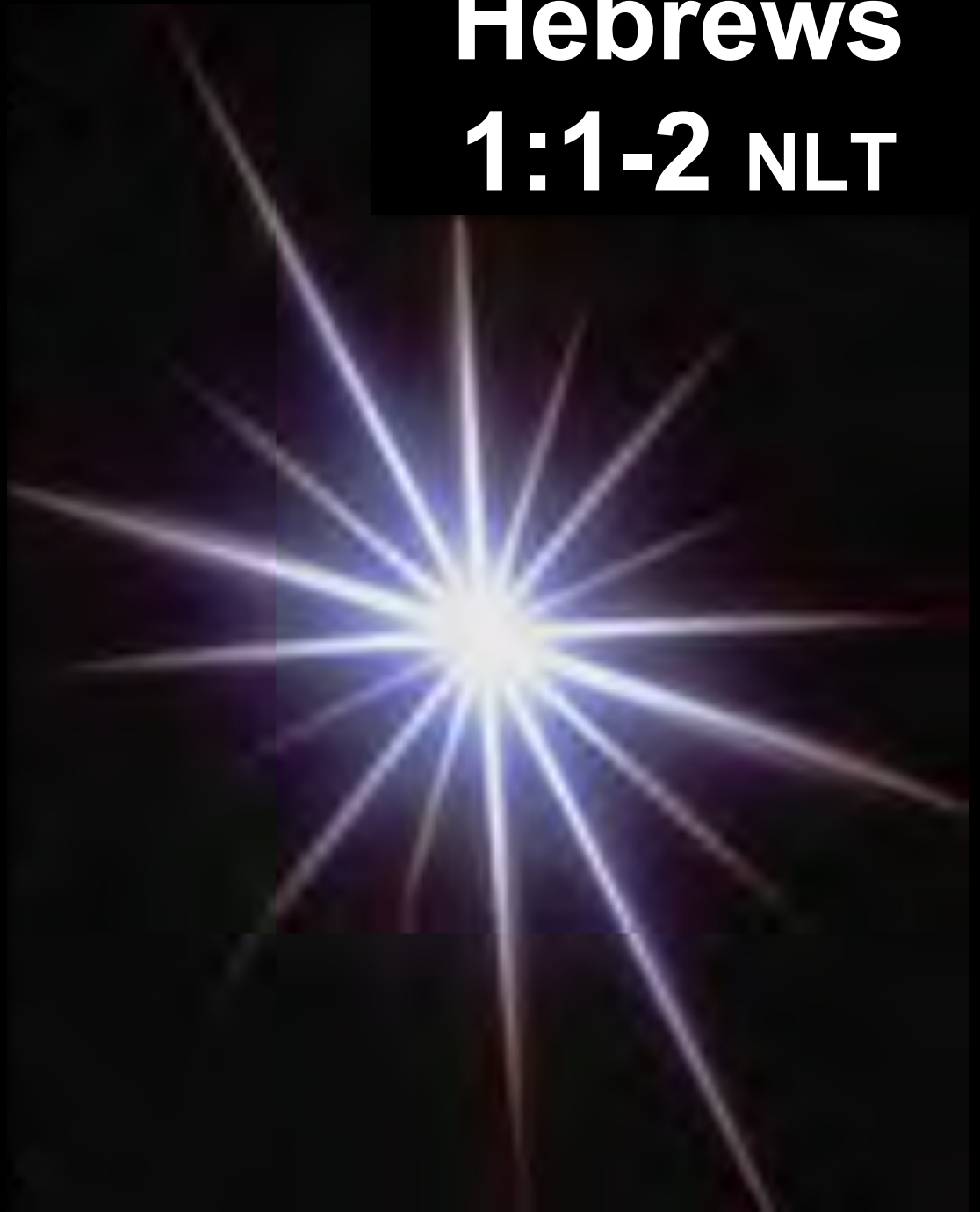
Col 1:19-20 (NLT)



Hebrews

1:1-2 NLT

"Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. ²And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe."



JOHN: SUMMING UP THE MESSAGE

CHAPTER 1: 6 GREAT TRUTHS OF

VERSE 1:

Pre-existent One

A Distinct Person

He Was and IS God

The

JESUS CHRIST!

VERSE 2:

Co-existent

Eternally

VERSE 3:

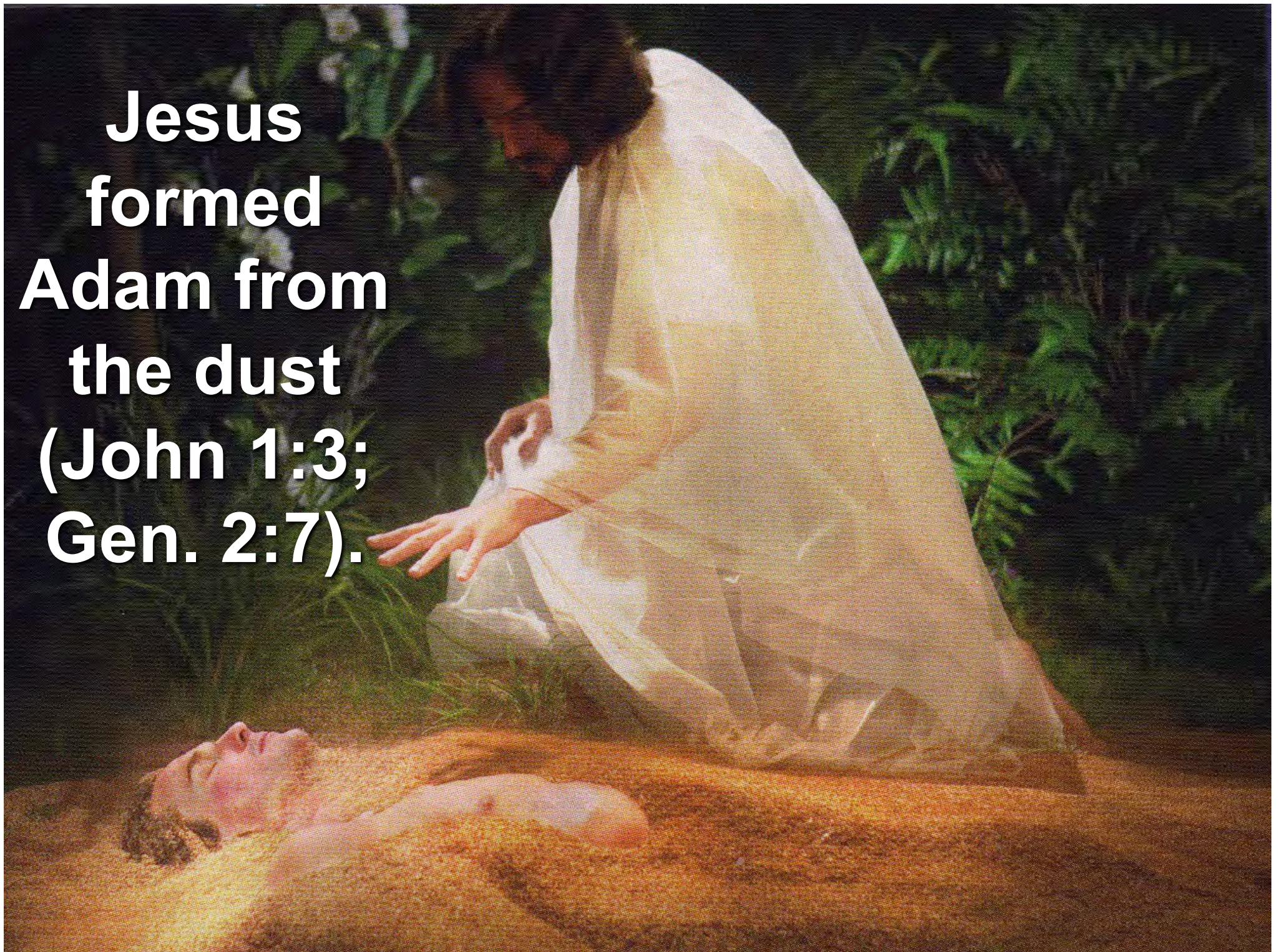
the Universe

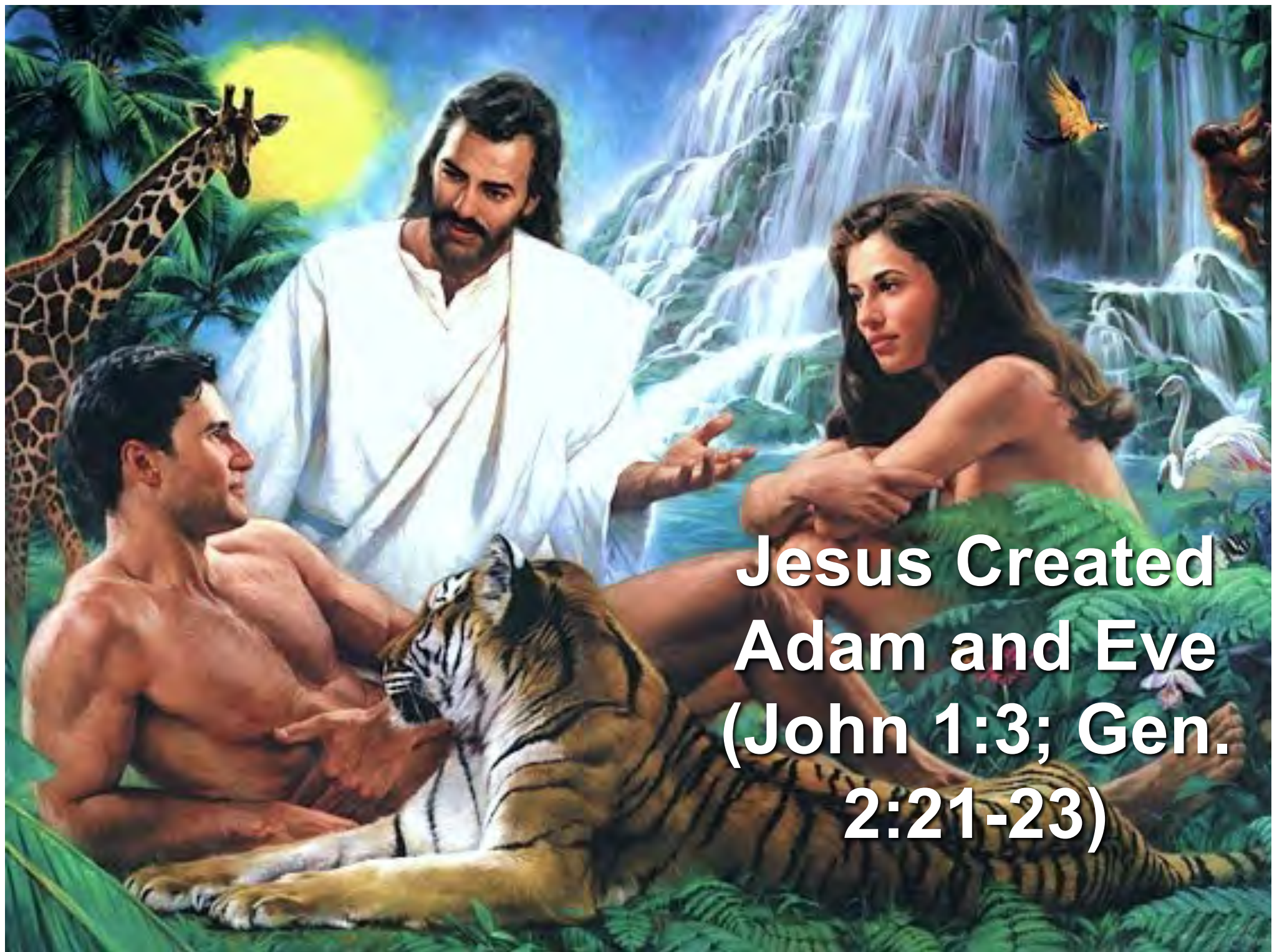
Creator of

"Through him all
things were
made; without
him nothing was
made that has
been made."

John 1:3

**Jesus
formed
Adam from
the dust
(John 1:3;
Gen. 2:7).**





**Jesus Created
Adam and Eve
(John 1:3; Gen.
2:21-23)**

“Jesus is the heavenly Father” !! ??

= Modalism



Identification with TJC 200

WHAT
DOES THE
TRUE
JESUS
CHURCH
BELIEVE?

+

Baptism in TJC (Head Bowed)

+

Footwashing by TJC Minister

+

Communion
(Transubstantiation)

+

Reception of the Holy Spirit

+

Speaking in Tongues

+

(Faith in Christ? No!)

=

Salvation ! ? ! ?



Counterfeit?



Colossians 2

What's Wrong?

**“Gnosticism” is wrong since deity
is in Christ (2:6-10).**

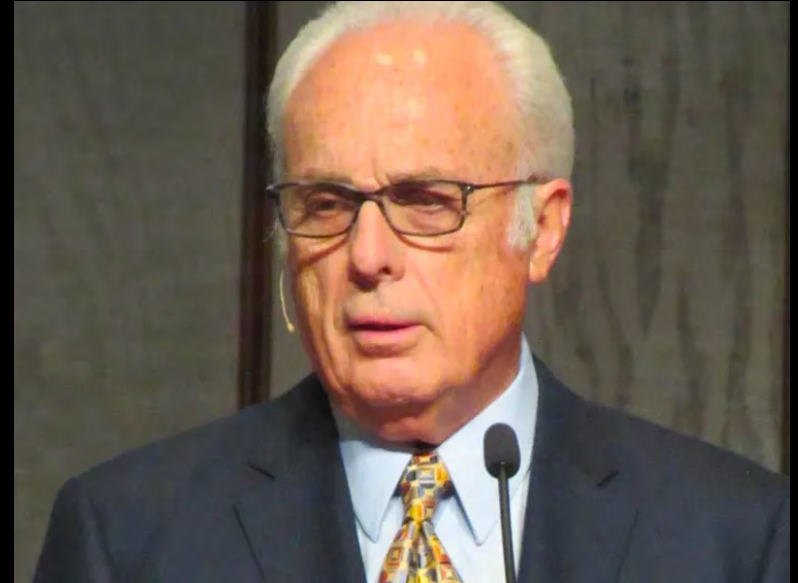
**Legalism is wrong since reality
is in Christ (2:11-17).**

**Mysticism is wrong since headship
is in Christ (2:18-19).**

**Asceticism is wrong since immunity
is in Christ (2:20-23).**

False Teaching

The first symptom of false teachers is what they affirm. A false teacher "advocates a different doctrine." False teaching may take many forms. It may deny God's existence, or teach error about His nature and attributes. It may deny the Trinity. Error about Christ's Person and work is also common in false systems. Those who deny His virgin birth, sinless perfection, substitutionary death, bodily resurrection, or future return show signs of a dangerous infection. False teachers also teach error about the nature, Person, and work of the Holy Spirit. Yet another strain of the disease of false teaching denies the authenticity, inspiration, authority, or inerrancy of Scripture.

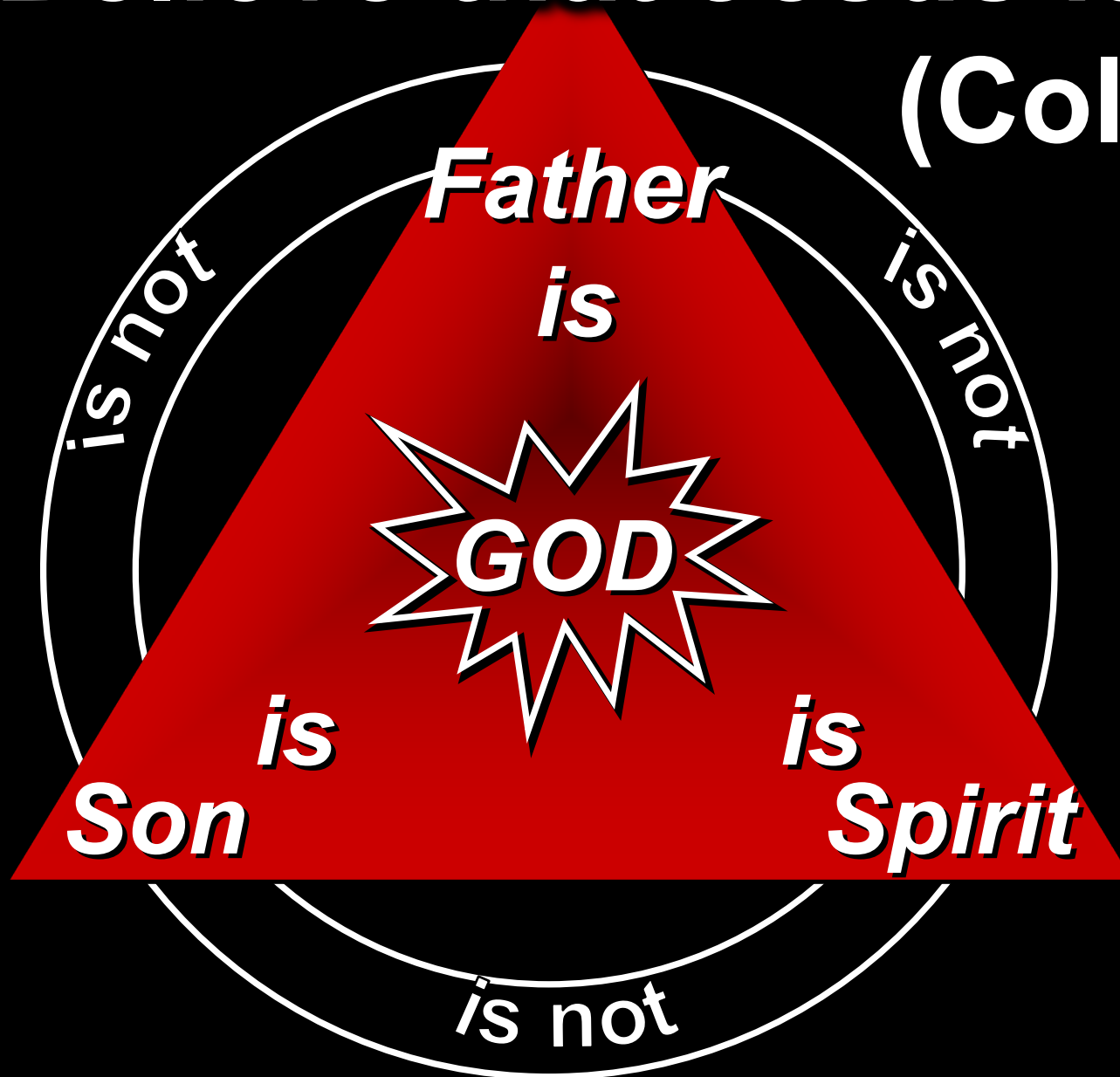


John MacArthur
The Pathology of False Teachers

How can you be **protected**
from false teaching?



I. Believe that Jesus is **God** (Col 1–2).



How to be protected from false teaching

II. Embrace **holy** living (Col 3–4).



How to be protected from false teaching

Colossians 3

¹ Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.

² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.

Col 3:1-2 (NLT)

Holy living is relational.



A man in a white robe is being dressed by another man in a white robe. The man being dressed is looking down, and the man dressing him is looking at him. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

**How Can We Put on the
Virtues of a New Life?**

Colossians 3:5-17

1. Put off the **old** clothes
(3:5-11).

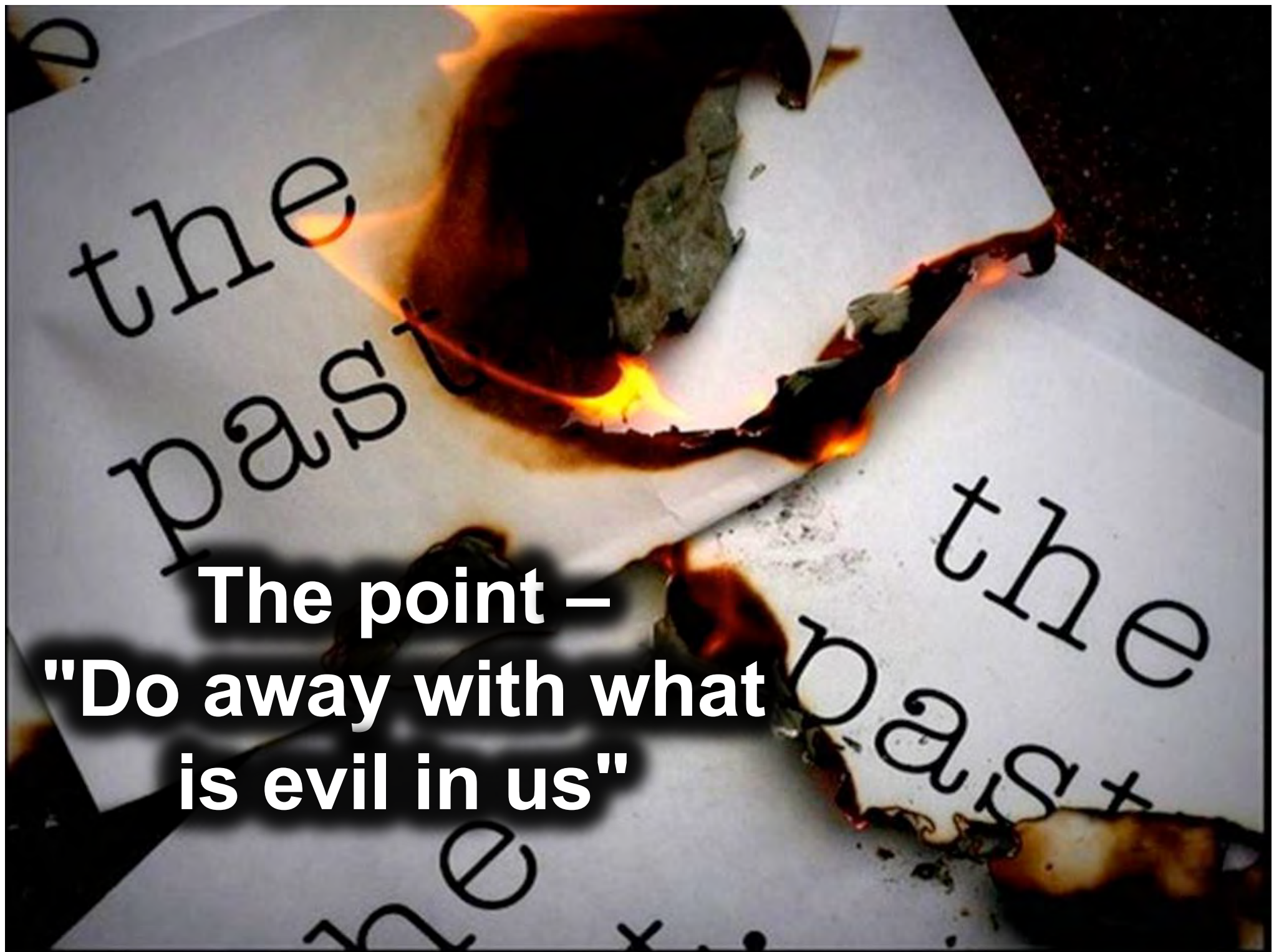


Col. 3:5

**"So put to death the sinful, earthly things
lurking within you" (NLT).**

Matthew 18:9a

**"And if your eye causes you to sin,
gouge it out and throw it away" (NLT).**

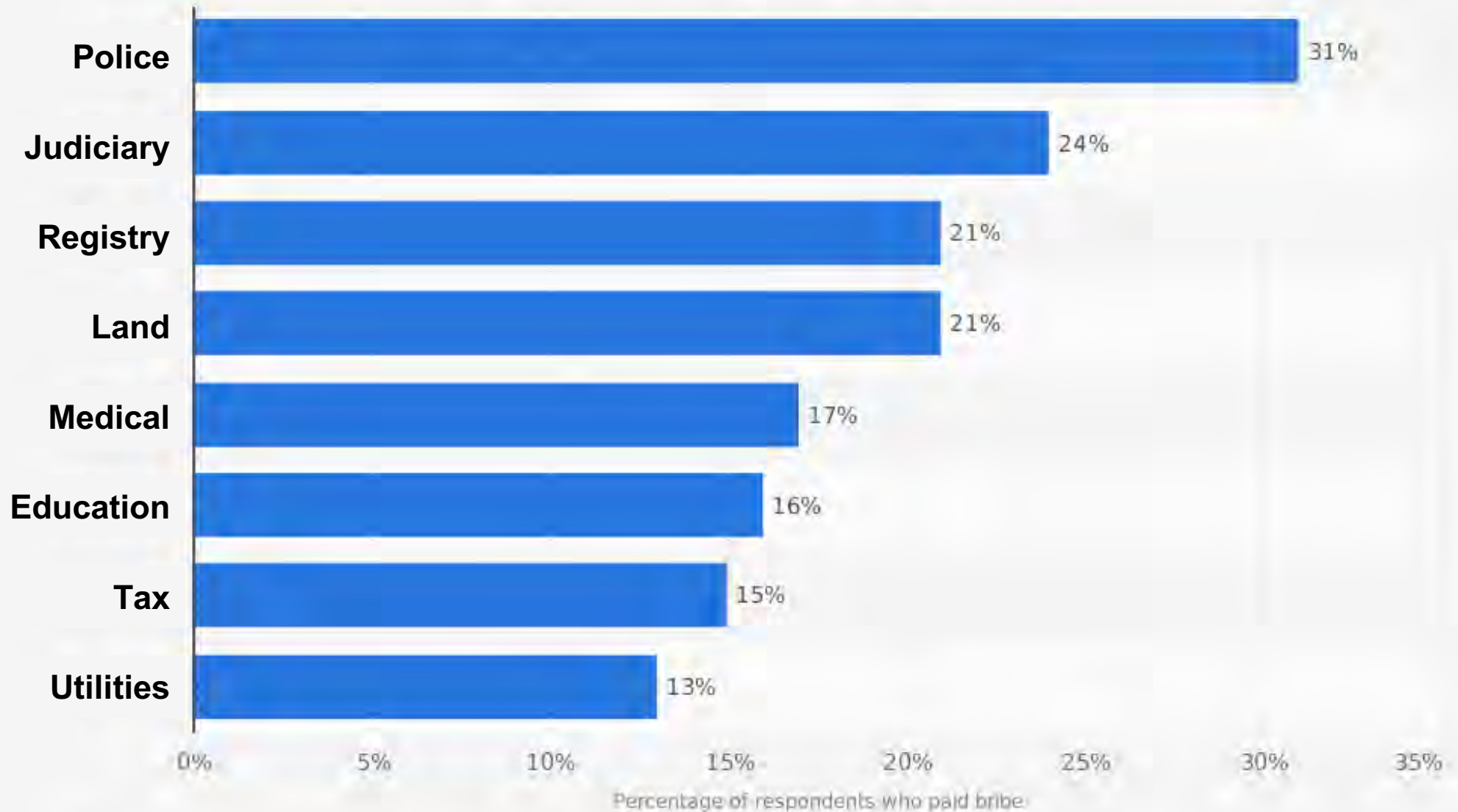


**The point –
"Do away with what
is evil in us"**

*Put off the clothes of **corrupt living** (3:5-7)*



Percentage of people around the world who paid a bribe to selected services in 2013



Source

Transparency International
© Statista 2018

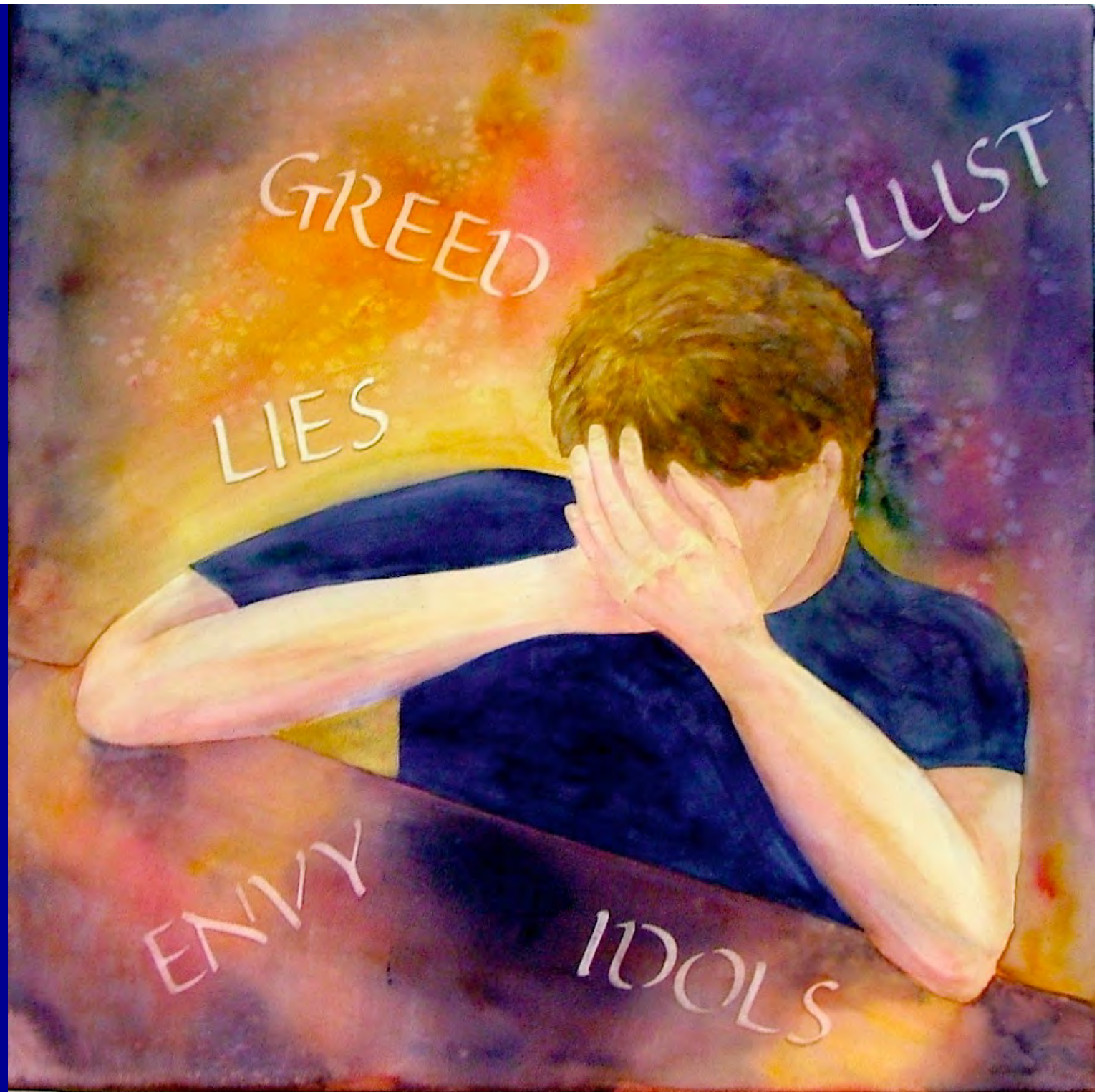
Additional Information:

Worldwide (September 2012 to March 2013) About 1,000 people from each of 95 countries



"Have nothing to do with **sexual immorality, impurity, lust, and evil desires.**

Don't be **greedy**, for a greedy person is an idolater, worshiping the things of this world"
(3:5b NLT)




*Put off the clothes of **wrong conversation** (3:8-9)*





**"But now is the
time to get rid of
anger, rage,
malicious
behavior,
slander, and
dirty language.
Don't lie to each
other, for you
have stripped
off your old
sinful nature
and all its
wicked deeds"
(3:8-9 NLT)**

A man with short dark hair, wearing a dark blue sweater, is leaning in and whispering into the ear of a woman. The woman has shoulder-length brown hair and is wearing a black top with a beaded strap. She has a very shocked expression, with wide eyes and an open mouth. The background is a dark, textured grey.

**Anger, Rage, Malice, Slander, Dirty
Language, Falsehood...**

What speech should be put away?

*Death to **Conventional** Distinctions*





3:10

"In this new life, it doesn't matter if you are a Jew or a Gentile, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbaric, uncivilized, slave, or free. Christ is all that matters, and he lives in all of us" (3:10-11 NLT).

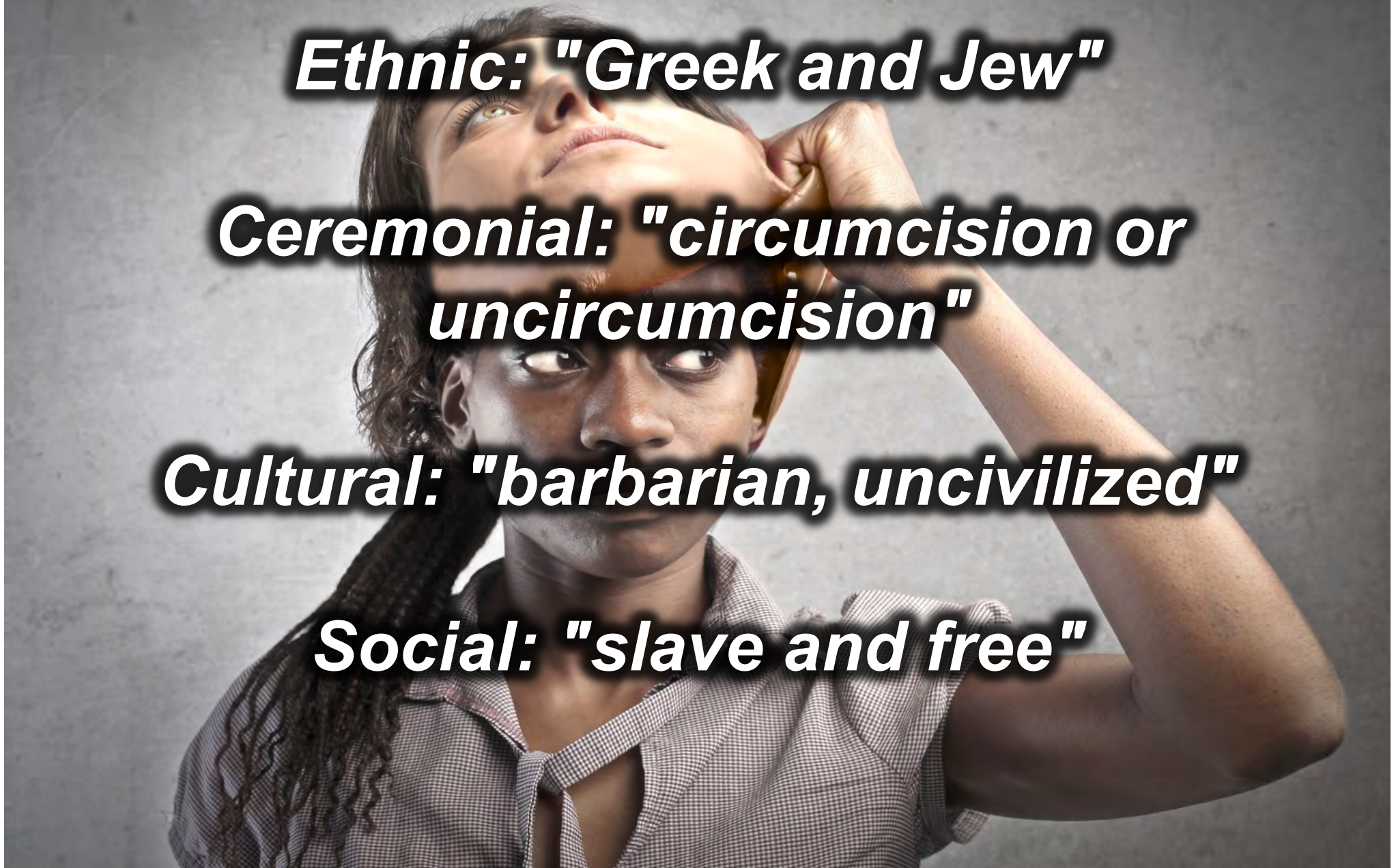
Avoid these distinctions...

Ethnic: "Greek and Jew"

***Ceremonial: "circumcision or
uncircumcision"***

Cultural: "barbarian, uncivilized"

Social: "slave and free"



**The church
embraces all**



2. Put on the **grace** of Christ (3:12-17).



*The clothes of **compassion** (3:12)*



**Without compassion,
we cannot feel for others.**



*The clothes of **forgiveness** (3:13)*




**"Forgiveness is not giving someone what they
deserve but what they need"**
– *Anonymous*

**"The weak can never forgive.
Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong"**
– *Gandhi*

Graham & Gladys Staines





**"Make allowance for each other's faults,
and forgive anyone who offends you.
Remember, the Lord forgave you, so
you must forgive others"
(Col. 3:13 NLT)**

*The clothes of **love** (3:14)*



Forgiven but I cannot...



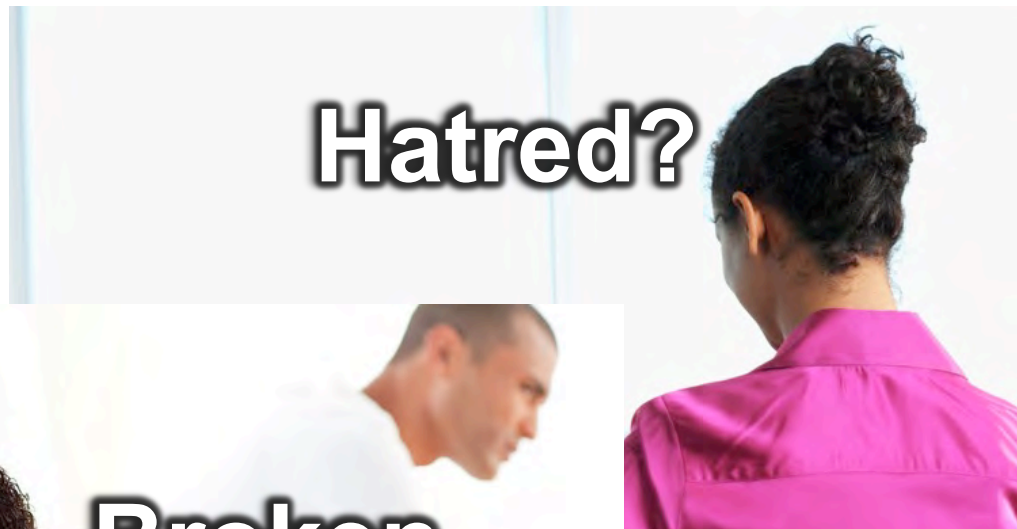
1. Put off the old clothes

2. Put on the grace of Christ

Anger?



Hatred?



**Broken
Relationship?**

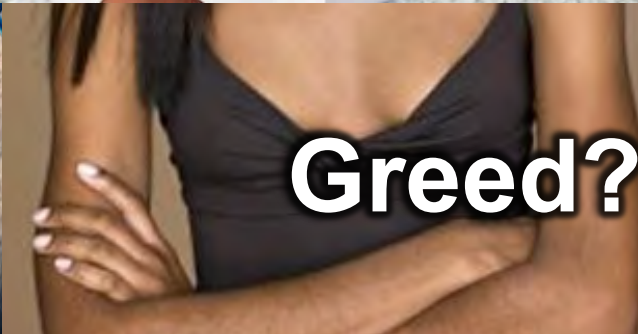


**Thoughts of
Disdain?**

**Painful
Past?**



Greed?



Jealousy?



What if we followed Colossians 3:18-19?

**"Wives, submit to
your husbands, as
is fitting for those
who belong to the
Lord.**

**¹⁸Husbands, love
your wives and
never treat them
harshly"**

(Col. 3:18-19 NLT)



Ephesians	Colossians
Similar passages	Similar passages
1:15-17	1:3-4
1:18	1:27
1:19-20	2:12
1:21-23	1:16-19
5:22-24 (wives)	3:18 (wives)
5:25-33 (husbands)	3:19 (husbands)
6:1-3 (children)	3:20 (children)
6:4 (fathers)	3:21 (fathers)
6:5-8 (slaves)	3:22-25 (slaves)
6:9 (masters)	4:1 (masters)

Colossians 4

How can you be **protected**
from false teaching?



Main Idea of Colossians

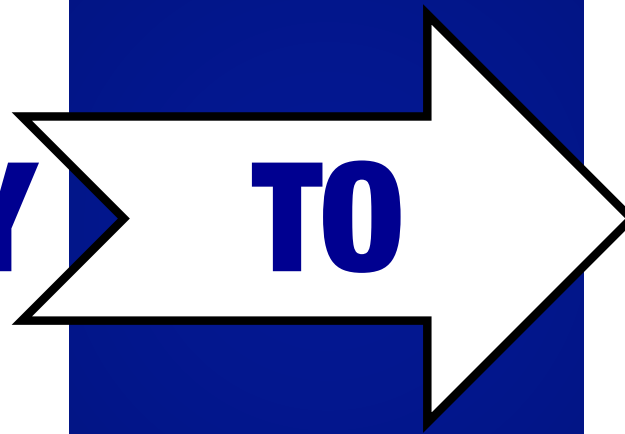
Protect yourself from false teaching by embracing both Christ's **deity** and a holy life.

OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS

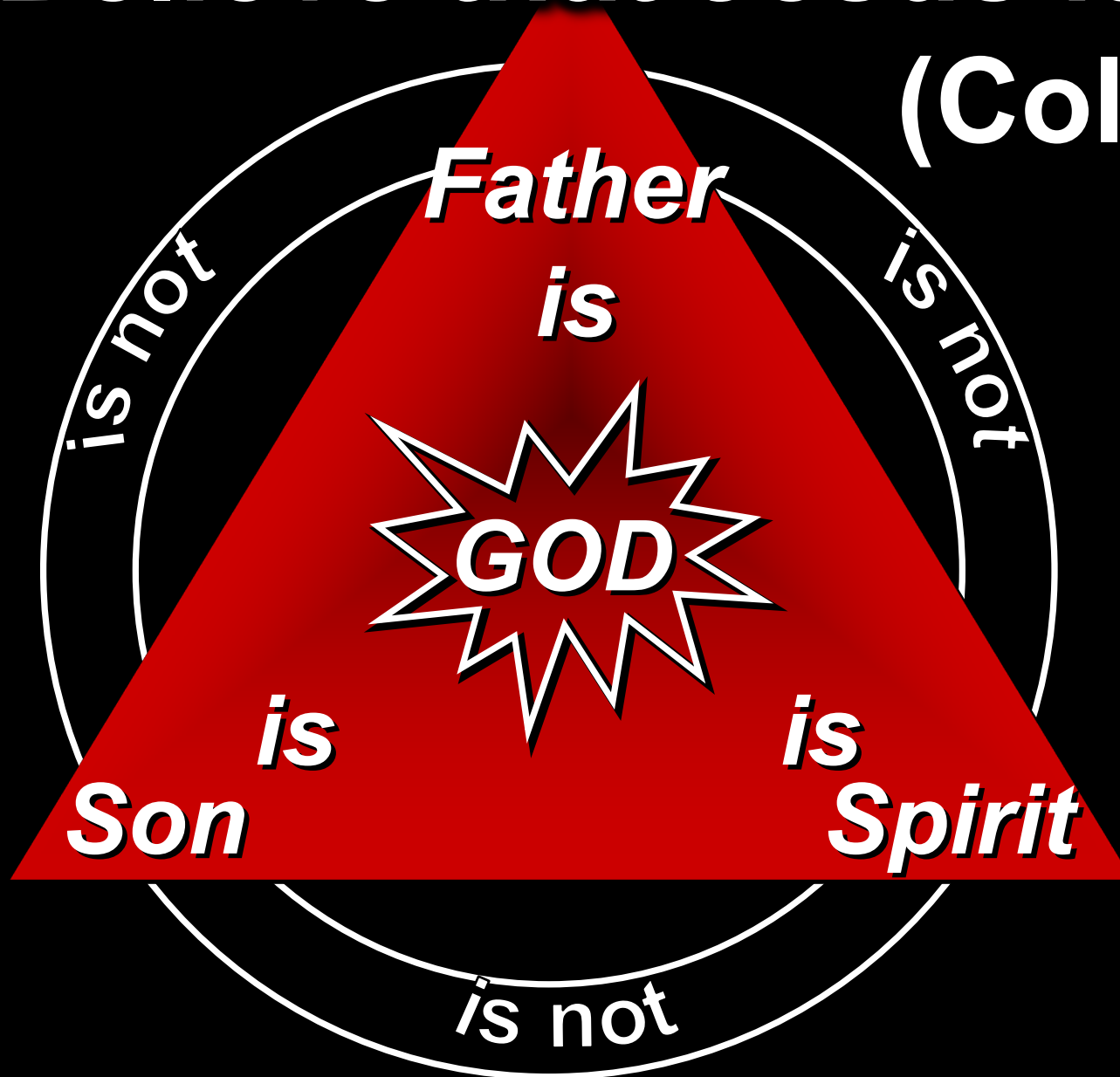
THEOLOGY

TO

PRACTICE



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How to be protected from false teaching

II. Embrace **holy** living (Col 3–4).



How to be protected from false teaching

WHAT TO EMBRACE

DEITY

TO

HOLINESS

**What old “clothes” do you need to
toss?**




Occasion

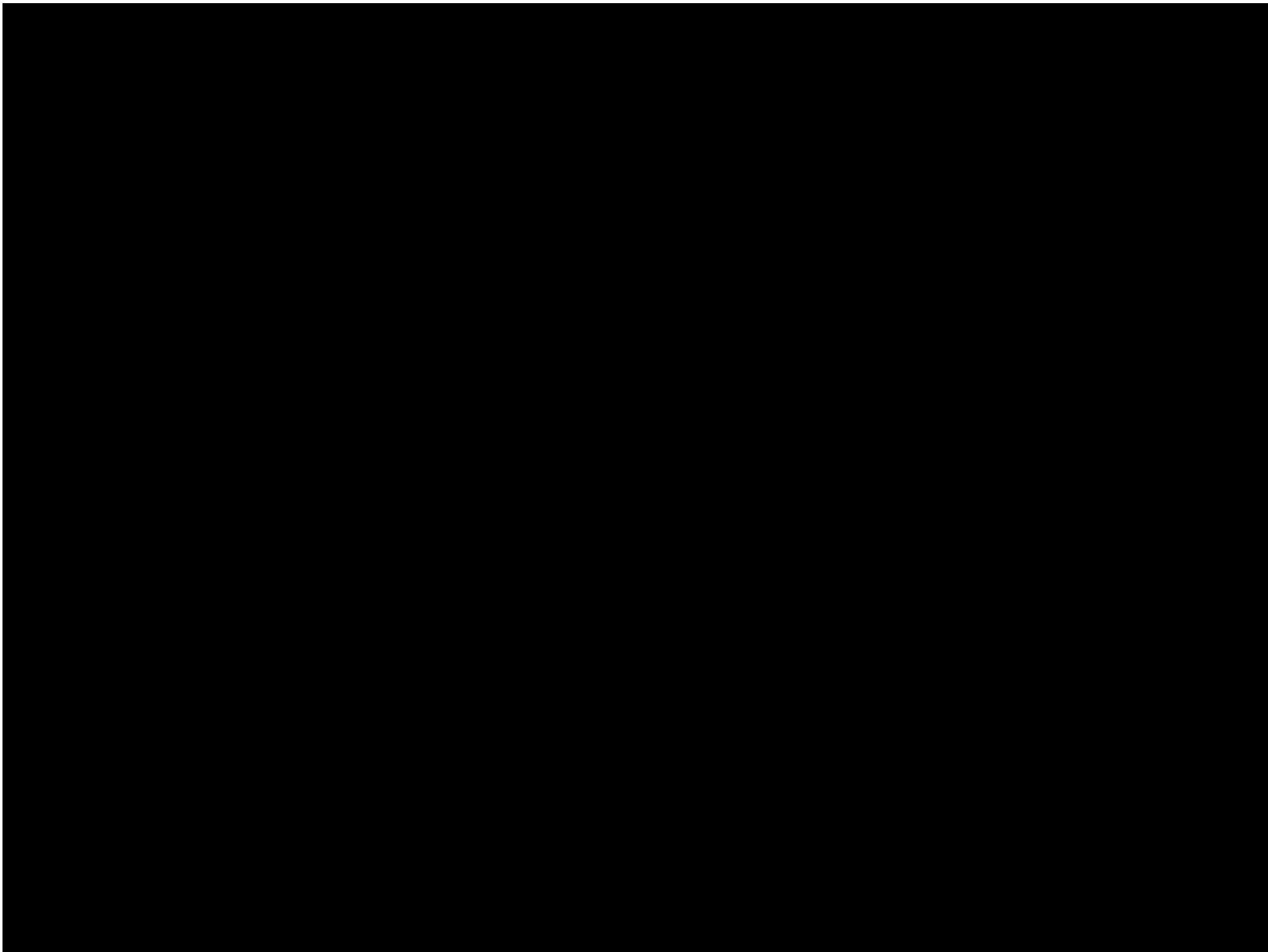
Asia Minor was the seedbed for what developed into 2nd century Gnosticism. Paul's counterattack tells us this about the heresy:

1. **Jewish**—legalism of following OT laws and ceremonies (2:16-17)
2. **Greek philosophy**—followed a so-called "deeper knowledge" revealed only to a special "elite" (2:2b-4, 8-10)
3. **Worshipped angels** as mediators between man and God (2:18)
4. **Denied Christ's deity** (1:15; 2:9), & thus His supremacy (1:15b, 17a) & ability to create (1:16) & sustain the world (1:17)
5. **Ascetic** nature had a low view of the body (2:20-23)

What was the Colossian heresy? The above shows it was a syncretistic Jewish-Greek-Ascetic-Pagan cult. Paul's method to fight the heresy is to emphasize the deity & supremacy of Christ.

A man with dark hair and a mustache, wearing a light green tunic, is looking down with a somber expression. Behind him, another man in a white robe is pulling a white garment over his shoulders. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The text "What new 'clothes' do you need to put on?" is overlaid at the bottom in a bold, white font with a black outline.

**What new “clothes” do you need
to put on?**



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A large background image for the main banner showing a pair of hands holding an open, small, black leather-bound book with yellowed pages. A semi-transparent dark grey box with white text is overlaid on the lower left of the image.

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