



# How to Deal with **Secularism**

***2 Timothy 3***

**Dr. Rick Griffith, Crossroads International Church**  
**[www.biblestudydownloads.com](http://www.biblestudydownloads.com)**



# The Future



**As a Christian, should you be  
*optimistic* about the future?**



**The Future**

A close-up of a human eye with a blue iris, overlaid with a complex digital interface. The interface includes a large white circle, a smaller blue circle, and a central square with a yellow border. A horizontal dashed orange line passes through the center of the eye. The background is a dark blue gradient with glowing circuitry patterns and a vertical strip of four white circles on the left side. The overall aesthetic is high-tech and futuristic.

**The Future**

**THE FUTURE IS OURS**

A photograph of Earth from space, showing the curvature of the planet and the blue atmosphere. The sun is visible as a bright orange glow on the horizon. The text "THE FUTURE IS OURS" is overlaid in white, bold, capital letters across the center of the image.



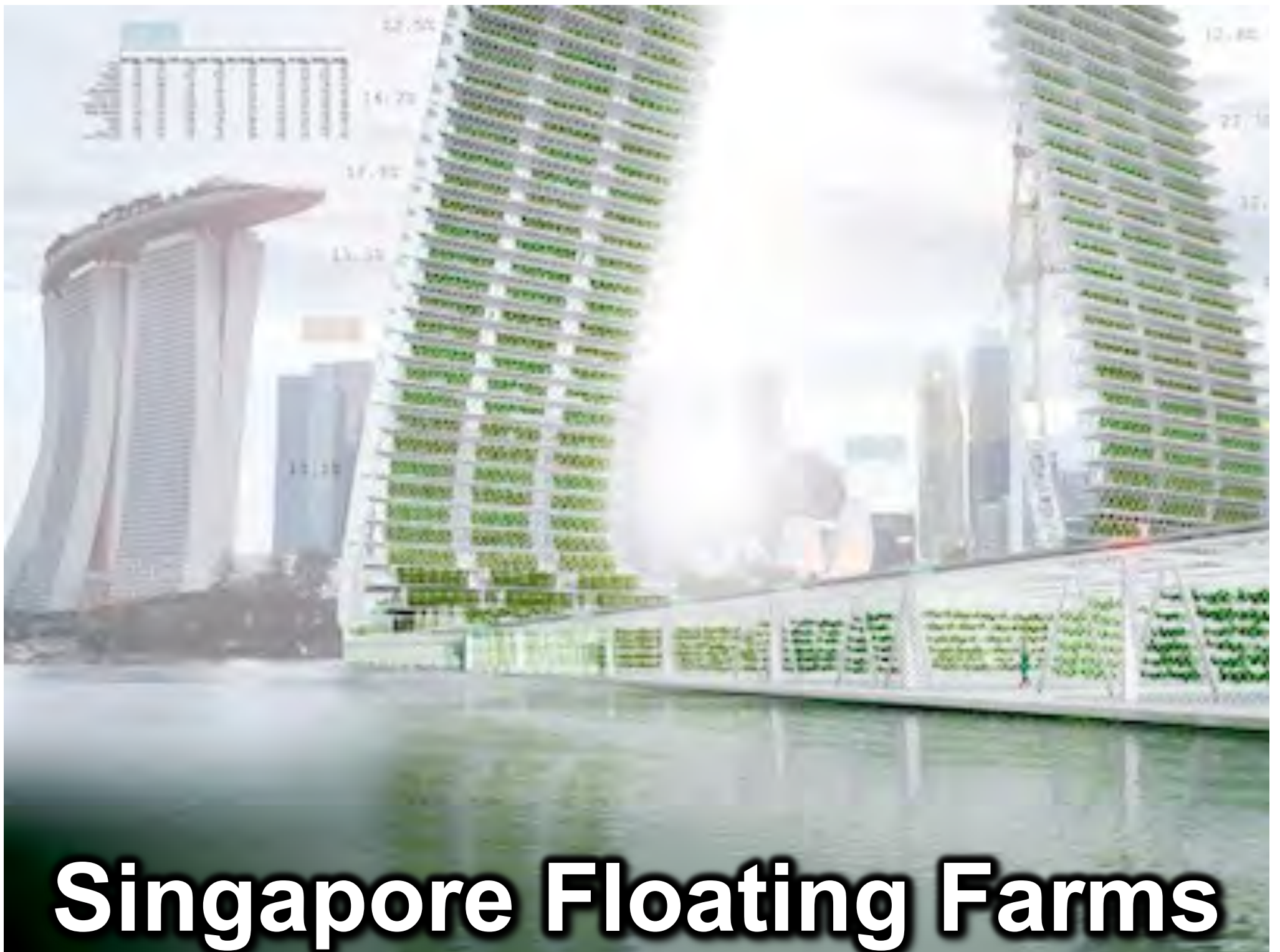
**The Future Singapore**



**The Future Singapore**




# Singapore Floating Farms



# Singapore Floating Farms



**Shouldn't we be encouraged?**

A hand is shown from the wrist up, with the index finger pointing upwards. Above the tip of the index finger is a glowing, semi-transparent square. The background is a solid blue color with numerous other semi-transparent squares of various sizes and opacities floating around, creating a sense of depth and movement. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

**As a  
Christian, do  
you have  
optimism  
about the  
future?**

**You shouldn't.**

**It will get worse.**

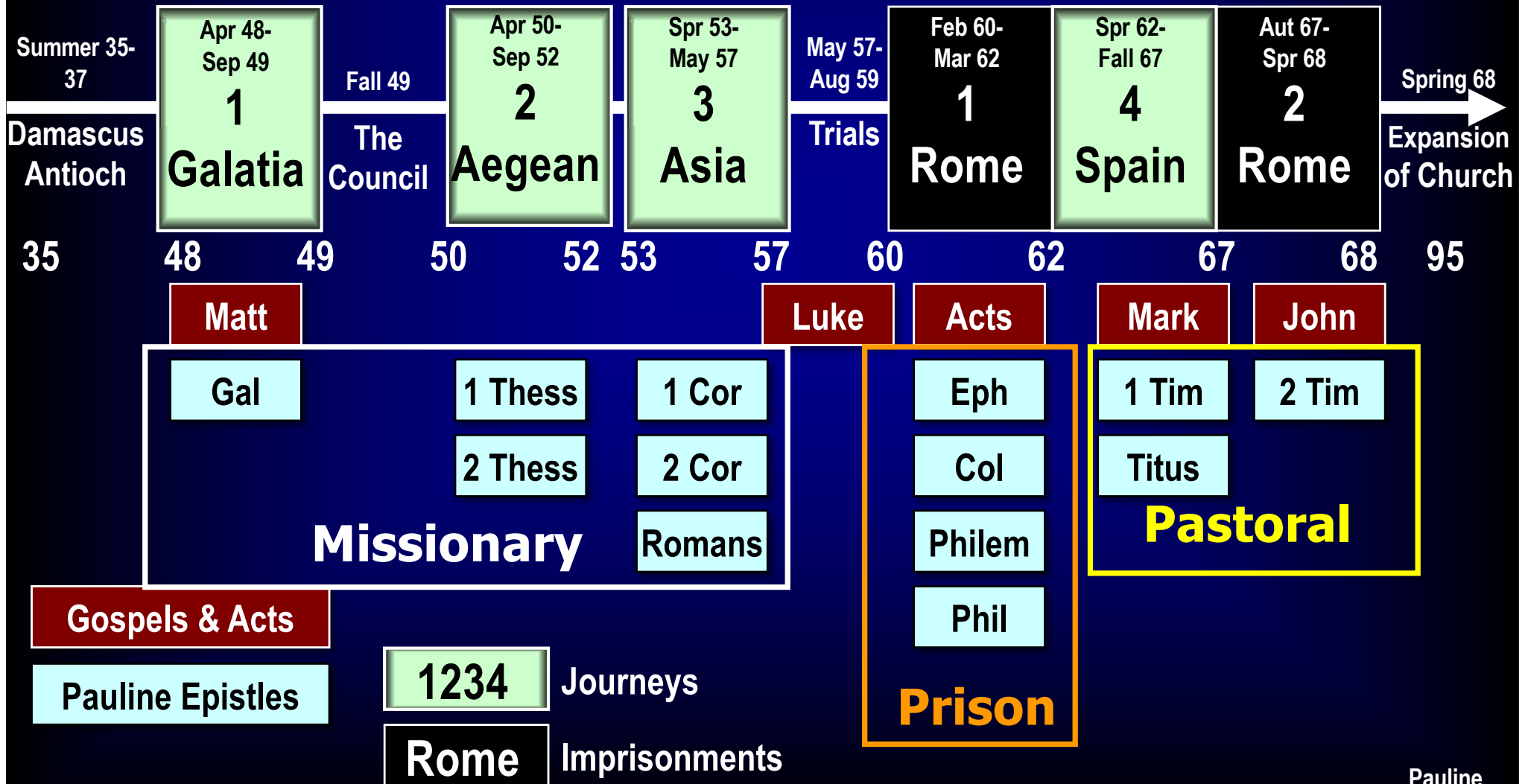


# Overview of Paul's Letters

38  
124  
39-41

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



# First Roman Imprisonment (AD 60-62; Acts 28:15)

**"The brothers and sisters in Rome had heard we were coming, and they came to meet us at the Forum on the Appian Way. Others joined us at The Three Taverns. When Paul saw them, he was encouraged and thanked God" (NLT).**



# Contrasting the Roman Imprisonments

Feb 60- Mar 62 <b>1</b> <b>Rome</b>	Spr 62- Fall 67 <b>4</b> <b>Spain</b>	Aut 67- Spr 68 <b>2</b> <b>Rome</b>	
60	62	67	68

Eph



2 Tim

Col

Philem

Phil

Pauline Epistles

**1234**

Journeys

**Rome**

Imprisonments

# Contrasting the Roman Imprisonments

38  
124  
39-41

Feb 60- Mar 62 <b>1</b> <b>Rome</b>	Spr 62- Fall 67 <b>4</b> <b>Spain</b>	Aut 67- Spr 68 <b>2</b> <b>Rome</b>
60	62	67
		68

**Nero's Mental Health**

**Stable**



**Insane**

**AD 64 Fire of Rome**

**Before**

**After**

**View of Christians**

**Jewish Sect**

**Mostly Gentiles**

**Tolerance by Rome**

**Protected**

**No restraints**

**Persecution by Rome**

**Infrequent**

**Widespread**

**Result for Paul**

**Released**

**Beheaded**

## Second Roman Imprisonment (AD 67-68)

**"As you know, everyone from the province of Asia has deserted me—even Phygelus and Hermogenes" (2 Tim. 1:15 NLT)**

**"Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.  
<sup>13</sup>But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived" (2 Tim. 3:12-13 NLT)**

## **Second Roman Imprisonment (AD 67-68)**

**"As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. <sup>7</sup>I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful"  
(2 Tim. 4:6-7 NLT)**



## Second Roman Imprisonment (AD 67-68)

"Timothy, please come as soon as you can.  
<sup>10</sup>Demas has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica. Crescens has gone to Galatia, and Titus has gone to Dalmatia. <sup>11</sup>Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry. <sup>12</sup>I sent Tychicus to Ephesus. <sup>13</sup>When you come, be sure to bring the coat I left with Carpus at Troas. Also bring my books, and especially my papers. <sup>14</sup>Alexander the coppermith did me much harm, but the Lord will judge him for what he has done. <sup>15</sup>Be careful of him, for he fought against everything we said" (2 Tim. 4:9-15 NLT).



**"The first time I was brought before the judge, no one came with me. Everyone abandoned me. May it not be counted against them. <sup>17</sup>But the Lord stood with me and gave me strength so that I might preach the Good News in its entirety for all the Gentiles to hear. And he rescued me from certain death" (2 Tim. 4:16-17 NLT).**



**The Mamertine Prison Building**



**Rome's Central Forum (Modern Ruins)**



**Rome's Central Forum (4<sup>th</sup> Century AD)**

A photograph of the Eastern Forum in Rome, showing the ruins of the Curia and the Mamertine Prison. A red arrow points from the 'Mamertine Prison' label to the brick building on the right. A black arrow points from the 'Curia (Senate "Court")' label to the large stone structure in the center. The foreground shows a cobblestone path and some ruins. The background features modern buildings and a cloudy sky.

**Mamertine  
Prison**

**Curia (Senate  
"Court")**

**Eastern Forum From Above**



**Central Forum From Above**



**Western Forum From Above**

**Mamertine  
Prison**

**Close  
Locations!**

**Curia (Senate  
"Court")**



# Curia Inside



**Reconstruction of interior of the Curia Julia, created by the  
UCLA Experiential Technologies Center**



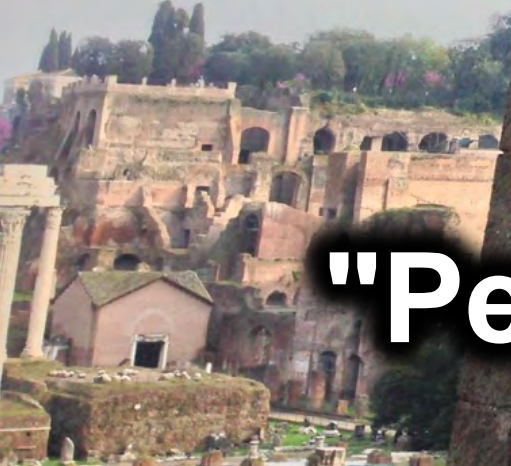
**View of the Forum from the  
Mamertine Prison (AD 2014)**



**View of the Forum from the Mamertine Prison (AD 4<sup>th</sup> cent.)**

VIA  
S. PIETRO  
IN CARCERE

**"Peter in Prison Street"**



# Susan & Rick free because of Peter's & Paul's imprisonment





**"Mamertine Prison of the Apostles Peter & Paul"**

PRIGIONE DEI SS APOSTOLI PIETRO E PAOLO  
MAMERTINUM

**"Mamertine Prison of the  
Apostles Peter & Paul"**



**Mamertine Doors Depict  
Peter & Paul**



CHI PASSI VENERA IN SILENZIO  
CHI TERRIBILI O GLORIOSI  
VINCENDUE SECOLI DI STORIA

# Mamertine Prison Entrance

# carcere di San Pietro St. Peter's prison



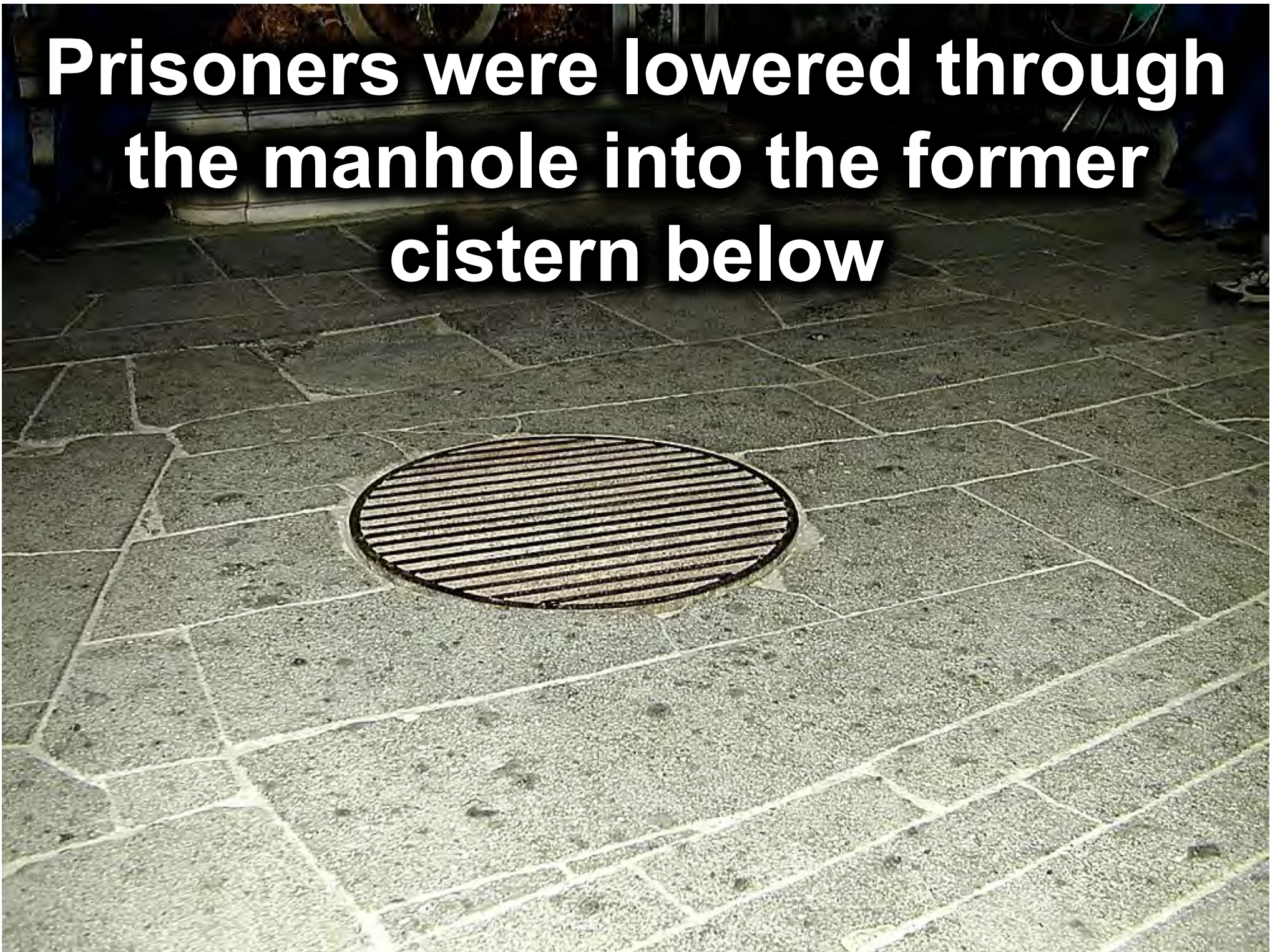
PRISON - TULLIANUM

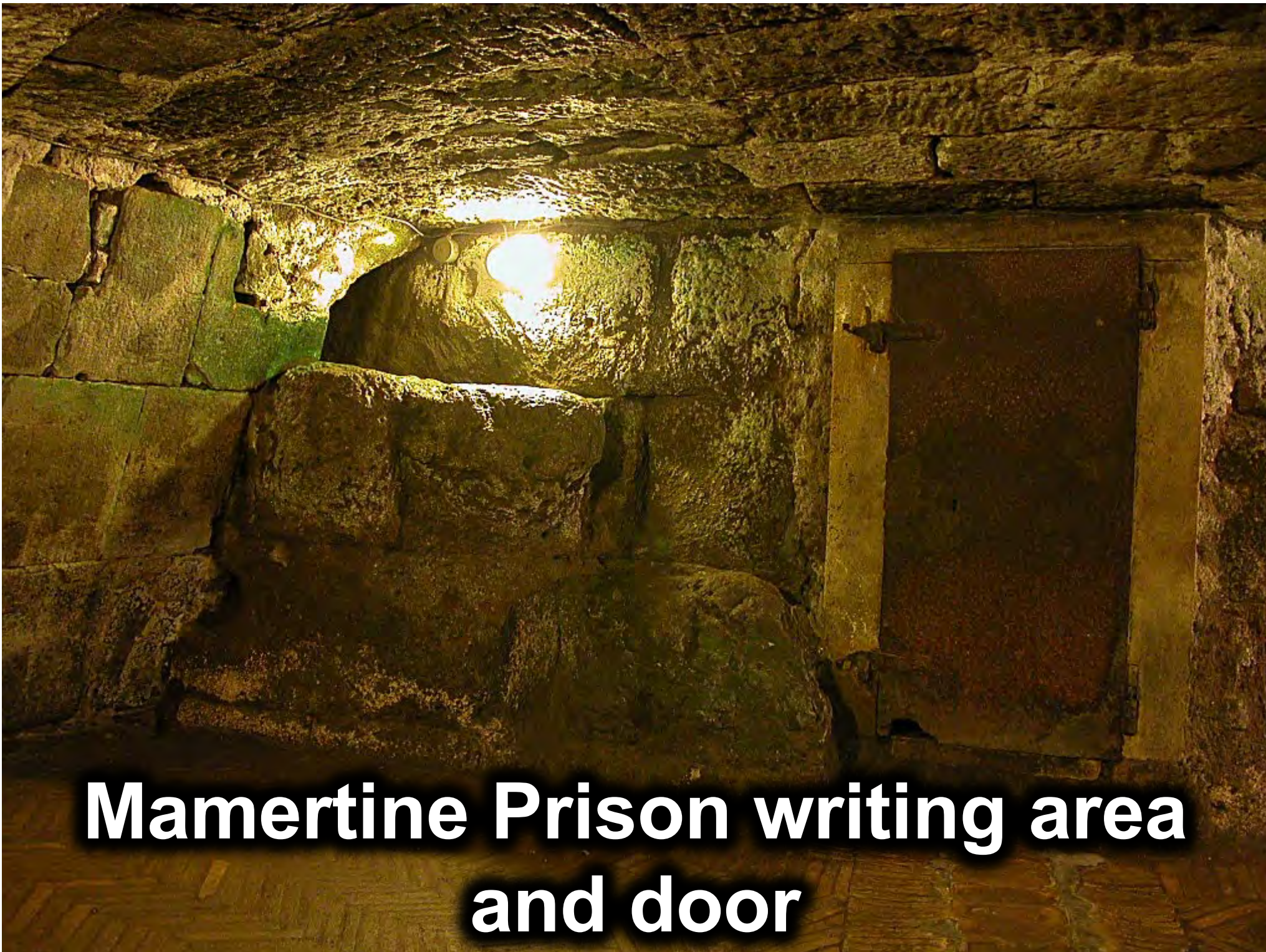
**The Mamertine Tour**

**The Upper  
Mamertine  
room busts  
of Peter and  
Paul**



**Prisoners were lowered through  
the manhole into the former  
cistern below**



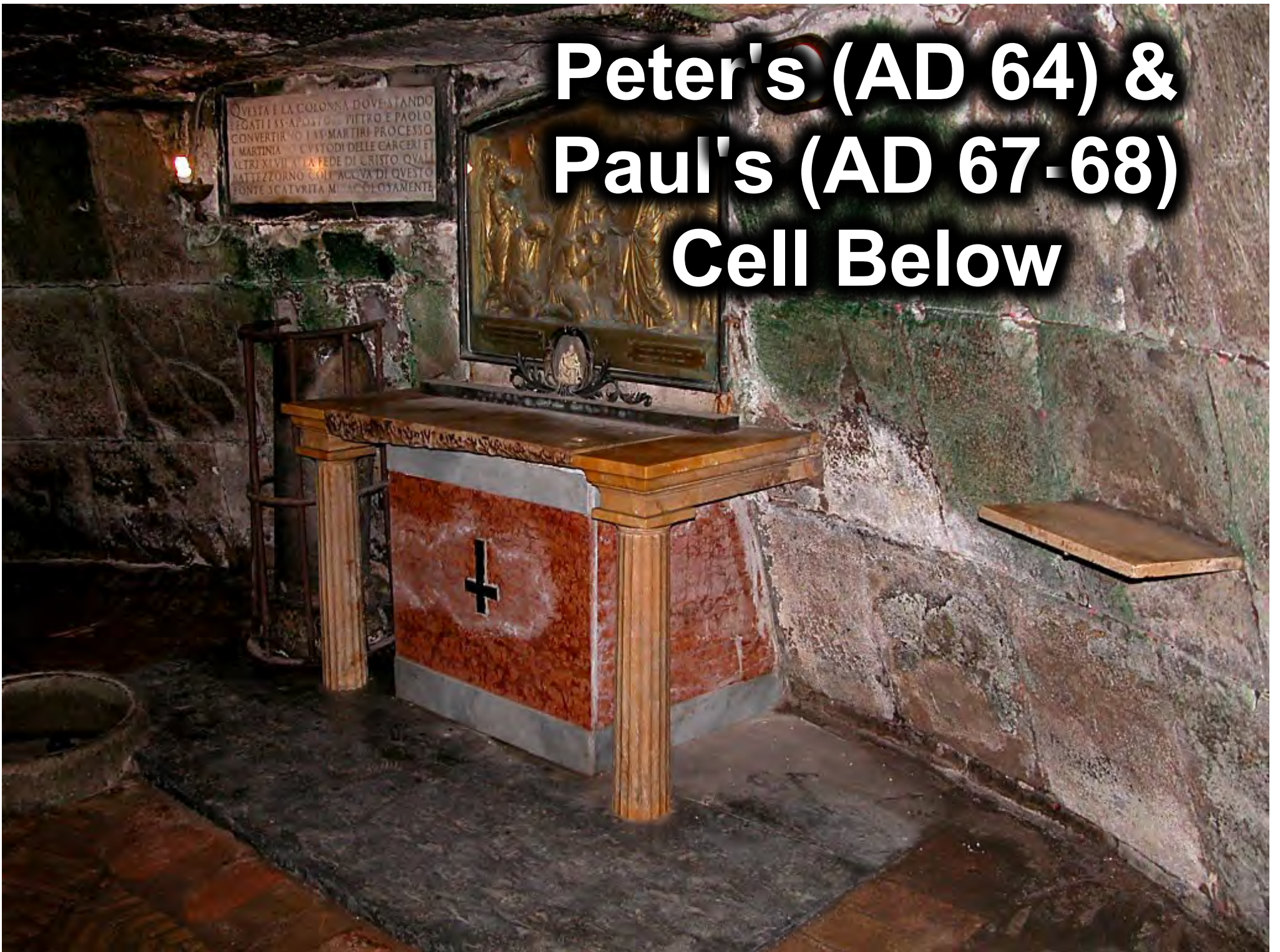


**Mamertine Prison writing area  
and door**

# Down the Steps



# Peter's (AD 64) & Paul's (AD 67-68) Cell Below



Faithfully practice and  
*preach the Word*  
despite hardship **to**  
*persevere against false*  
*teaching* and apostasy.



# 2 Timothy

## MAJOR THEMES

**1. Faithfulness**

**2. Apostasy**

**3. God-inspired Word**



# 2 Timothy

## MAJOR THEME 1: Faithfulness

### Examples of Faithfulness:

- a. Learned from mother Eunice & grandmother Lois (1:3-7)

Timothy learned in his own mixed-parentage home, with the women in his life setting the example of faithfulness in daily dealings.



# 2 Timothy

## MAJOR THEME 1: Faithfulness



### b. Learned from Paul (1:8-14)

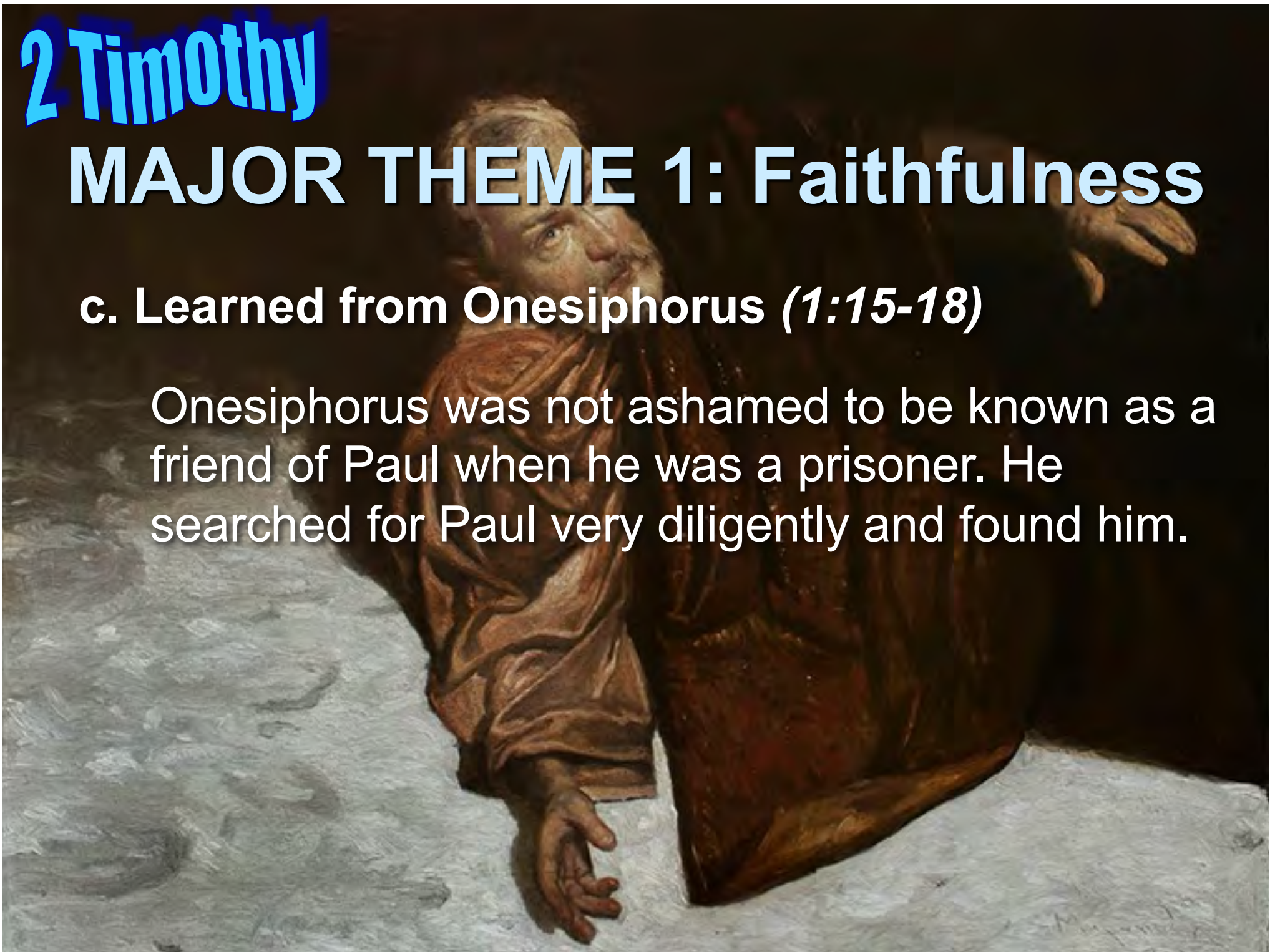
Paul remained faithful  
in difficult times  
because he believed  
and trusted God to  
keep him till the end  
(1:11-12).

# 2 Timothy

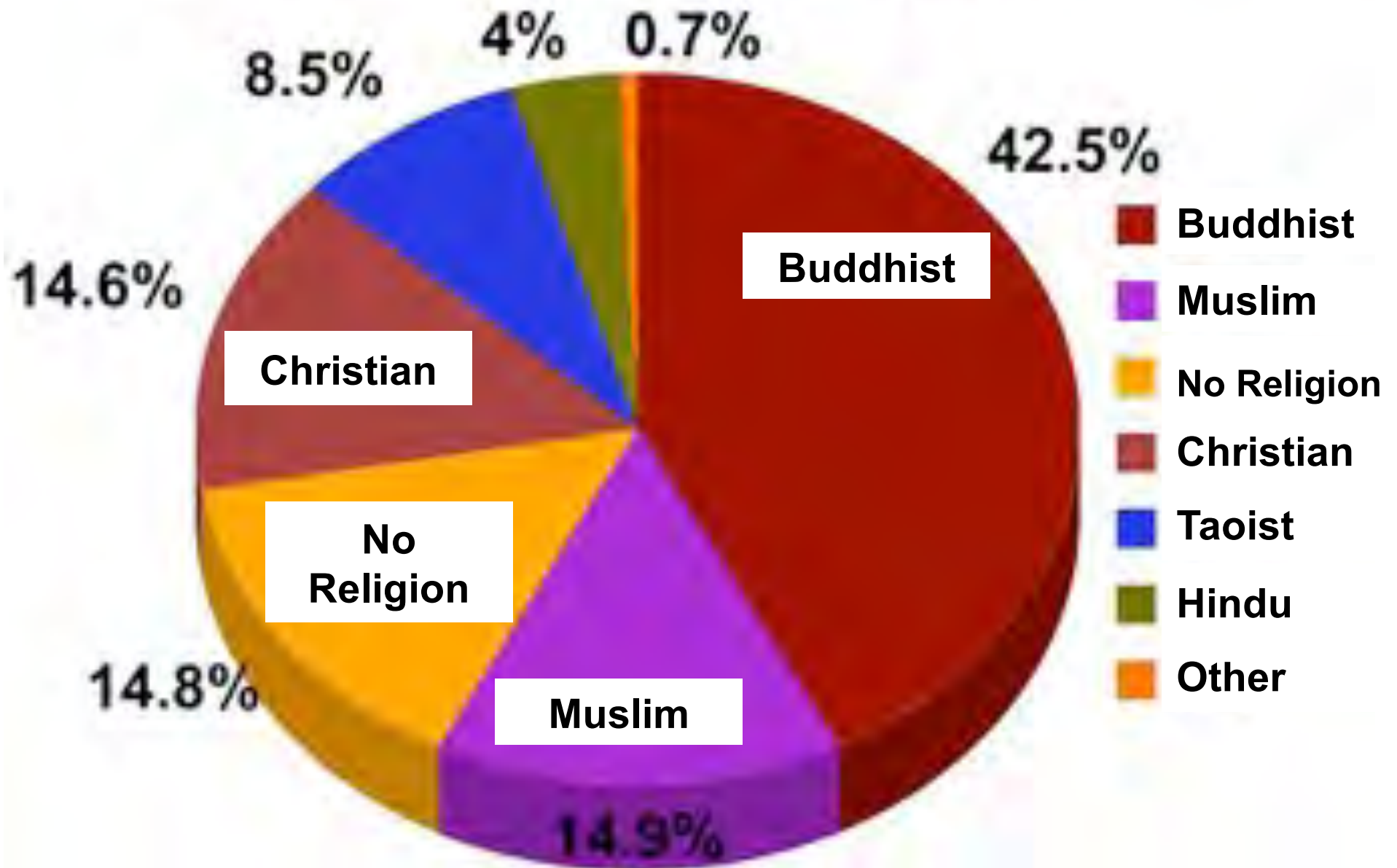
## MAJOR THEME 1: Faithfulness

### c. Learned from Onesiphorus (1:15-18)

Onesiphorus was not ashamed to be known as a friend of Paul when he was a prisoner. He searched for Paul very diligently and found him.



# Religious Distribution in Singapore



*The Straits Times* 14 Jan 2013 - 10:37am

**"There is no God."**

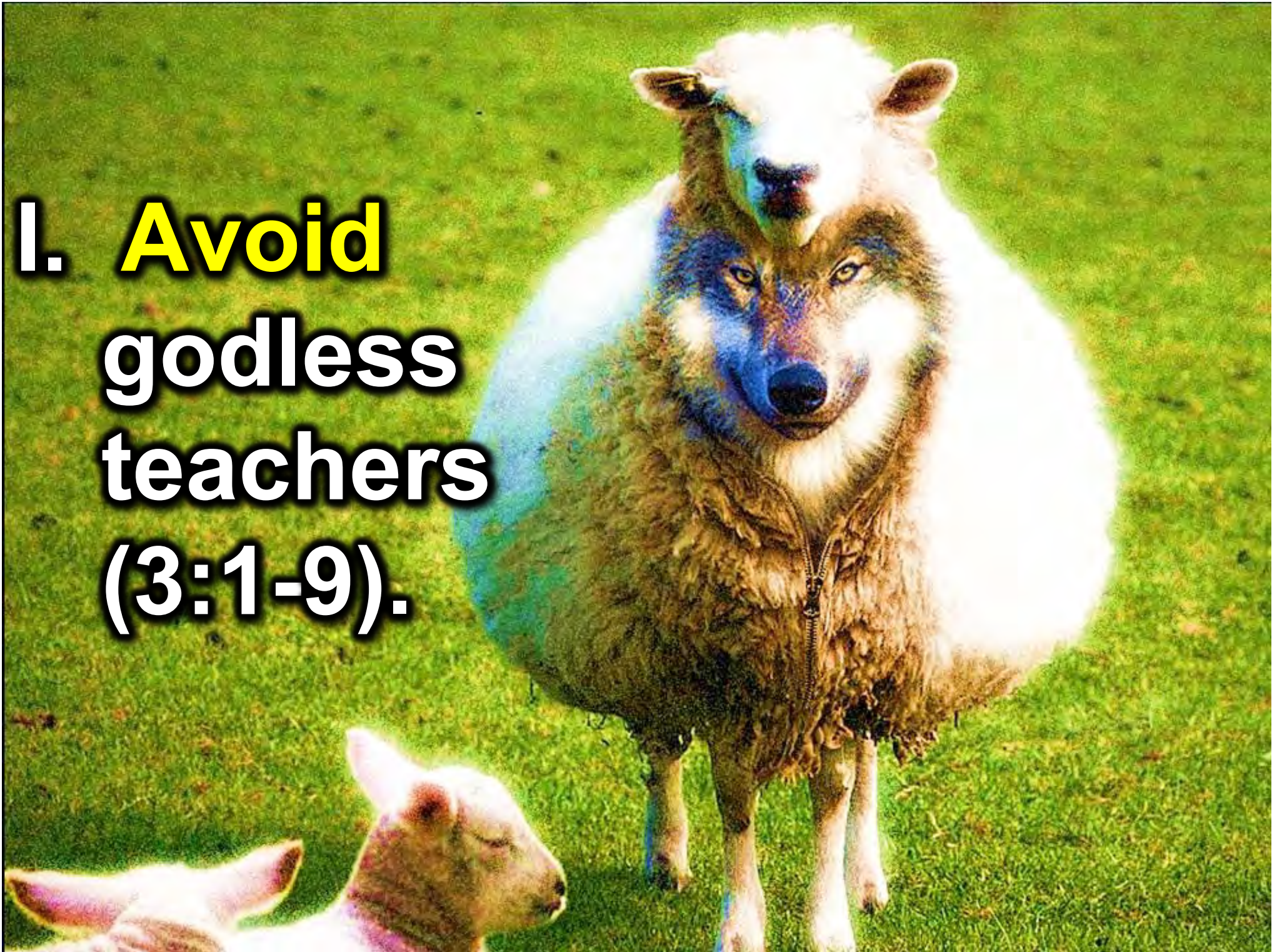
How should you deal with ***secularism***?

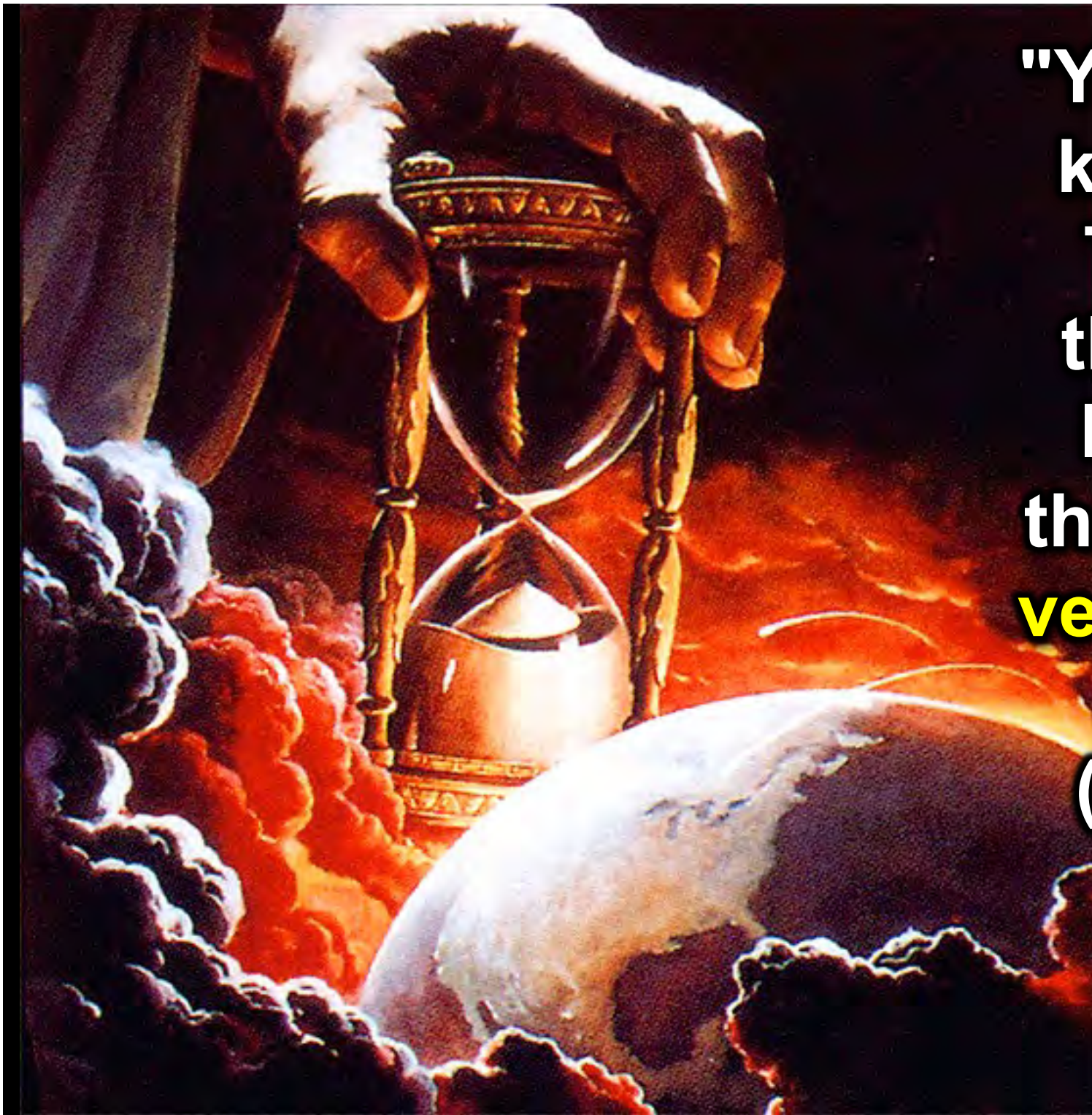
**2 Timothy 3  
gives 2 ways**



BEK

**I. Avoid  
godless  
teachers  
(3:1-9).**





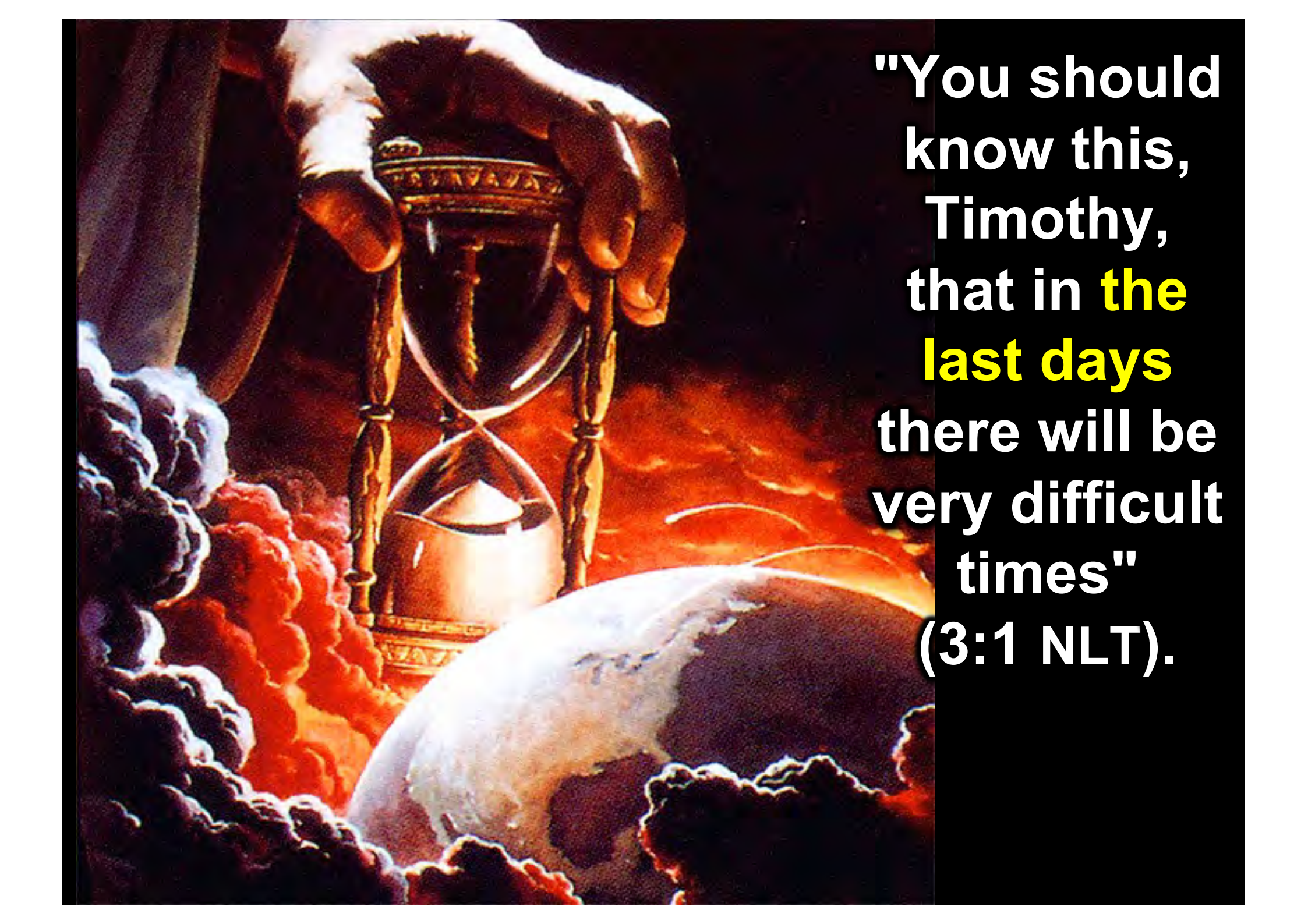
"You should know this, Timothy, that in the last days there will be **very difficult times**" (3:1 NLT).

# 2 Timothy

## MAJOR THEME 2: Apostasy

- Paul listed 19 characteristics of the last days that show us the signs of false doctrine (3:1-5)
- Paul spoke of time when men reject sound doctrine (4:3-4)
- Paul advised Timothy to keep away from such people (3:5-8)



A hand holding an hourglass over a globe of the Earth, with a dramatic, fiery sky in the background. The hourglass is positioned centrally, with sand falling from the top bulb into the bottom bulb. The globe is partially visible in the lower right, showing continents and oceans. The sky is filled with intense orange and red flames, suggesting a period of great difficulty or crisis.

**"You should know this, Timothy, that in **the last days** there will be very difficult times" (3:1 NLT).**

**Life will be tough because the  
godless deceive others (3:2-5a).**



# 2 Timothy

## 19 Traits of Apostates (3:1-5)

lovers of themselves

lovers of money

boastful

proud

abusive

disobedient to their parents

ungrateful

unholy

without love

lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God

having a form of godliness but denying its power



unforgiving

slanderos

without self-control

brutal

not lovers of the good

treacherous

rash

conceited



**DANGER**

**What should we do?**

**"Avoid such men as these"  
(3:5b NAU).**

**"Stay away from people like that!"  
(3:5b NLT).**



**Avoid godless leaders**



**Avoid godless leaders**

**"They are the kind who work [lit. *creep*] their way into people's homes and win the confidence of vulnerable women who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by various desires. <sup>7</sup>(Such women are forever following new teachings, but they are never able to understand the truth.)" (3:6-7 NLT).**



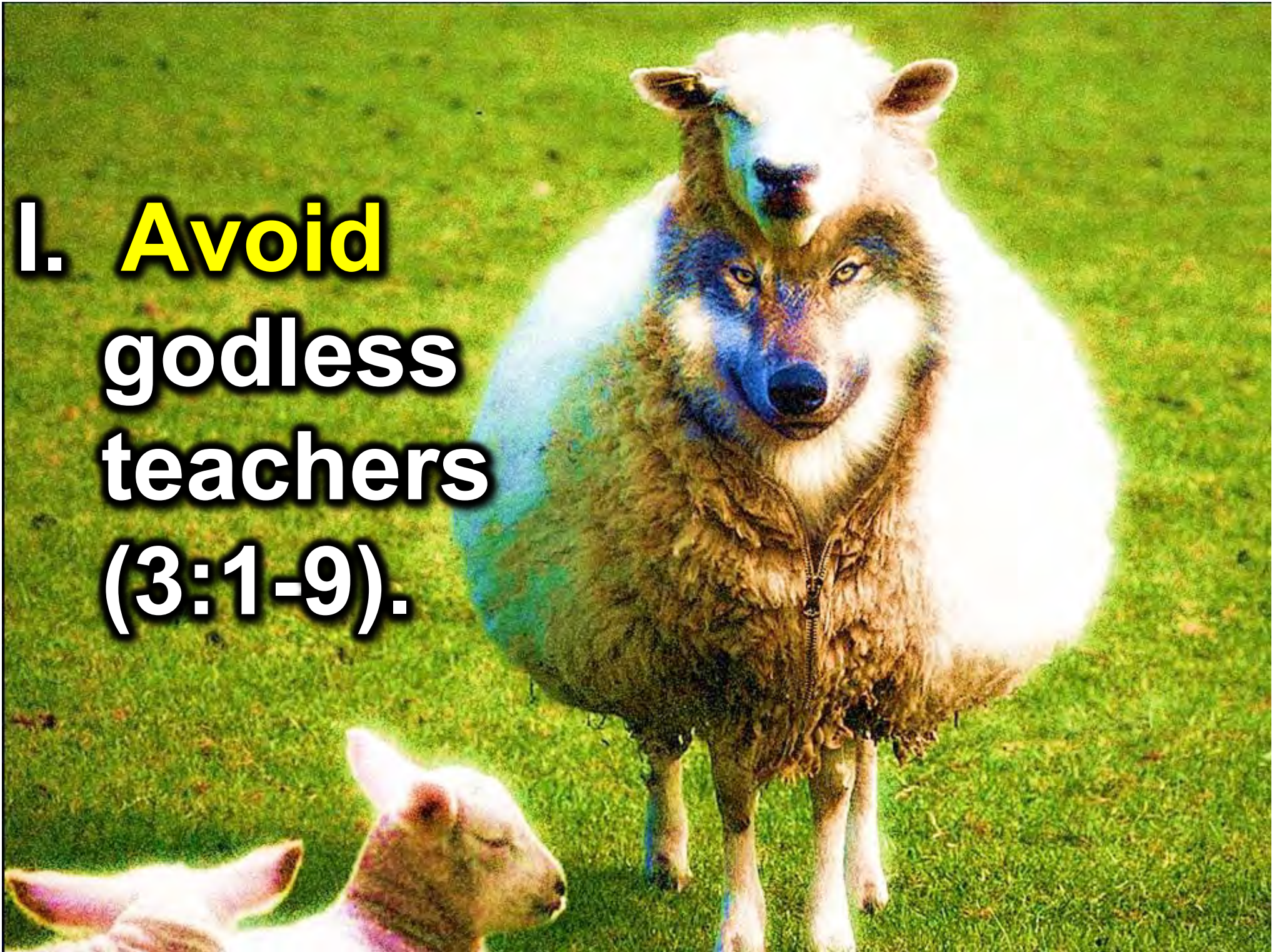


**"These teachers oppose the truth just as Jannes and Jambres opposed Moses. They have depraved minds and a counterfeit faith. <sup>9</sup>But they won't get away with this for long. Someday everyone will recognize what fools they are, just as with Jannes and Jambres" (3:8-9 NLT).**



**Our values are revealed by what we consider trash. God desires for us today to invest our energies in efforts that will last.**

**I. Avoid  
godless  
teachers  
(3:1-9).**



## II. **Accept** truth (3:10-17).



# Follow God's **servants** (3:10-13)



**"But you, Timothy, certainly know what I teach, and how I live, and what my purpose in life is. You know my faith, my patience, my love, and my endurance. <sup>11</sup>You know how much persecution and suffering I have endured. You know all about how I was persecuted in Antioch, Iconium, and Lystra—but the Lord rescued me from all of it" (3:10-11 NLT).**



**Expect to suffer for godliness  
like Paul did (3:12).**



**"Yes, and everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. <sup>13</sup>But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived" (3:12-13 NLT).**



**"Yes, and everyone who wants to live a  
godly life in Christ Jesus will suffer  
persecution" (3:12 NLT).**





# Persecution of Children

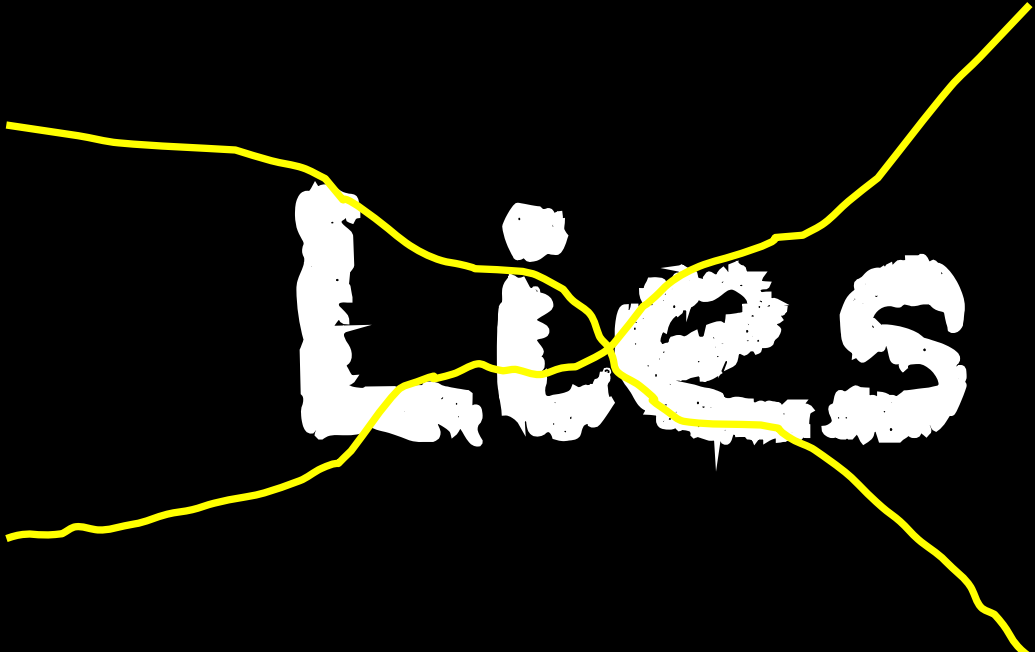
**"But evil people and impostors will flourish. They will deceive others and will themselves be deceived" (3:13 NLT).**



**How can we accept truth  
instead of lies?**

**Truth**

**Lies**

A thick, yellow, hand-drawn scribble is drawn over the word 'Lies', crossing it out. The scribble starts from the left, goes up and over the top of the 'L', then down and under the 'i', then up and over the 'e', then down and under the 's', and finally goes up and over the top of the 's'.

# Follow God's **servants** (3:10-13)



# Follow God's **Word** (3:14-17)



**"But you must remain faithful to the things you have been taught. You know they are true, for you know you can trust those who taught you. <sup>15</sup>You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood..."**  
**(3:14-15a NLT).**



# **Blessings of God's Word (3:15b-17)**



"and [the Scriptures] have given you the **wisdom** to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus"  
(3:15b NLT).



**"All Scripture is inspired by God..."  
(3:16a NLT).**



**"All Scripture is God-breathed..."  
(3:16a NIV).**

**"All Scripture is God-breathed..."  
(3:16a NIV).**



# WHY IS GOD'S WORD SO VITAL?

*"All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work."*

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)

# Four Results of God's Word

**Rebuking**

**Teaching**

**Training**  
**(in Righteousness)**

**2 Timothy 3:16-17**

# 2 Timothy

## MAJOR THEME 3: Bible

### Paul's View of Scripture

a. **God-Inspired/breathed** (3:16; 2 Peter 1:21)

b. **Useful** (3:17)

- Teaching
- Rebuking
- Correcting
- Training in righteousness



The purpose is to equip us to be "complete, capable, proficient... to meet all demands" against false teachings and to do good works

# How to Be Secular



**"All religions are the same."**



**"All religions are the same."**



"There is no God."

How should you deal with *secularism*?

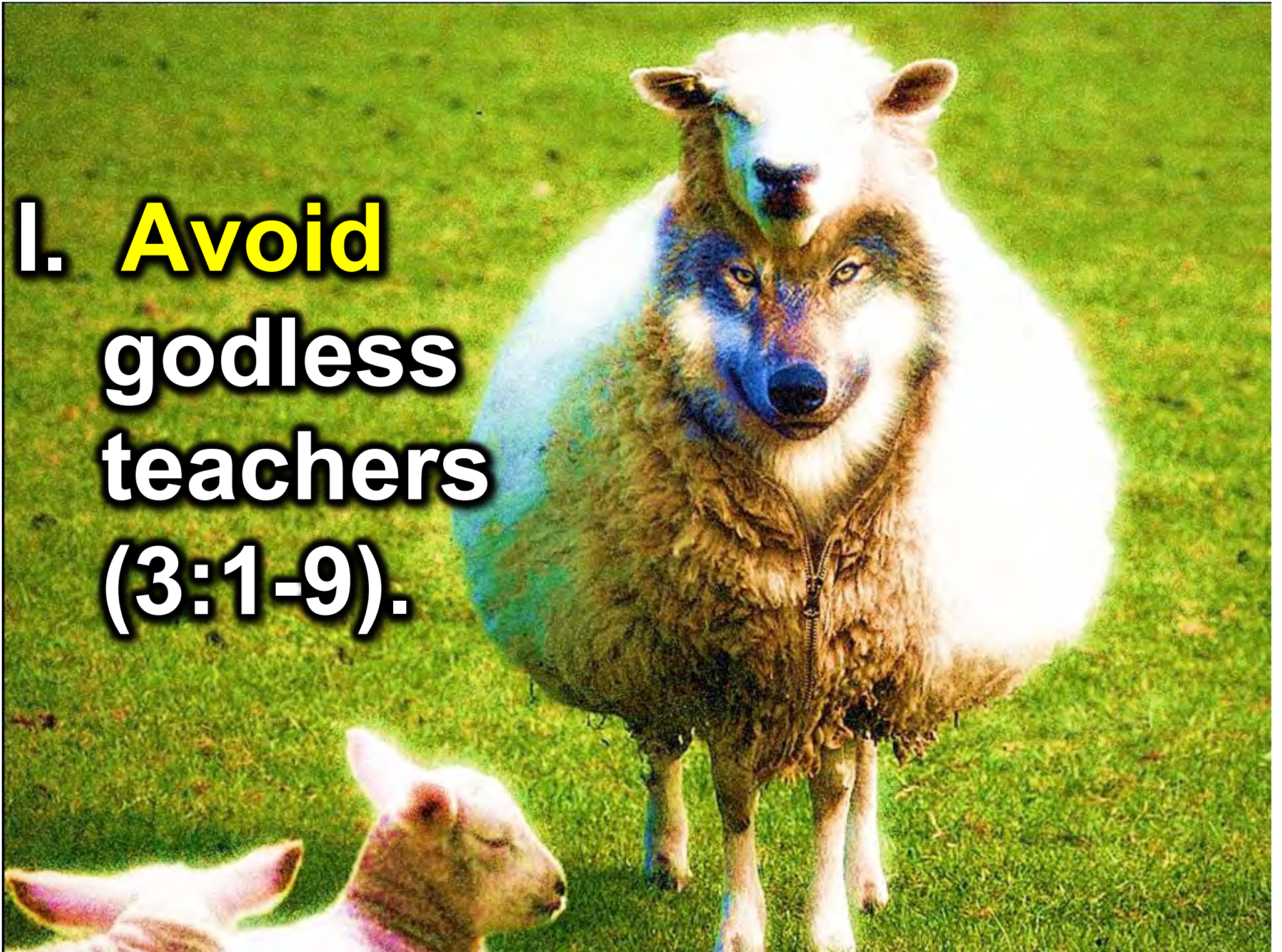


Replace **lies** with **truth**.

**Main Idea**



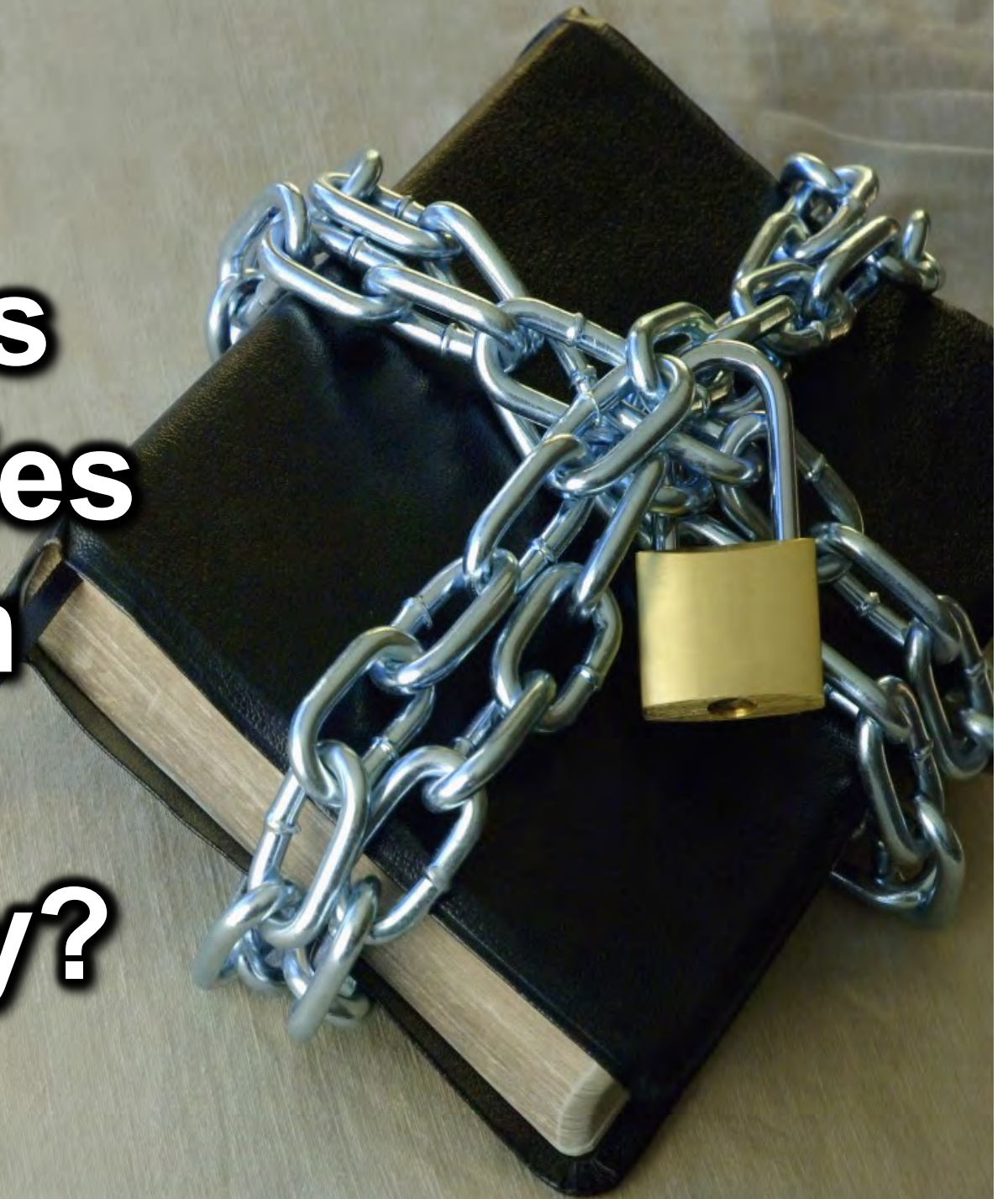
**I. Avoid  
godless  
teachers  
(3:1-9).**



## II. **Accept** truth (3:10-17).



**What does  
replacing lies  
with truth  
look like  
specifically?**





**Garbage  
In...**



**Garbage  
Out!**



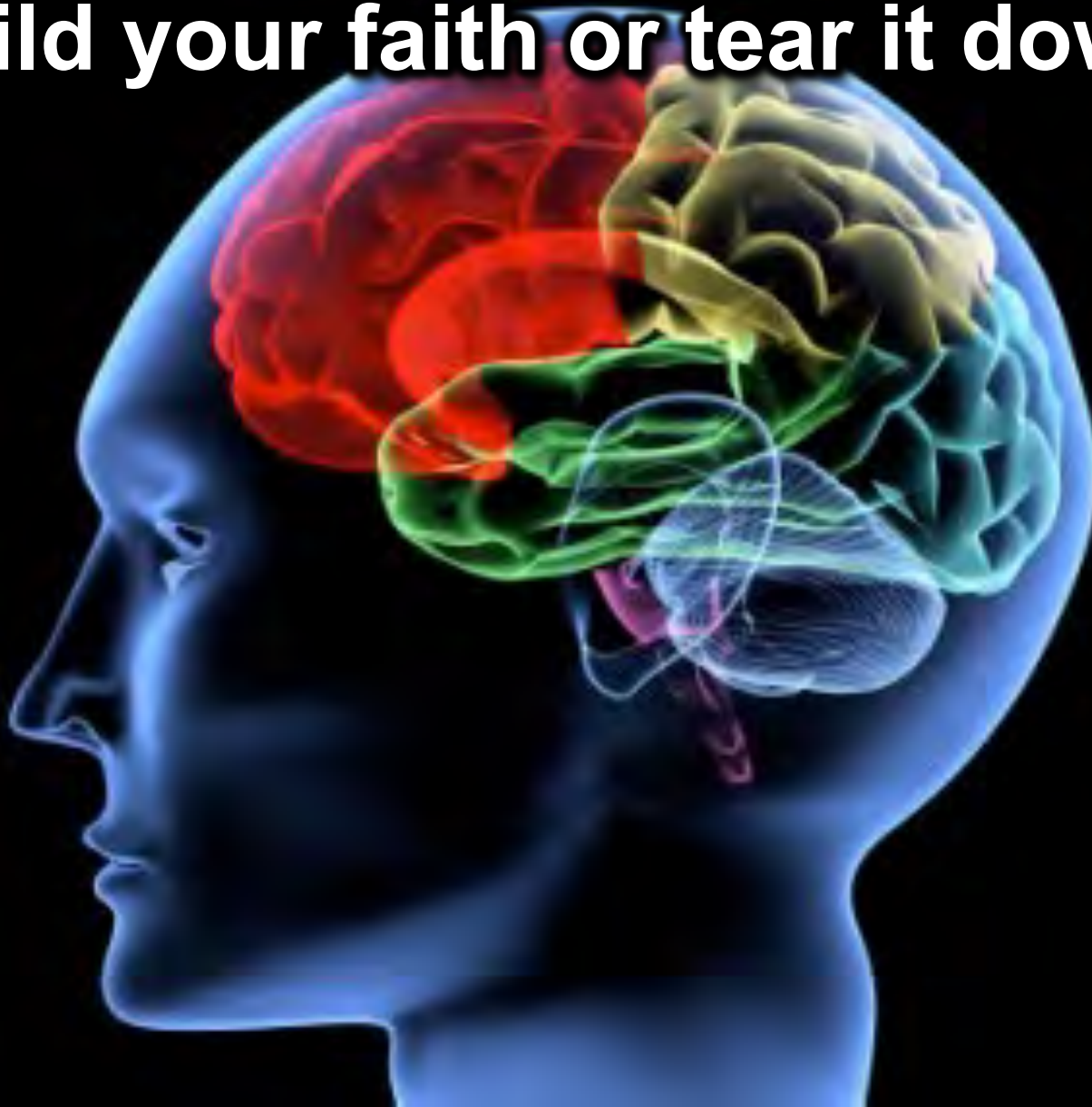
**Everything that enters  
the mind influences how  
we think and act.**

**Don't let garbage enter  
your mind.**

D. Wardell

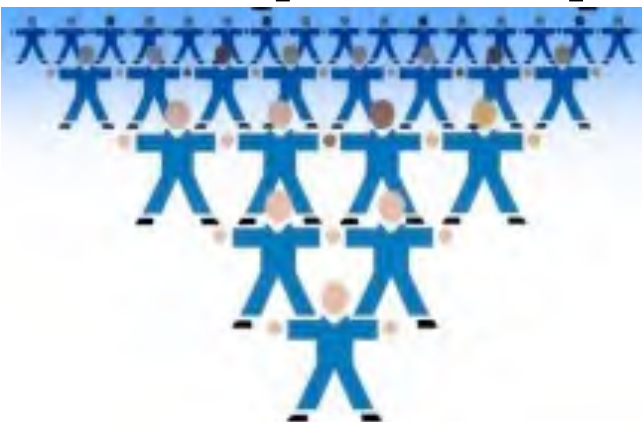


**Does your reading, news, friends,  
movies, TV, and especially the Internet  
build your faith or tear it down?**

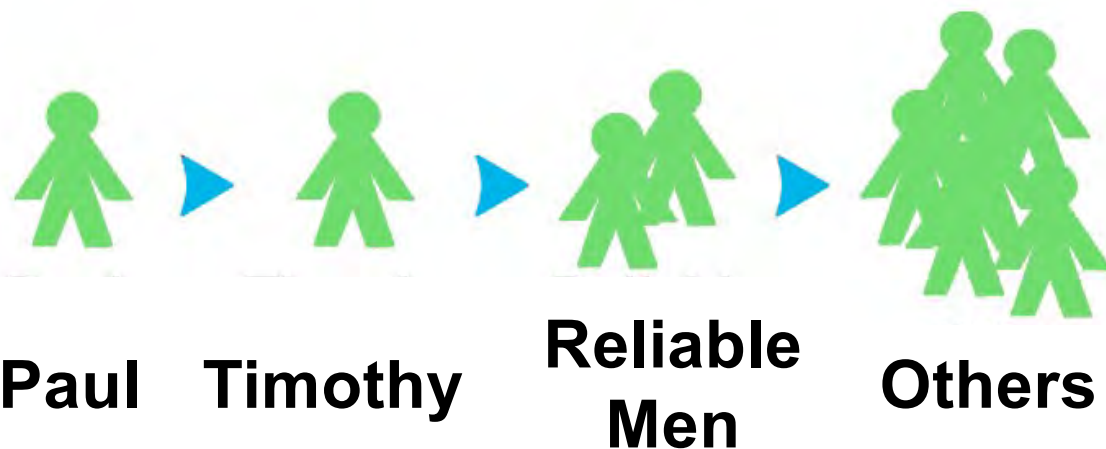


# Multiply Yourself into Trustworthy Men!

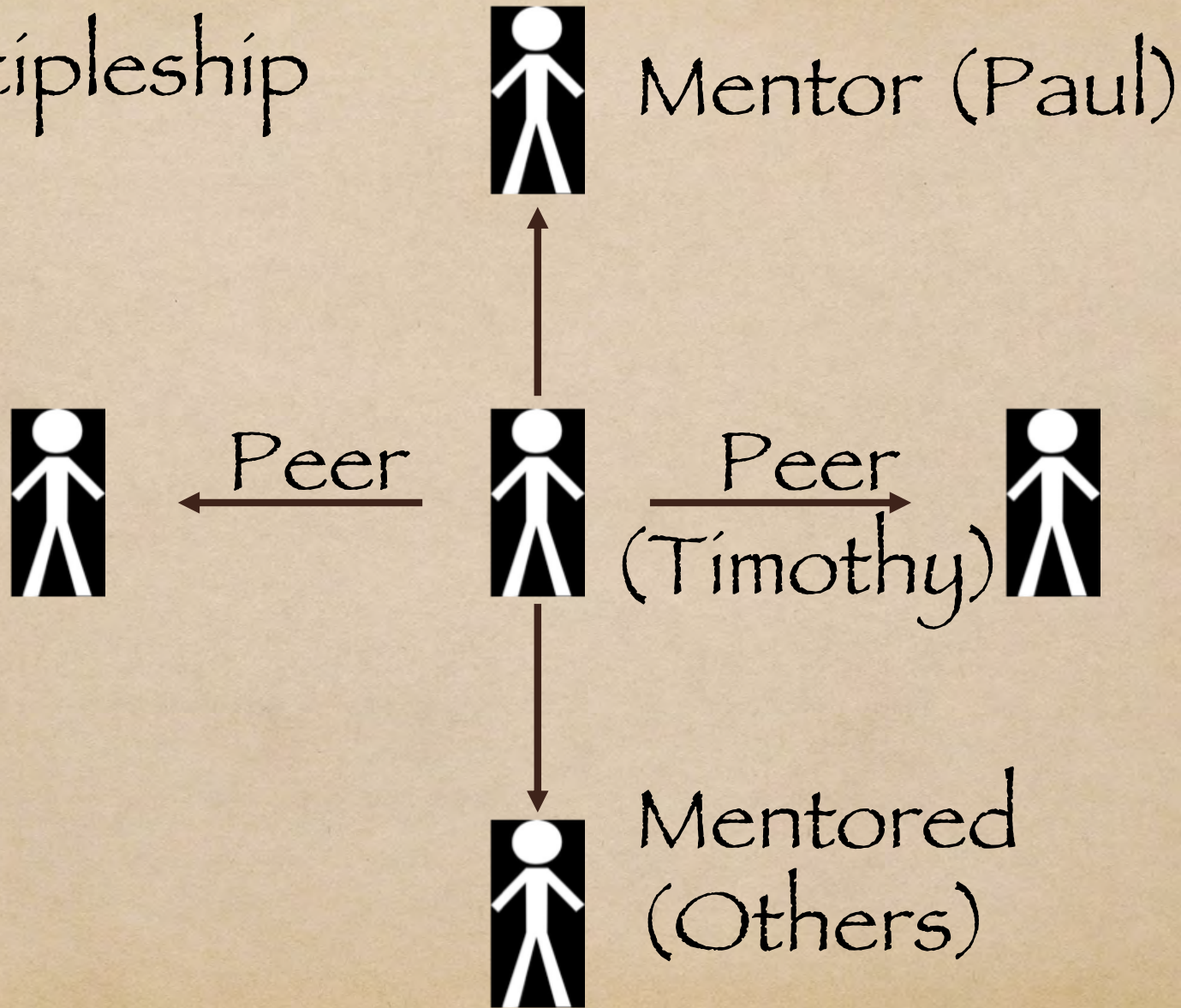
## Discipleship



**"You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others" (2 Tim. 2:2 NLT).**



# Levels of Discipleship



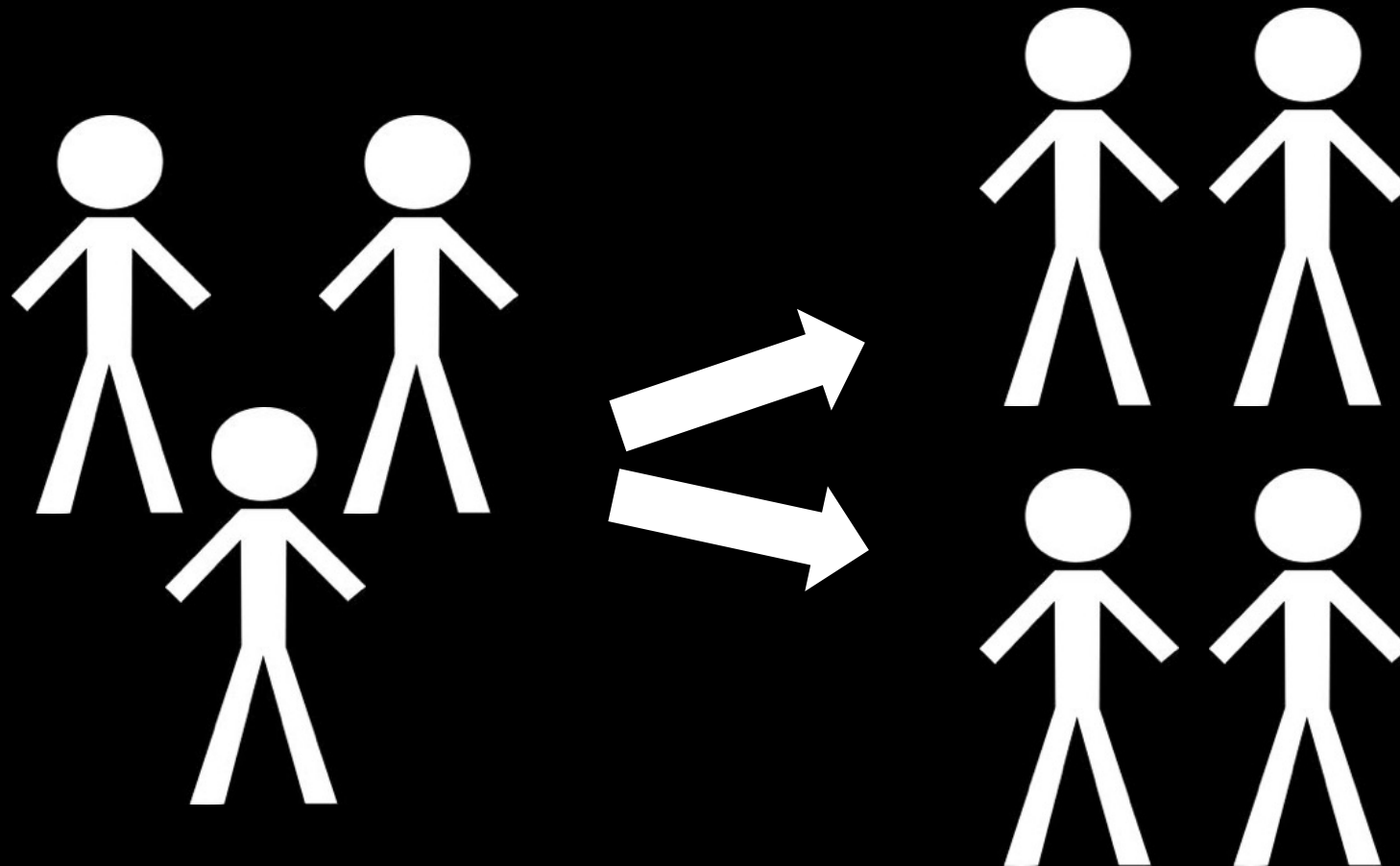
# Life Transformation Groups



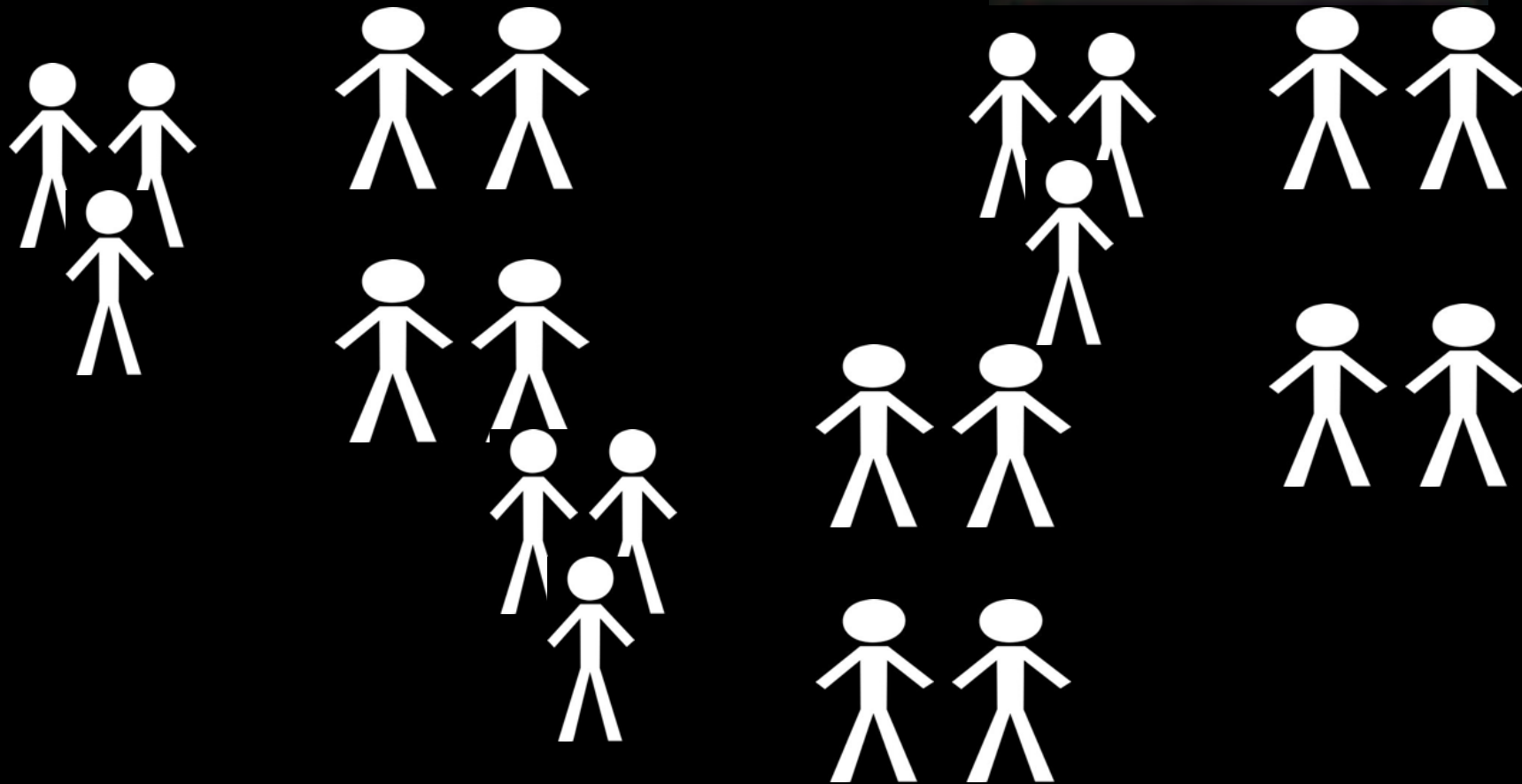
The Commitment: Meet one hour a week with 1-2 others of the same sex to provide accountability in 3 areas

1. **Confess** sin around 10 questions
2. **Read** 3 Bible chapters daily
3. **Pray** for lost friends

# Life Transformation Groups



# Life Transformation Groups





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### OT SURVEY I

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SATURDAYS (FEB 7 TO MAR 7)

### CHRISTIANITY IN ASIA

Dr Violet James

7.30 - 9.30pm

9.00am - 12.00noon

We Can't Obey God  
Until We First

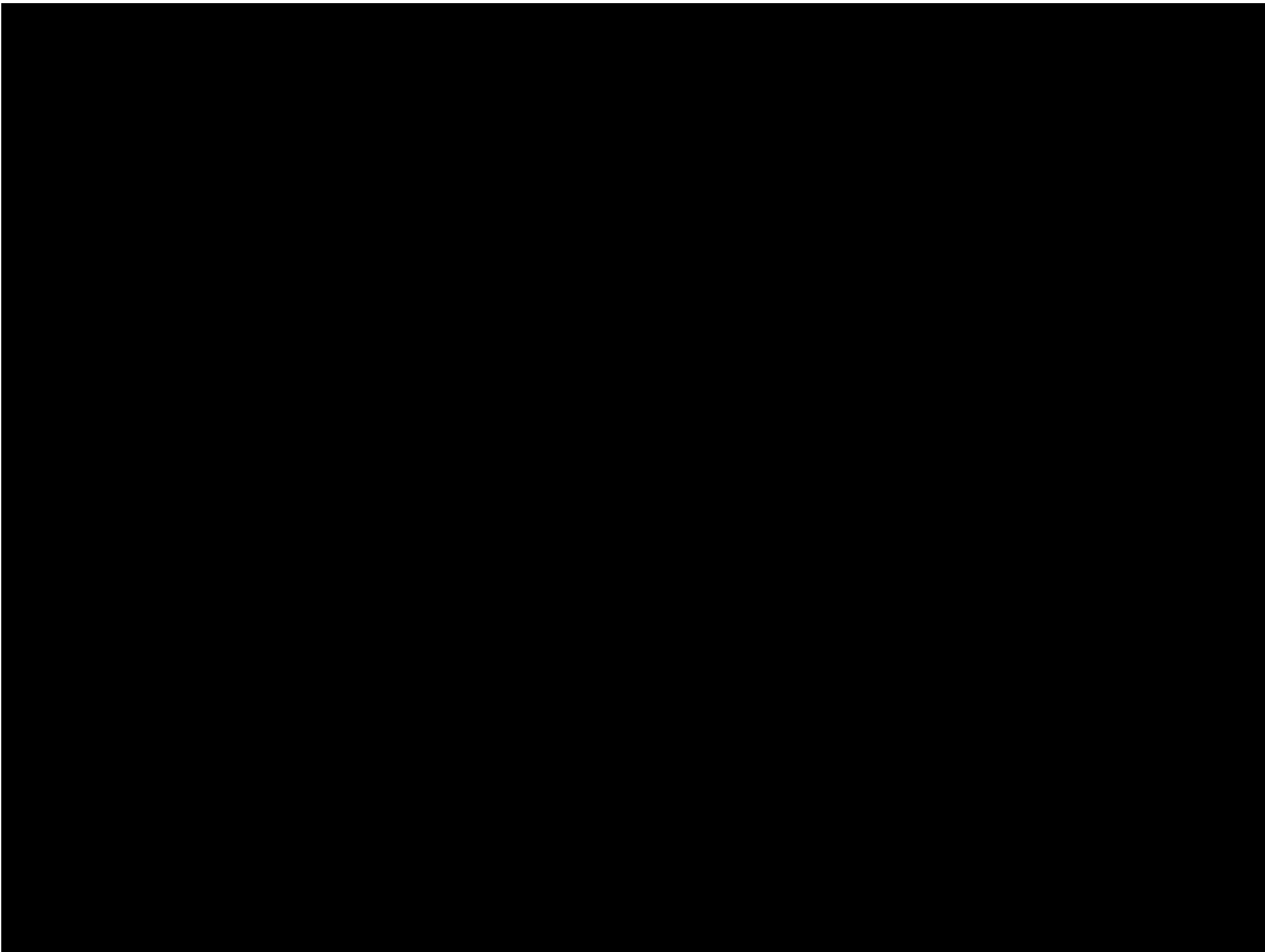
# LISTEN

To His Word

# Faith

Comes By Hearing The Word

**Read it!**



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