

# Colossians

Focus on the  
Deity of Christ

**Key Word**

187

**Deity**

**Colossians**

# Theme

23

**Deity of Christ vs.  
Syncretistic Heresy**

**Colossians**

# Key Verse

187

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

**Colossians**

## Summary & Applications

### Summary Statement

The way to protect the church from *syncretistic heresy* is to embrace the *deity of Christ* and holy living.

### Applications

- Know the deity of Christ well so you can warn your church members.
- Avoid legalism & asceticism.

# Colossians

# Kingdom Statement

27c

**“In [Christ] all the fullness of deity lives in bodily form” (2:9) may be the clearest statement in the Bible that Jesus is God, for he “has rescued us from the kingdom of darkness and transferred us into the Kingdom of his dear Son” (1:13).**

## Colossians

# Covenant

27c

**Christ “cancelled the written code, with its regulations” (2:14), so Christ’s death did away with the Mosaic Law (cf. Rom. 7:7).**

# Colossians

# Redemption

27c

**Jesus through his death has transferred believers from the dominion of darkness to light (1:13-14) in his victory over spiritual forces (2:15).**

**Colossians**

# Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

27c

Christ's deity is evident in:

- (1) "He is the **image of the invisible God**, the firstborn ['preeminent one'] over all creation. For by Him all things were made..." (1:15-16a),
- (2) "For God was pleased to have **all his fullness dwell in him**" (1:19), and
- (3) "For in Christ **all the fullness of Deity** lives in bodily form" (2:9).

## Colossians

Supremacy/Deity

Chapters 1–2

Heretical Living

Belief

Practical Instruction

Chapters 3–4

Holy Living

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

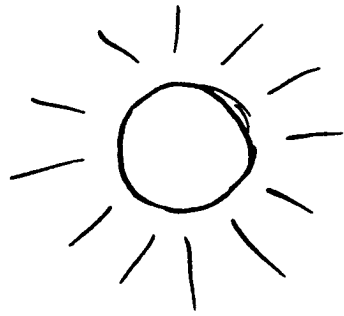
3:5–4:6

4:7-18

Rome

Autumn AD 61 (first Roman imprisonment)

# COLOSSIANS



- 1 **H**ope produced by Christ
- 2 **O**bjections to false teachers
- 3 **P**inciples for Christian life-style
- 4 **E**xpectant prayer and greetings



Barry Huddleston, *The Acrostic Bible*

# Be Protected



***Colossians***

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

# False Teachers Deny the Deity and Work of Christ



**Colossians**

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)

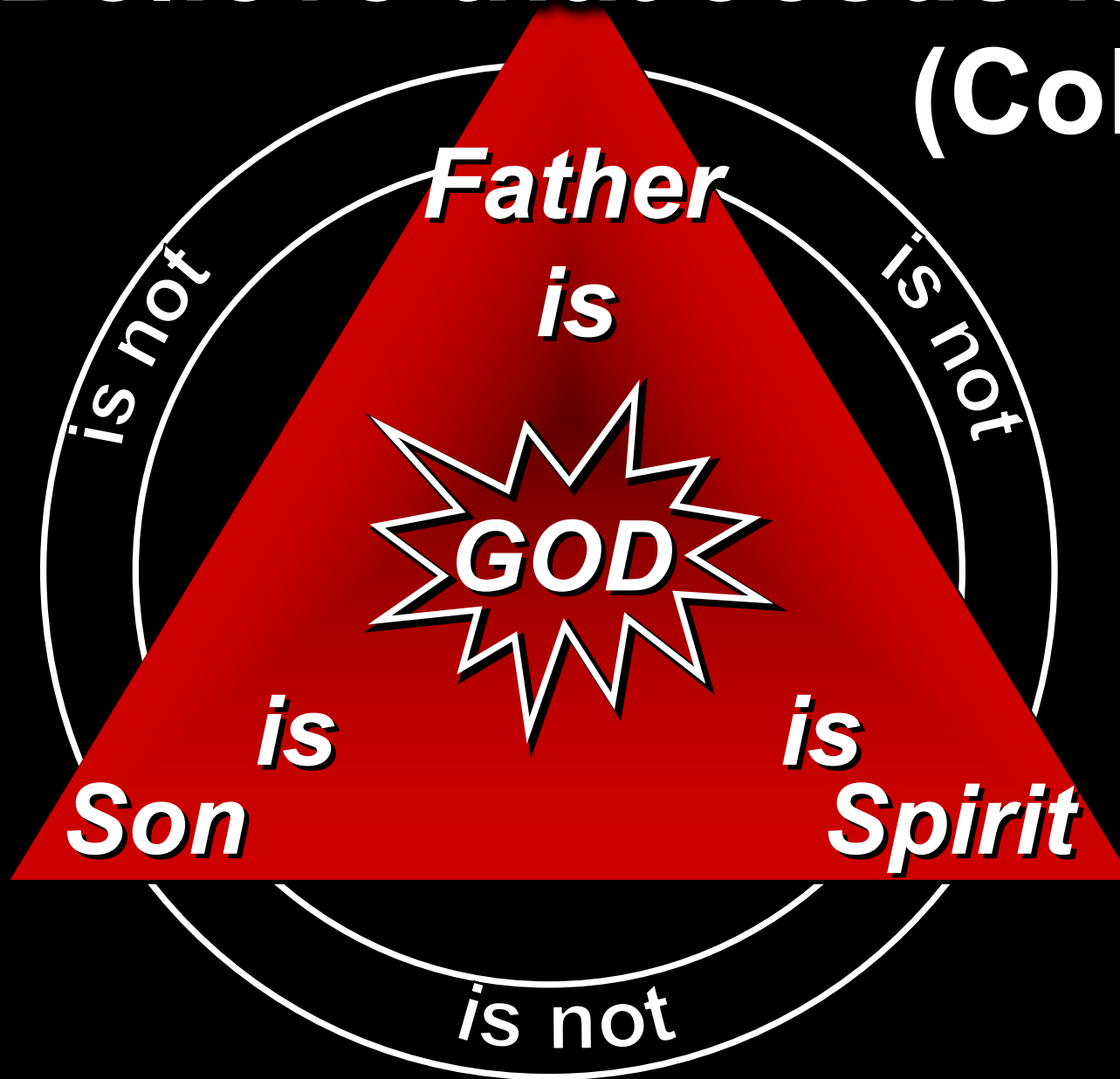
What was the heresy facing this church? The above shows it was a syncretistic Jewish-Greek-Ascetic-Pagan cult. Paul's method to fight the heresy is to emphasize the deity & supremacy of Christ.

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



**Colossians**

# 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***

# ***WHAT TO EMBRACE***

**DEITY**

**TO**

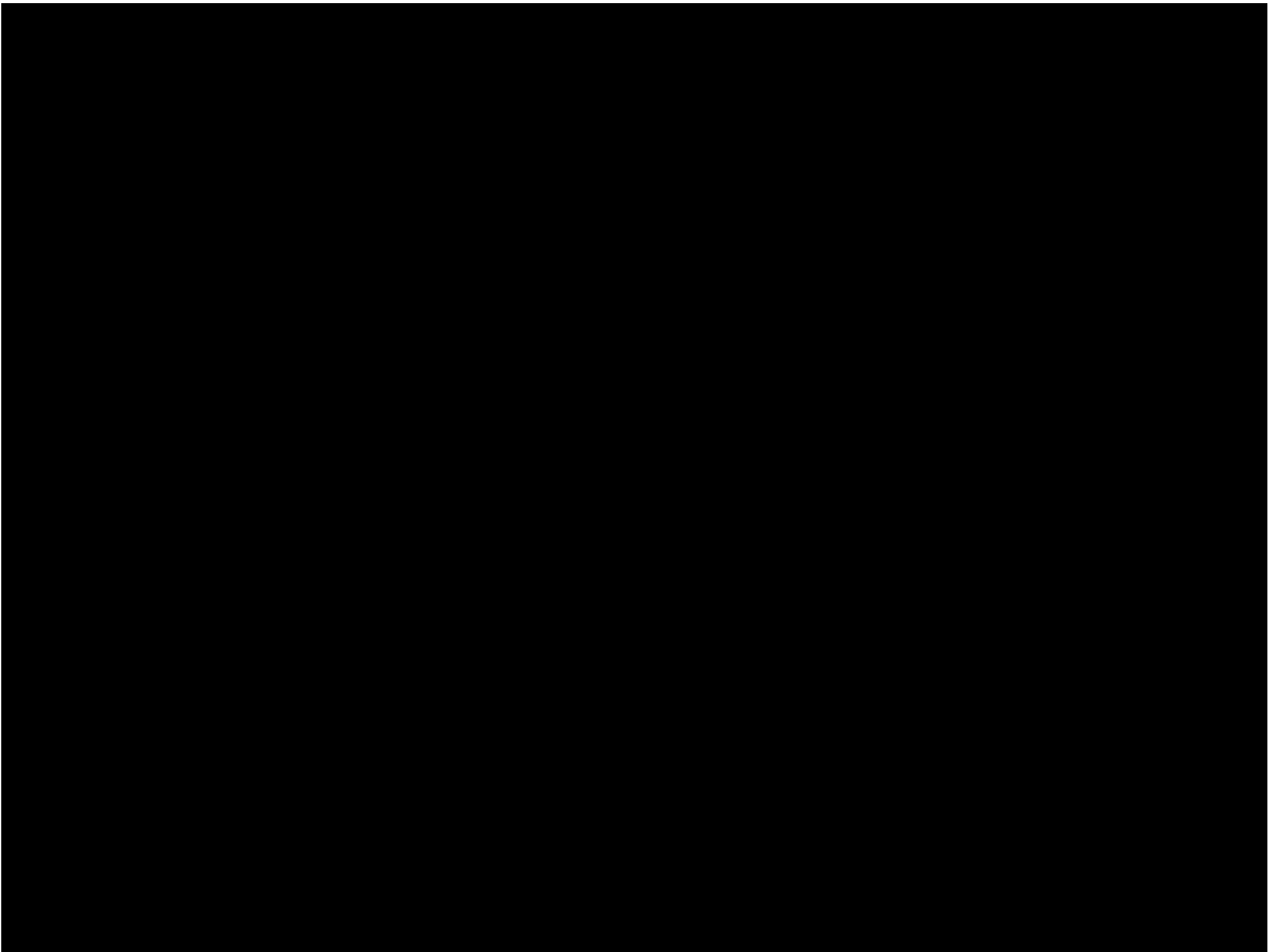
**HOLINESS**


**Colossians**

# Main Idea of the Letter

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

**Colossians**





**Our God is an awesome God!**  
**He reigns from heaven above**  
**with wisdom, power and love;**  
**Our God is an awesome God!**  
*(repeat)*

**Our God is an awesome God!**  
**Our God is an awesome God!**

# NT Overview

(ers)

38  
124  
39-41

Give the key word for each book studied so far

"To the rem  
Acts 9 13 14



Matt

Luke

Acts

Mark

John

Justify

Rapture

Sanctify

Unity

1 Tim

2 Tim

Tribulation

Apostle

Deity

Titus

Missionary

Righteous

Forgive

Pastoral

Attitude

Prison

Gospels & Acts

Pauline Epistles

1234

Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments

# Introducing the "Prison Epistles"



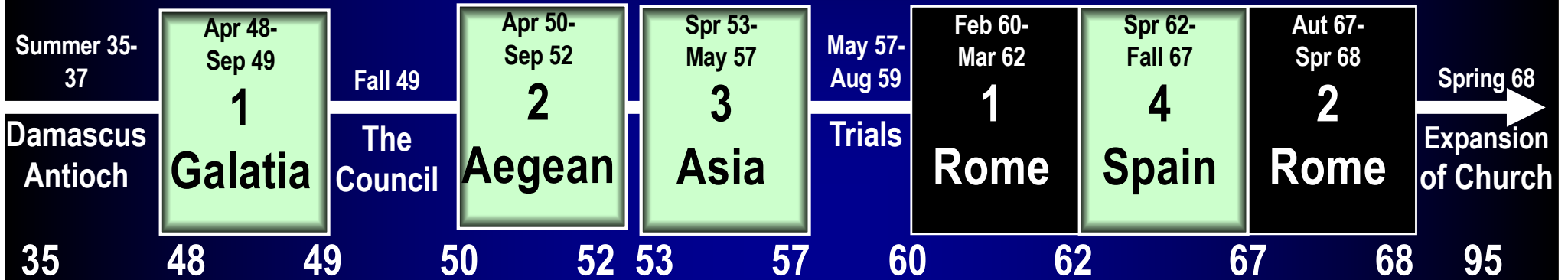
*Dr. Rick Griffith • Singapore Bible College*  
*BibleStudyDownloads.org*

# NT Overview (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



**Matt**

**Luke**

**Acts**

**Mark**

**John**

**Missionary**

- Justify
- Rapture
- Tribulation
- Sanctify
- Apostle
- Righteous

**Prison**

- Unity
- Deity
- Forgive
- Attitude

**Pastoral**

- 1 Tim
- 2 Tim
- Titus

**Gospels & Acts**

**Pauline Epistles**

**1234**

Journeys

**Rome**

Imprisonments

# Which letters are Prison Epistles?

- Ephesians
- Colossians
- Philemon
- Philippians



# Why call them "Prison Epistles"?

They refer to Paul's bonds (cf. Acts 28:16):

- Eph. 3:1; 4:1; 6:20
- Col. 4:3, 18
- Philem. 1, 9, 10
- Phil. 1:13-14

# Who carried these letters?

## 1. Tychicus

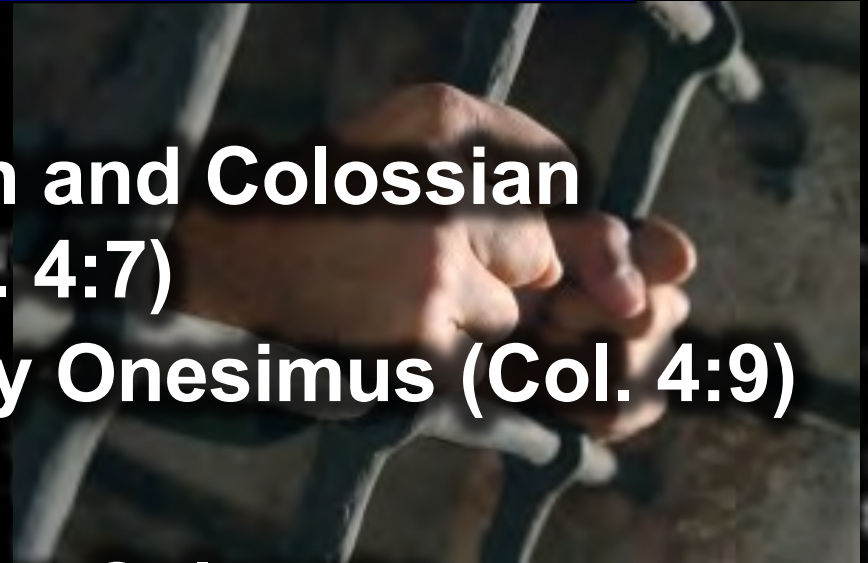
- He carried the Ephesian and Colossian epistles (Eph. 6:21; Col. 4:7)
- He was accompanied by Onesimus (Col. 4:9)

## 2. Onesimus

- A slave to Philemon from Colossae
- He probably carried the Epistle to Philemon when he returned to his master, though it is not specifically mentioned (Philem. 12)

## 3. Epaphroditus

- A man from Philippi, he carried the Philippian letter back to his people (Phil. 2:25, 28)

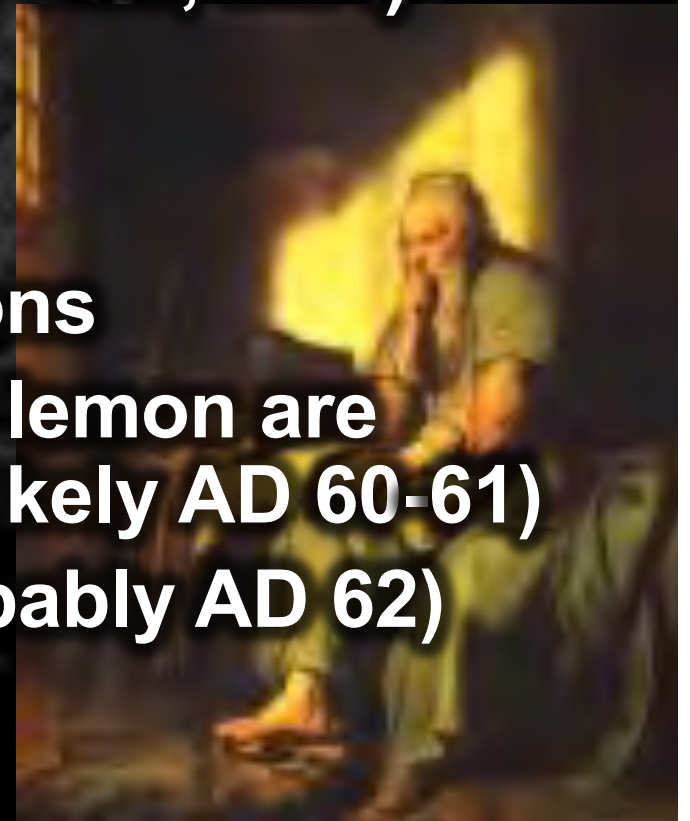


## What was Paul's attitude?

- In Philemon, Paul was hopeful (*ἐλπίζω* = hope) that he would be released (Philemon 22)
- In Philippians, Paul was confident (*οἶδα* know) that he would be released (Phil. 1:25; 2:24)

## Order & Setting

- Written on 2-3 separate occasions
- Ephesians, Colossians, and Philemon are written around the same time (likely AD 60-61)
- Philippians is written later (probably AD 62)



# Occasion for Prison Epistles

- Paul was imprisoned in Rome and Epaphras was with him
- He first wrote a general circular letter for Gentile churches in Asia Minor (**Ephesians**)
- Onesimus, a runaway slave, later joined them
- Paul received news of a crisis in the Colossian church (heresy)
- He sent Tychicus with a letter to address the **Colossian** problems
- He also sent Onesimus with Tychicus with a letter to **Philemon**

## Some months later (AD 62)...

- Paul was still in prison
- The Philippian church sent Epaphroditus to minister to Paul
- Paul found out from him problems in Philippian church: external opposition (3:17f.) and internal disunity (4:2)
- Epaphroditus became very sick (Phil. 2:26)
- Paul sent him back with a letter to address problems of the **Philippians**

# The Prison Epistles



**Ephesians**  
**Colossians**  
**Philemon**  
**Philippians**

**Critique this picture...**

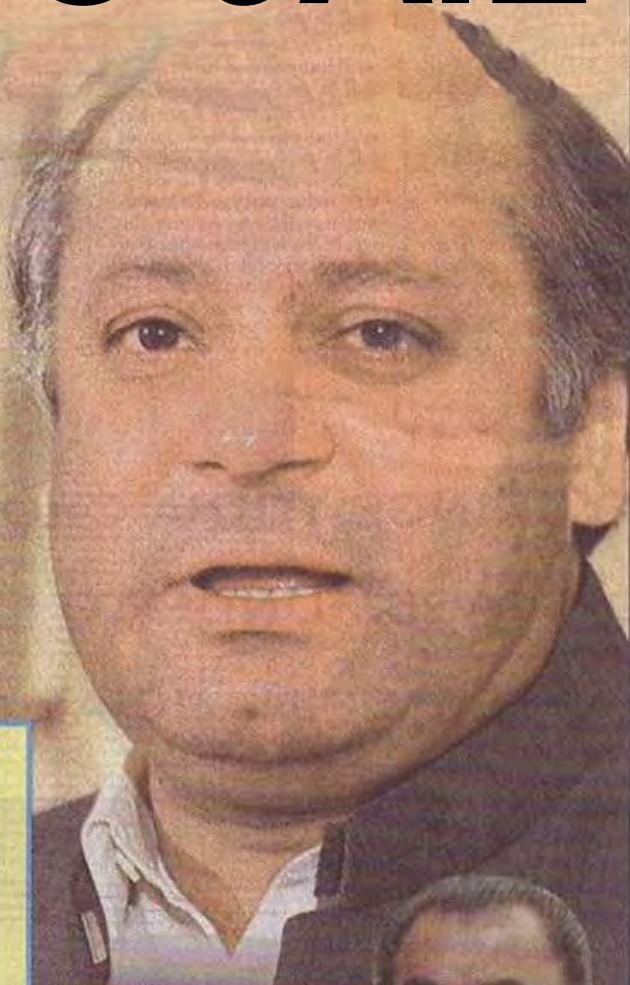
- Paul typically had a scribe write (Rom 16:22)
- Paul was under house arrest (Acts 28:30-31)
- Paul was chained to a guard (Acts 28:16)
- Paul was  $\leq 60$  years old (not 80 like this man!)

# GO TO JAIL

## LIFE

for Pakistan's ex-PM  
Nawaz Sharif, found  
guilty of terrorism

• Page 2



## 7 MONTHS

for church deacon who  
rented flat to illegals

• Page 4

## 2 MONTHS

for tycoon who  
evaded tax

• Page 3



## Sometimes Christians are Treated Unfairly

1. Paul was—and ended up under house arrest in Rome
2. Note that a deacon appears with a terrorist & tax cheat

ST 7 April 2000  
4

## CJ to church man: Sorry, you must go to jail

Mandatory penalty means deacon can't be spared jail even though he rented flat to illegal immigrants unwittingly

enders were arrested.  
Seow, who has three children, was convicted in November of harbouring them and sentenced to seven months' jail.  
In appealing against both the conviction and sentence...

# Prison Epistle Christology

201a



	<b>Christ as...</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Unity of Christ</b>	<b>Christ breaks down barriers between believers</b>
<b>Philippians</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Attitude of Christ</b>	<b>Christ models how to handle difficulty</b>
<b>Colossians</b>	<b>God</b>	<b>Deity of Christ</b>	<b>Christ is superior to human philosophies</b>
<b>Philemon</b>	<b>Reconciler</b>	<b>Forgiveness of Christ</b>	<b>Christ reconciles believers to God and one another</b>

# Applying the Prison Epistles

202

<b>Epistle</b>	<b>1st Century Problem</b>	<b>21st Century Problem</b>	<b>Solution (Theme)</b>
<b>Ephesians</b>	Jew-Gentile Conflicts ("Weism")	Chinese Only Baptist Only Adults Only	Realize Christian Unity (4:3)
<b>Philippians</b>	Persecution Prison Death	Ministry Inconvenience - time, sleep - recreation	Imitate Christ's Attitude (2:5)
<b>Colossians</b>	Denying Christ's Deity	New Age Cults	Proclaim His Deity (2:9)
<b>Philemon</b>	Master/Slave ("Meism")	Forgive Boss / Employee / Others	Reconcile the Relationship (vv. 17-18)

## How Do You Respond to Trials?

<b>You say...</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Temperament</b>	<b>Epistle</b>
<b>"I'm right!"</b>	<b>Push through</b>	<b>Choleric</b>	<b>Ephesians</b>
<b>"Why me?"</b>	<b>Depression</b>	<b>Melancholy</b>	<b>Philippians</b>
<b>"I'll just get through"</b>	<b>Compromise</b>	<b>Sanguine</b>	<b>Colossians</b>
<b>"It'll pass"</b>	<b>Ignore it</b>	<b>Phlegmatic</b>	<b>Philemon</b>

**How can the  
existence of creation  
be explained?**

# **Gnosticism: Perplexing Questions**

**What is the  
origin of evil?**

*How can a holy  
God create a  
universe with sin?*

**Chart 43**

# Essential Components of Gnosticism

- (1) *Dualism***
- (2) *Emanations***
- (3) *Knowledge***

**God**  
**(Pure Spirit)**

**Demiurge**

**World**

**Man**



**Chart 44**

# Gnosticism's Concept of Salvation

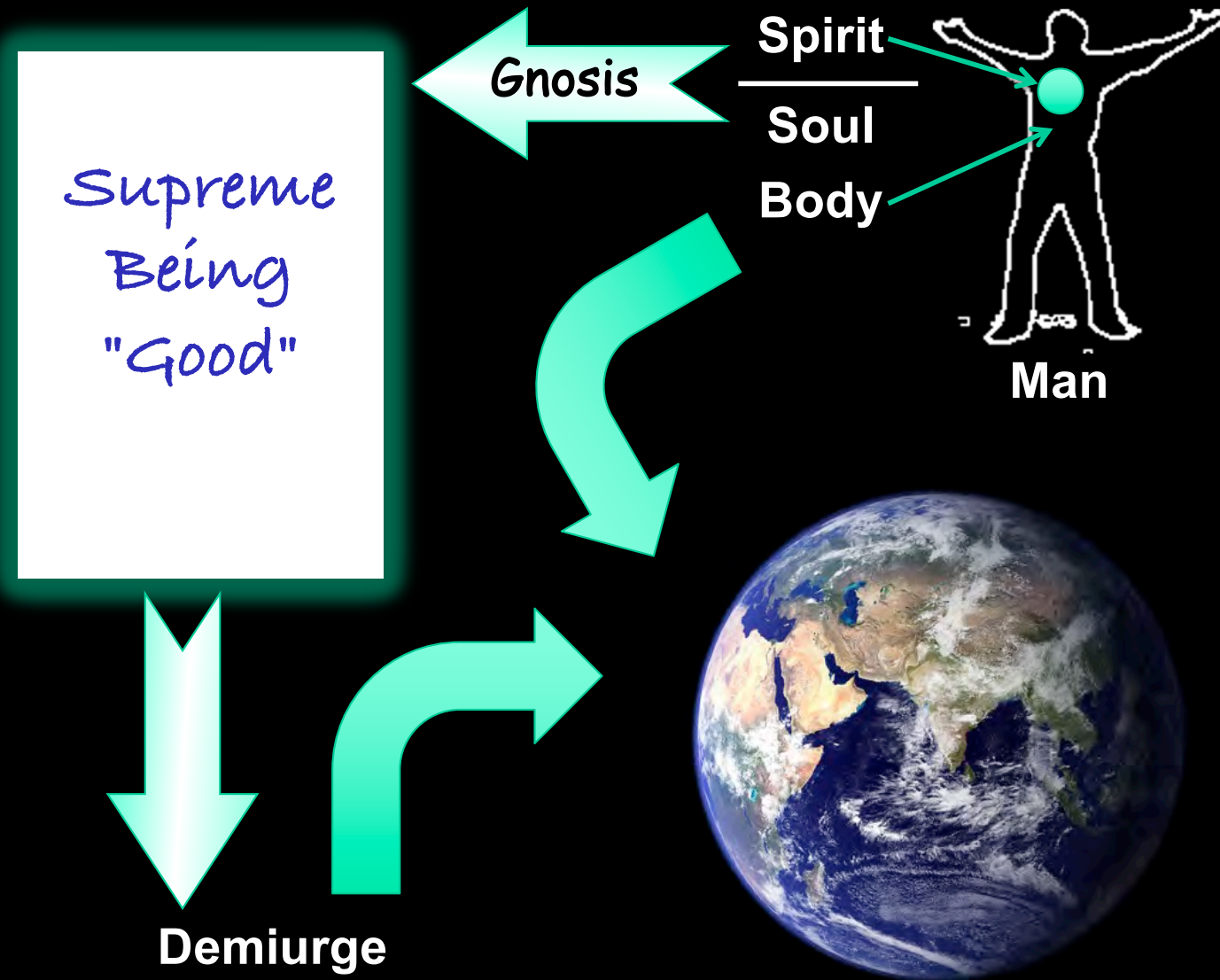


Chart 45

# Gnostics Taught a "Secret Knowledge"

## *Two Types Addressed in 1 John*

### **Docetic Gnosticism**

From *dokeo*, "to seem"  
(Christ only *seemed* to  
be a man)

**Matter is Evil**

**Depreciated Materialism**

**Denied Christ's Humanity**

**Touched Jesus (1:1)**

**Led to Asceticism**

**Immorality exalted**

### **Cerinthian Gnosticism**

From Cerinthus, founder in Asia  
(Christ only *seemed* to be  
God)

**Spirit is Good**

**Exalted Knowledge (*gnosis*)**

**Denied Christ's Deity**

**Water & Blood (5:6)**

**Led to Pride**

**Education exalted**

# Be Protected



## *Colossians*

Dr. Rick Griffith • Crossroads International Church Singapore  
[BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)

# False Teachers Deny the Deity and Work of Christ



**Colossians**

# False Teaching



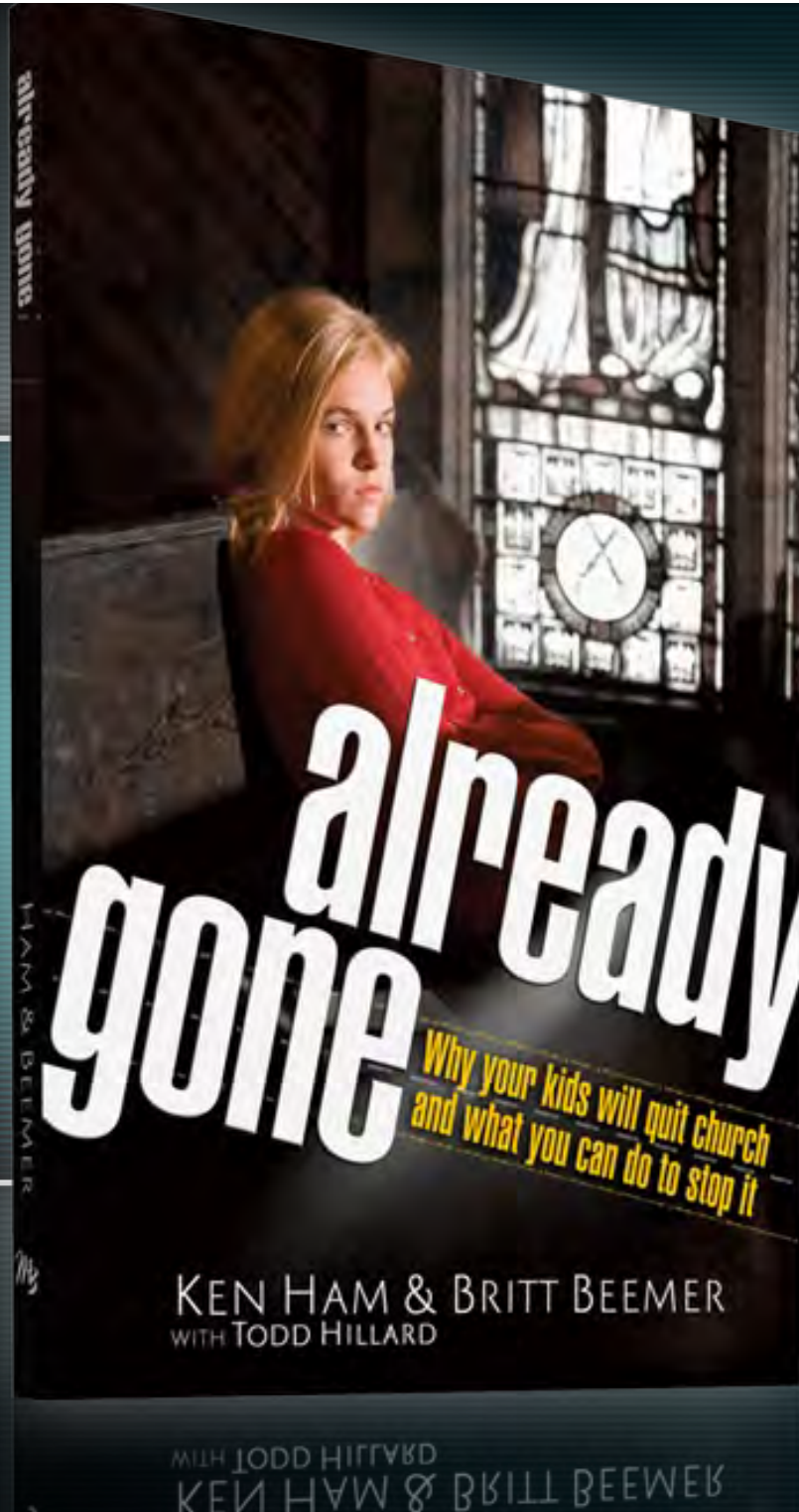
**"The 'American Family In Crises Research' by the Southern Baptist Council on Family Life uncovered some disturbing facts. **Of the children raised in evangelical homes, 88% leave the church at age 18 and never return.**"**

*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](https://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

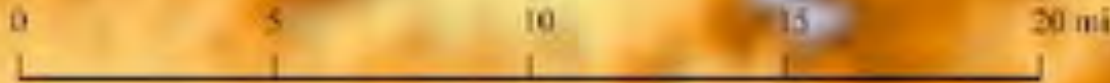
Meander R.

Hierapolis  
Hot springs

Lycus R.

Laodicea  
Lukewarm

Colossae  
Cold springs



*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)
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.

# 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. <sup>17</sup>For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality"  
(Col. 2:16-17 NLT)**

**No  
Legalism!**

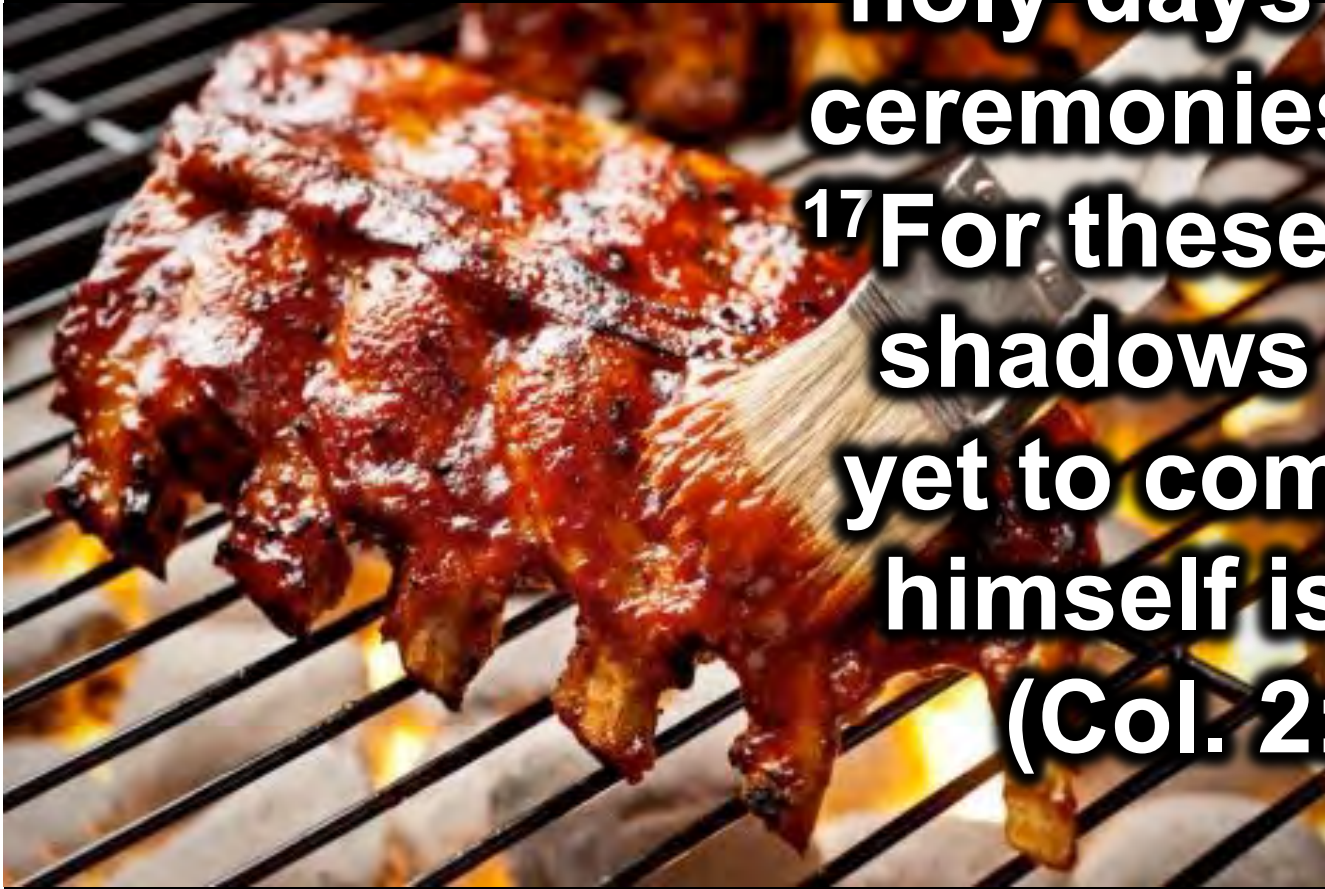



# No Legalism!

"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.

<sup>17</sup>For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality"

(Col. 2:16-17 NLT)





**"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. <sup>17</sup>For  
these rules are only  
shadows of the  
reality yet to come.  
And Christ himself  
is that reality"  
(2:16-17 NLT)**

**No  
Shadows!**

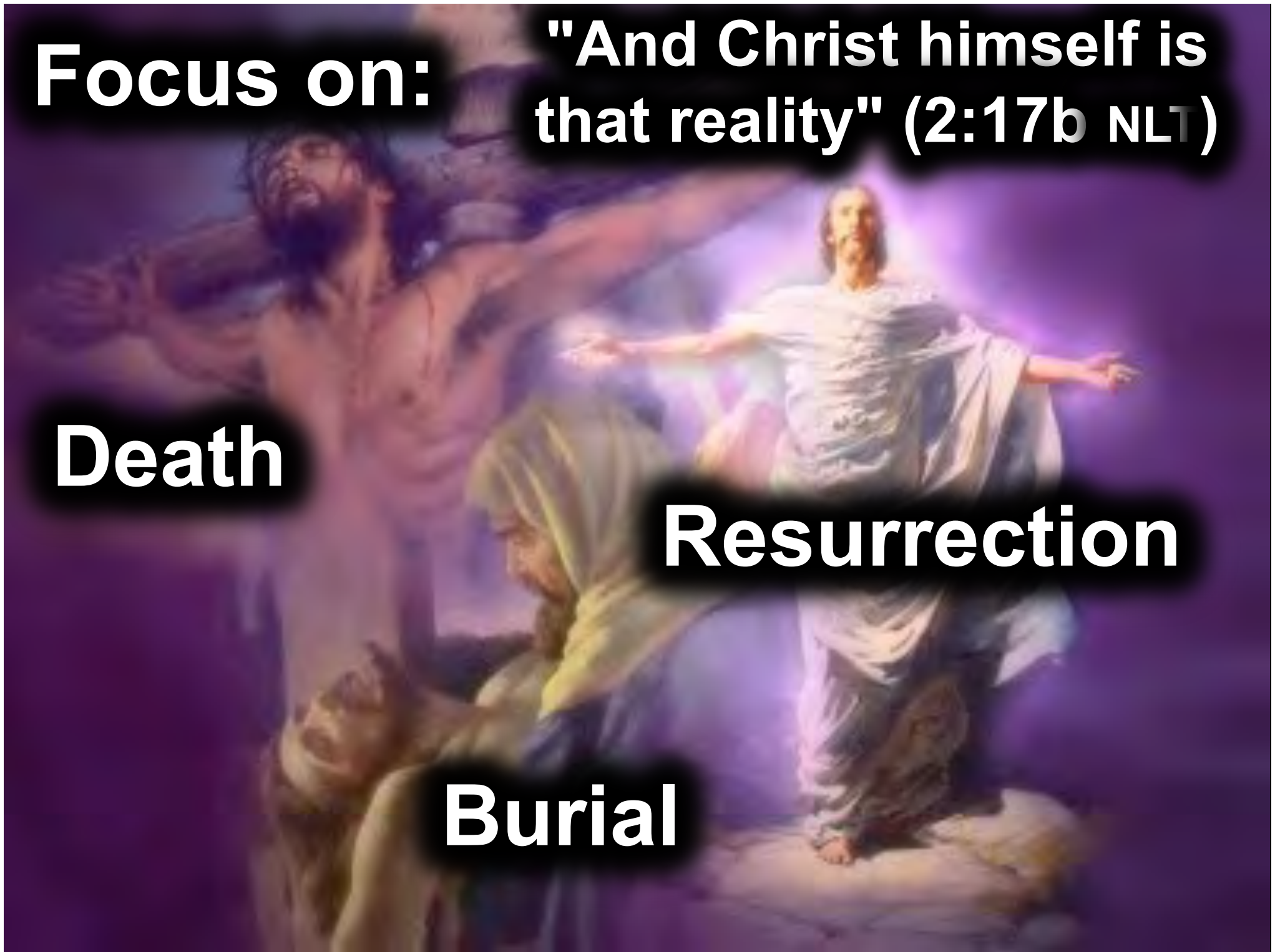
**Focus on:**

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

**Death**

**Resurrection**

**Burial**



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

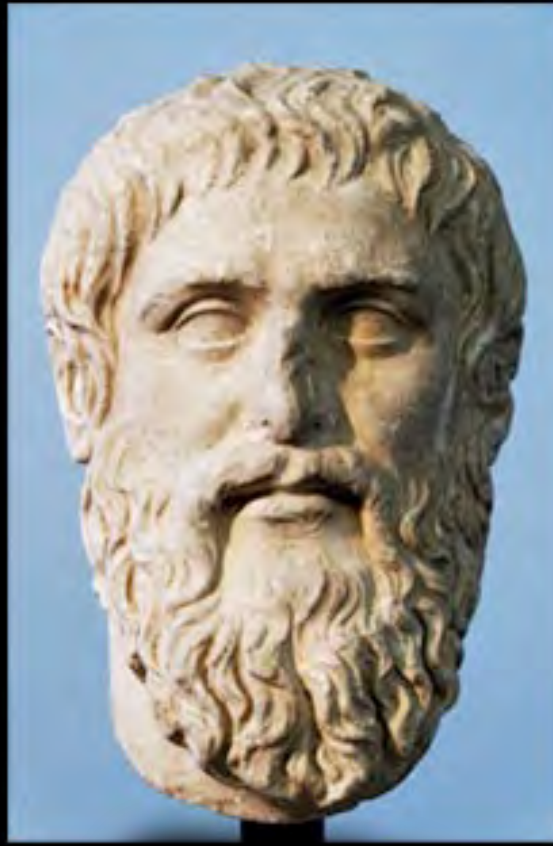
1. **Jewish**—legalism of following OT laws and ceremonies (2:16-17)
2. **Greek philosophy**—followed a so-called "deeper knowledge" revealed only to a special "elite" (2:2b-4, 8-10)
3. **Worshipped angels** as mediators between man and God (2:18)
4. **Denied Christ's deity** (1:15; 2:9), & thus His 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.

# Greek Philosophy



**Socrates**



**Plato**



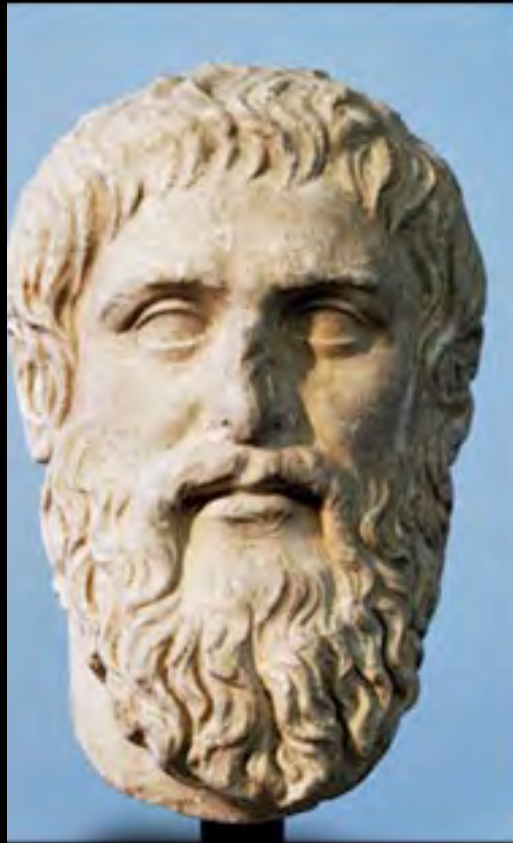
**Aristotle**

# Greek Philosophy

"Good people do not need laws to tell them to act responsibly, while bad people will find a way around the laws"

—Plato

423-348 BC



Plato

# Greek Philosophy

"Good people do not  
not...s to  
them to  
es...nsible  
ile ba...e  
find...y  
around...aws"

—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**

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.

**"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)**





# 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](http://www.AskAnAngel.org)



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.

# 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)**

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.

# 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, <sup>21</sup>'Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!'<sup>22</sup>Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. <sup>23</sup>These 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)**

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.

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



# Colossians

Key Word  
Deity

## Key Verse

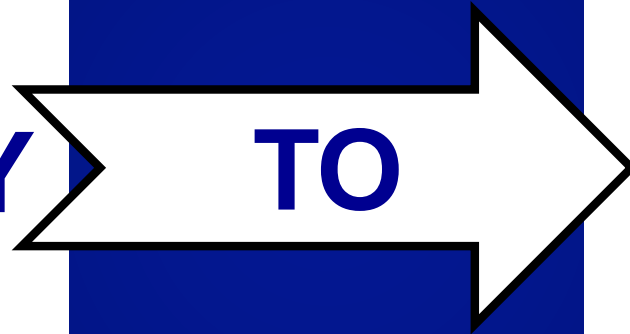
**"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity  
lives in bodily form"  
(Colossians 2:9).**

# ***OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS***

**THEOLOGY**

**TO**

**PRACTICE**



Supremacy/Deity

Chapters 1–2

Heretical Living

Belief

Practical Instruction

Chapters 3–4

Holy Living

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

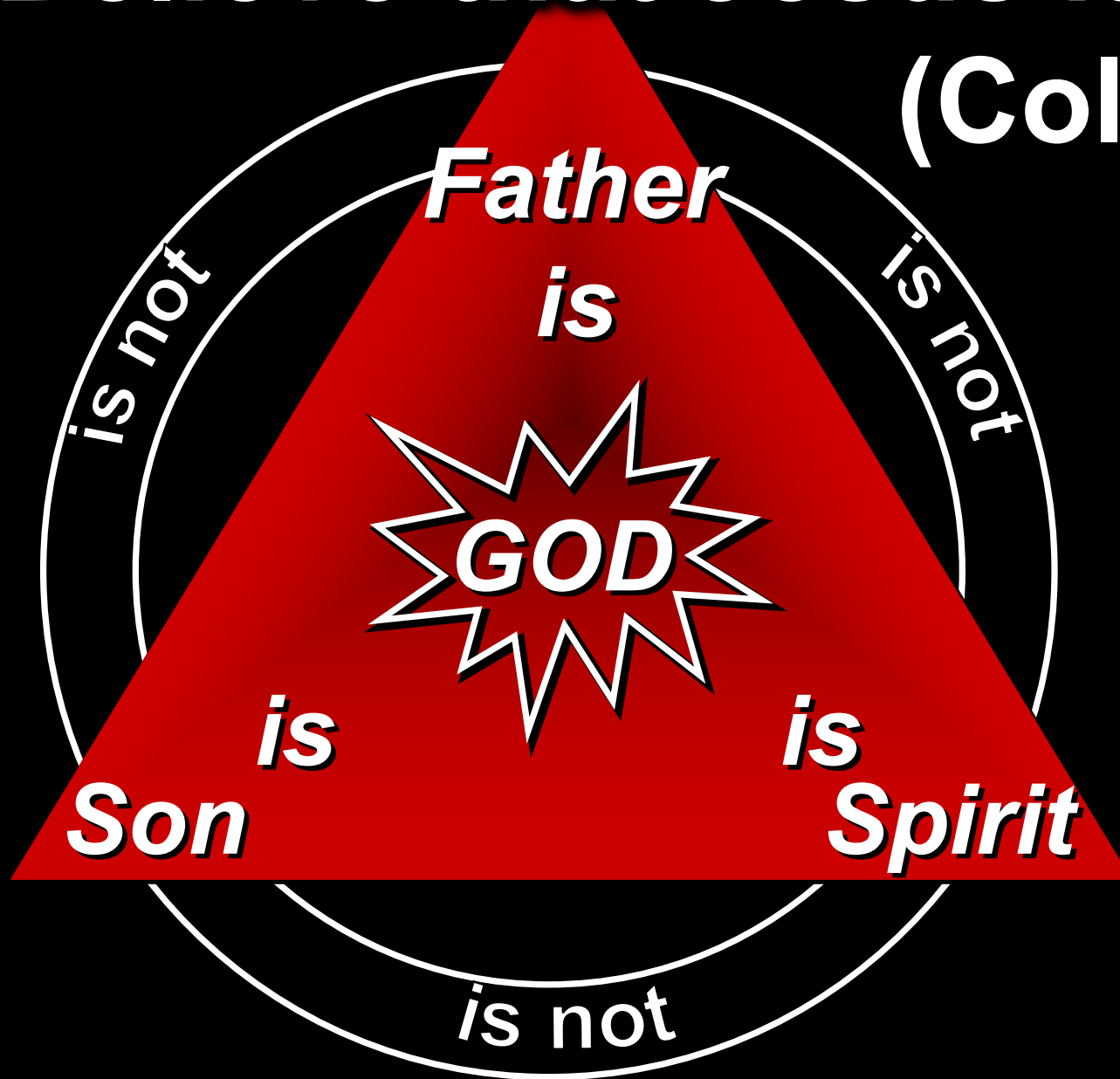
3:5–4:6

4:7-18

Rome

Autumn AD 61 (first Roman imprisonment)

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

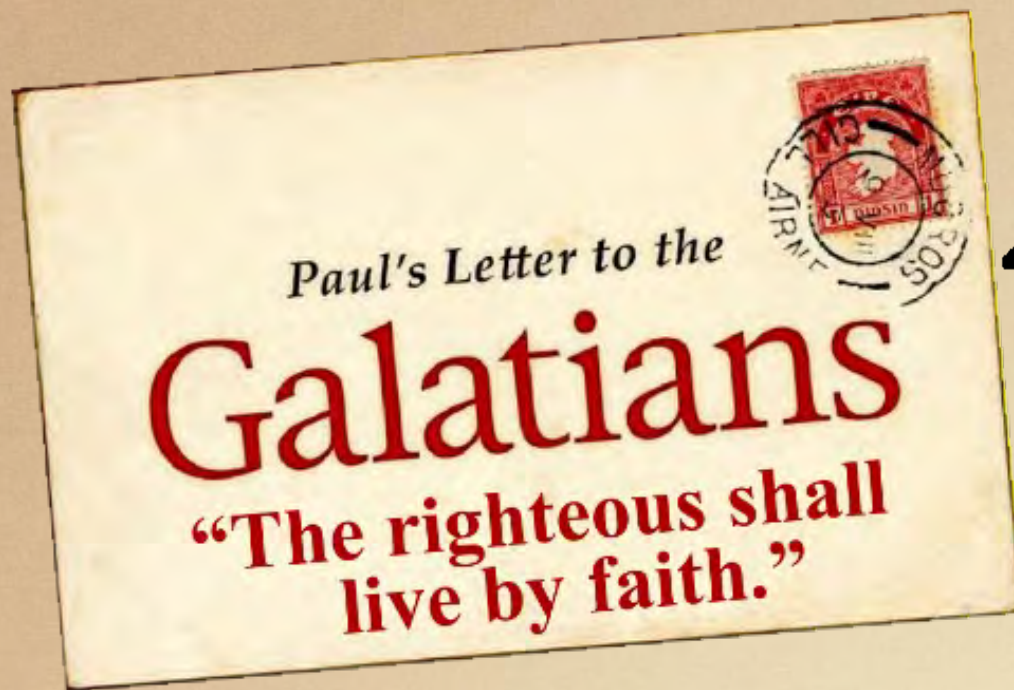


*How to be protected from false teaching*

# Colossians 1



- **Stand Firm**
- **Show Love**
- **Walk by the Spirit**



**Walk in  
the Spirit,  
die to the  
Flesh**

**1 John 2:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

**You don't need:**

- **To be Circumcised**
- **To follow OT Law**
- **To eat Kosher**



**coexist**

**You don't need:**

- **To be Circumcised**
- **To follow OT Law**
- **To eat Kosher**
- **JESUS**



**1 John 1:5-7 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> . . . God is light, . . .

<sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, . . . we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of **Jesus** his Son cleanses us from all sin.

**You**

**need:**

- **JESUS**

**"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. <sup>4</sup>For we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and your love for all of God's people, <sup>5</sup>which 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).**

we heard of your  
**FAITH** in Christ  
Jesus and of the  
**LOVE** that you  
have for all the  
saints because of the  
**HOPE** laid up for  
you in heaven.

Col 1:3-5 ESV



**Stand Firm**  
**Show Love**

# NT: 27 Books & 8 Authors



48      49      50      52 53      57      60      62      67      68      95

**Matt**

**Luke**

**Acts**

**Mark**

**John**

Gal

1 Thess

1 Cor

Eph

1 Tim

2 Tim

Jude

James

2 Thess

2 Cor

Col

Titus

Heb

1 John

Romans

Philem

1 Pet

2 John

Phil

2 Pet

3 John

Rev

**Gospels & Acts**

5

**Pauline Epistles**

13

**General Epistles**

9

---

27



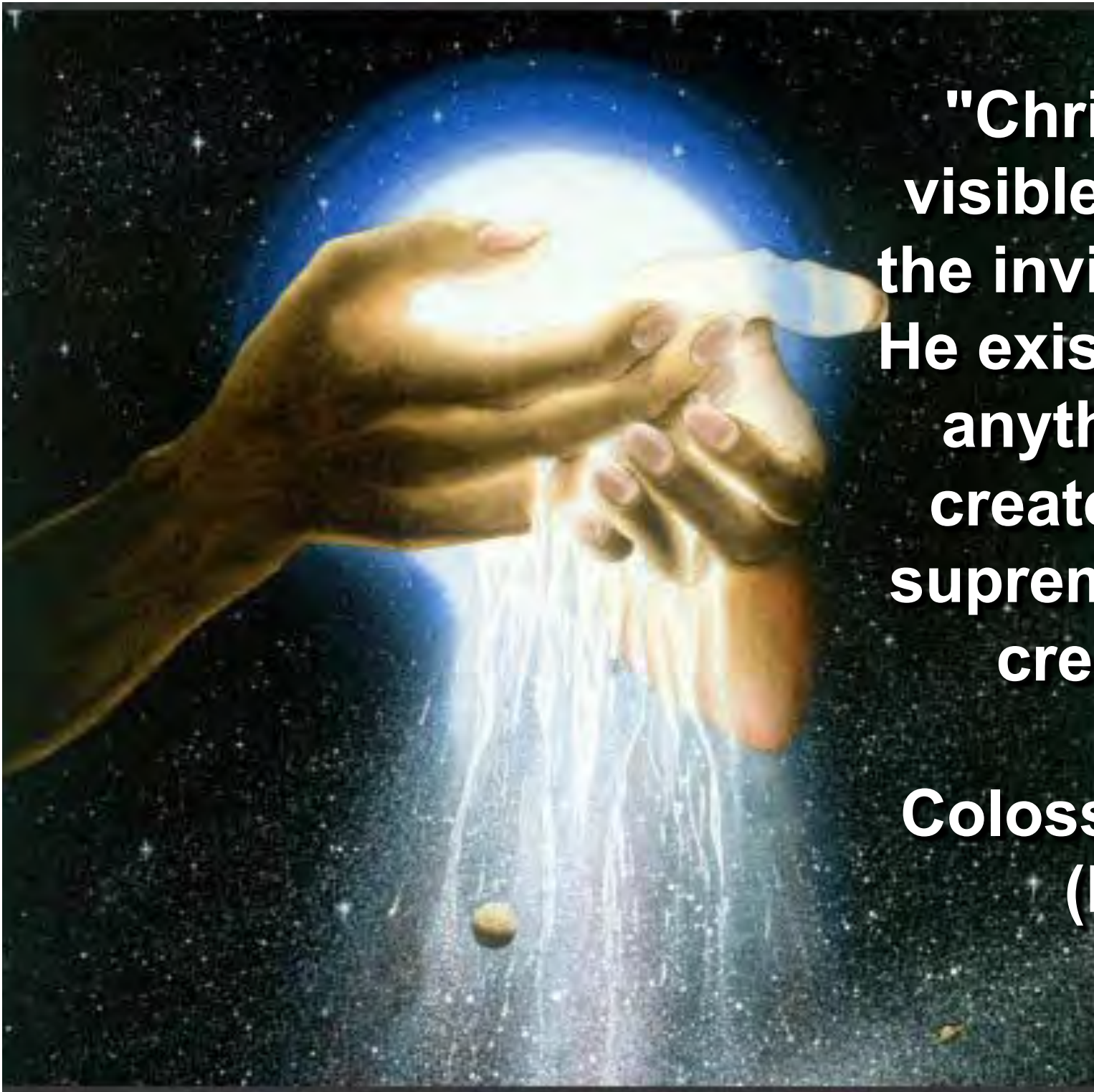
# The Great Transfer



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

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

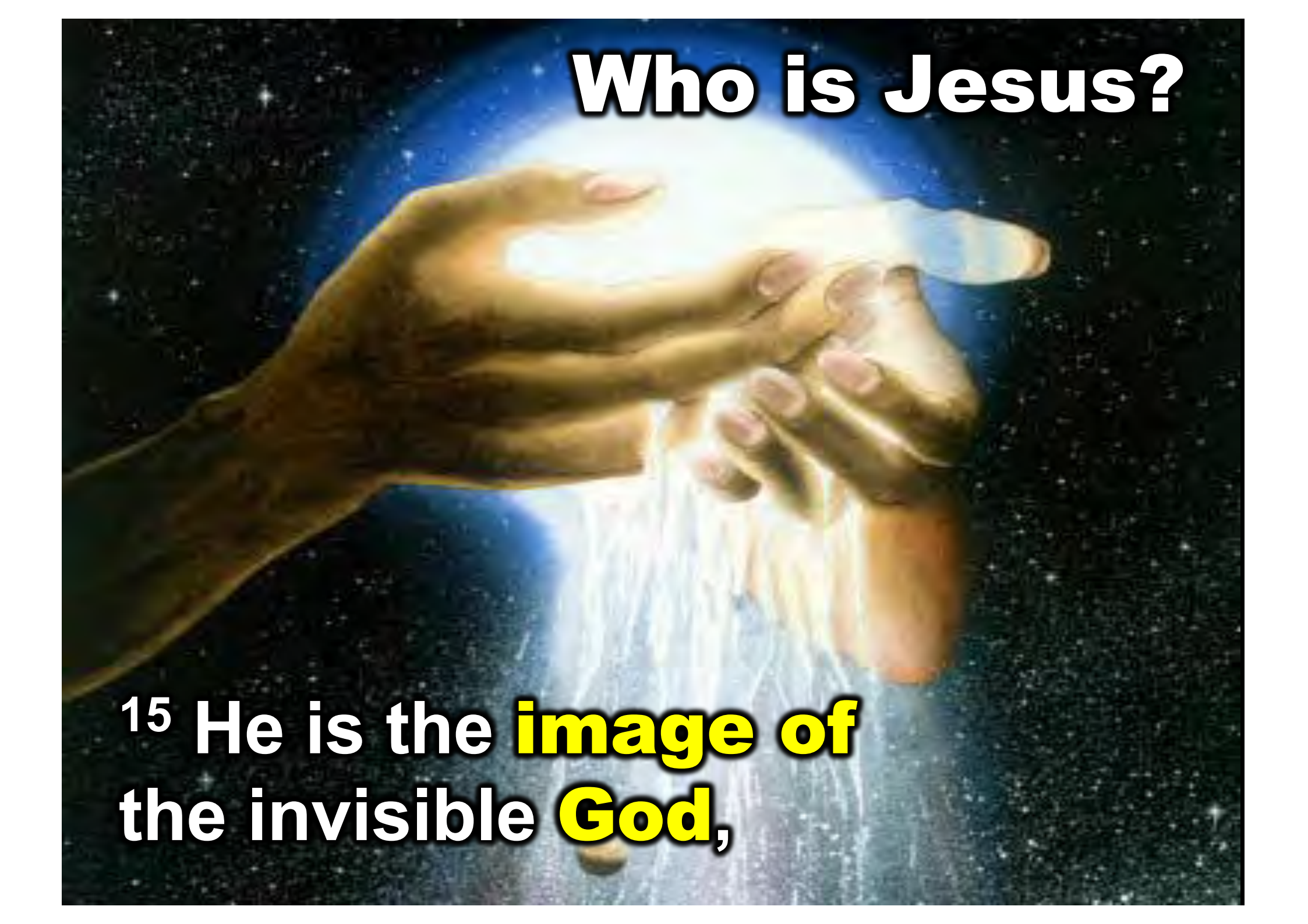
**<sup>14</sup> who purchased our  
freedom and forgave  
our sins"  
(Col. 1:13-14)**



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

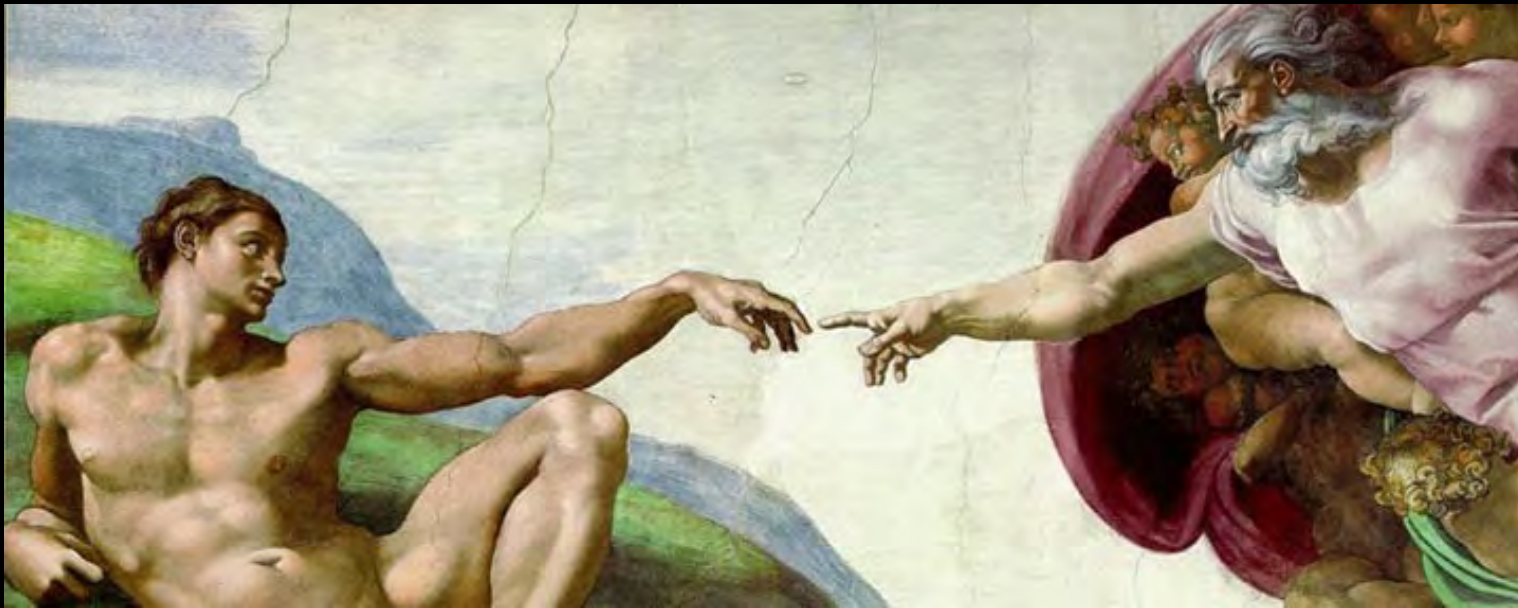
**Colossians 1:15  
(NLT)**

# Who is Jesus?



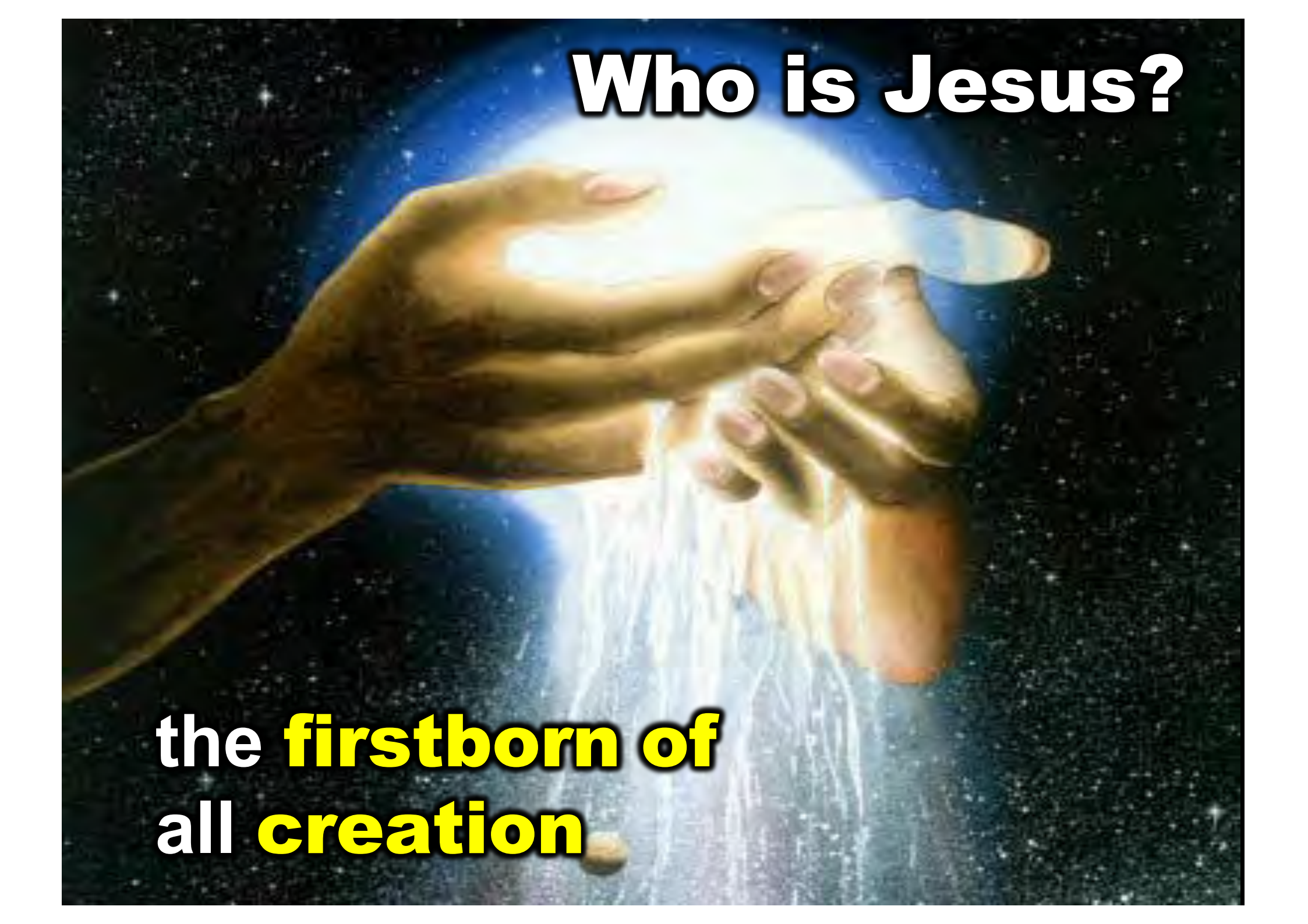
<sup>15</sup> He is the **image of**  
the invisible **God,**

# What about Man?



**So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.**

**Genesis 1:27 (ESV)**



**Who is Jesus?**

the **firstborn of**  
all **creation**.



**Blue  
Letter  
Bible**

## Definition of Firstborn

- Literal
  - Luke 2:7 & Heb 11:28
- Place of Superiority
  - Heb 1:6 & Rev 1:5

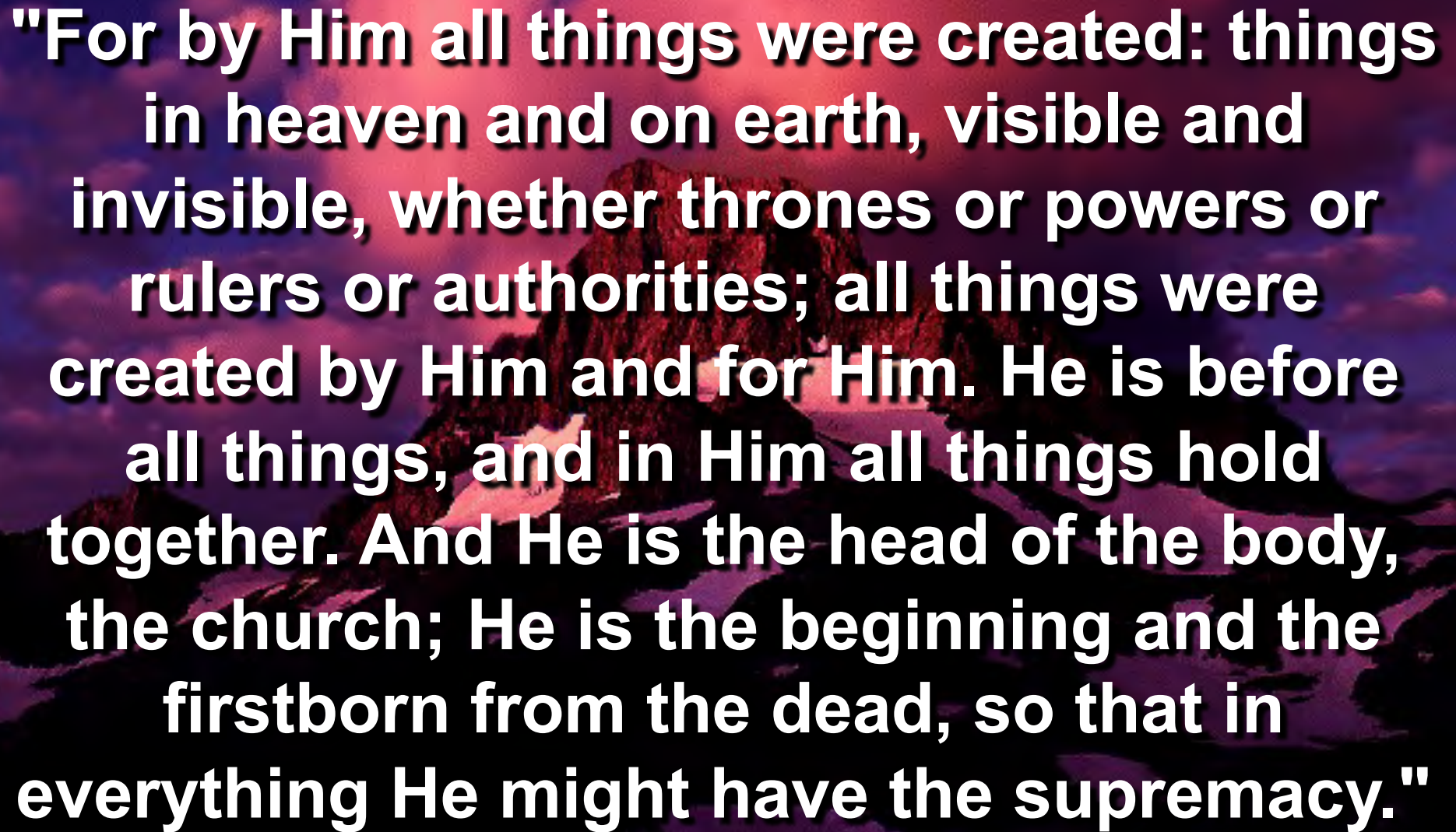
**πρωτότοκος**  
pro-to'-to-kos

## Definition of Firstborn

- Created all things
- Before all things
- Holds all things



**πρωτότοκος**  
**pro-to'-to-kos**

A dramatic landscape featuring a mountain peak in the center, illuminated by a purple and blue sky. The foreground shows a winding path or riverbed. The overall scene is atmospheric and serves as a background for the text.

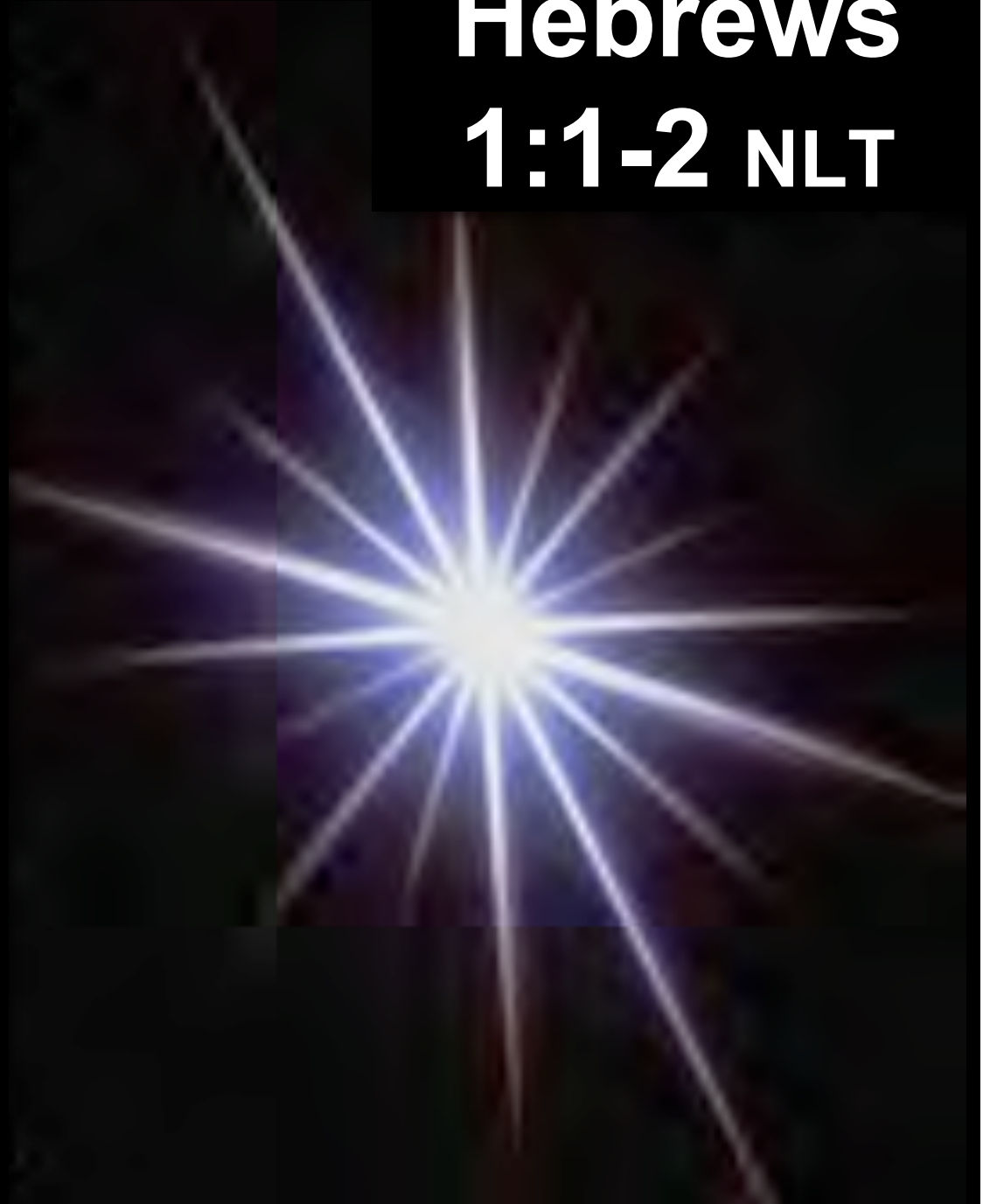
**"For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. And He is the head of the body, the church; He is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

**Colossians 1:16-18 (NIV)**

# Hebrews

## 1:1-2 NLT

**"Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. <sup>2</sup>And 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

# JESUS CHRIST!

VERSE 1:

The Pre-existent One

A Distinct Person

He Was and IS God

VERSE 2:

Eternally Co-existent

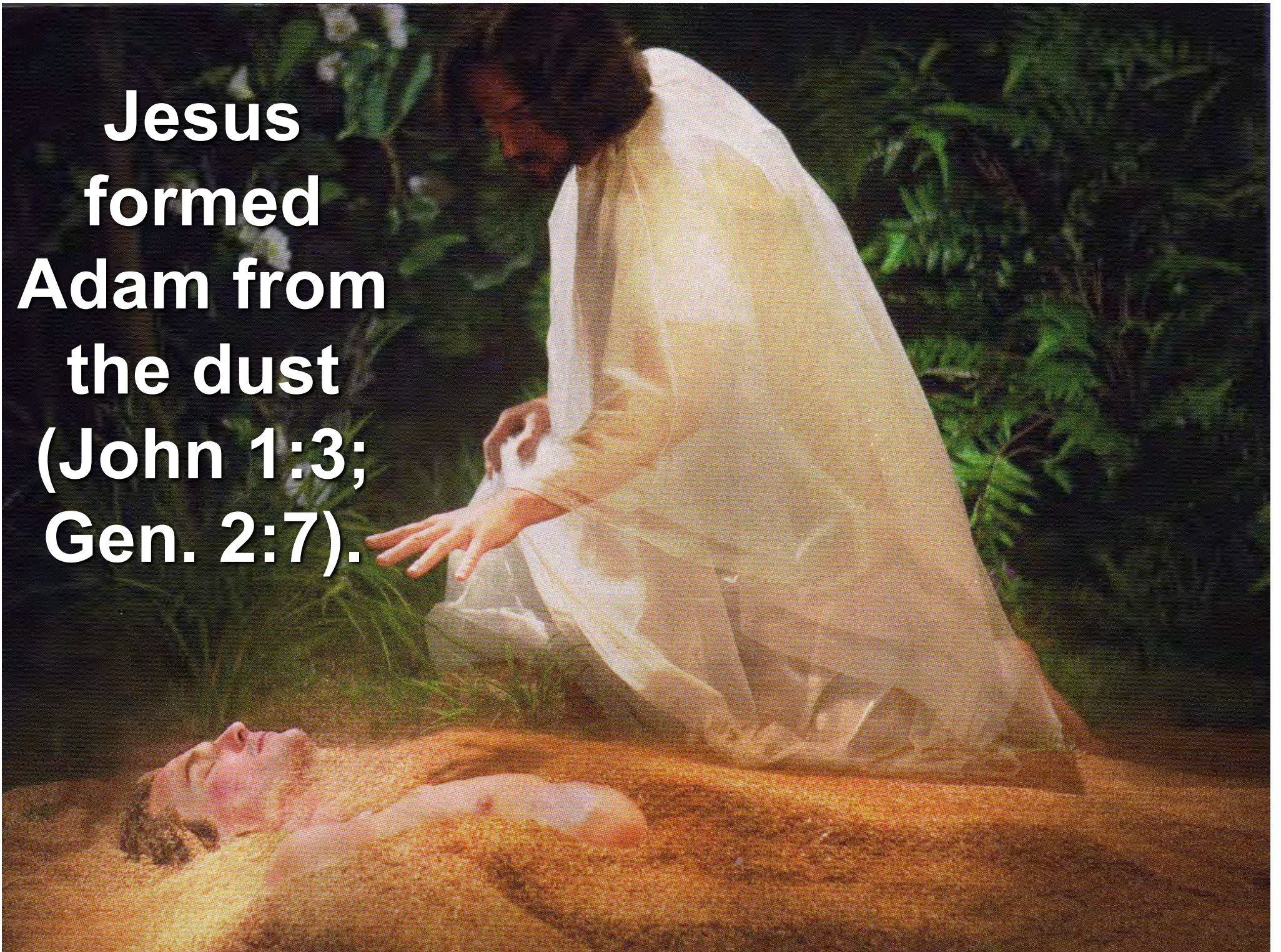
VERSE 3:

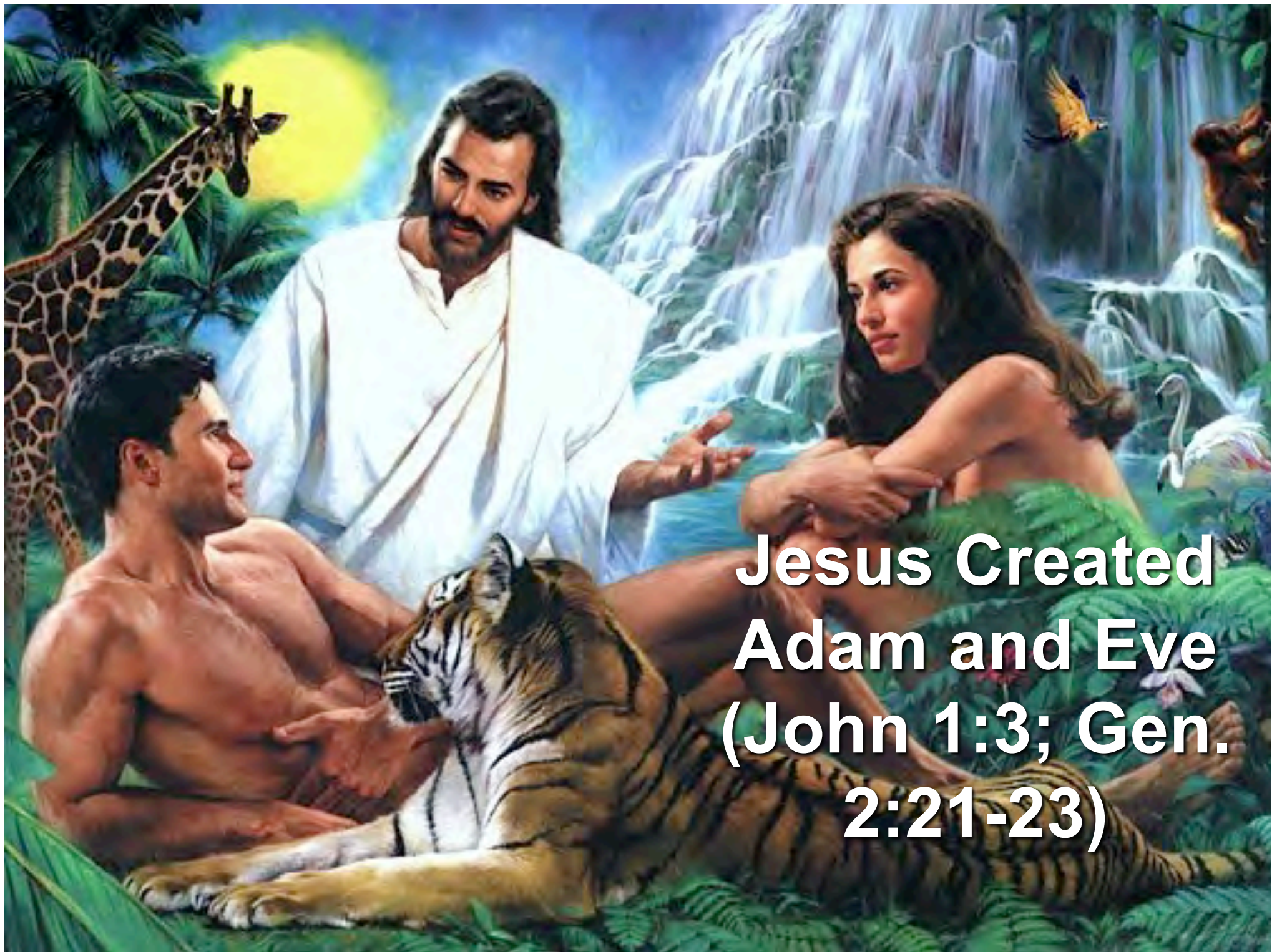
Creator of the Universe

"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).**



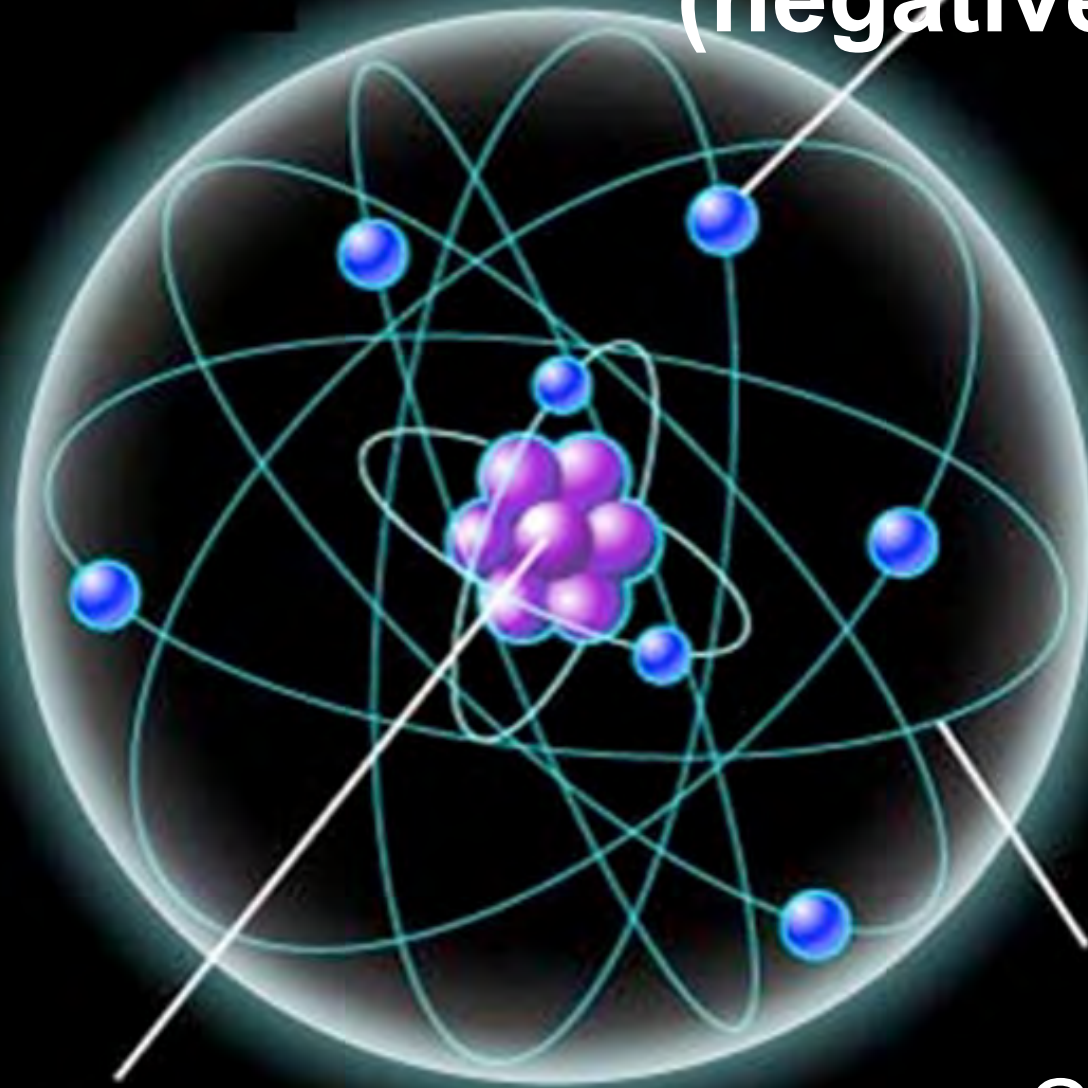


**Jesus Created  
Adam and Eve  
(John 1:3; Gen.  
2:21-23)**

# Inside an Atom

**Electron  
(negative)**

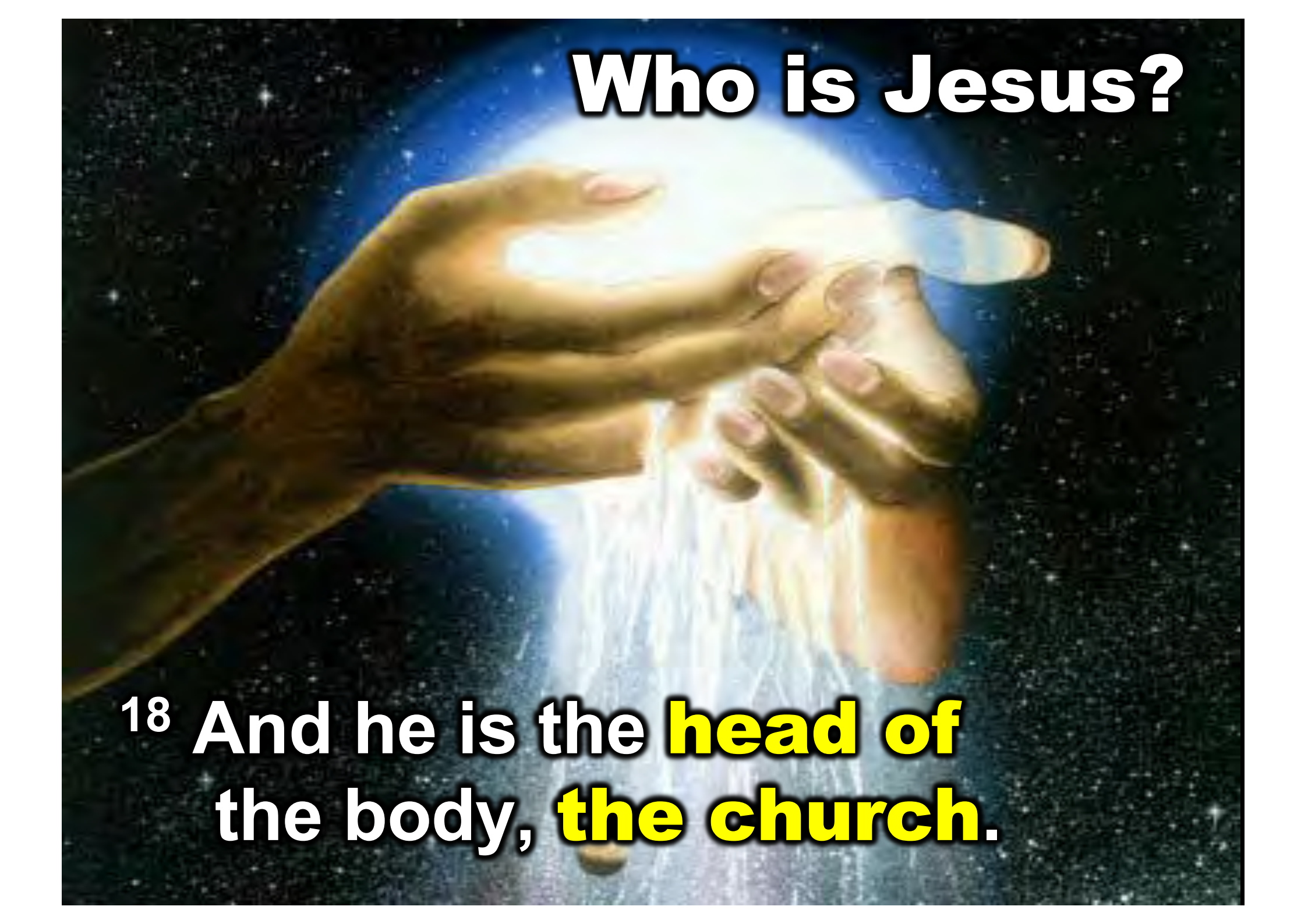
**"...in Him  
all things  
hold  
together"  
(2:17)**



**Proton Nucleus  
(positive)**

**Orbit**

# Who is Jesus?

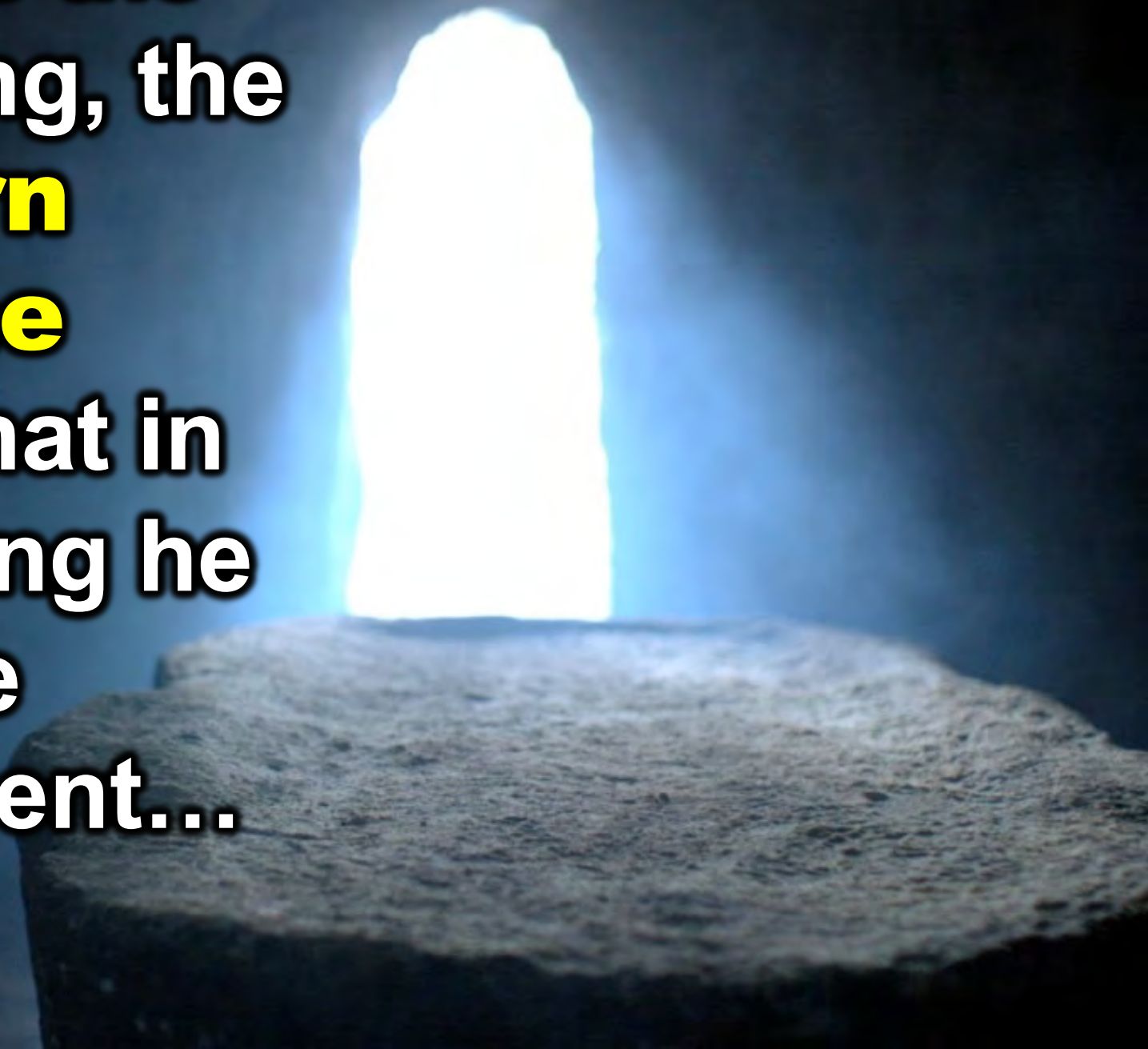
A large, golden-brown hand is shown holding a smaller, similar hand. The hands are set against a dark, starry background with a bright, glowing blue and white light source behind them, creating a halo effect. The overall image has a spiritual and divine feel.

<sup>18</sup> And he is the **head of**  
the body, **the church.**

# Who is Jesus?

- **Image of God**
- **Firstborn of Creation**
- **Head of the church**

18 ...He is the  
beginning, the  
**firstborn**  
**from the**  
**dead**, that in  
everything he  
might be  
preeminent...



**<sup>19</sup> For God in all his fullness  
was pleased to live in Christ,  
<sup>20</sup> 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)**



# Who is Jesus?

<sup>19</sup> For **in him** all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell

<sup>20</sup> and **through him** to reconcile to himself all things

## What Did Jesus Do?

19 ...to **reconcile** to himself  
**all things**

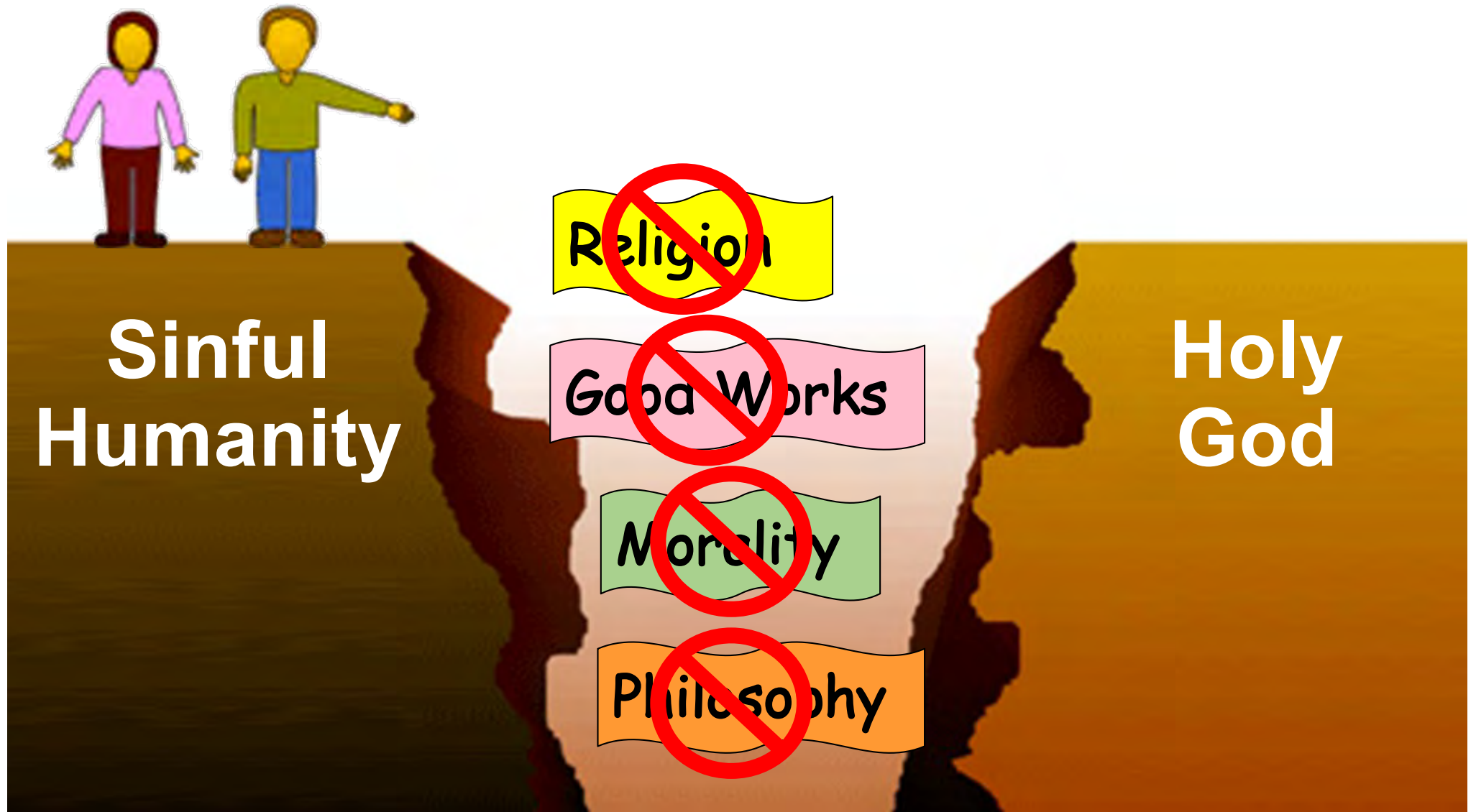
**What Did Jesus Do?**

# Our Problem: Sin Separates Us from God

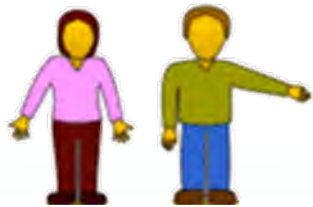


# Our Problem:

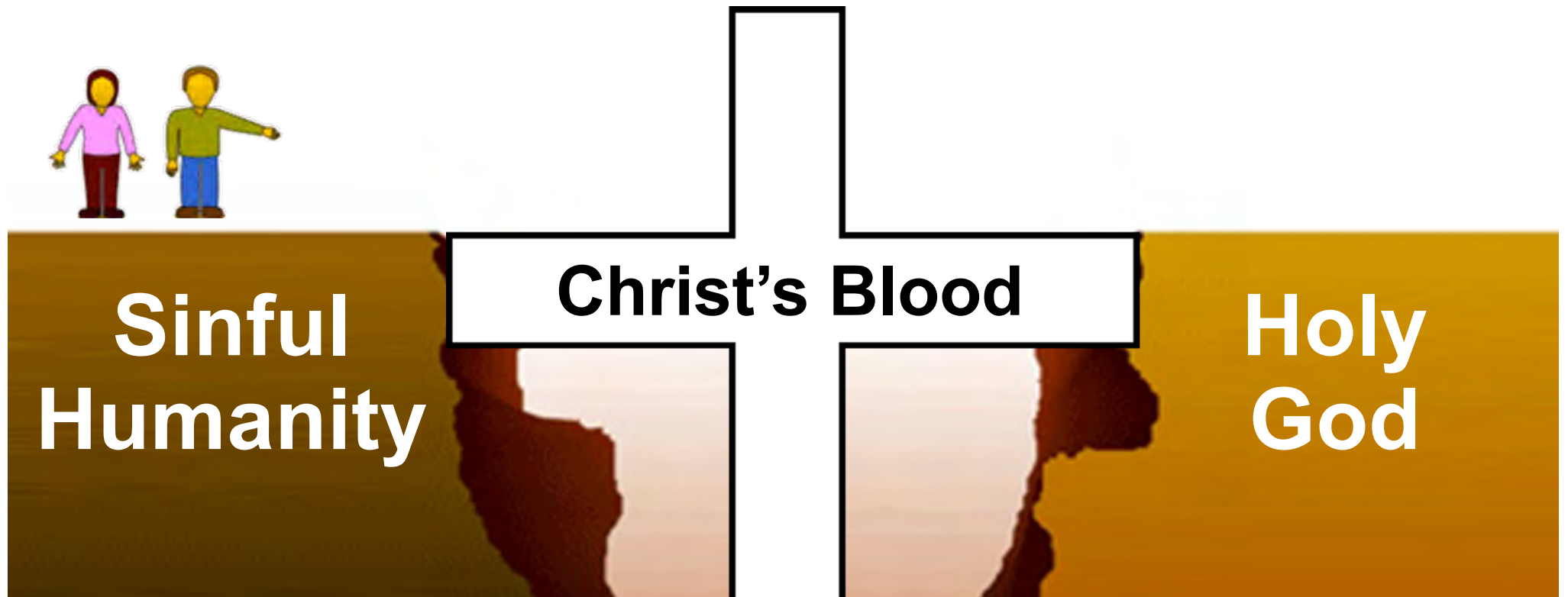
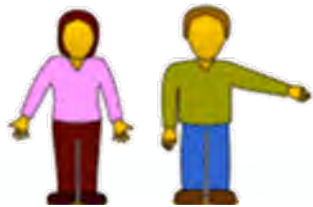
## Sin Separates Us from God



<sup>21</sup> And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, <sup>22</sup> he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him,

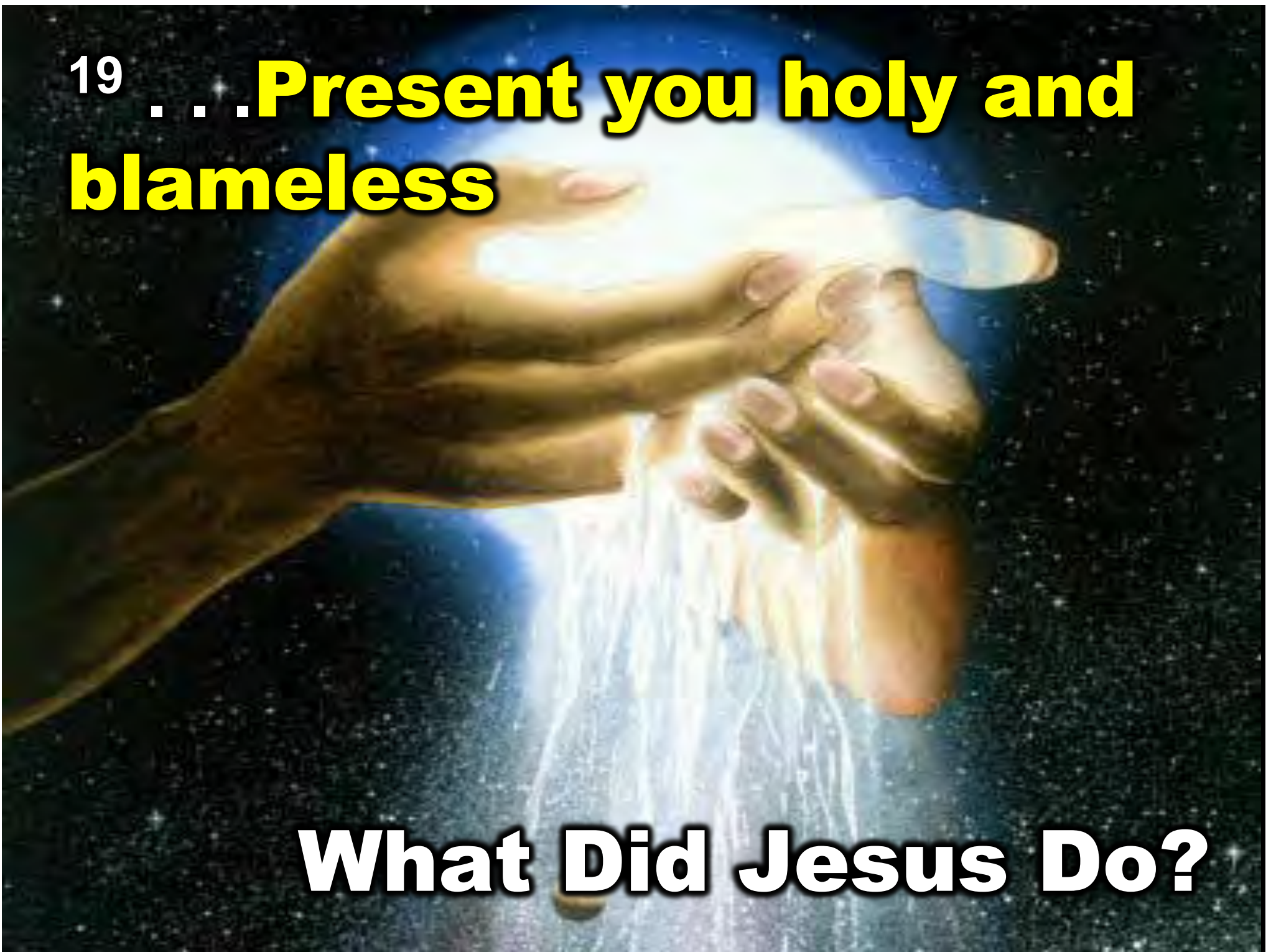


<sup>23</sup> if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.



19 . . . **Present you holy and blameless**

**What Did Jesus Do?**



# Who is Jesus?

- **Image of God**
- **Firstborn of Creation**
- **Head of the church**

# What Did Jesus Do?

- **Reconcile all things**
- **Present you holy and blameless**

**NOW  
JESUS**

**Stand Firm  
Show Love  
Walk by the Spirit**

**NEW YEAR  
NEW ME**

“Jesus is the heavenly Father” !! ??

= Modalism



*the Lonely road of Life*

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 ! ? ! ?



*Without you...*

# Counterfeit?



## Summary & Applications

### Summary Statement

Paul instructs the Colossian church in the supremacy and deity of Christ and exhorts practical outworking of this doctrine in order to fight a syncretistic heresy threatening the life and ministry of the church.

### Applications

- Know the deity of Christ well so you can warn your church members.
- Avoid legalism & asceticism

## External Evidence

**Early Christian writers attributed authorship to Paul.**

- 1. Early support for Pauline authorship comes from Justin, Marcion, Irenaeus, Tertullian, & Clement of Alexandria.**
- 2. Unquestioned acceptance of Pauline authorship prevailed until the 19th century German scholars denied it based upon internal factors.**

## Internal Evidence

**Many factors support Pauline authorship:**

- 1. The letter claims to have been written by Paul (1:1).**
- 2. The similarity of Colossians to Ephesians argues for Pauline authorship as they were written at about the same time.**
- 3. Colossians has many affinities to Paul's letter to Philemon, of which the authenticity is impeccable.**

## Circumstances

### Date

Colossians was written during Paul's first imprisonment in Rome (Acts 28:30). The best evidence suggests a specific date of autumn 61.

### Origin/Recipients

- The epistle mentions Paul's many associates, especially Tychicus, who carried the Colossian and Ephesian letters accompanied by Onesimus with the letter to Philemon.
- This provides evidence that the Ephesian, Colossian, and Philemon letters all had the same origin.
- Therefore, Colossians must have been written to Colossae from Rome.

- **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)
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.

# Jewish: The Law is Good



but...

# 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).**

**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. <sup>17</sup>For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality"  
(Col. 2:16-17 NLT)**

**No  
Legalism!**

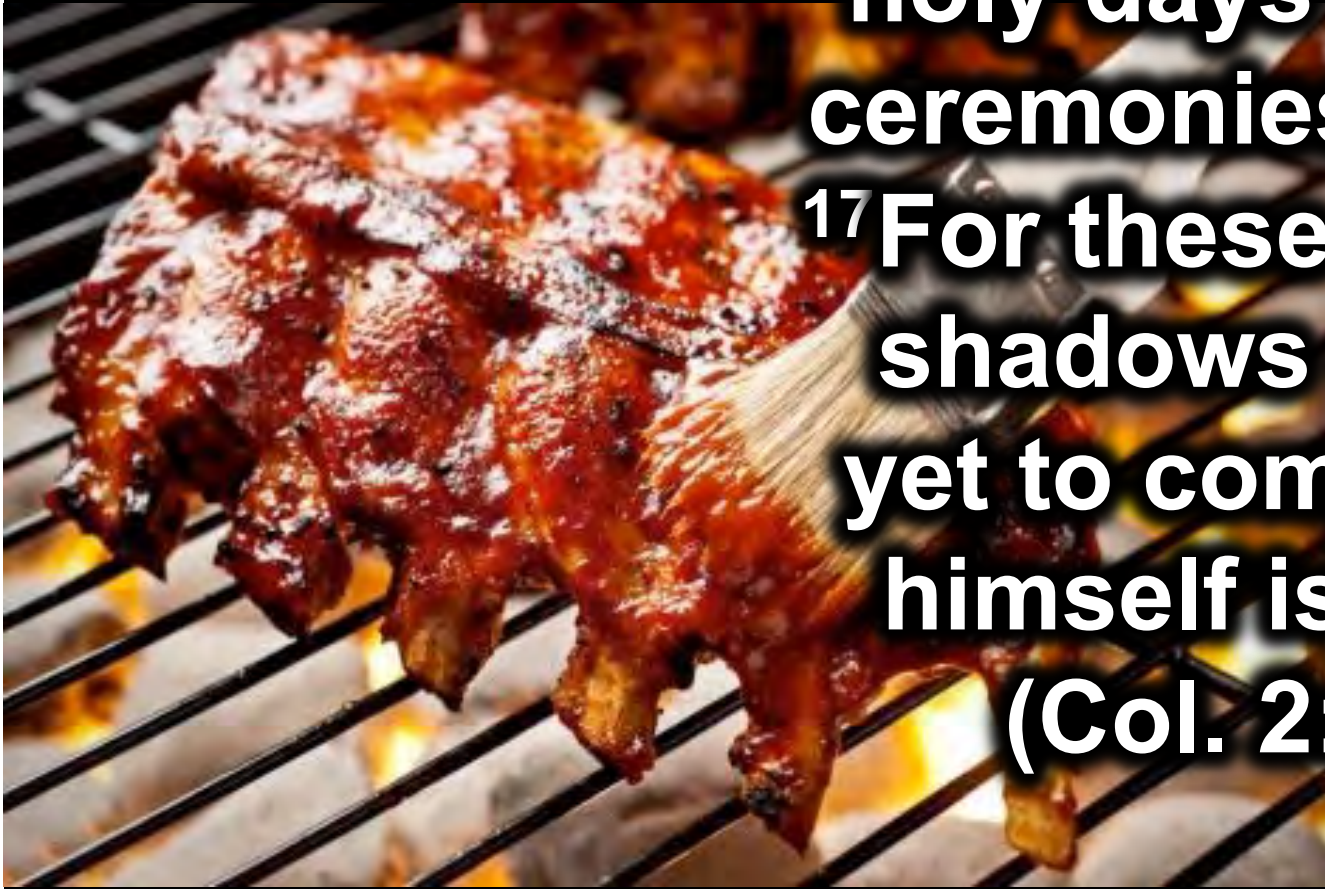



# No Legalism!

"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.

<sup>17</sup>For these rules are only shadows of the reality yet to come. And Christ himself is that reality"

(Col. 2:16-17 NLT)





**"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. <sup>17</sup>For  
these rules are only  
shadows of the  
reality yet to come.  
And Christ himself  
is that reality"  
(2:16-17 NLT)**

**No  
Shadows!**

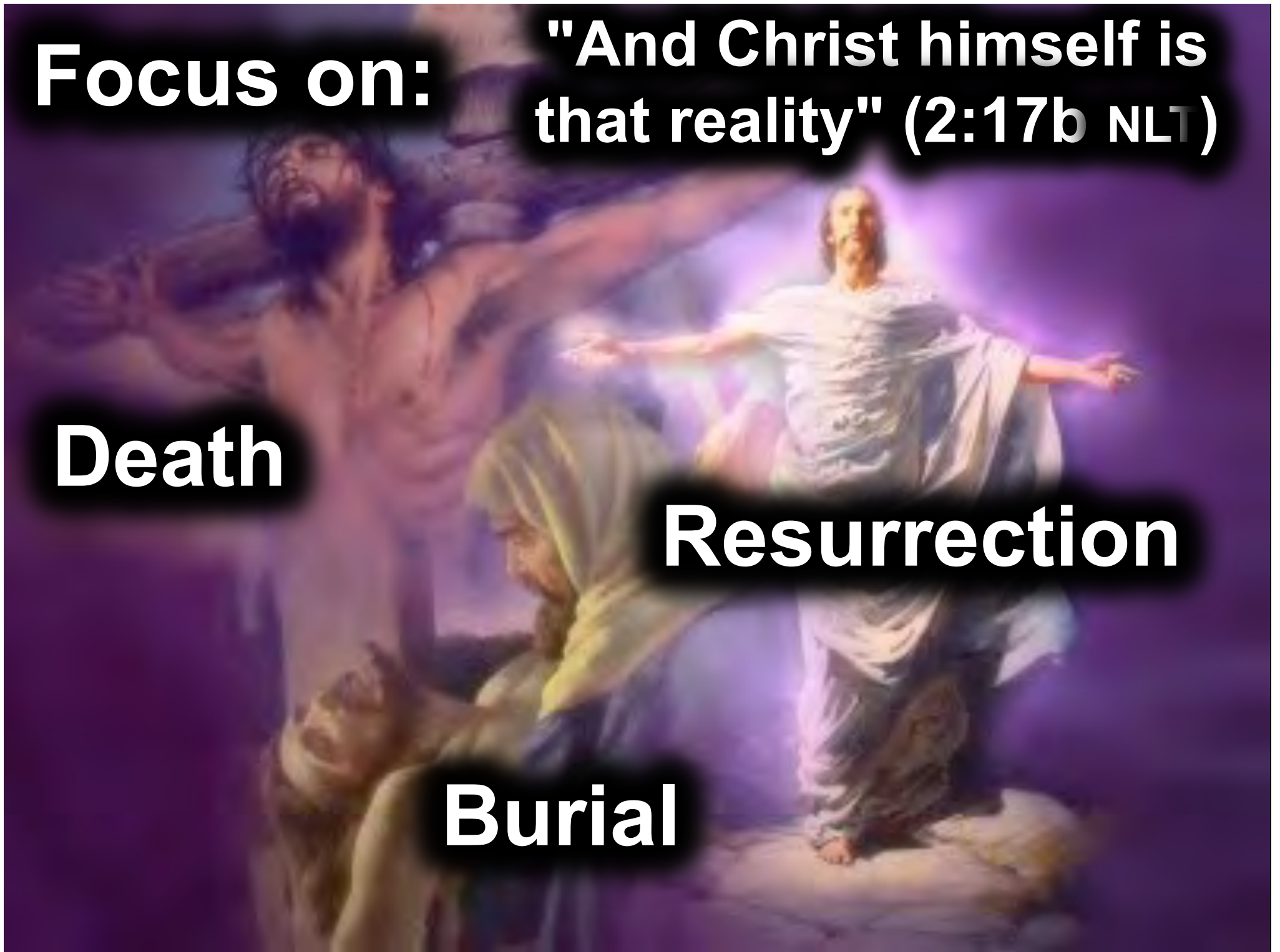
**Focus on:**

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

**Death**

**Resurrection**

**Burial**



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.

# Greek Philosophy

"Good people do not look for laws to give them to but they find them responsible while bad people find laws around them."

—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**

# First Century Christian Baptism



**For Believers Only  
By Immersion Only**

# Recipients

(Paedobaptism)



**The baptism of infants is recorded no earlier than the 3rd century A.D.**

# Recipients

Two additional points:

Infant baptism advocates believe Col. 2:11-12 says that baptism is a sign of the new covenant that corresponds to circumcision in the Old Testament.

Jews were circumcised at 8 days old, sooo....



**However, recipients should not  
be infants because...**

**Circumcision doesn't parallel baptism**

**Males**

**Physical life**

**Any age**

**8th day of life**

**NT parallel = heart  
circumcision**



**All**

**Spiritual life**

**Conscious faith**

**Right after belief**

**New covenant sign  
= Lord's supper**

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.

**"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)**



# Messages from Angels?



Joyce Meyers believes and teaches...

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

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

She says, we are little gods.<sup>5</sup>  
Bible says, God alone is God.<sup>6</sup>

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

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

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

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.youngbuck.com/watch?v=yR30UCkxG4/> 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/meyor/joyce4/meyerMix.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://joycemeyers.com/AboutUs/FAQ/619.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.stlouispostdispatch.com/stloday/news/special/joycemeyer.html?CSD9939802FCC57A8625542D600601C5F371#endofpage.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](http://www.AskAnAngel.org)



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.

# 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)**

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.

# 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, <sup>21</sup>'Don't handle! Don't taste! Don't touch!?' <sup>22</sup>Such rules are mere human teachings about things that deteriorate as we use them. <sup>23</sup>These 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"**

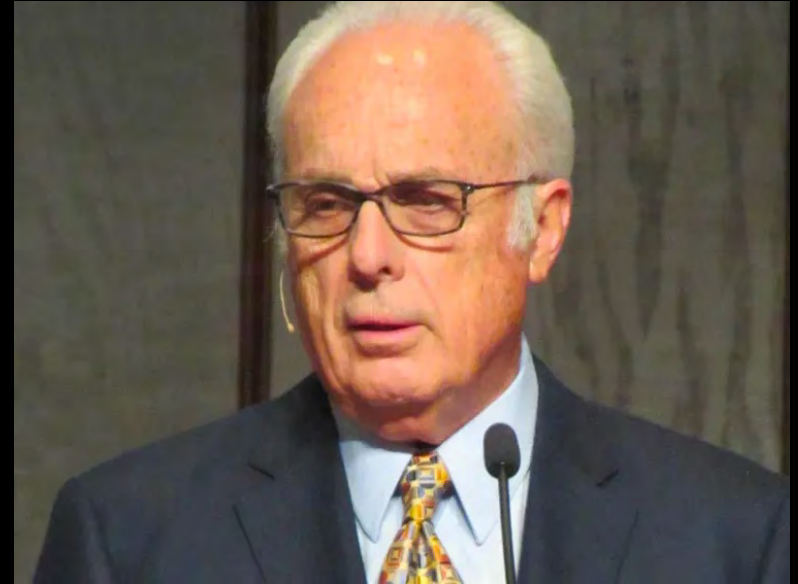
**(2:20-23 NLT)**

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



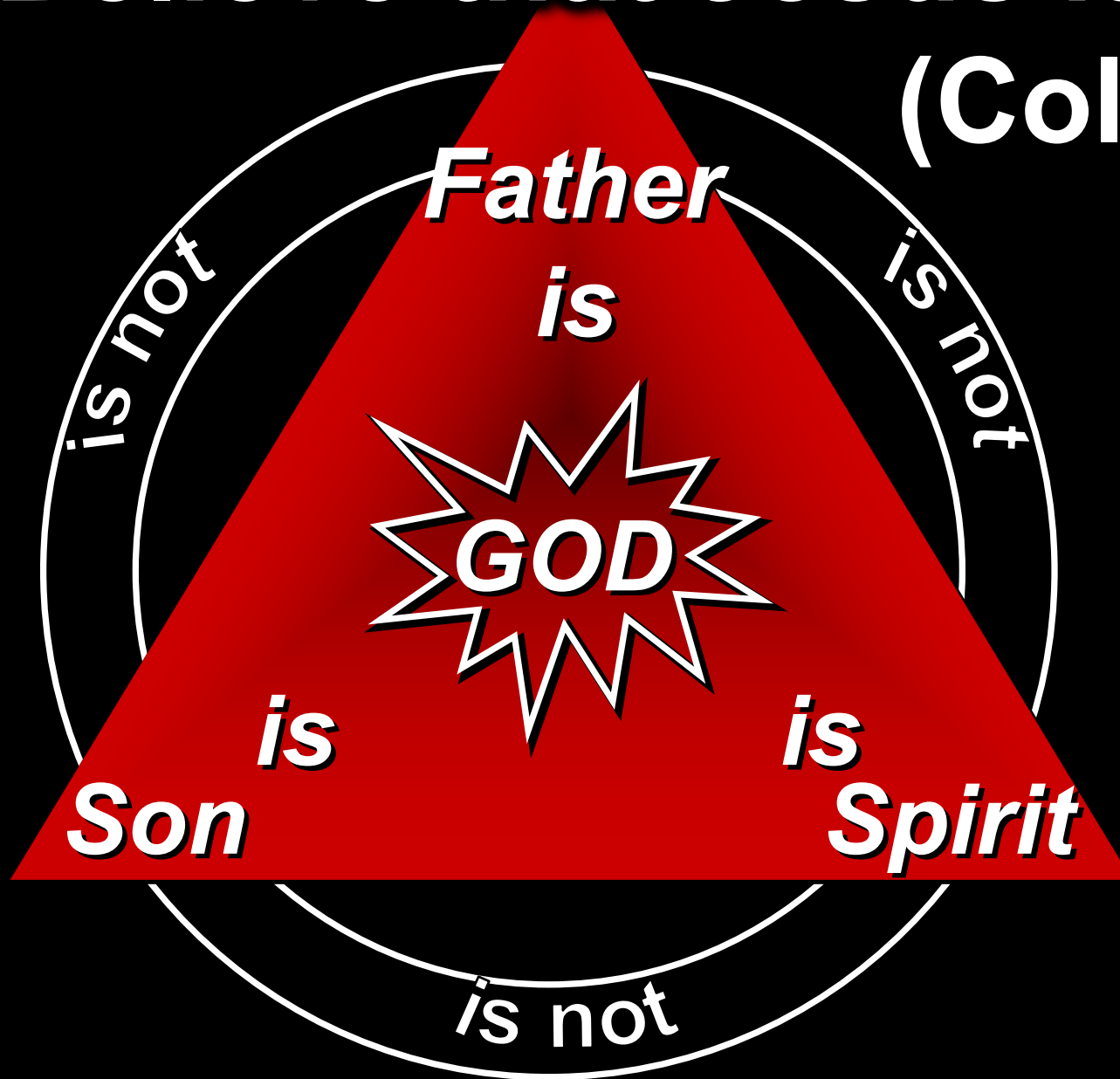
# False Teaching

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

# 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

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

**<sup>2</sup> Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.**



**Col 3:1-2 (NLT)**

**Holy living is relational.**





**Put on a New Life**

***Colossians 3:5-17***

**Themshang Horam, Crossroads International Church  
cicfamily.com & biblestudydownloads.org**



**What hinders**

**you?**



**What are your  
obstacles?**

**What binds you?**

**Anger?**



**Hatred?**



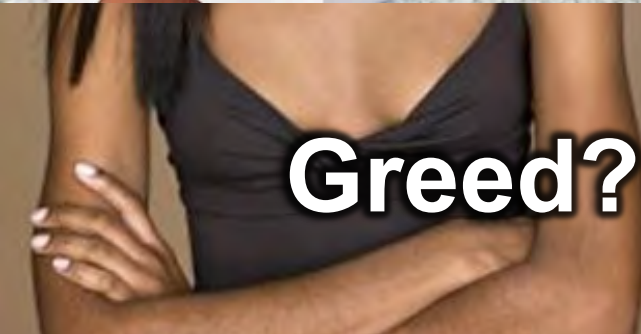
**Broken Relationship?**



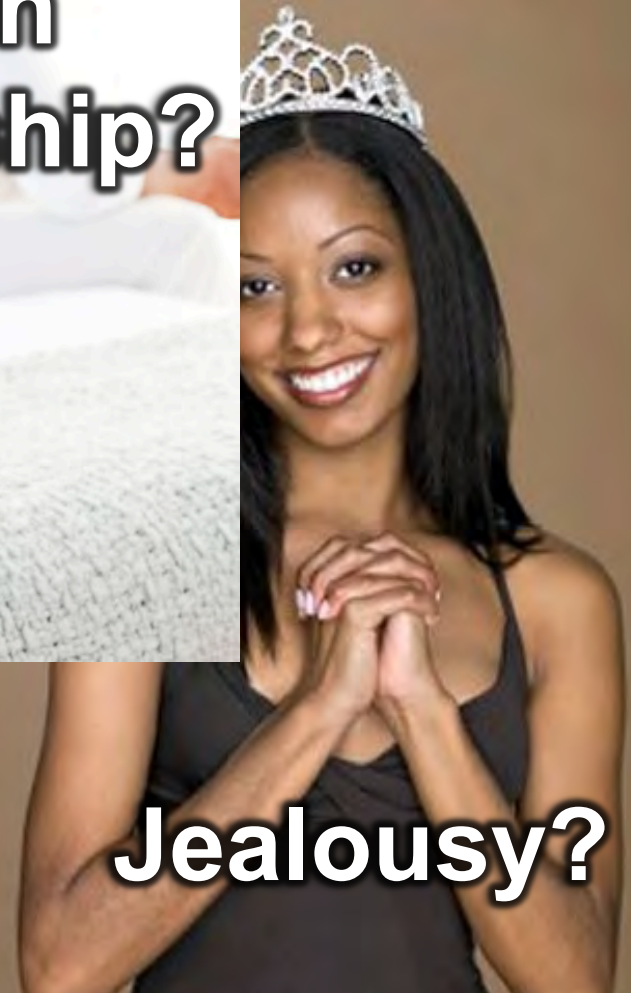
**Painful Past?**



**Greed?**



**Jealousy?**



**What is bothering you to move forward?**






**Put on the Virtues of a New Life**  
**Colossians 3:5-14**

# Background

**Paul the Apostle wrote the Epistle of Colossians to the church at Colossae from prison in Rome in AD 61 to counter a heresy attacking the deity of Christ.**

**He countered this heresy in two ways:**

- 1. First, in chapters 1–2, he established the supremacy of Christ.**
- 2. He then moved on to chapters 3–4 to give practical instruction for living as those made alive in Christ in light of the supremacy of Christ.**

A man in a white robe is being helped by another man in a white robe to put on a white garment. The man being helped is looking down, and the man helping him is looking at his hands. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The text "How Can We Put on the Virtues of a New Life?" is overlaid on the image in a bold, white font with a black outline. The word "How" is highlighted in yellow.

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

**Colossians 3:5-17**

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

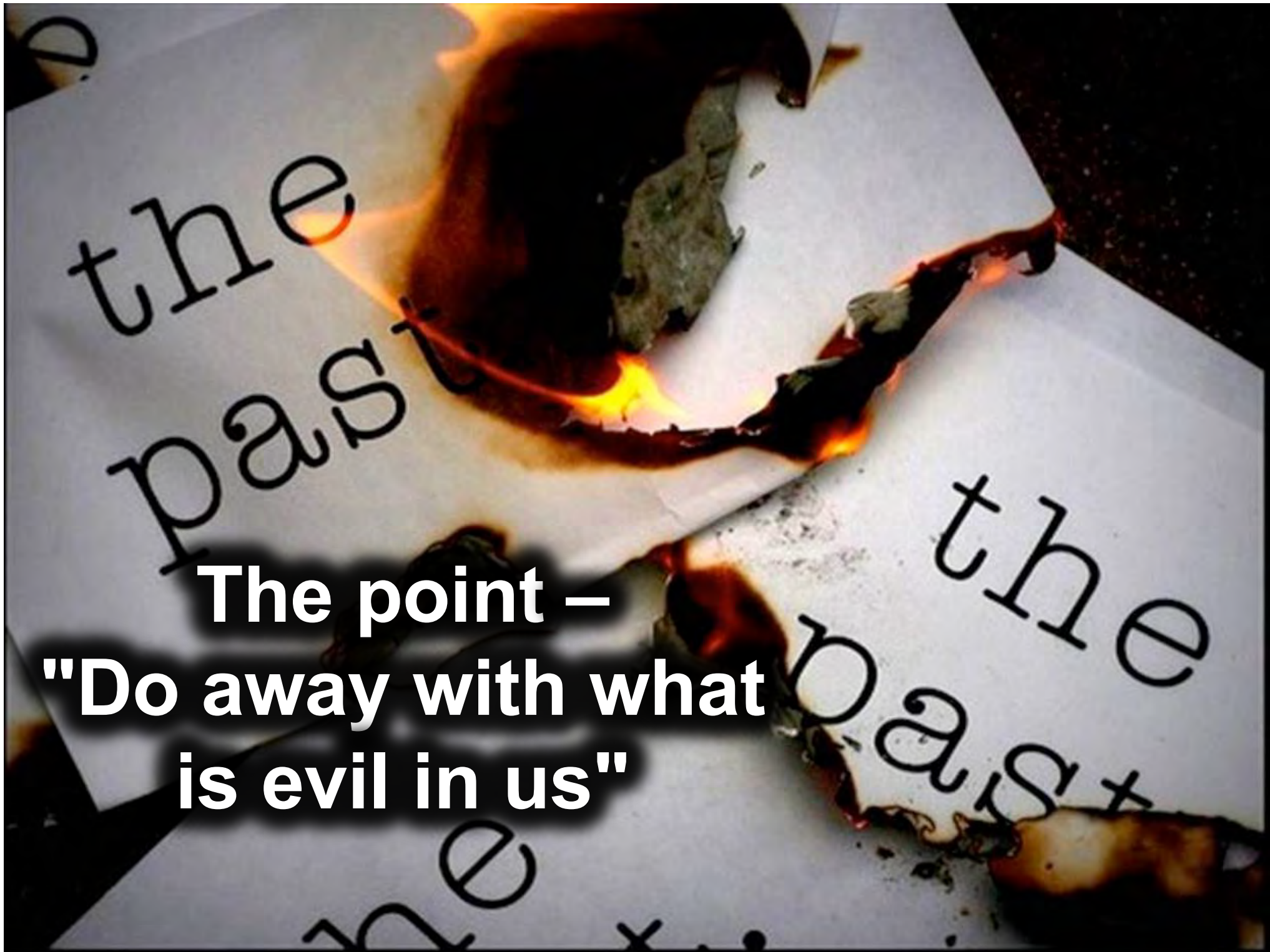


**Col. 3:5**

**"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).**

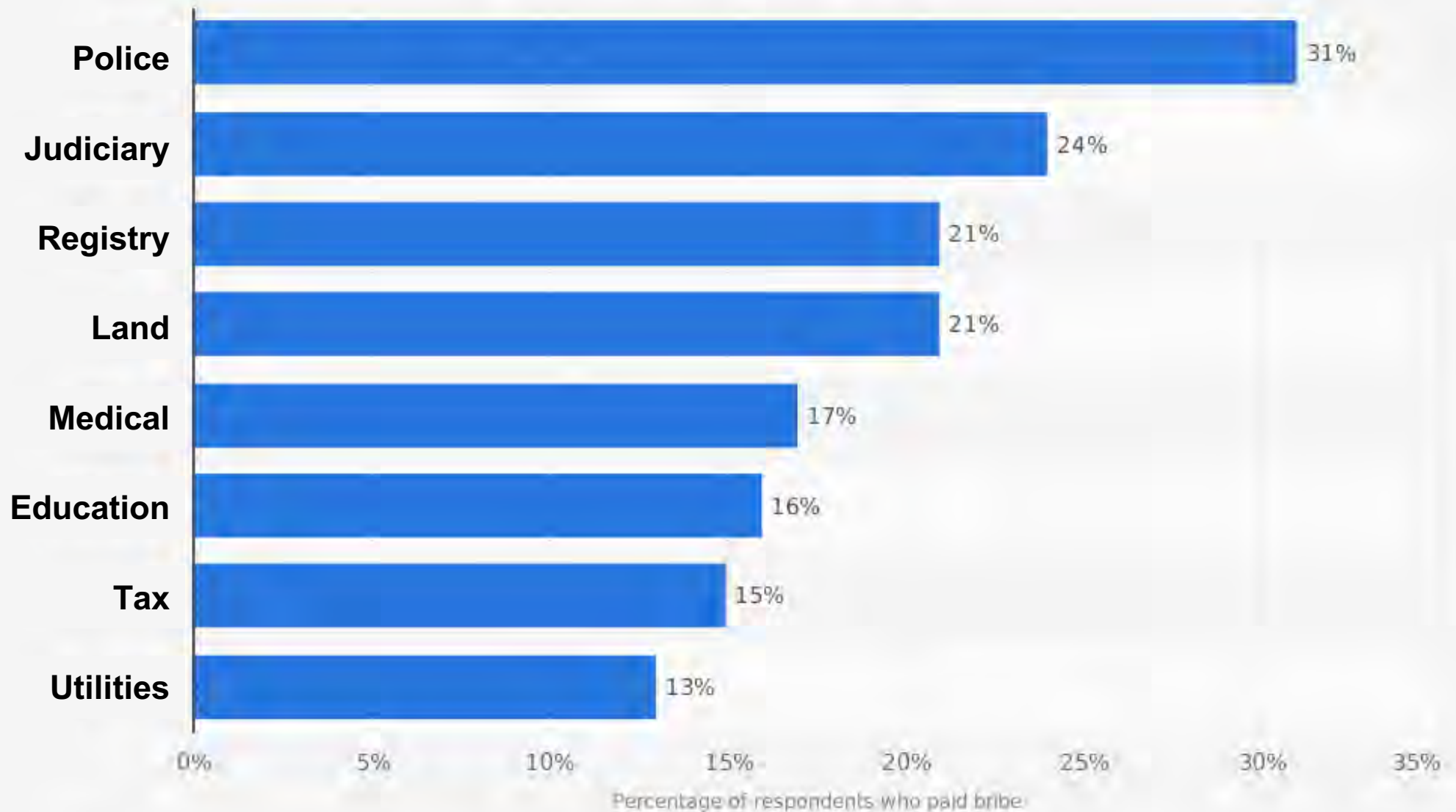


**The point –  
"Do away with what  
is evil in us"**

*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



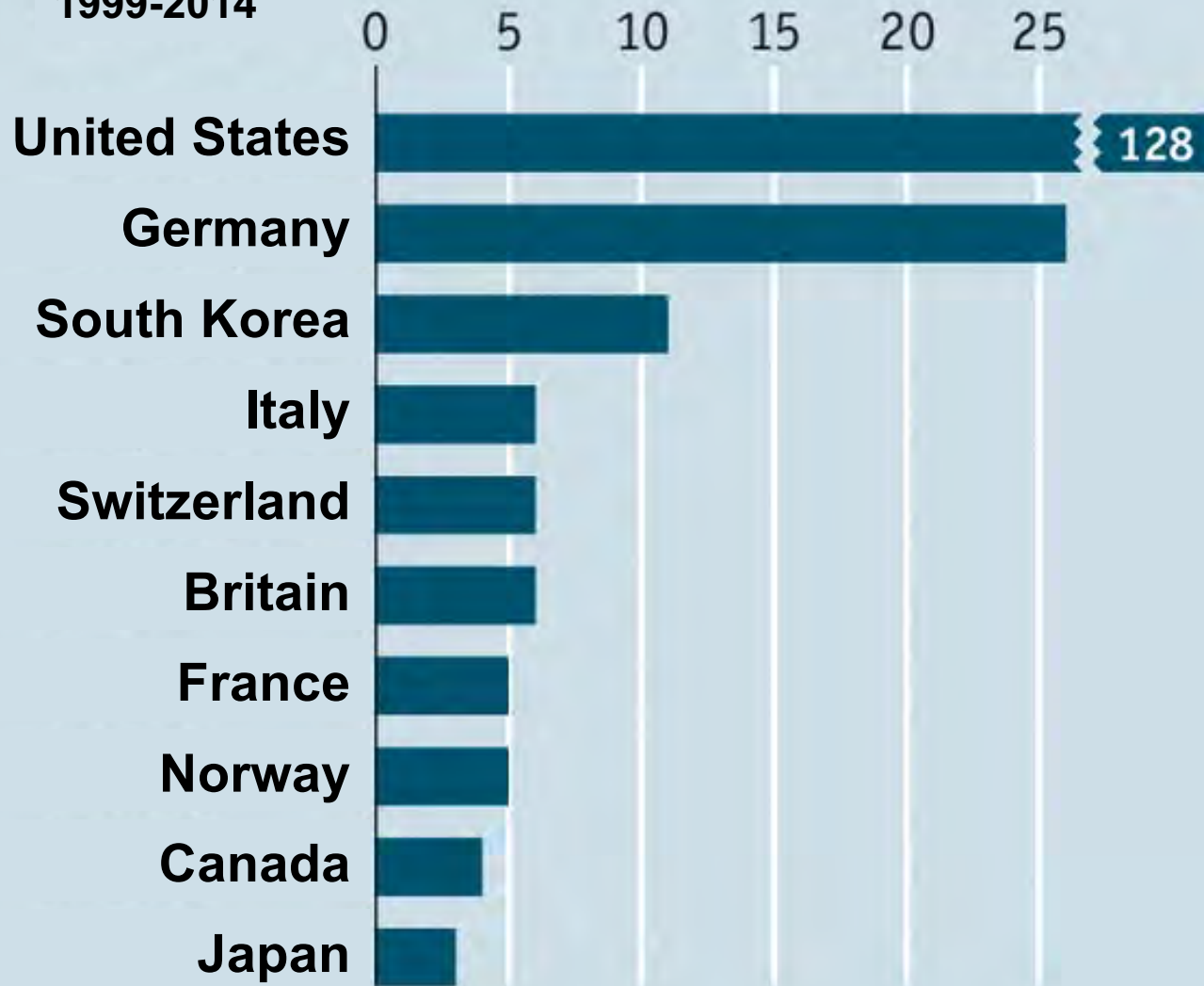
Source  
Transparency International  
© Statista 2018

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

# Grease payments

Corporate foreign-bribery schemes punished

1999-2014



Source: OECD



"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" (Col 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)**

**Kondraty Ryleyev was sentenced to be hanged for his part in an unsuccessful uprising against the Russian czar Nicholas I in December 1825. But the rope broke and Ryleyev, bruised and battered, fell to the ground, got up, and said, "In Russia they do not know how to do anything properly, not even how to make a rope." An accident of this sort usually resulted in a pardon, so a messenger was sent to the czar to know his pleasure.**

**Nicholas asked, "What did he say?"**

**"Sire, he said that in Russia they do not even know how to make a rope properly."**

**"Well, let the contrary be proved," said the czar.**

A photograph of a man and a woman. The man is on the right, leaning in and whispering into the woman's ear. He has a serious expression. The woman is on the left, looking directly at the camera with a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of shock or surprise. The background is a dark, textured wall.

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

**What speech should be put away?**



**All you need to say is simply**

**'YES' or 'NO'**

**...anything beyond this  
comes from the evil one.**

Matthew 5:37

# *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).**

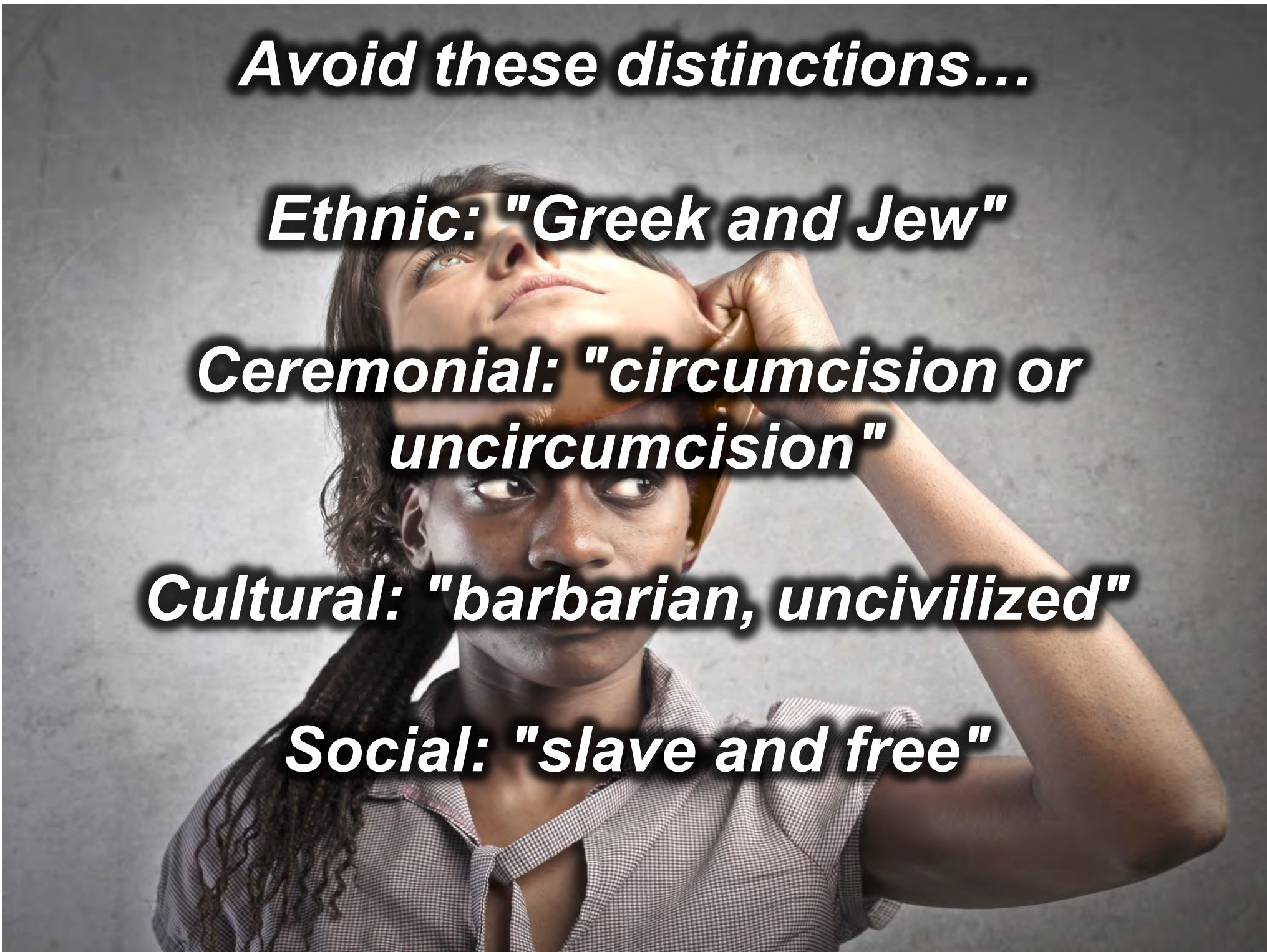
***Avoid these distinctions...***

***Ethnic: "Greek and Jew"***

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

***Cultural: "barbarian, uncivilized"***

***Social: "slave and free"***



**The church  
embraces  
all**

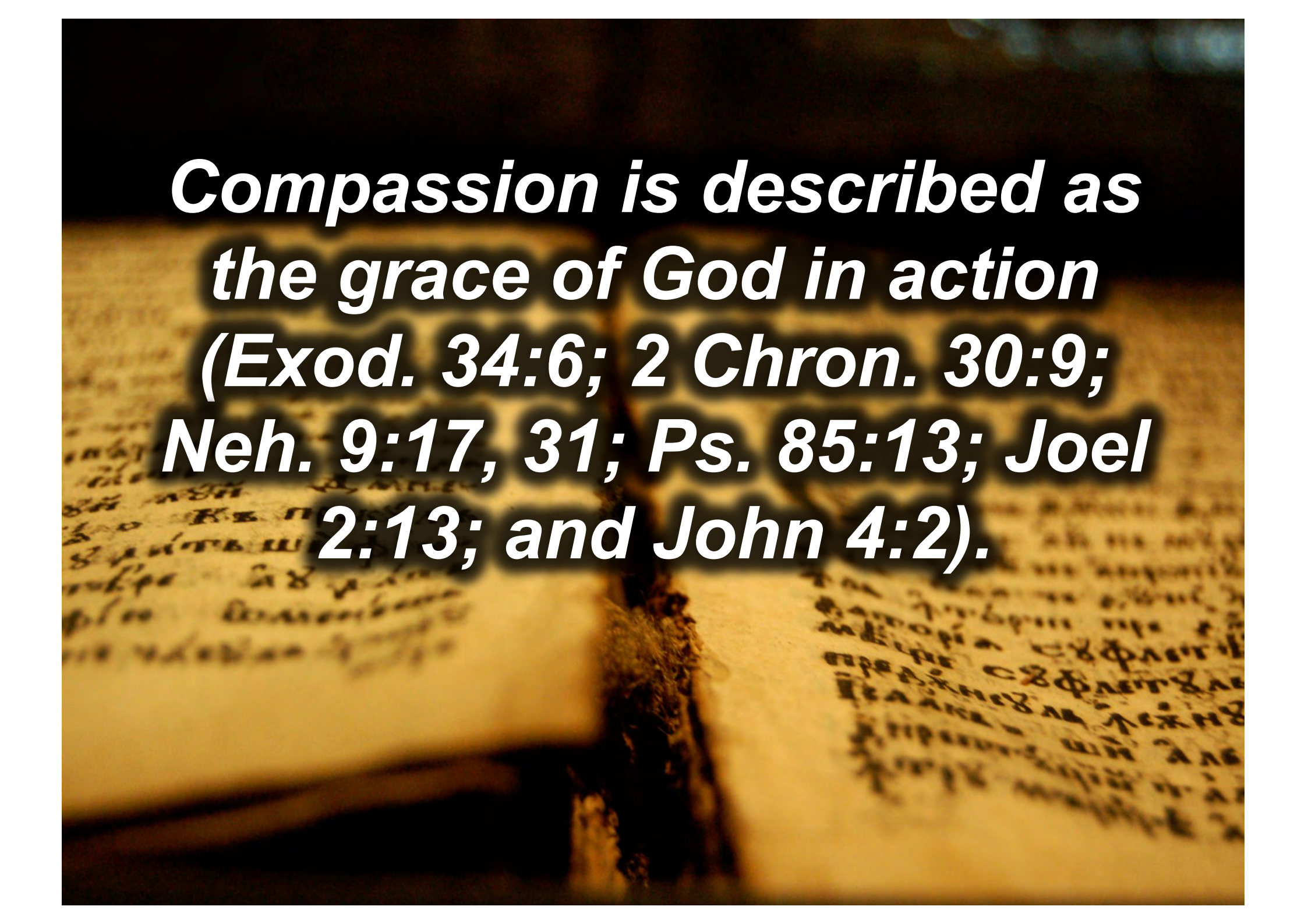


## 2. Put on the **grace** of Christ (3:12-17).

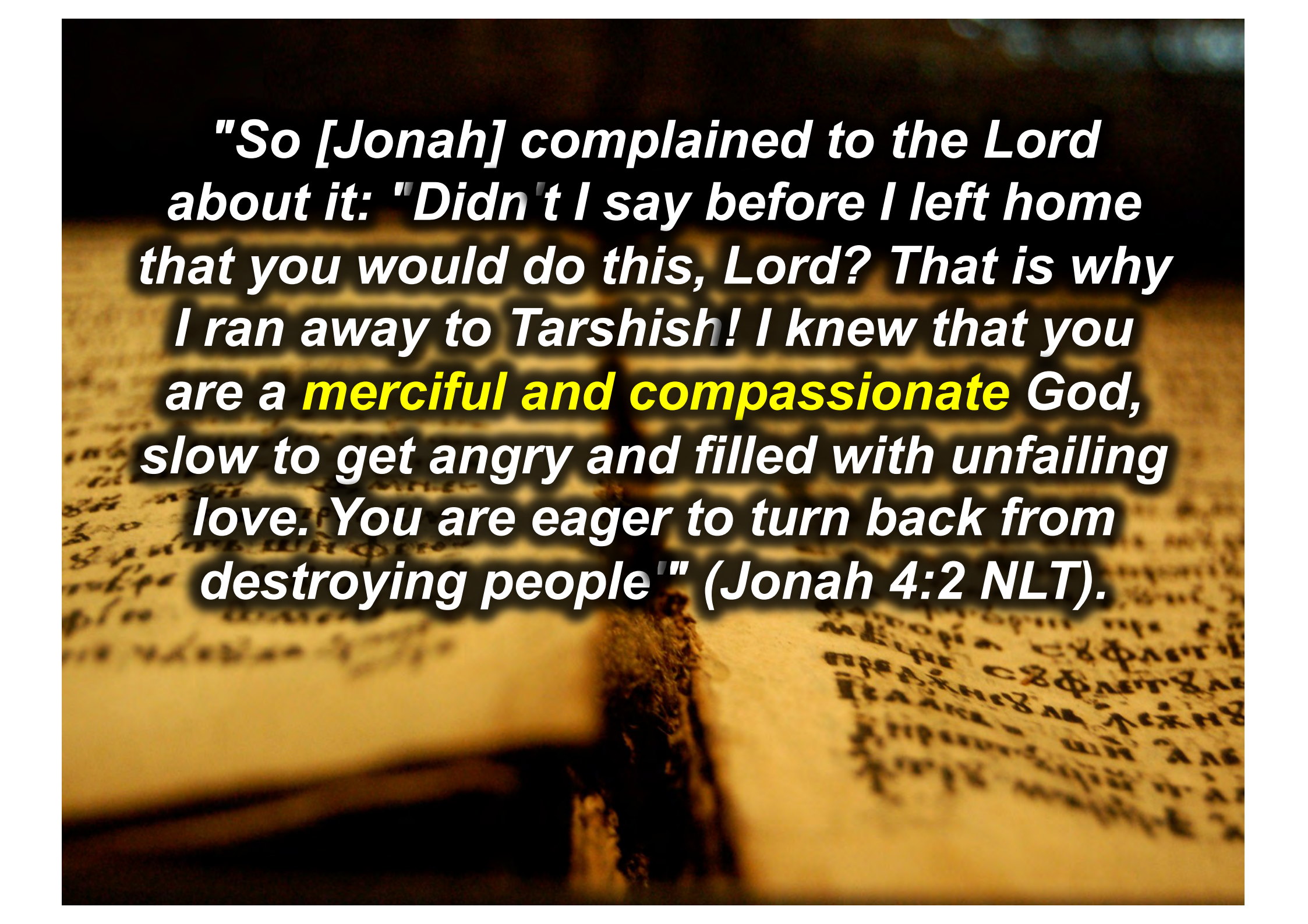


*The clothes of **compassion** (3:12)*





***Compassion is described as  
the grace of God in action  
(Exod. 34:6; 2 Chron. 30:9;  
Neh. 9:17, 31; Ps. 85:13; Joel  
2:13; and John 4:2).***



***"So [Jonah] complained to the Lord about it: "Didn't I say before I left home that you would do this, Lord? That is why I ran away to Tarshish! I knew that you are a **merciful and compassionate** God, slow to get angry and filled with unfailing love. You are eager to turn back from destroying people'" (Jonah 4:2 NLT).***

**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



A photograph of a woman and a man sitting on a blue couch. The woman, on the left, is wearing a white sweater and dark jeans, and is crying with her hands to her face. The man, on the right, is wearing a white shirt and blue jeans, and is covering his face with his hands, appearing distressed. The background is a plain white wall. The floor is light wood, and a pair of grey slippers is on the floor in front of the couch.

**"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...***





***Without love, our forgiveness is incomplete; without love our compassion is a hidden lamp. Love binds all!***

**I. Put off the **old** clothes**

**II. Put on the **grace** of Christ**

**Anger?**



**Hatred?**



**Broken  
Relationship?**



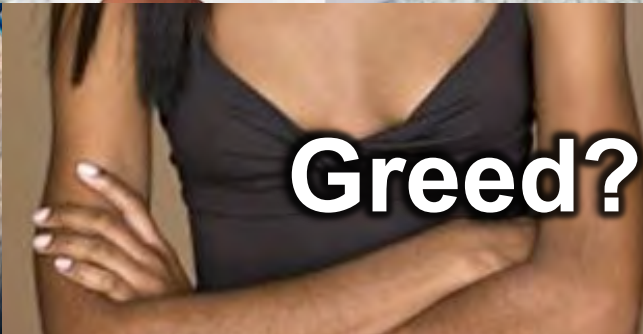
**Thoughts of  
Disdain?**



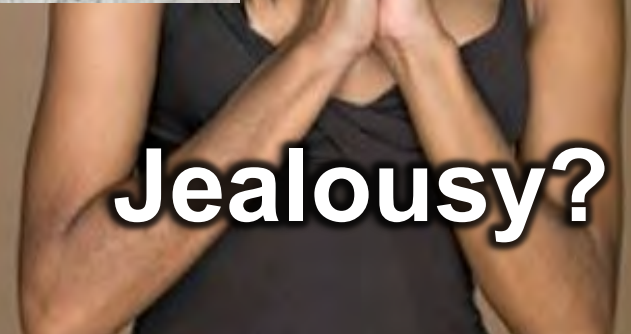
**Painful  
Past?**

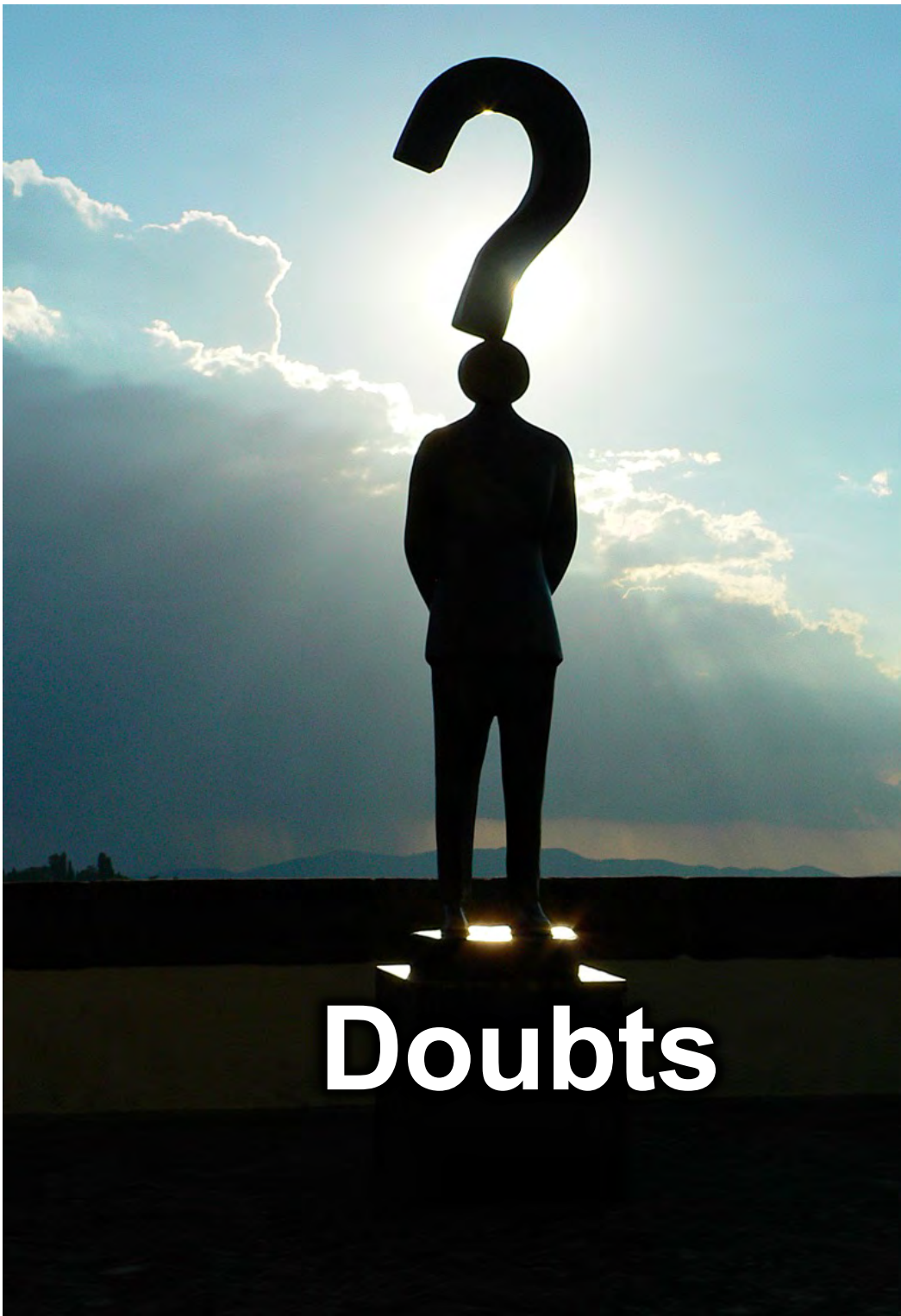


**Greed?**



**Jealousy?**





**Doubts**



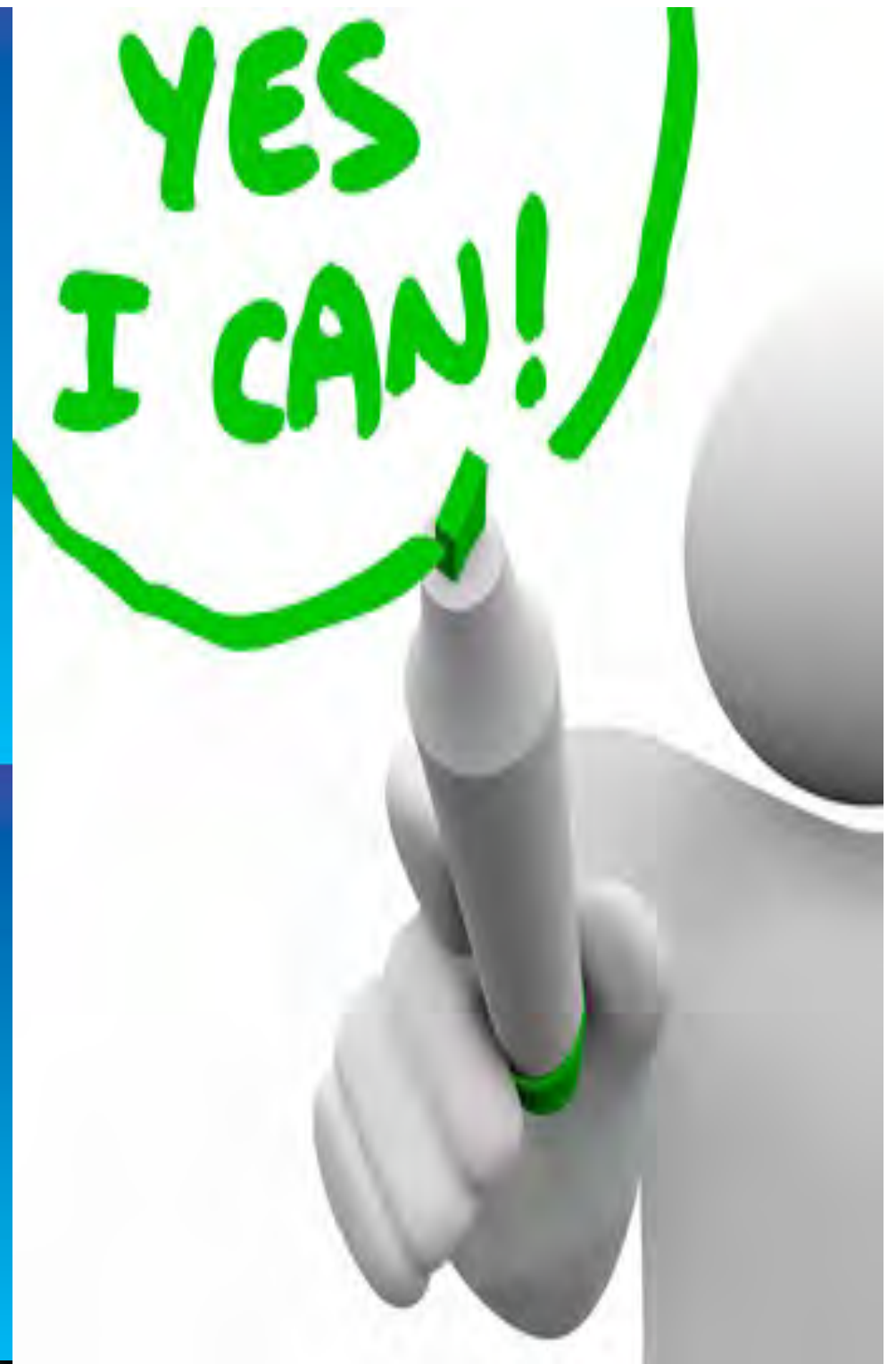
AM I  
GOOD  
ENOUGH?



Can I  
trust  
YOU???



TRUST IN  
CHRIST





**God has given us the grace for a new beginning. Do not let your old habits hinder you from living as one whose life is in Christ.**

# What if we followed Colossians 3:18-19?

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

**<sup>18</sup>Husbands, love  
your wives and  
never treat them  
harshly"**

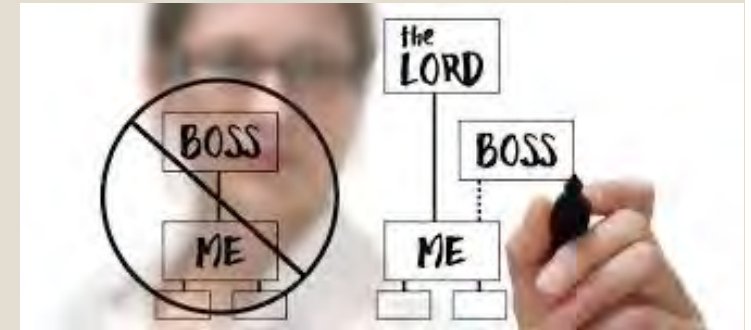
**(Col. 3:18-19 NLT)**



# How Are We To Obey?

## Col 3:22

- Obey your authorities in everything (3:22a).
- Do not deceive your authorities (3:22b).
- Obey your authorities sincerely (3:22c).
- Make your motive to honor God (3:22d).



### EXHORTATION

- Reflect on which areas you need to work on the most.
  - Do you need to learn to fully obey?
  - Do you need to check your heart to see what your attitude is when you obey?
  - Do you need to examine who is truly the object of your obedience?

# Characteristics

189

**Colossians uses a number of terms found nowhere else in the New Testament.**

**Paul uses no Old Testament references in his epistle to the Colossians.**

**Colossians sets forth the fullest explanation of the deity of Christ of any NT writing.**

# Characteristics

189-190

These twin epistles can be compared and contrasted in many ways:

<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>Colossians</b>
<b><i>Similarities:</i></b>	
Written in prison, carried by Tychicus	Written in prison, carried by Tychicus
Stresses wisdom, knowledge, fullness, & mystery	Stresses wisdom, knowledge, fullness, & mystery
First half—position Second half—practice	First half—position Second half—practice
Similar passages:	Similar passages:
"In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins..." (1:7)	"in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins" (1:14)
"to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment—to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ" (1:10)	"and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross" (1:20)

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

# Ephesians v. Colossians

189-190

<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>Colossians</b>
<b><i>Differences</i></b>	
<b>Emphasizes the Church as the Body of Christ</b>	<b>Emphasizes Christ as the Head of the body</b>
<b>General, universal</b>	<b>Specific, local</b>
<b>Peaceful, calm</b>	<b>Polemic, concern</b>
<b>Reflective, quiet</b>	<b>Spiritual conflict</b>

- Paul writes the Colossian epistle to deliver the church from a serious heresy threatening its very life since it is attacking the deity of Christ.
- He responds to this cult with a two-pronged approach:
  1. He first establishes the supremacy of Christ as God in order to deal with the theological basis of the false teaching (Col. 1–2).
  2. He then provides practical instruction in light of the deity of Christ which, when followed, will put the enemies of Christ to shame as they see holy living in the church (Col. 3–4).

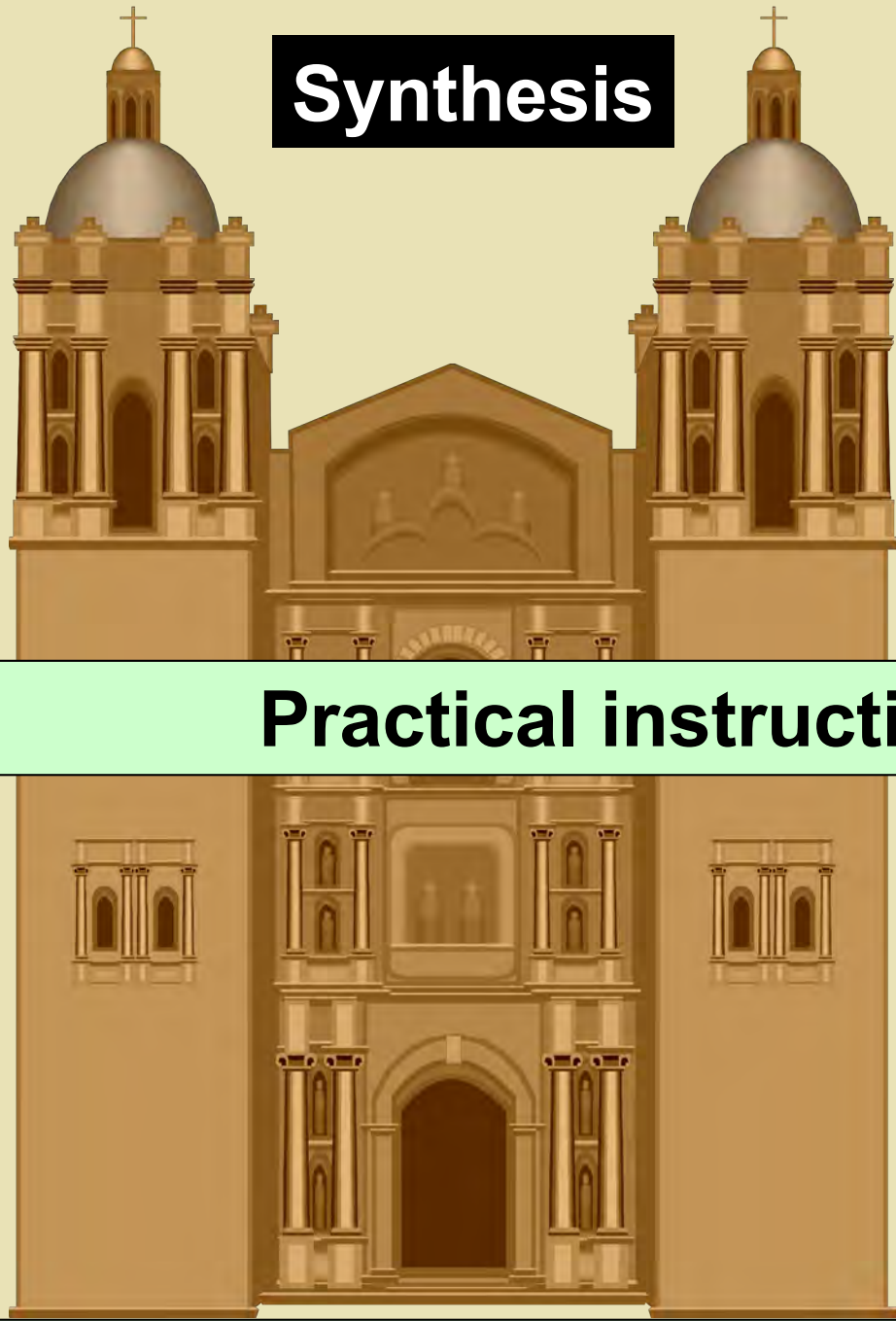
**Synthesis**

**3-4**

**Practical instruction**

**1-2**


**Supremacy / deity**





# Outline

**(Chs. 3–4) Paul provides practical instruction in light of the deity of Christ to shame the enemies of Christ as they see holy living in the church.**



**(Chs. 1–2) Paul establishes the supremacy of Christ over all things as God in order to combat the heretical teachers who had infiltrated the Colossian church with false precepts and practices.**

# Colossians 4

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



# Main Idea of Colossians

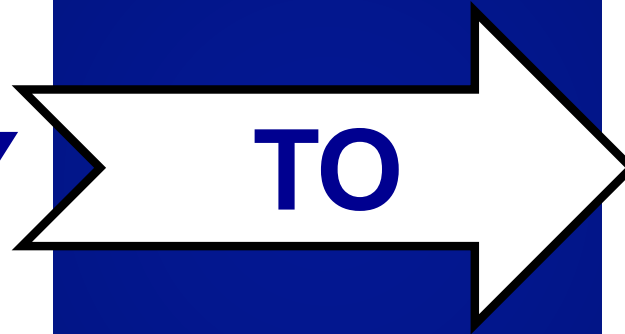
Protect yourself from false teaching by embracing both Christ's **deity** and a holy life.

# ***OUTLINE OF COLOSSIANS***

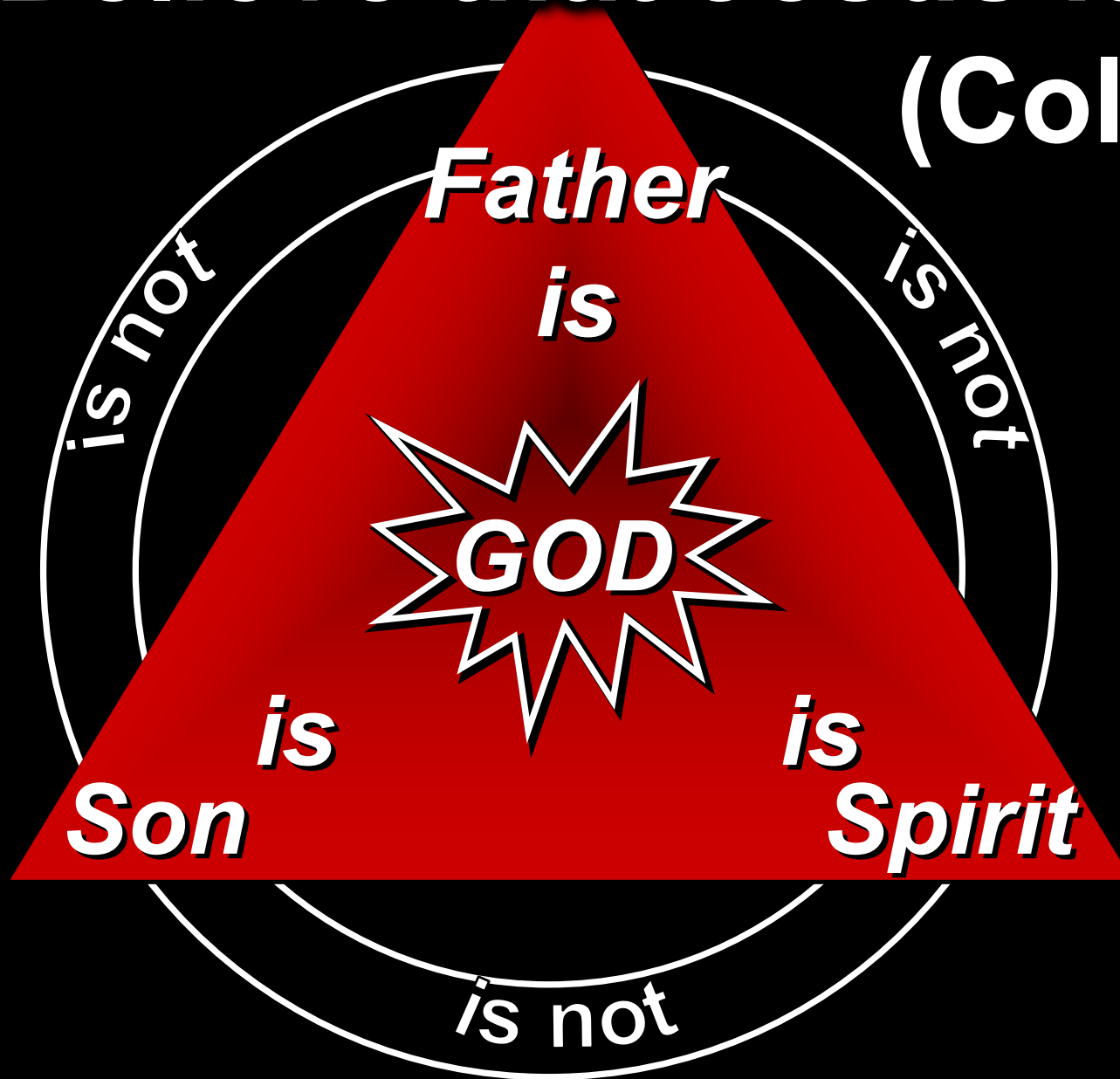
**THEOLOGY**

**TO**

**PRACTICE**



# 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***

# *WHAT TO EMBRACE*

**DEITY**

**TO**

**HOLINESS**

**Colossians**

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




# Occasion

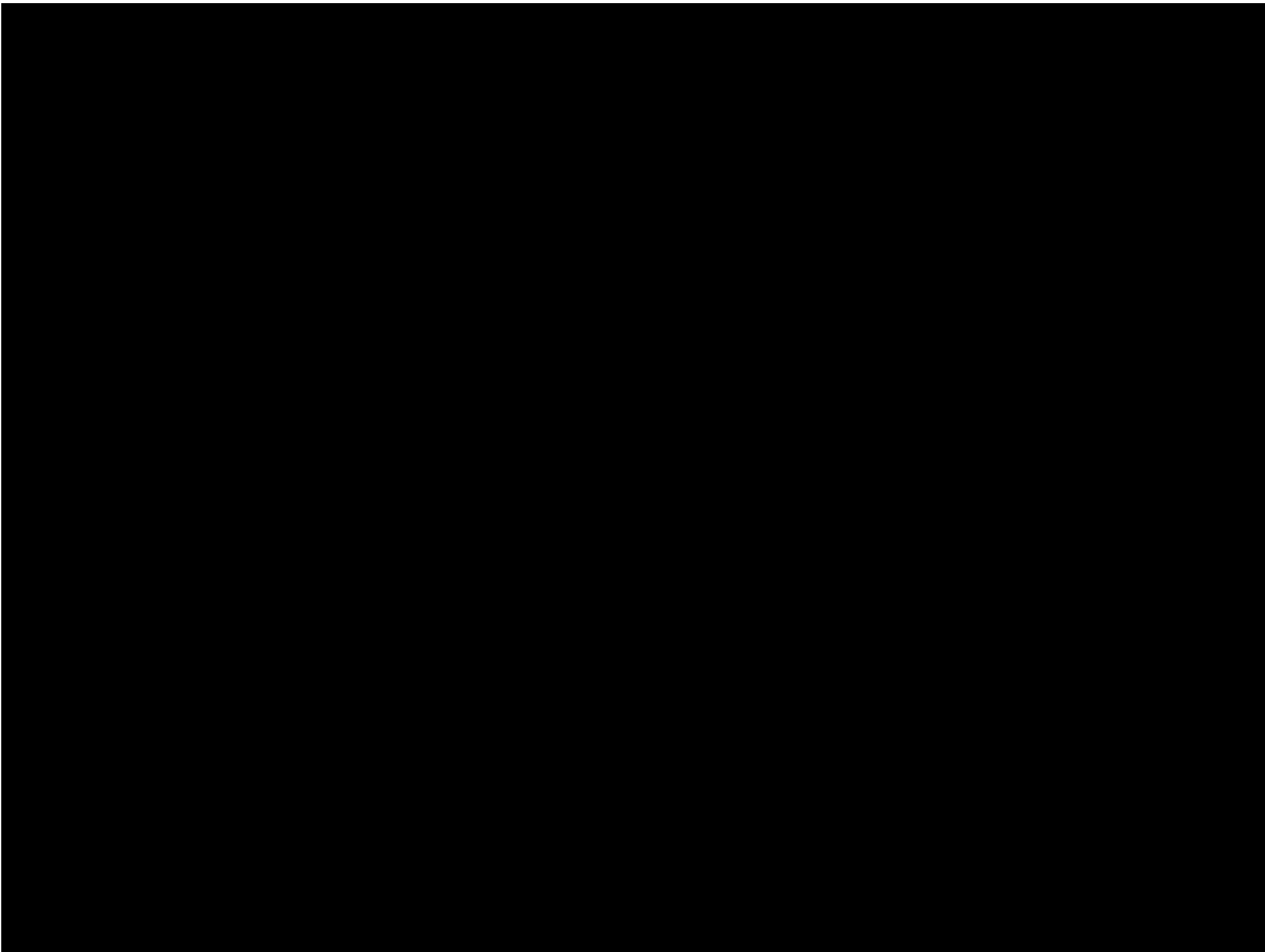
Asia Minor was the seedbed for what developed into 2nd century Gnosticism. Paul's counterattack tells us this about the heresy:

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 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 his hands. The background is a bright, hazy sky.

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



# Get this presentation and script for free!



[Home](#) [Downloads](#) [FAQ](#) [Links](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

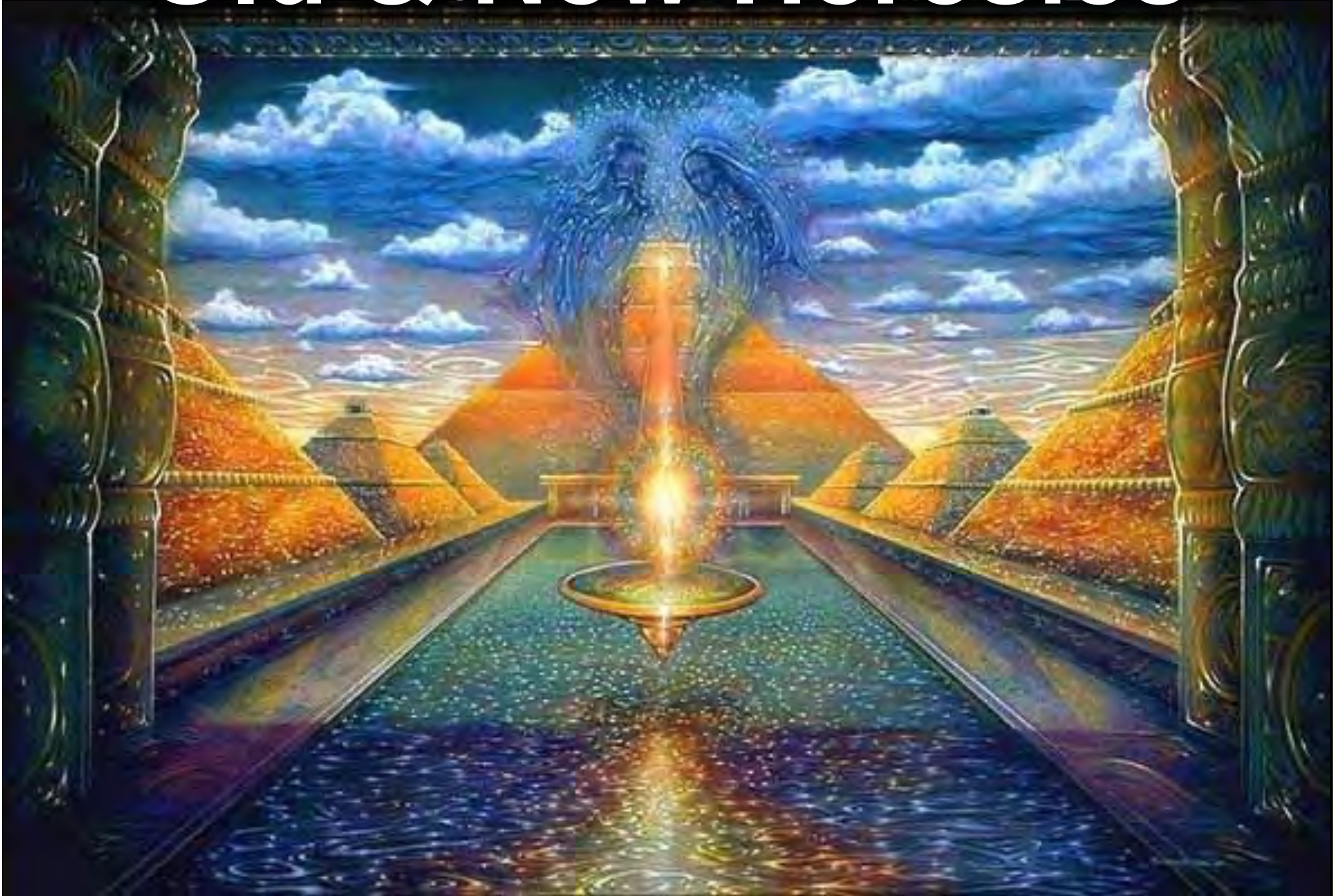
Search...



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

## NT Preaching • BibleStudyDownloads.org

# Old & New Heresies 192







# The Personality and Deity of the Spirit

ii

## He or It? God or Ghost?

# Importance

Why must we believe that the Holy Spirit is a person?

Why can't He be an influence or "force" (Jehovah's Witnesses and New Age)?

What follows logically if He is a "fluid" (Mormons)?



# Evidence that the Spirit is a Person...



# The Personality of the Spirit

- A. Attributes**
- B. Actions**
- C. Ascriptions**
- D. Relationships**
- E. Grammar**



# Is the Holy Spirit God?

iii





# **Biblical Evidence for the Trinity**

***How can you prove this  
important doctrine?***

# **How to Prove the Trinity**

- 1. Start only with the Bible**
- 2. Show the Bible teaches only one God**

# One God



# There is Only One God



**"This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD of Heaven's Armies: "I am the First and the Last; **there is no other God"** (Isaiah 44:6)**

# There is Only One God

**"...Understand that  
I alone am God.  
There is no other  
God—there never  
has been, and there  
never will be"  
(Isaiah 43:10 NLT)**



# There is Only One God

**"There is but one  
God, and one  
mediator between  
God and man,  
Christ Jesus"  
(1 Tim. 2:5)**



### 3. Correctly Define the Trinity

**"Within the nature of the one, true God exists **three Person(ages)**: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, who share the same **attributes**, are the same **substance** (nature, essence or reality) and are in effect the one, true God."**

***Ask, "Do you agree with this definition?"***

# The Illustration of Light



**A single beam of  
white light...**

**...breaks into three  
beams of red, yellow,  
and blue**

## 4. Decide who Jesus is

**JESUS**

**Liar**

**?**

**Lunatic**

**Lord**

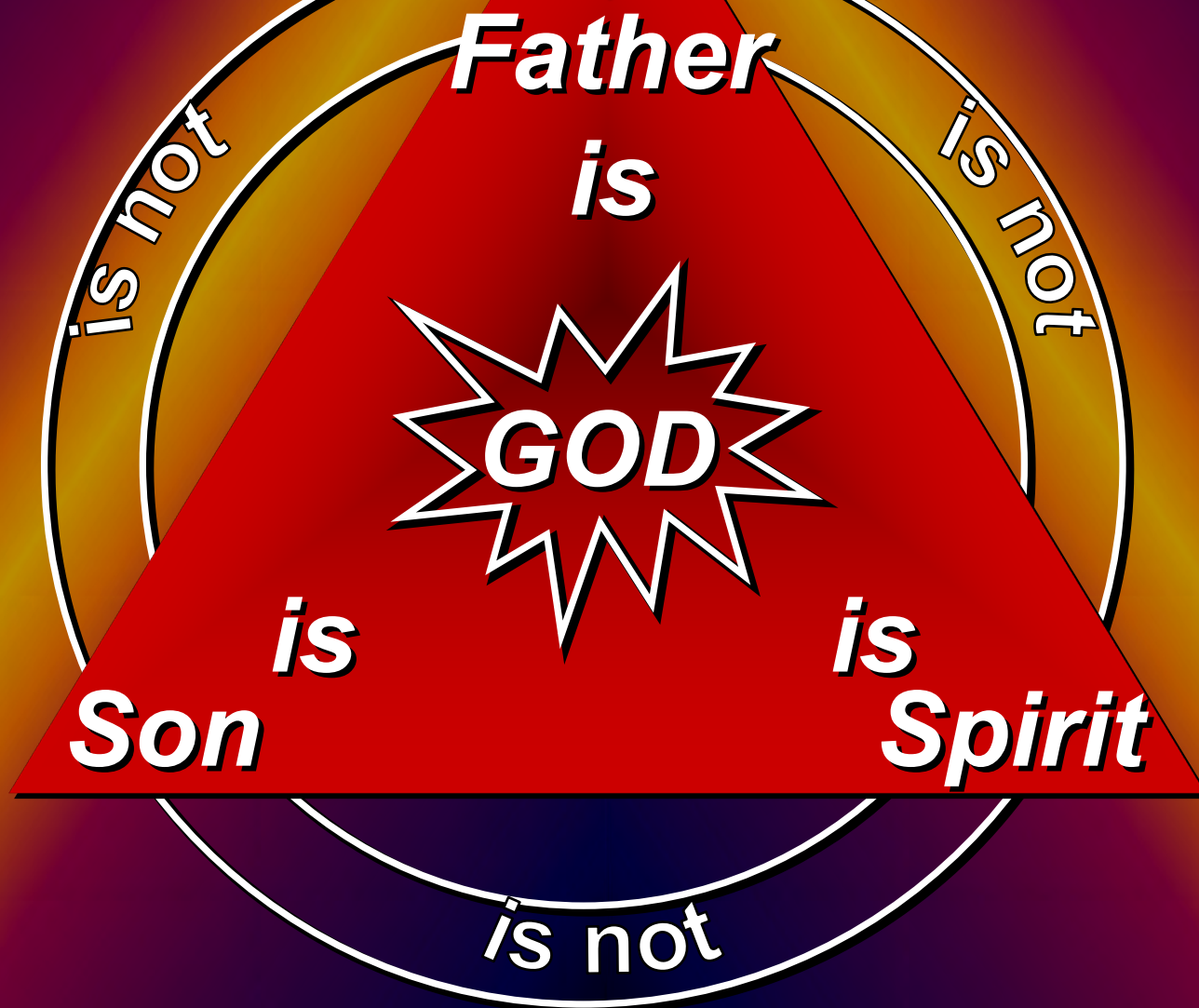
5. Show the reasonableness of this proposition:

**If three biblical Persons are all called God and share the same attributes of God, but there exists only one God, they are in effect *the one, true God*. (If this can be demonstrated then the Trinity is true.)**

***Ask, "If I can prove this to you, then will you believe in the Trinity?"***

***If the person says "no," then he or she has an authority other than the Bible!***

6. The Bible conclusively proves the above proposition in the following passages that identify the same attributes/titles with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit:



# Biblical Evidence for the Doctrine of the Trinity

iii

<u>Attribute/Title</u>	<u>Father</u>	<u>Son</u>	<u>Holy Spirit</u>
Called "God" (deity)	<u>2 Pet. 1:17</u>	Heb. 1:6-8	<u>Acts 5:3-4</u>
Worshipped as God	<u>Matt. 4:10</u>	<u>John 20:28</u>	
Indwells believers	<u>1 Cor. 3:16a</u>	Col. 1:27	<u>1 Cor. 3:16b</u>
Is the truth	<u>John 3:33</u>	<u>John 14:6</u>	<u>1 John 5:6</u>
Raised Christ	<u>Acts 3:26</u>	<u>John 10:17</u>	<u>Rom. 8:11</u>
Omniscient	Ps. 139:1-5	John 16:3	1 Cor. 2:10-11
Omnipotent	Matt. 19:26	Phil. 4:13	Zech. 4:6
Omnipresent	Jer. 23:24	Matt. 18:20	Ps. 139:7-12
Has personhood	John 3:16	John 1:9-18	John 14:17
Helper ( <i>Paraclete</i> )	2 Cor. 1:3-6	1 John 2:1	John 14:26
Forgives sin	Isa. 45:25	1 John 2:12	
Forgets sin	Jer. 31:34	Heb. 8:12	Heb. 10:17
Immutable	Mal. 3:6	Heb. 13:8	
Eternal	Exod. 15:18	John 1:1-2	
"I Am"	Exod. 3:14	John 8:58	
"Alpha and Omega"	<u>Rev. 1:8</u>	<u>Rev. 22:13, 16</u>	
"First and the Last"	<u>Isa. 44:6</u>	<u>Rev. 1:17</u>	
Holy	Isa. 6:3	Mark 1:24	Luke 11:13

Note: Underlined verses are translated correctly in the Jehovah Witness *New World Translation*.

## 6. The Father, Son, & Spirit are all God:

Attribute or Title	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Called "God" (deity)	<p><b>2 Pet. 1:17</b> when he received honor and glory from <b>God the Father</b>. The voice from the majestic glory of God said to him, "<b>This is my dearly loved Son</b>, who brings me great joy."</p>	<p><b>Heb. 1:6, 8</b> And when he brought his supreme Son into the world, God said, "Let all of God's angels worship him"... <b>8But to the Son he says, "Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice."</b></p>	<p><b>Acts 5:3</b> Then Peter said, "Ananias, why have you let Satan fill your heart? <b>You lied to the Holy Spirit...</b> You weren't <b>lying</b> to us but <b>to God!</b>"</p>

## 6. The Father, Son, & Spirit are all God:

Attribute or Title	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Indwells believers	<p>1 Cor. 3:16a Don't you realize that all of you together are the <b>temple of God</b> and that the Spirit of God lives in you?</p>	<p>Col. 1:27 For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: <b>Christ lives in you.</b> This gives you assurance of sharing his glory.</p>	<p>1 Cor. 3:16b Don't you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the <b>Spirit of God lives in you?</b></p>

The image features a background of torn, overlapping strips of paper. Each strip is printed with the word "LIES" in a serif font, repeated multiple times. Overlaid on this background is a large, white arrow pointing to the right. Inside the arrow, the word "TRUTH" is written in a bold, dark red, serif font. The overall composition suggests a contrast between falsehood and reality.

**TRUTH**

**The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are all called truth**

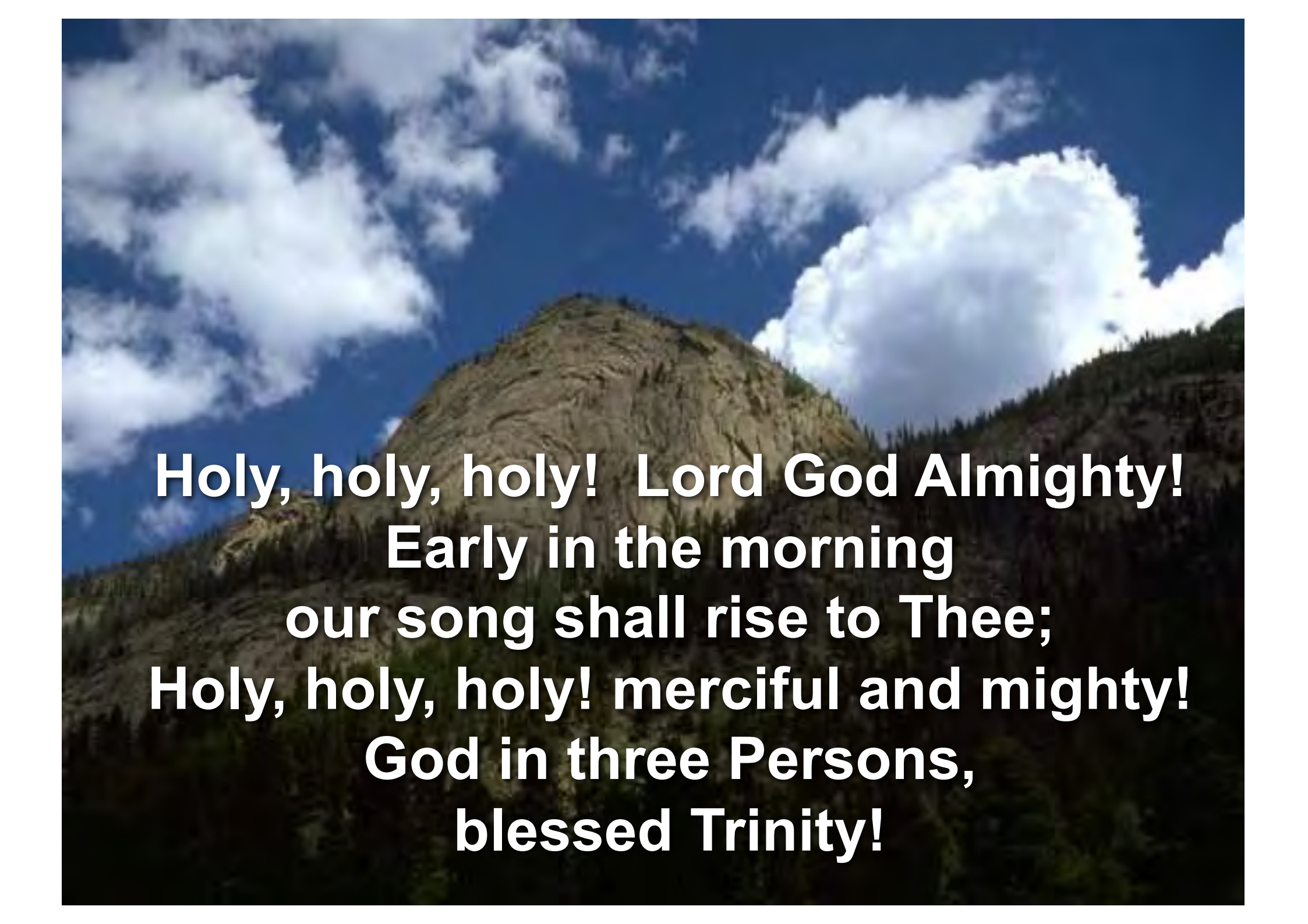
## 6. The Father, Son, & Spirit are all God:

iii

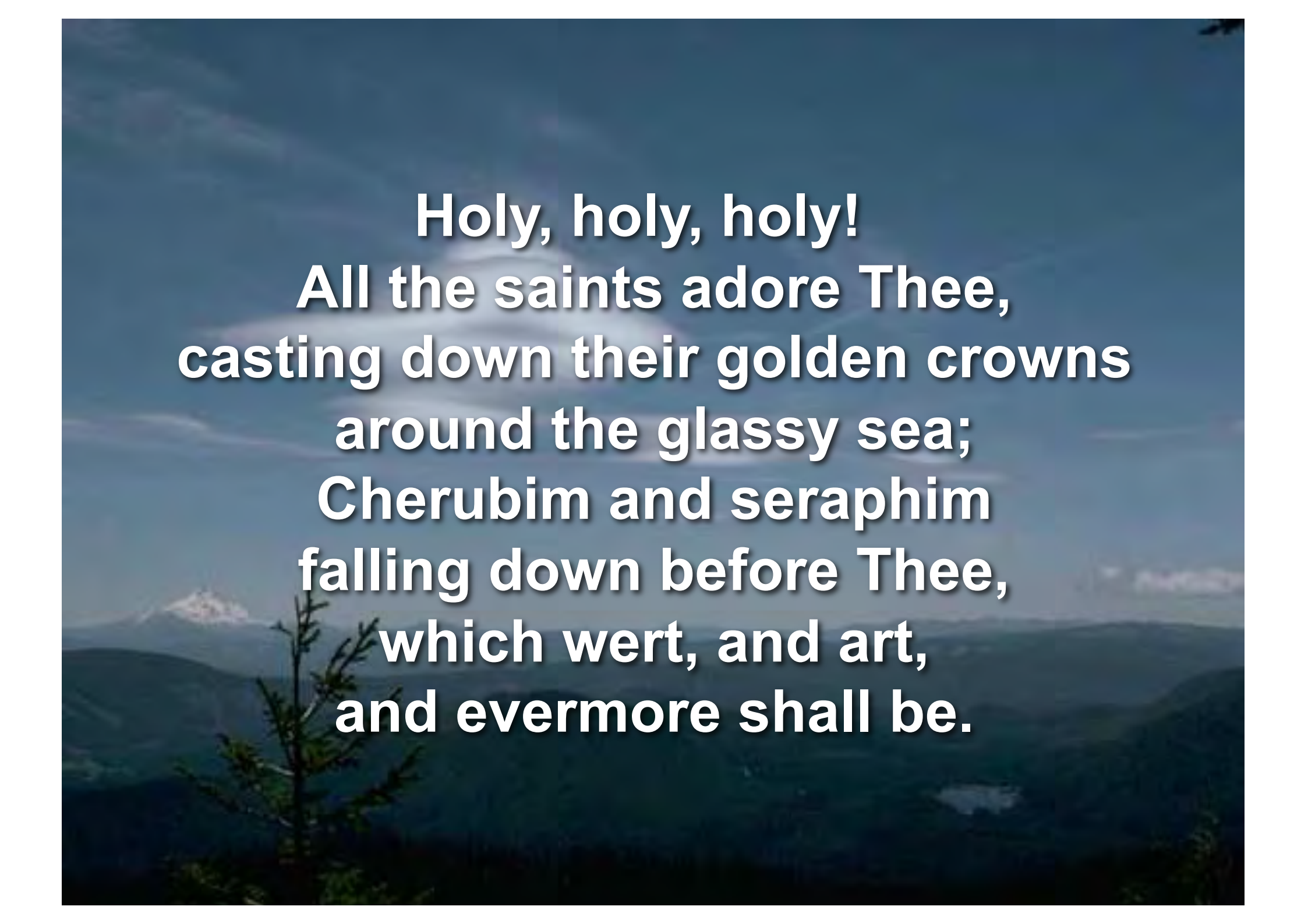
Attribute or Title	Father	Son	Holy Spirit
Holy	<p><b>Isa. 6:3</b> They were calling out to each other,  "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of Heaven's Armies!  The whole earth is filled with his glory!"</p>	<p><b>Mark 1:24</b> "Why are you interfering with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who <b>you are—the Holy One of God!</b>"</p>	<p><b>Luke 11:13</b> So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the <b>Holy Spirit</b> to those who ask him."</p>

**Holy, Holy, Holy!**

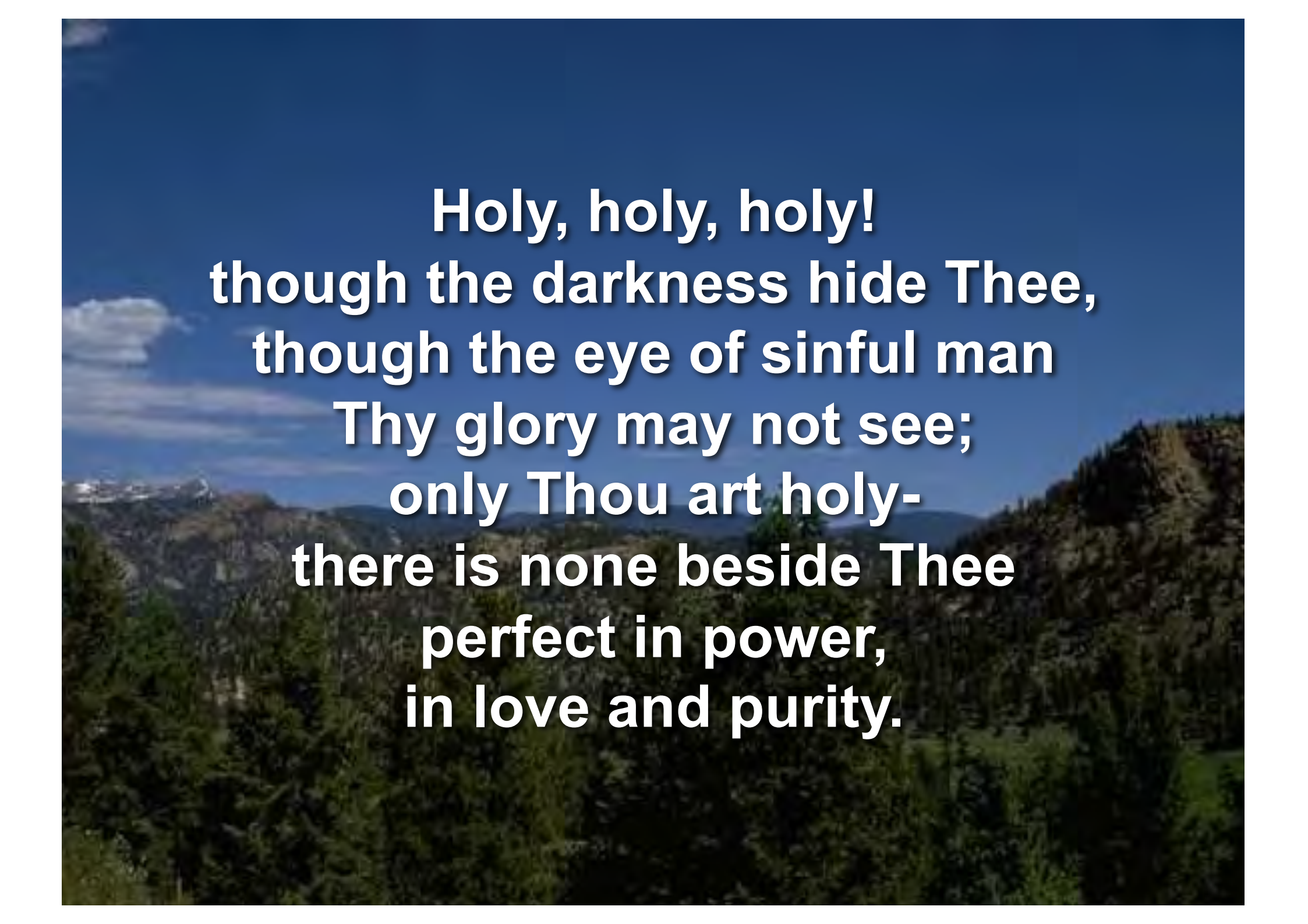




**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons,  
blessed Trinity!**



**Holy, holy, holy!**  
**All the saints adore Thee,**  
**casting down their golden crowns**  
**around the glassy sea;**  
**Cherubim and seraphim**  
**falling down before Thee,**  
**which wert, and art,**  
**and evermore shall be.**

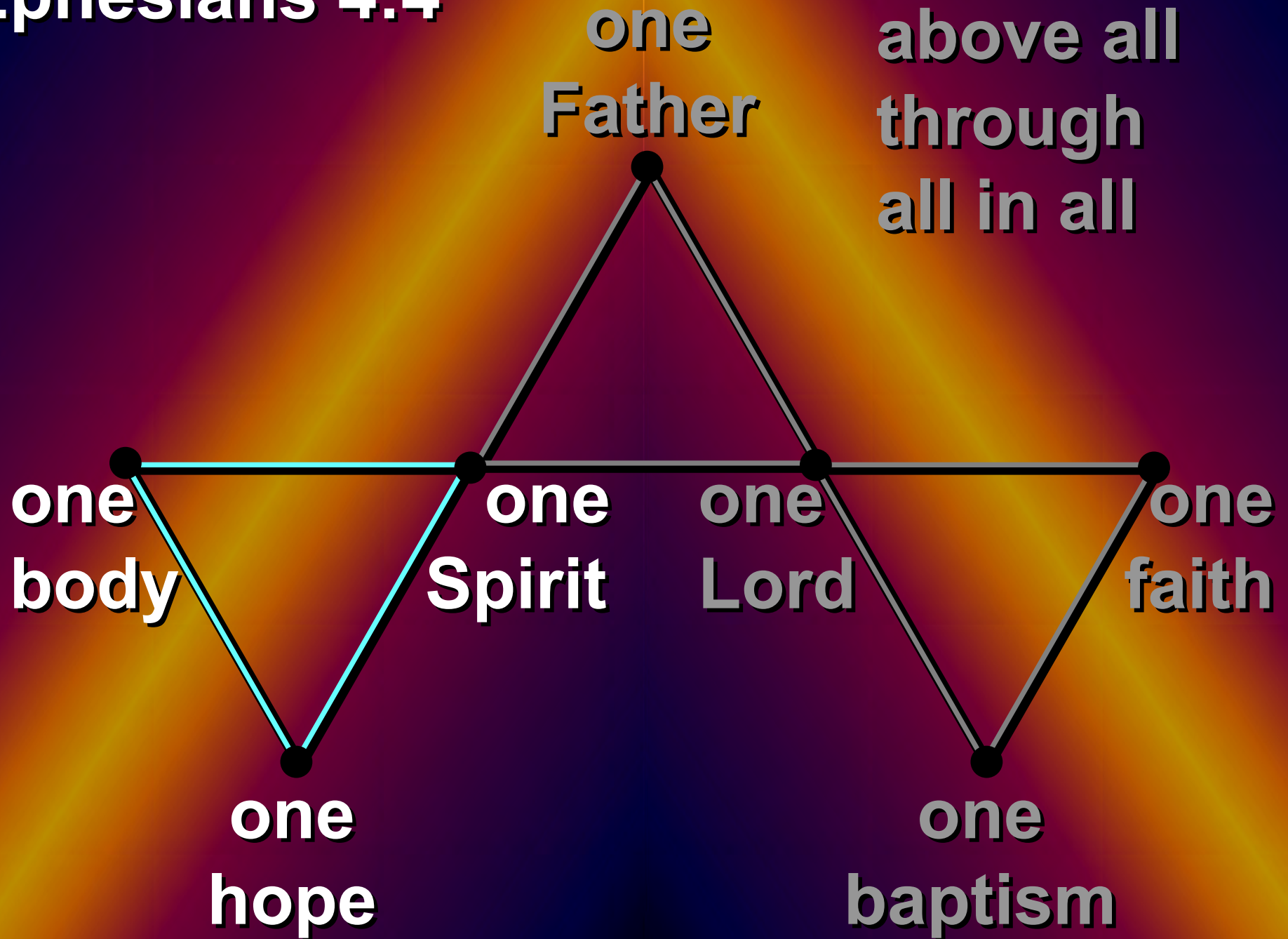


**Holy, holy, holy!**  
**though the darkness hide Thee,**  
**though the eye of sinful man**  
**Thy glory may not see;**  
**only Thou art holy-**  
**there is none beside Thee**  
**perfect in power,**  
**in love and purity.**

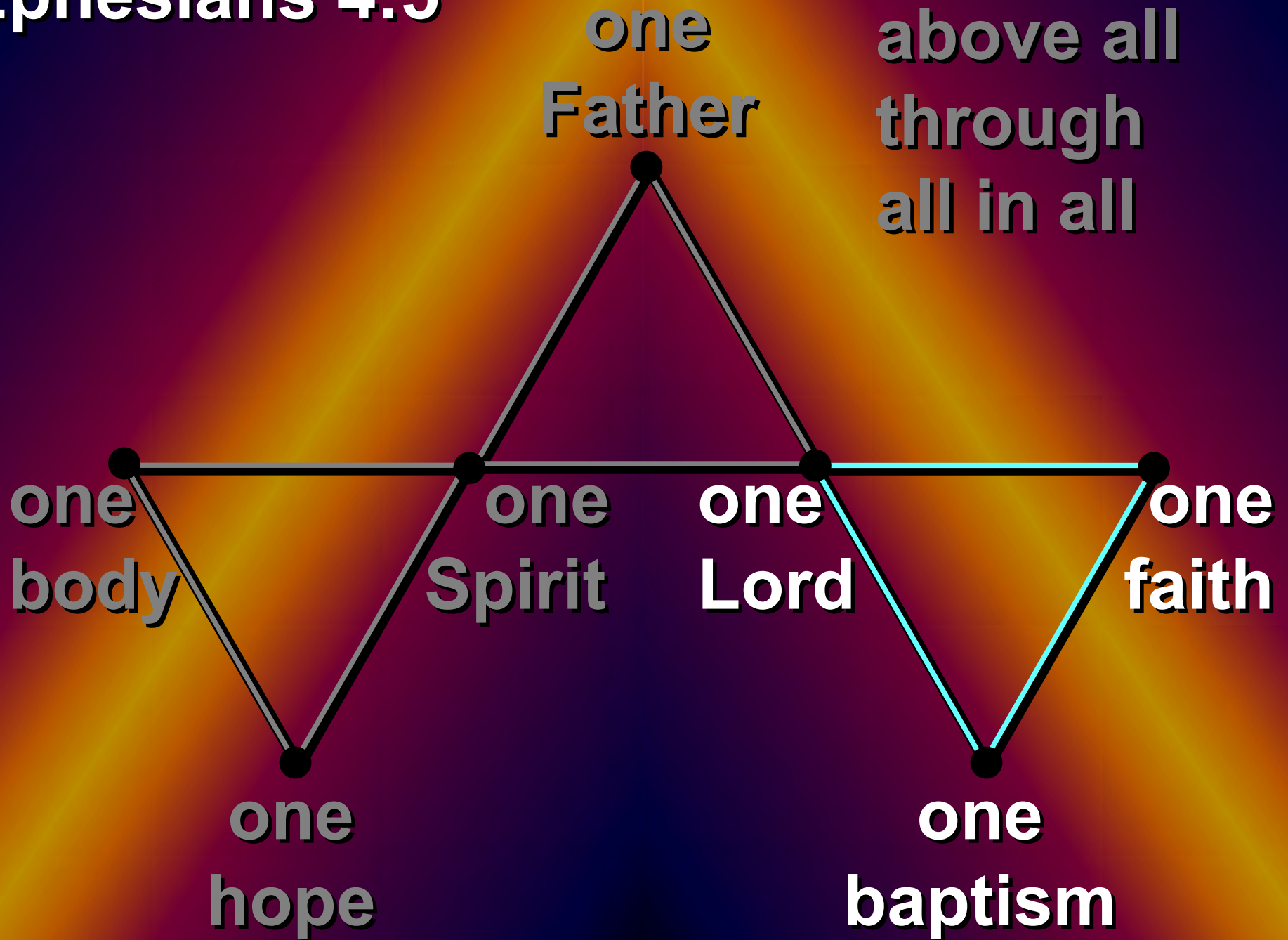


**Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name  
in earth and sky and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons,  
blessed Trinity!**

# Ephesians 4:4



# Ephesians 4:5



# Ephesians 4:6

one  
Father

above all  
through  
all in all

one  
body

one  
Spirit

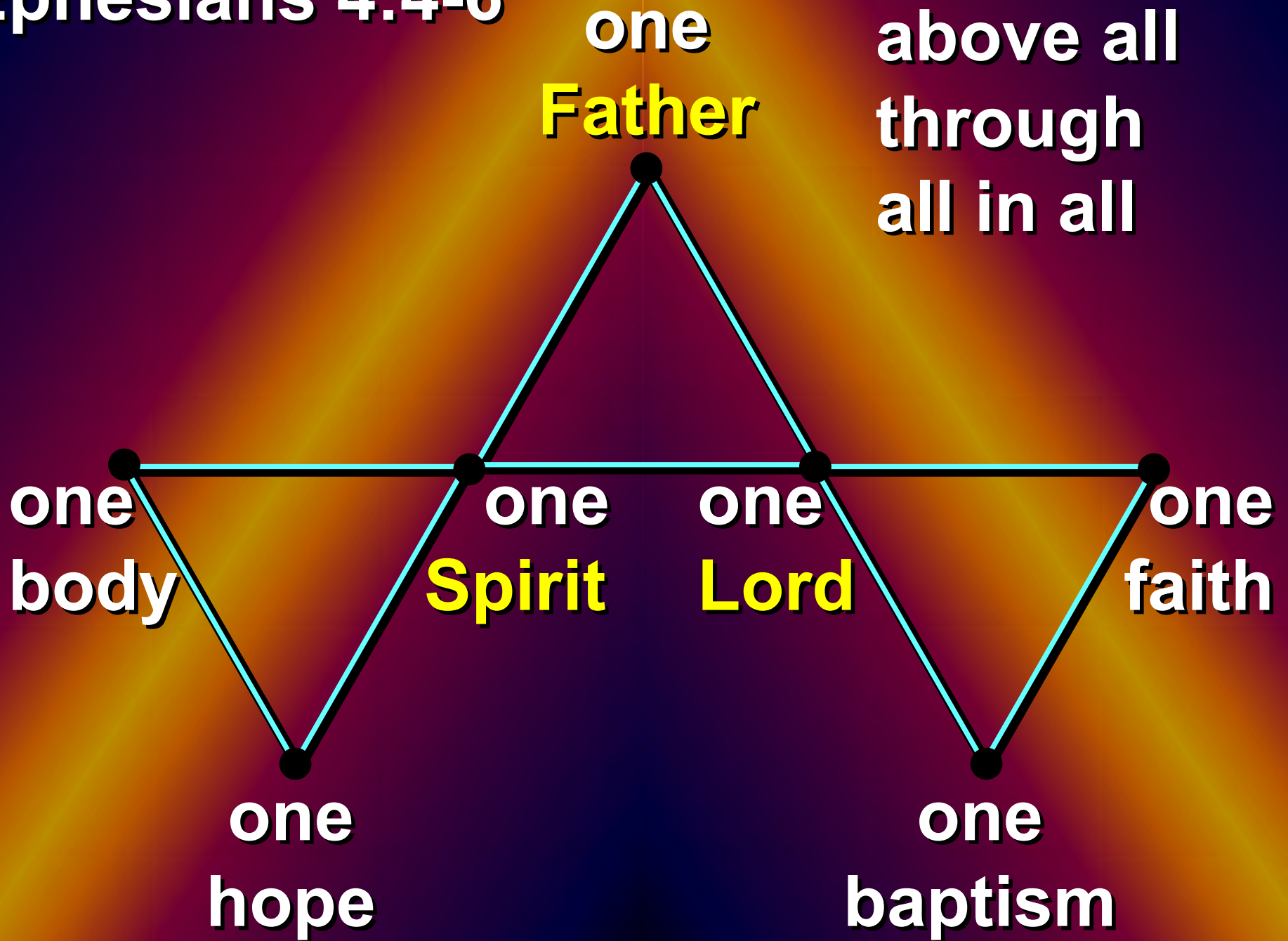
one  
Lord

one  
faith

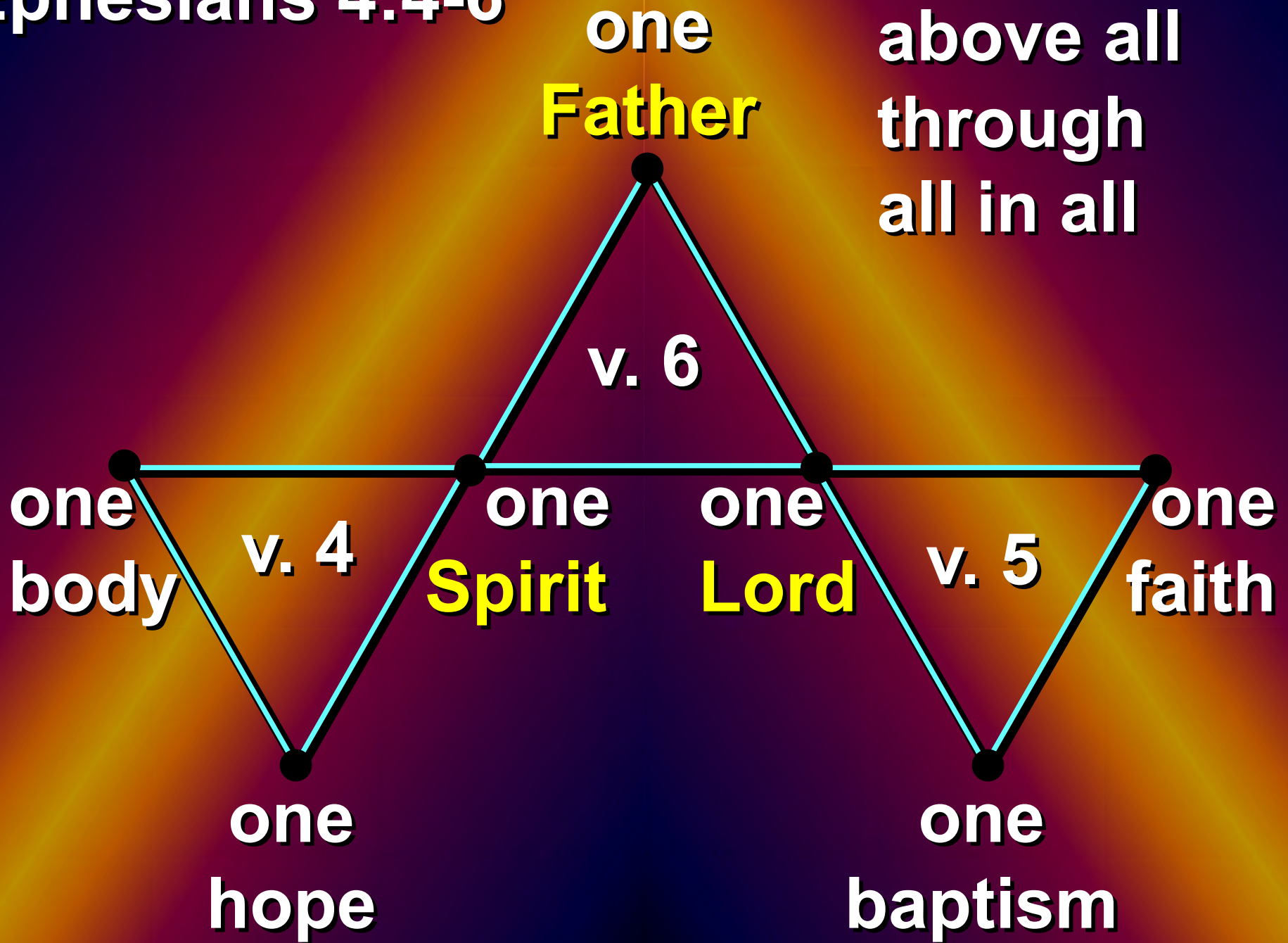
one  
hope

one  
baptism

# Ephesians 4:4-6



# Ephesians 4:4-6



*As soon as **Jesus** was baptized,  
he went up out of the water.*

*At that moment heaven was opened,  
and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending  
like a dove and lighting on him.*

*And **a voice from heaven** said,  
"This is my Son, whom I love;  
with him I am well pleased."*

**Matthew 3:16-17 (NIV)**

***Therefore go and make disciples of  
all nations, baptizing them in the***

***name***

***of the***

***and of the***

***and of the***

***Father***

***Son***

***Holy Spirit***

**Matthew 28:19 (NIV)**

*There are different kinds of gifts,  
but the same **Spirit**.*

*There are different kinds of service,  
but the same **Lord**.*

*There are different kinds of working,  
but the same **God**  
works all of them in all men.*

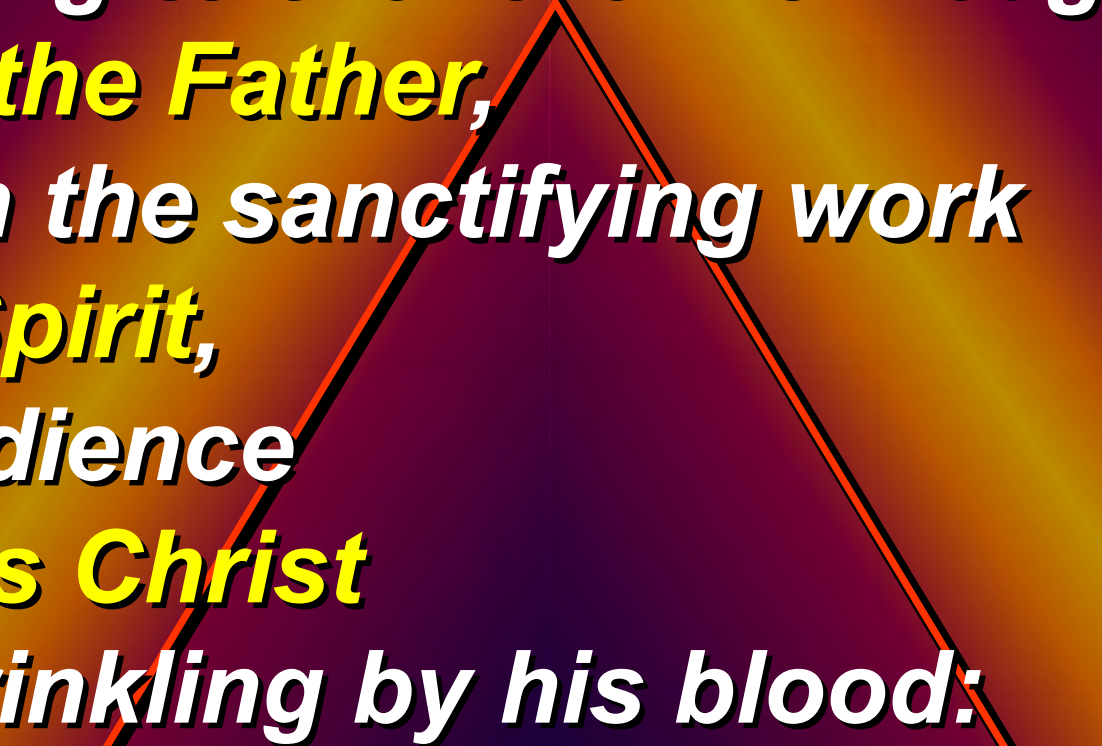
**1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NIV)**

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



**2 Corinthians 13:14 (NIV)**

*who have been chosen  
according to the foreknowledge  
of **God the Father**,  
through the sanctifying work  
of **the Spirit**,  
for obedience  
to **Jesus Christ**  
and sprinkling by his blood:*

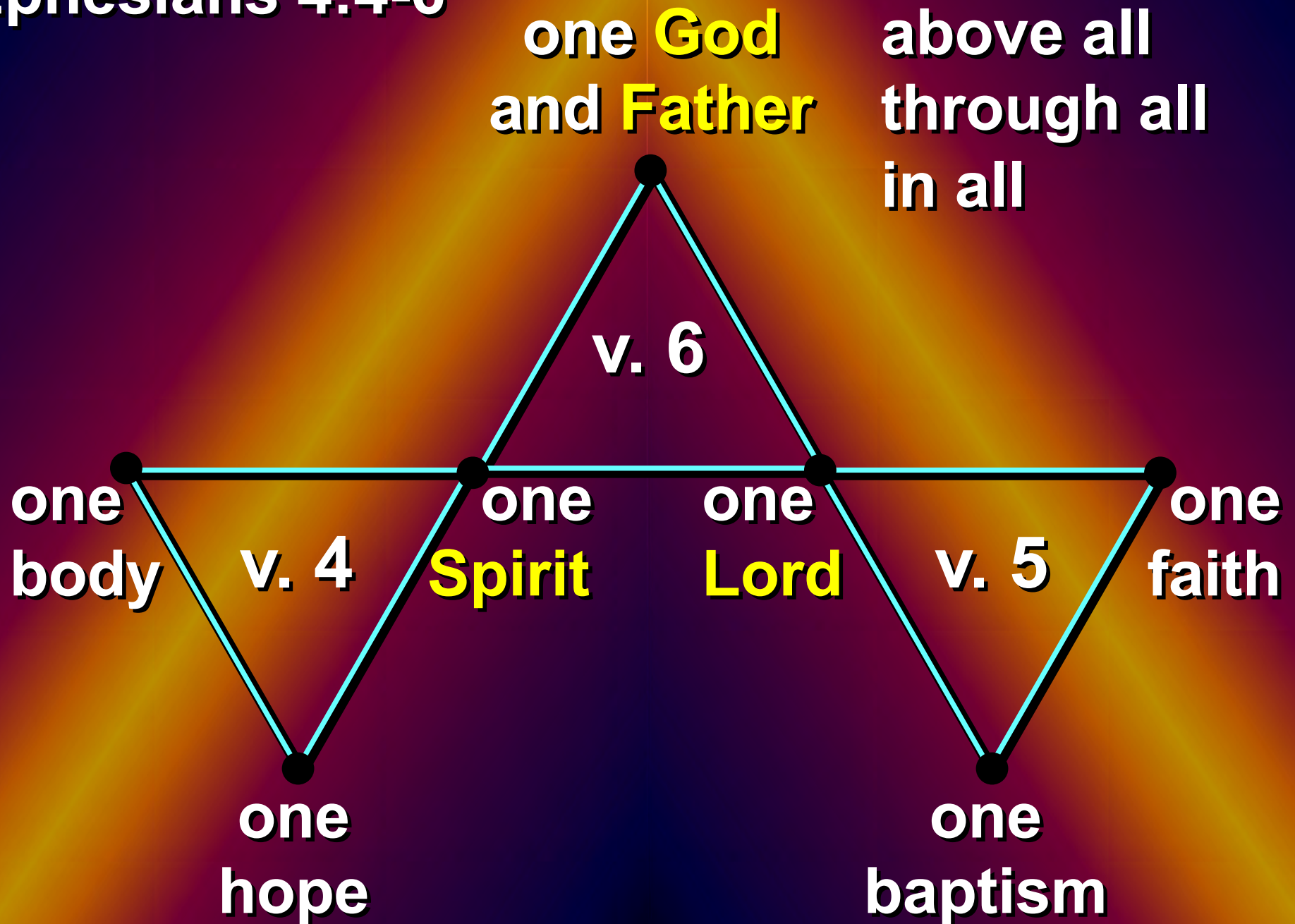


**1 Peter 1:2 (NIV)**

***But you, dear friends,  
build yourselves up  
in your most holy faith  
and pray in **the Holy Spirit.**  
Keep yourselves in **God's love**  
as you wait for the mercy  
of **our Lord Jesus Christ**  
to bring you to eternal life.***

**Jude 20-21 (NIV)**

# Ephesians 4:4-6



# Misunderstandings of the Trinity

1. Tritheism: three persons who are three gods
2. Modalism: one person who manifests himself in three different ways
3. Unitarianism: one person who is the only God
4. Nonsense: one person who is at the same time three persons

# TRUE JESUS CHURCH, ADAM ROAD

"Jesus is the heavenly Father" !! ??

= Modalism



WHAT  
DOES THE  
TRUE  
JESUS  
CHURCH  
BELIEVE?

Identification with TJC  
+  
Baptism in TJC (Head Bowed)  
+  
Footwashing by TJC Minister  
+  
Communion (Transubstantiation)  
+  
Reception of the Holy Spirit  
+  
Speaking in Tongues  
+  
(Faith in Christ? No!)  
=  
Salvation ! ? ! ?



# Different Views of God

## Monarchianism

*(Mono = One Arche = Ruler)*  
**One Person One God**

A second- and third-century heresy that denies the doctrine of the Trinity maintaining that the only true God has always existed as one Person not three Persons. The teaching exists today in two forms:

### Modalistic

This view holds that God exists as one Person Who is revealed in history in different modes using different names. The Father Son and Holy Spirit are different names for the same *Person*. Therefore, the Father was born at Bethlehem and crucified at Calvary, but at the time He was called Jesus.

**Currently Taught by The United Pentecostal Church**

*True Jesus Church also*

### Dynamic

This heresy teaches that Jesus is not God but a special man who became (or was adopted as) the Son of God (usually thought to have occurred at His Baptism).

*but JW's say he was born as the son of God.*

**Currently Taught by The Watchtower**

## Trinitarianism

*(Trinus = triple)*  
**Three Persons One God**

The Biblical view of God. The Father Son and Holy Spirit are three separate Persons who have always existed as ONE TRUE GOD. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are not three Gods nor are they three names for the same Person.

Although the word Trinity is not found in the Bible, the idea or teaching is found throughout scripture.

**Currently Taught by The Bible and Christians**

## Tritheism

*(Tri = Three, Theos = God)*  
**Three Persons Three Gods**

The belief that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three separate Gods. This is actually a form of Polytheism (the belief in more than one true God.)

**Currently Taught by Mormonism**



# The Holy Spirit in Relation to Man

ix

<b>Old Testament</b>	<b>New Testament</b>
<b>Indwelt only some men of God, such as Joshua (Num. 27:18; cf. the testimonies of pagan kings in Gen. 41:38; Dan. 4:8; 5:11-14)</b>	<b>Indwells all believers in Christ (1 Cor. 12:13)</b>
<b>Came on persons (Judg. 3:10)</b>	<b>Comes in persons (1 Cor. 6:19)</b>
<b>Temporary indwelling: Samson (Judg. 13:10 vs. 16:20), Saul (1 Sam. 10:10 vs. 16:14)</b>	<b>Permanent indwelling (John 14:16)</b>
<b>Enabling or gifting limited to some people (Exod. 31:3)</b>	<b>Enabling or gifting unlimited (Eph. 1:3) for all believers (1 Cor. 12:7, 11, 18)</b>

# The Holy Spirit in Relation to Man

ix

## Old Testament

## New Testament

**No baptism by the Spirit existed (Acts 1:5; John 7:37-39)**

**Baptism by the Spirit applies to all Christians (1 Cor. 12:13)**

**Filling of the Spirit for individuals (especially unlikely ones)**

**Filling of the Spirit for the entire body (Eph. 5:18)**

**Filling of the Spirit for leaders only for national good**

**Filling of the Spirit for leaders and followers for corporate good of the church**

**Filling of the Spirit for Jews only**

**Filling of the Spirit for Jews and Gentiles**

# Should we pray to the Holy Spirit?



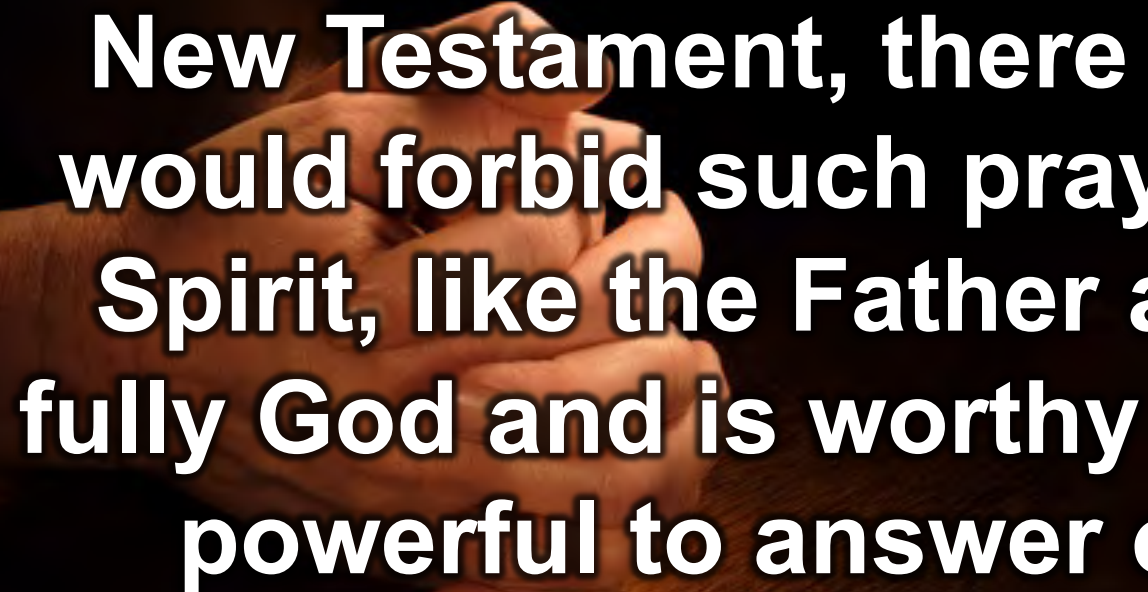
What are the implications if we can worship the Spirit or if we cannot?

# Should we pray to the Holy Spirit?

Religious worship is to be given to God, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost; and to him alone; not to angels, saints, or any other creature: and, since the fall, not without a Mediator; nor in the mediation of any other but of Christ alone.

Westminster Confession 21.2  
(AD 1643-1646)

Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, 381



**"But should we pray to the Holy Spirit? Though no prayers directly addressed to the Holy Spirit are recorded in the New Testament, there is nothing that would forbid such prayer, for the Holy Spirit, like the Father and the Son, is fully God and is worthy of prayer and is powerful to answer our prayers."**

# Spirit of the Living God

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me,**

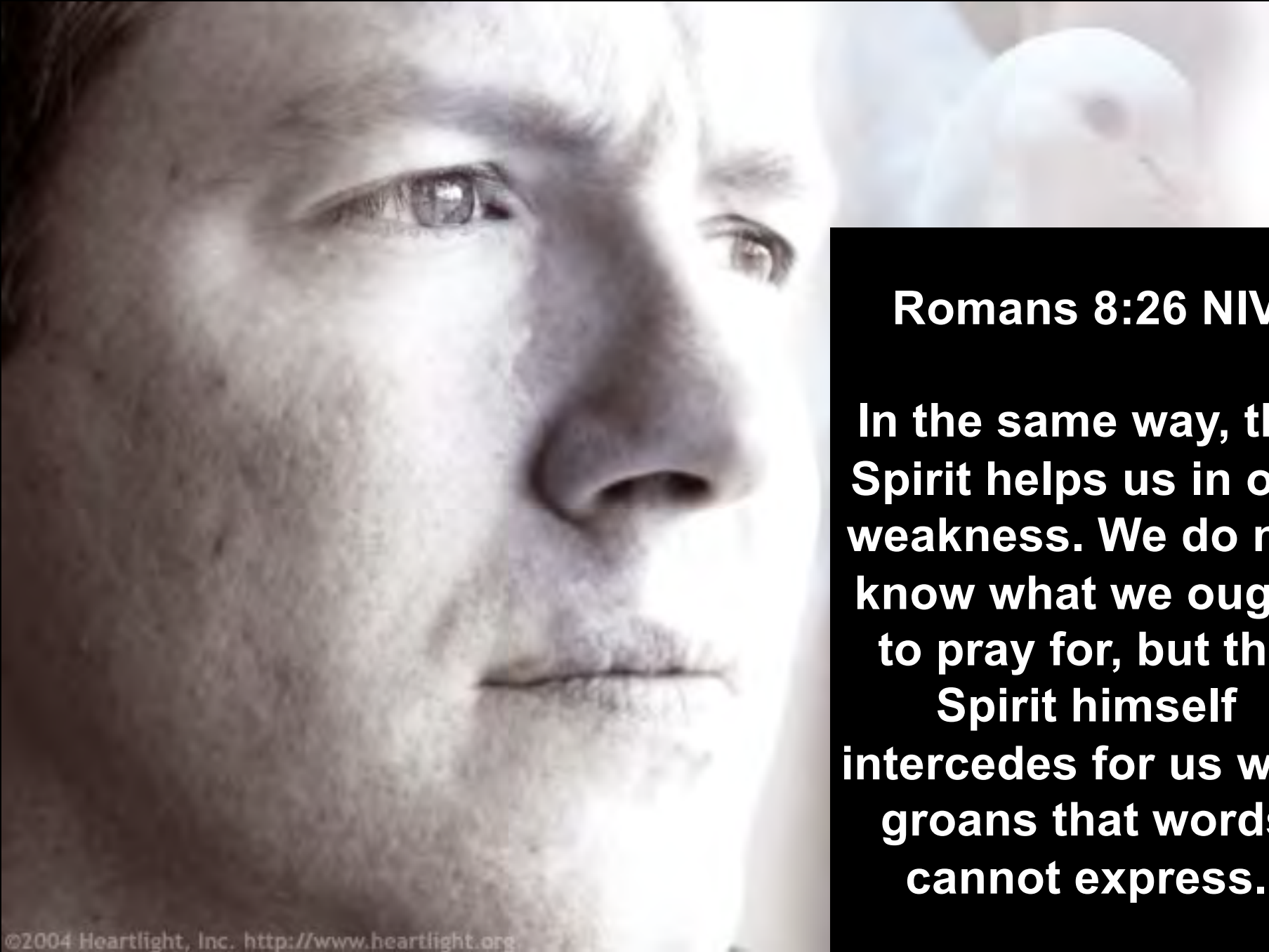
**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.**

**Melt us, mold us, fill us, use us,**

**Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on us.**



**Romans 8:26 NIV**

**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.**

# The Work of the Triune God Supports Security

296a



199a

# Reincarnation

REINCARNATION

## The What, The Why & Our Response

Dr. Rick Griffith

Singapore Bible College  
[Biblestudydownloads.com](http://Biblestudydownloads.com)

18

THE J - HORROR COLLECTION

dts

# Is history ...



# Cyclical? or Linear?



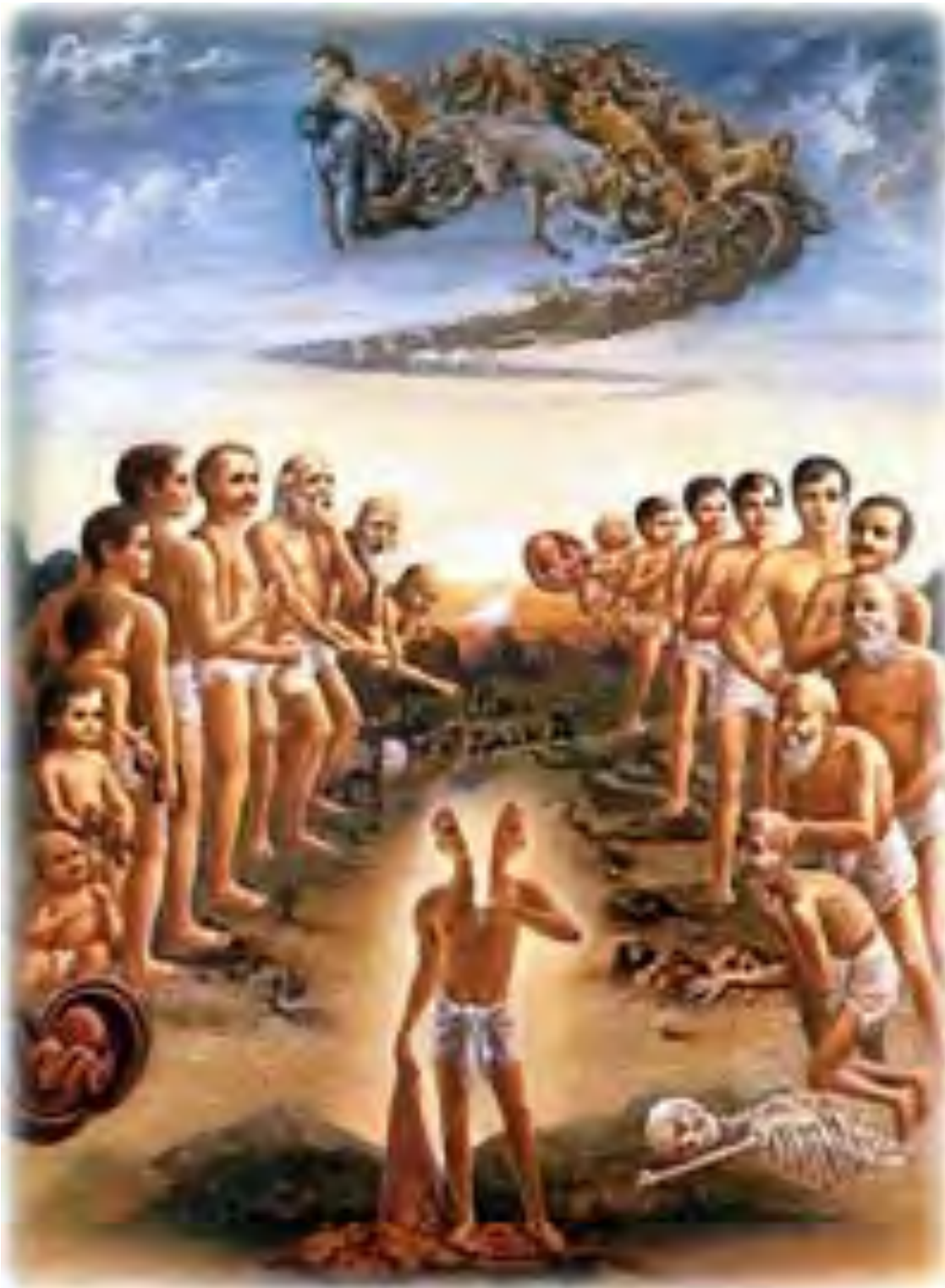
# What is Reincarnation?

199a



# Some Terms

**Reincarnation** believes that after death people return to earth again in another human body (cf. Latin *carne*, “flesh”)



***Transmigration*** is similar, saying one could become an animal (bird, cow, flea, cockroach) or inanimate object (rock, piece of chalk, etc.) in the next life.



***Karma*** (good and bad thoughts, words, and deeds in this life) decides the status of the new body—economically, intellectually, physically, etc.





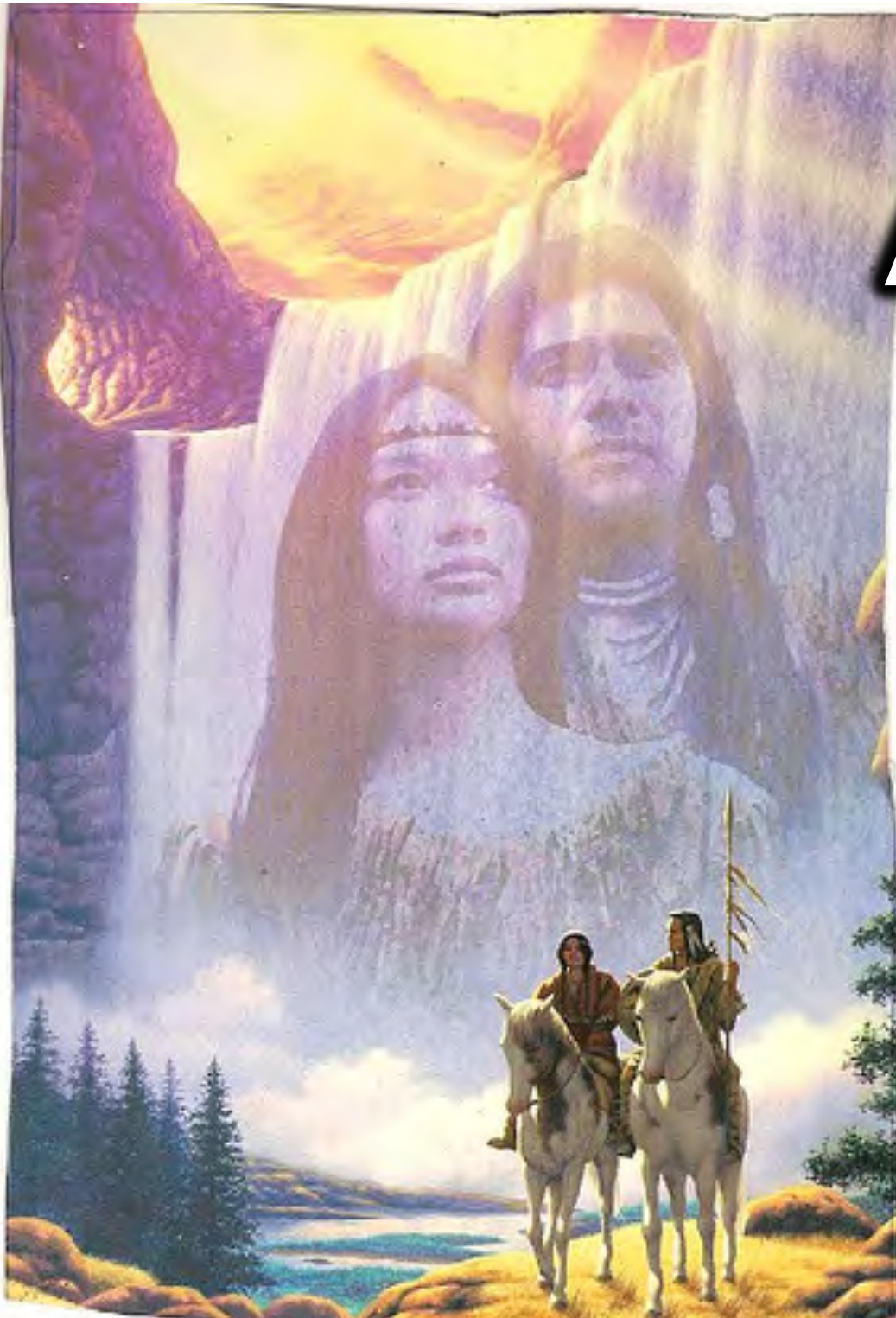
**Funny?**

***"You're going back as a Mayfly....  
Have a nice day!"***

# ***Pantheism***<sup>199a</sup>

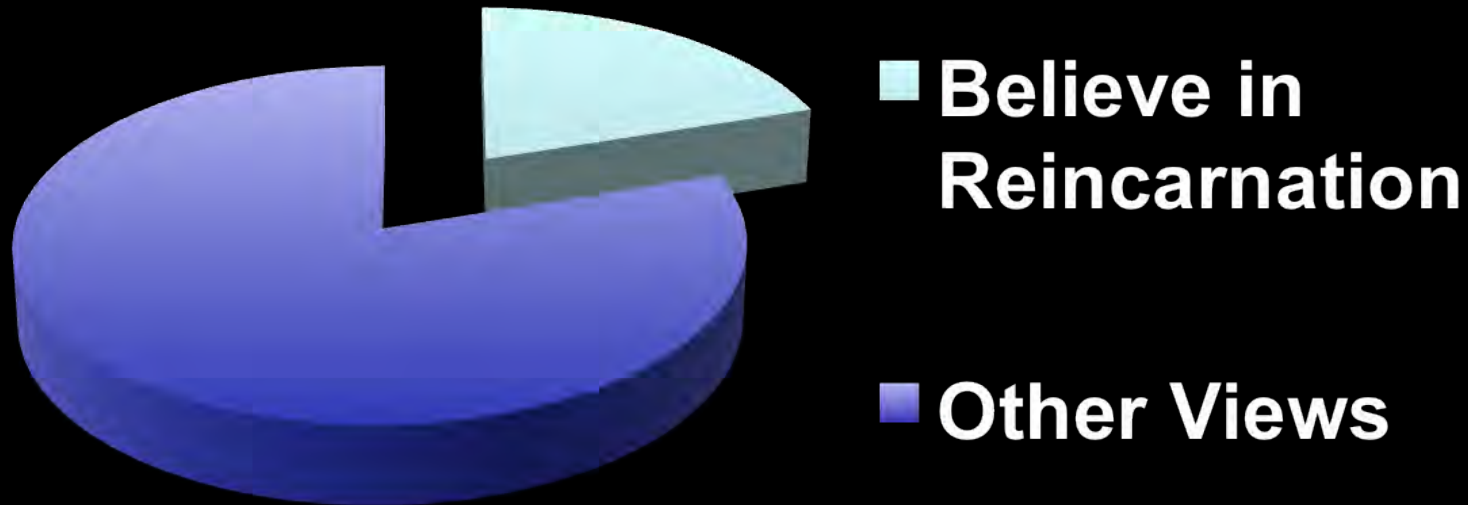
## **Among Native Americans**

***Pantheism*** (Greek *pan*, "all" + *theism*, "God") is the worldview of reincarnation in which God is an impersonal force; the universe is God and God is the universe.



# Reincarnation in America<sup>199a</sup>

*1 in 5 Americans!*



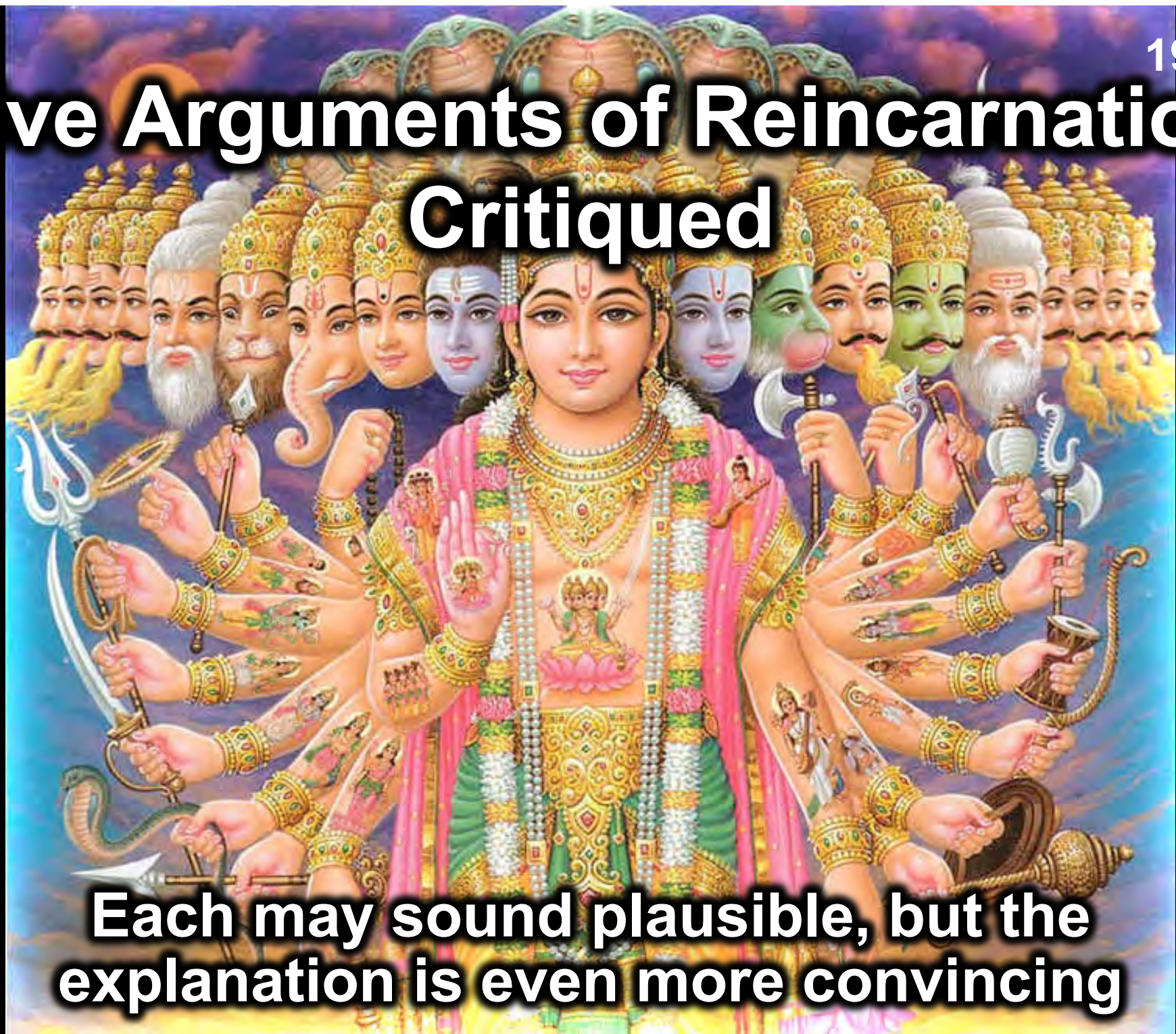
**Gallup Poll 2005**



199a

Shirley MacLaine's 1987 book influenced the USA towards reincarnation

# Five Arguments of Reincarnation Critiqued



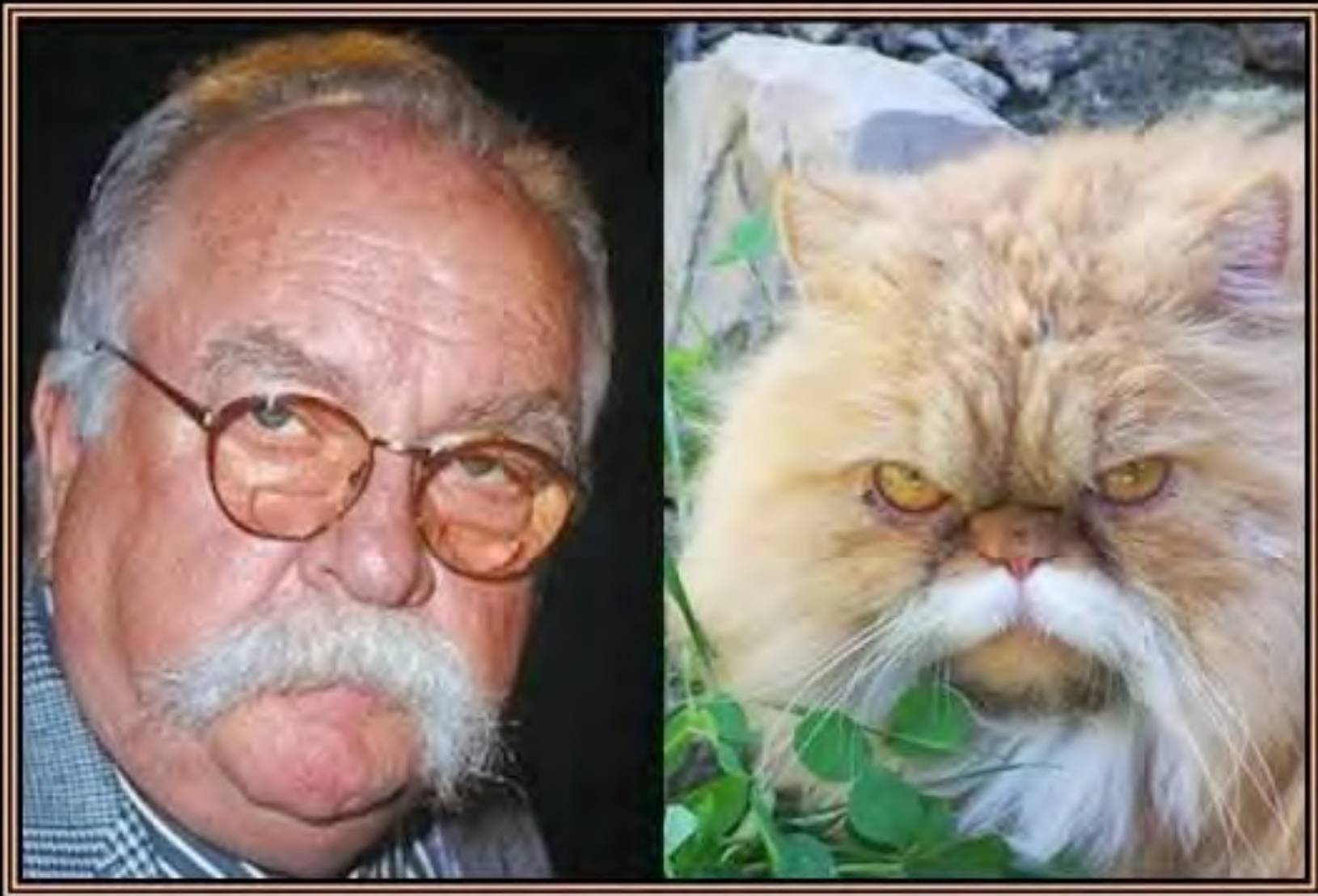
**Each may sound plausible, but the explanation is even more convincing**

# Hypnotic Regression

When someone vividly and accurately describes people, places, and events he or she could not have previously known

**RESPONSE?**

Some lied or forgot the details... others were influenced by leading questions... more common in south and western Asia



## **Pre-Reincarnation**

**Sometimes a soul starts to move into the new place,  
even before the lease is up on the old one.**

***Déjà vu*** is a feeling that one has done a present action before (e.g., been at a certain place)

**RESPONSE?**

Researchers say the brain is simply fusing a similar past experience in this life with the current one

# Xenoglossy



**a sudden ability to speak a language one has never learned**

Is that you, Mom?

RESPONSE?

199a

**Cryptoamnesia**

is more likely  
(when one recalls  
previously  
forgotten data  
such as languages  
heard as a child)



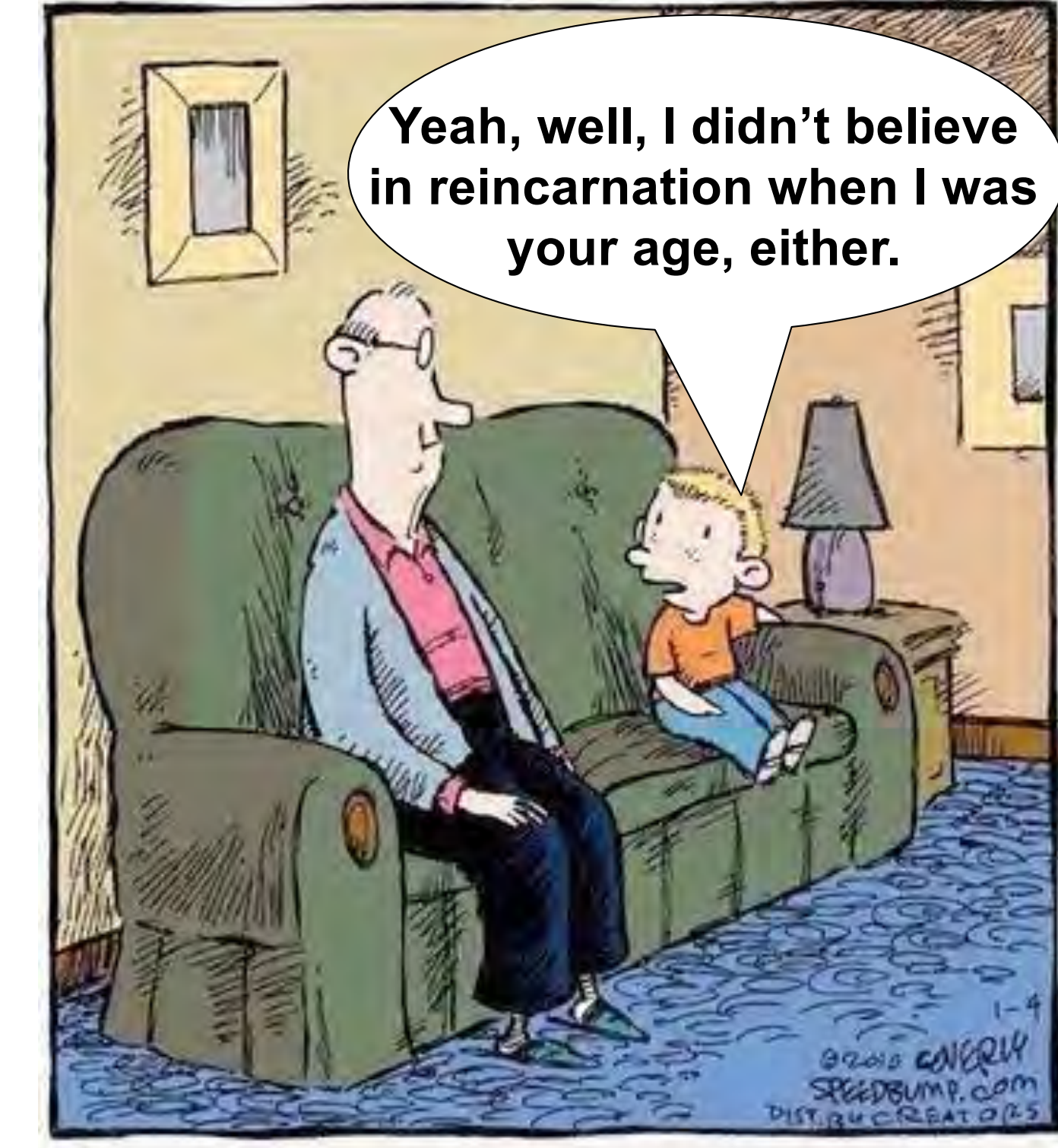
199a

## **Birthmarks**

supposedly  
support  
reincarnation  
since some are  
similar to those on  
deceased  
individuals



**But are they identical?  
Similarity does not prove  
reincarnation!**



Yeah, well, I didn't believe in reincarnation when I was your age, either.

# Other Supposed Evidence

Child  
prodigies

Doctor Helen  
Wambach's  
Demographic  
Studies

**Other  
Supposed  
Evidence**

**Homosexuality  
and  
Transgender  
Tendencies**





**Other  
Supposed  
Evidence**

**Hobbies,  
Interests  
and  
Obsessions**

# **HOBBIES**

**Some people just collect baseball cards.**

# The Bible and Reincarnation<sup>199b</sup>



**Can we marry the two?**

# A Biblical Response

199b




Reincarnation Memories - [psychics.co.uk](http://psychics.co.uk)

# Demonic Possession

199b



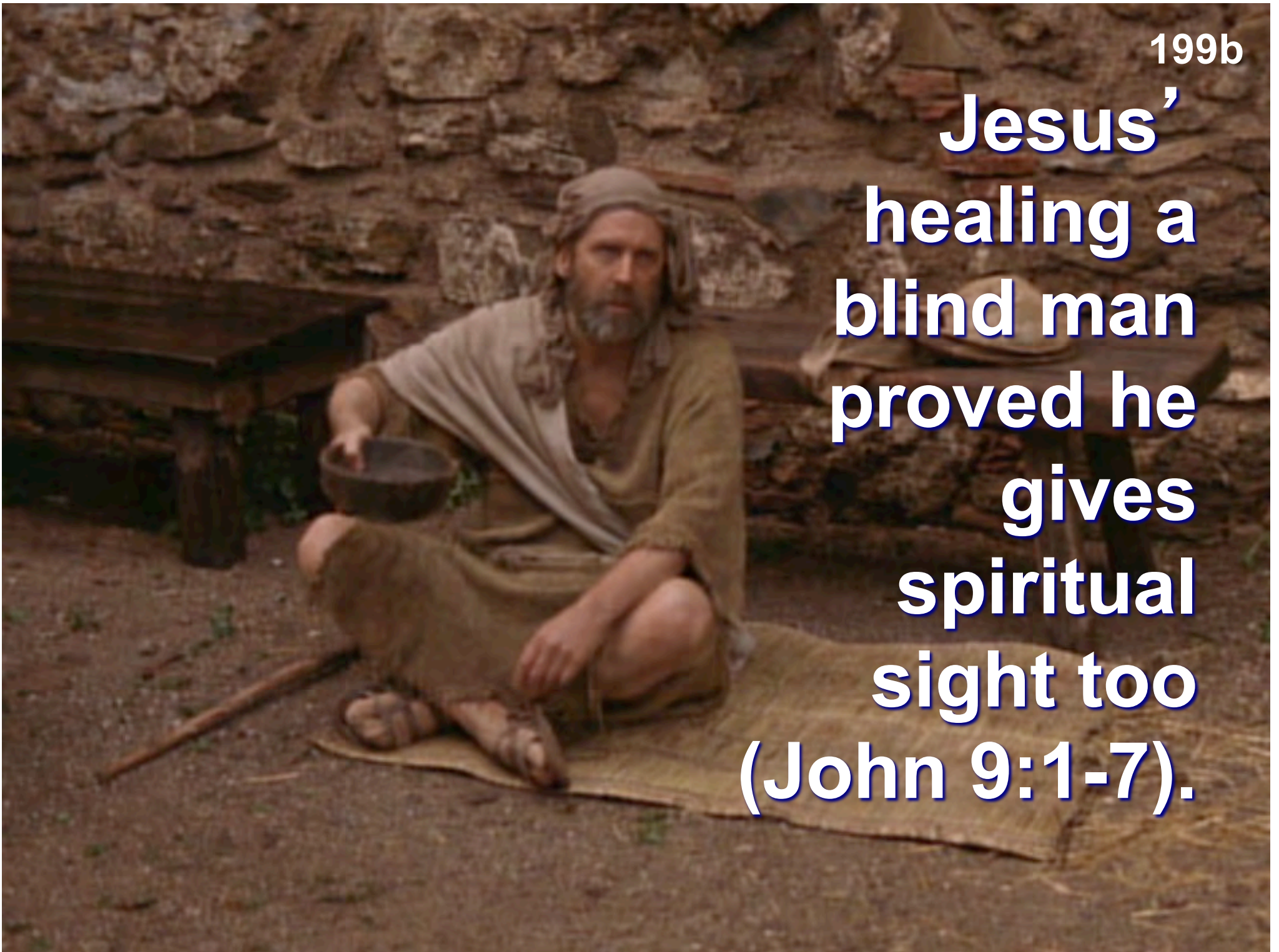
**We live once, die once, and then  
enter our eternal state**



**But now [Christ] has  
appeared once for all at  
the end of the ages to do  
away with sin by the  
sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> Just  
as **man is destined to die  
once, and after that to face  
judgment,** <sup>28</sup> so Christ was  
sacrificed once...  
(Heb. 9:26b-28a)**

199b

**Jesus'  
healing a  
blind man  
proved he  
gives  
spiritual  
sight too  
(John 9:1-7).**



199b

# Why this blindness?



## Exodus 20:4-5

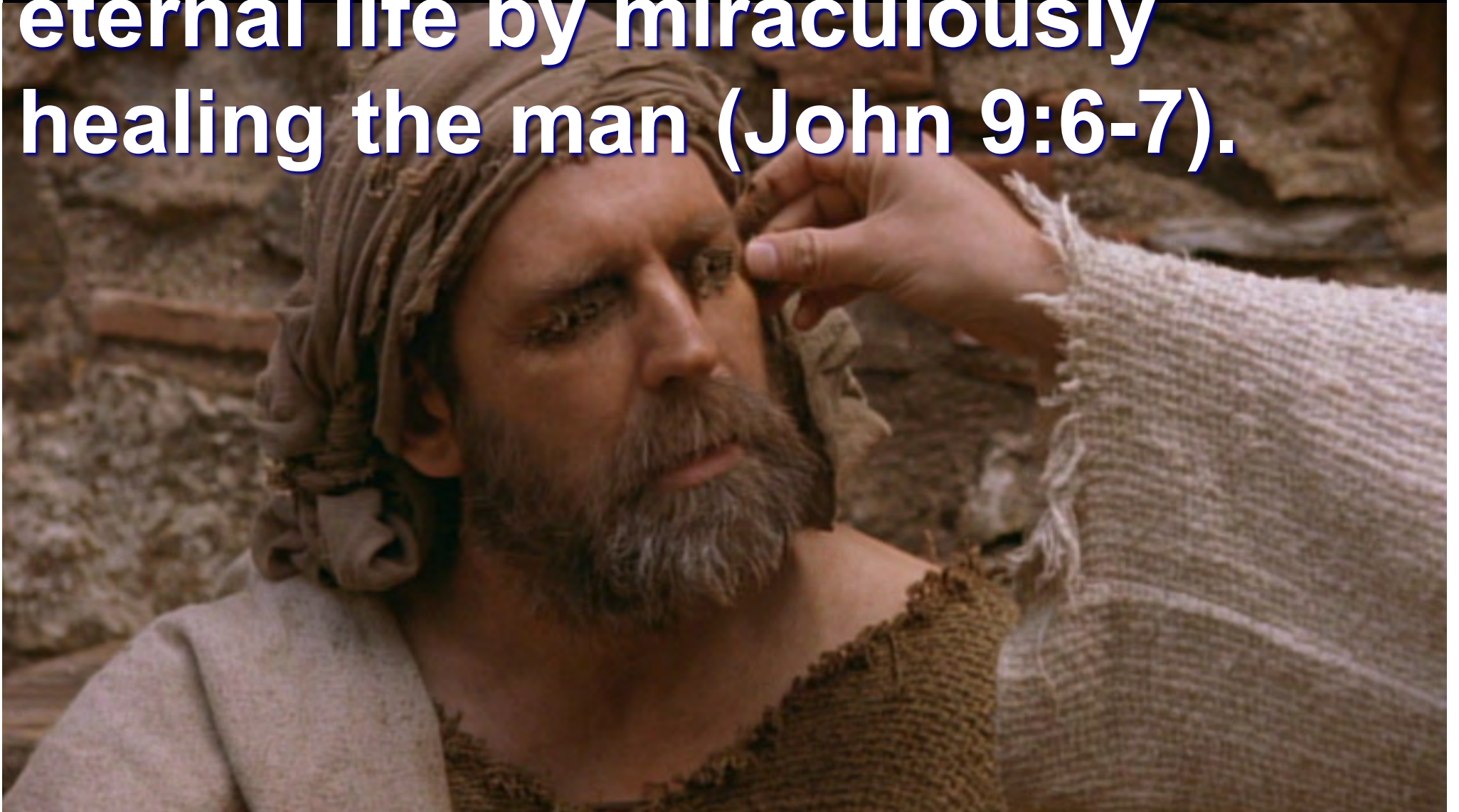
“You must not make for yourself an idol....<sup>5</sup> You must not bow down to them or worship them, for ... I lay the sins of the parents upon their children; **the entire family is affected**—even children in the third and fourth generations of those who reject me.’”

Sin<sup>199b</sup>



Suffering

**Jesus proved He was the way for eternal life by miraculously healing the man (John 9:6-7).**



199b

# The former blind man confesses Jesus as God (35-38).



# Who's the real blind man?

199b



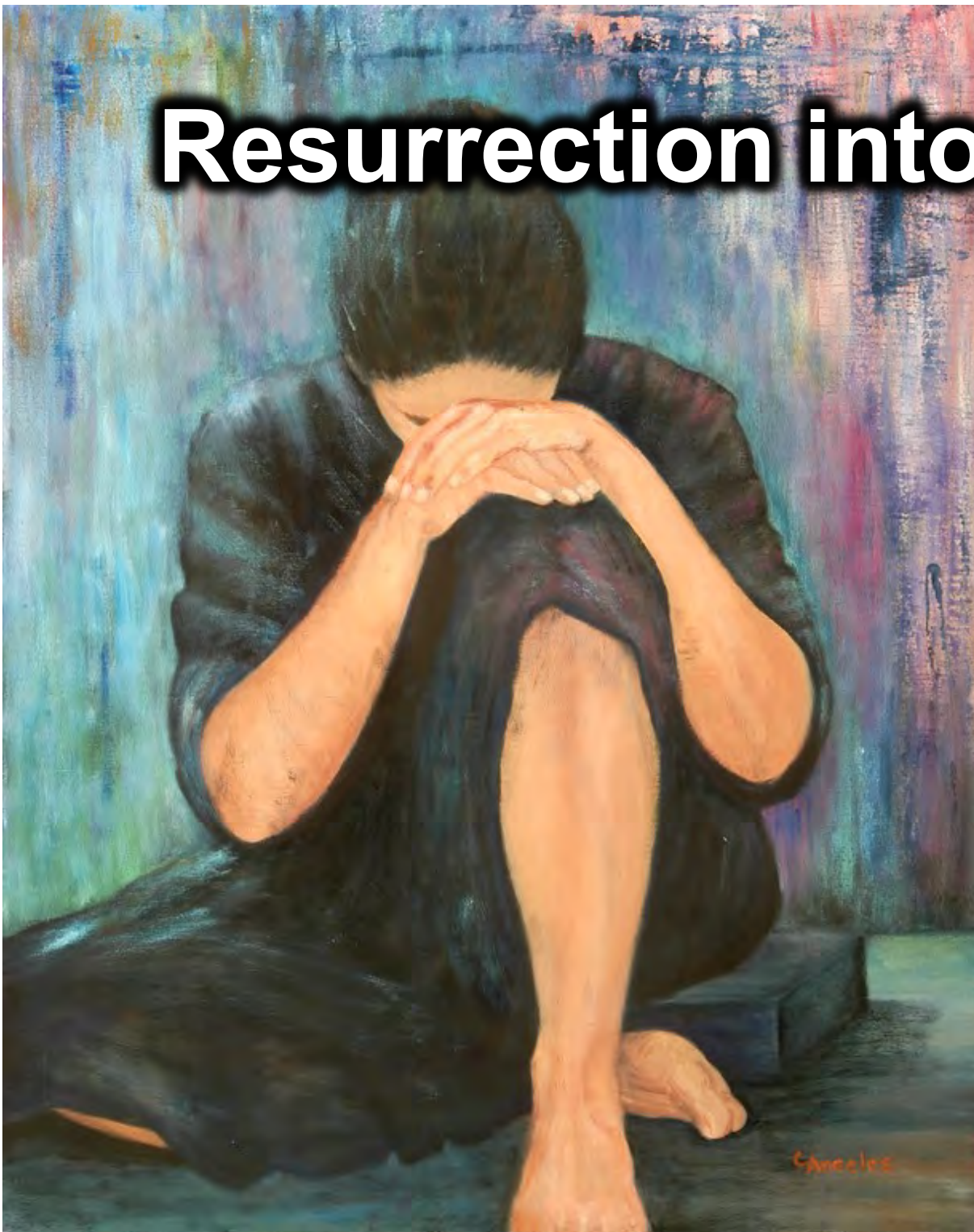
# Examples of People After Their Death

Saul saw Samuel (1 Sam. 28)



199b

# Resurrection into One Body



**The Bible never  
mentions  
reincarnation into  
many bodies**

# A Philosophical Response

- 1. Reincarnation encourages murder**
- 2. Reincarnation claims all comes from choice**
- 3. Reincarnation requires every experience**
- 4. Reincarnation is fatalistic**
- 5. Reincarnation discourages care for others**
- 6. Reincarnationists cannot live consistently**
- 7. Reincarnation makes us immoral**
- 8. Reincarnation blames God for all evil**
- 9. Reincarnation believes that evil is eternal**

# Conclusion

**Reincarnation provides no real hope for conquering evil in our world or us. It is a philosophy that even reincarnationists do not believe. They intuitively know that right and wrong exist, so they do not live consistent with the teaching that everything is legitimate. Instead of helping defeat evil in the world, reincarnation provides justification for more of it.**

# Ten Possible Worldviews

2



Adapted from:

- Peter Kreeft
- Norman Geisler
- William D. Watkins

# Worldview Witnessing Strategies

200g

- Monotheism***     Judaism: Fulfilled prophecy (e.g., Isa. 53)  
Islam: Character of Christ (Gospels)  
Sikhism: Character of Christ (Gospels)
- Atheism***        Proofs for God's existence (Rom. 1)  
Truth "piece of the pie" results in agnosticism  
Faith is required in every belief system (including atheism)  
Personal opinion does not determine truth
- Polytheism***     Illogical that matter created intelligence (Gen. 1:1)  
Works cannot take care of sin problem (Eph. 2:8-9)
- Pantheism***      Demonstrate God's power over the universe (Acts 17:24-25)  
Show God as distinct from the universe (Rom. 1:20, 23, 24)  
The universe had a beginning, so it cannot be God (Gen. 1:1)  
Man is like God (Gen. 1:26-27) but God has no equal (Isa. 46:19)

Geisler, *False Gods of Our Time*, 80-87

# Prison Epistle Christology

201a



	<b>Christ as...</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Ephesians</b>	<b>Head</b>	<b>Unity of Christ</b>	<b>Christ breaks down barriers between believers</b>
<b>Philippians</b>	<b>Example</b>	<b>Attitude of Christ</b>	<b>Christ models how to handle difficulty</b>
<b>Colossians</b>	<b>God</b>	<b>Deity of Christ</b>	<b>Christ is superior to human philosophies</b>
<b>Philemon</b>	<b>Reconciler</b>	<b>Forgiveness of Christ</b>	<b>Christ reconciles believers to God and one another</b>

## How Do You Respond to Trials?

<b>You say...</b>	<b>Strategy</b>	<b>Temperament</b>	<b>Epistle</b>
<b>"I'm right!"</b>	<b>Push through</b>	<b>Choleric</b>	<b>Ephesians</b>
<b>"Why me?"</b>	<b>Depression</b>	<b>Melancholy</b>	<b>Philippians</b>
<b>"I'll just get through"</b>	<b>Compromise</b>	<b>Sanguine</b>	<b>Colossians</b>
<b>"It'll pass"</b>	<b>Ignore it</b>	<b>Phlegmatic</b>	<b>Philemon</b>

# Applying the Prison Epistles

202

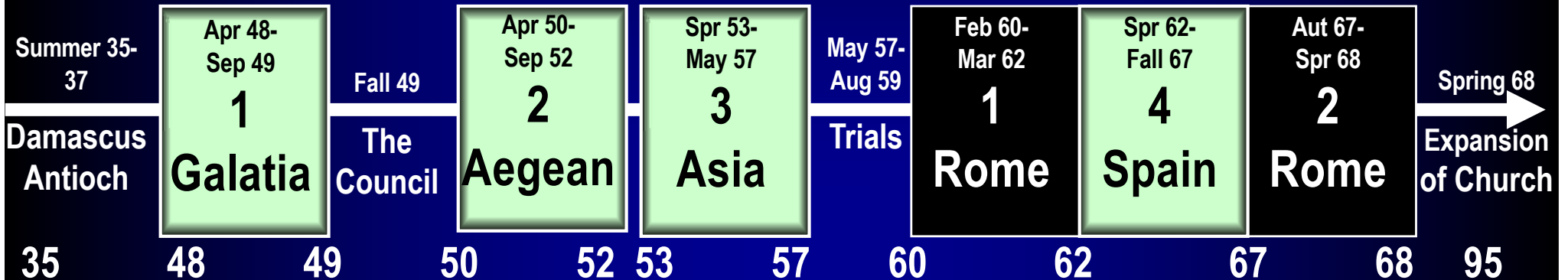
<b>Epistle</b>	<b>1st Century Problem</b>	<b>21st Century Problem</b>	<b>Solution (Theme)</b>
<b>Ephesians</b>	Jew-Gentile Conflicts ("Weism")	Chinese Only Baptist Only Adults Only	Realize Christian Unity (4:3)
<b>Philippians</b>	Persecution Prison Death	Ministry Inconvenience - time, sleep - recreation	Imitate Christ's Attitude (2:5)
<b>Colossians</b>	Denying Christ's Deity	New Age Cults	Proclaim His Deity (2:9)
<b>Philemon</b>	Master/Slave ("Meism")	Forgive Boss / Employee / Others	Reconcile the Relationship (vv. 17-18)

# NT Overview (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



Matt

Luke

Acts

Mark

John

**Missionary**

- Justify
- Rapture
- Tribulation
- Sanctify
- Apostle
- Righteous

**Prison**

- Unity
- Deity
- Forgive
- Attitude

**Pastora**

- 1 Tim
- 2 Tim
- Titus

Gospels & Acts

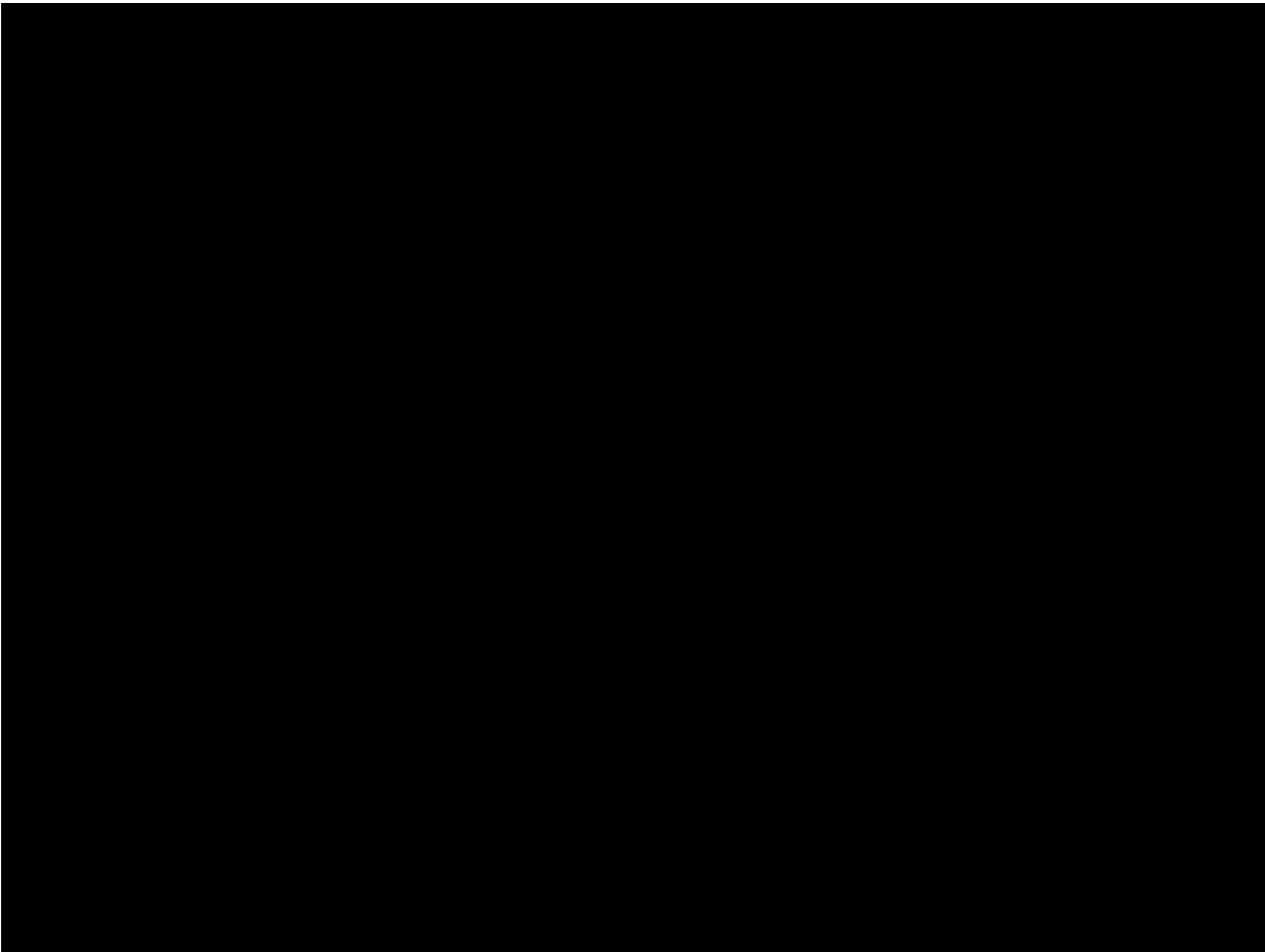
Pauline Epistles

1234

Journeys

Rome

Imprisonments



# Get this presentation for free!



[Home](#) [Downloads](#) [FAQ](#) [Links](#) [Contribute](#) [Contact](#)

Search...



Bible Study Downloads has thousands of PowerPoint® and Word files in 42 languages for free download [here](#).

## NT Survey link at [BibleStudyDownloads.org](http://BibleStudyDownloads.org)