

1 John

Obedience in Love



Key Word

290

Love

1 John

Obedience in Love Combats Early Gnosticism

1 John

Key Verse

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**“I am writing these things to you about those who are trying to lead you astray... And now, dear children, continue in him, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming”
(2:26, 28).**

1 John

Summary Statement

**The benefit of obedience and love
is what we really need instead of
early Gnosticism**

1 John

Kingdom Statement

27e
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The twin themes of obedience (1:1–2:29; 5:4-21) and love (3:1–5:3) best show the positive impact Christ's kingdom has on our lives.

1 John

Covenant

27e

**New covenant truth is best seen in
our behavior (4:7-21).**

1 John

Redemption

27e

Jesus is “the sacrifice that atones for our sins—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world” (2:2 NLT), with assurance and security of salvation (5:11-15).

1 John

Prophecy (Lord, Deity)

Trusting Christ as Lord should lead to obedience and love as protection from early Gnosticism and any heresy that denies Jesus as Lord (2:26).

1 John

Obedience in Love Combats Early Gnosticism

Necessity of Obedience	Characteristics of Love	Benefits of Obedience
Chapters 1–2	3:1–5:3	5:4-21
Humanity of Christ Prerequisites to obedience Hindrances to obedience	Don't sin Don't hate believers Compassion Confidence before God Obey apostolic teaching Care for believers Obey God's commands	Victory over the world Assurance of salvation Guidance in prayer Freedom from sin Fidelity to God

Ephesus to Asia Minor Churches

AD 85-95

- 1 Living in the Light
- 2 Importance of our Advocate
- 3 God's children avoid sin
- 4 How Christians should love
- 5 True witness in believers

FIRST JOHN



Barry Huddleston, *The Acrostic Bible*

Be Obedient

1 John

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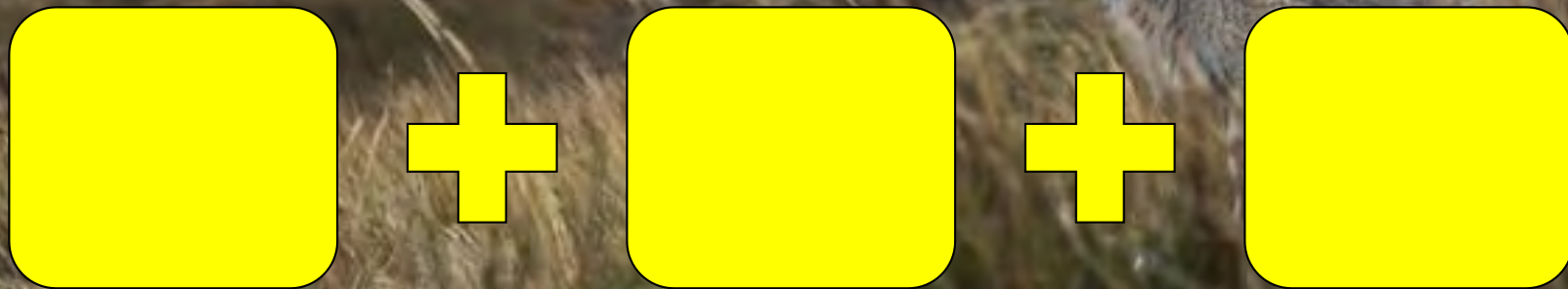
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Sheep tend to stray.



1 John

How can you avoid
straying into false
teaching?



1 John

I. **Obey** God's commands (1–2).

Believe in Christ's humanity for fellowship and joy (1:1-4).

Depend on Jesus (1:5–2:14).

Avoid two hindrances to obedience to fight early Gnosticism (2:15-29).

1 John

II. Love others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)

Show compassion (3:16-20)

Be confident before God (3:21-24)

Obey apostolic teaching (4:1-6)

Care for believers (4:7-21)

Obey God's commands (5:1-3)

1 John

III. Realize that obedience produces what you really **need (5:4-21).**

Benefits of Obedience:

Victory over the world system (5:4-5)

Assurance of salvation (5:6-13)

Guidance in prayer (5:14-17)

Freedom from habitual sin (5:18-20)

**Fidelity to God by avoiding idolatry
(5:21)**

1 John

Main Idea of the Letter

**Obey God and love others and
you'll have what you really
need instead of false teaching.**

1 John

- **How** can you **show love** to another believer so that heresy might be thwarted?
- **Whom** do you know that **needs** to see Christian love shown in order to turn from false teaching?





**The Greek title (*Ἰωάννου ἁ*
First of John) follows the
standard practice of
naming the **General
Epistles** after their authors
and distinguishes this
epistle from John's two
others.**



***John the
Apostle***

"Peter and the other disciple started out for the tomb. ⁴They were both running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first" (John 20:3-4 NLT).

External Evidence

The letter of 1 John is the best attested of all the General Epistles.



1. The evidence for Johannine authorship is very early after its composition, beginning with John's contemporary for 20 years, Polycarp. Irenaeus quoted John's epistle and credited John with the work. Many other Church Fathers also accepted Johannine authorship: Clement of Alexandria (AD 155-215), Tertullian (AD 150-222), Origen (AD 185-253), Cyprian (AD 200-258) and all Latin and Greek Fathers. The Muratorian Canon and Old Syriac Version also attributed 1 John to John.

External Evidence

The letter of 1 John is the best attested of all the General Epistles.



The major opposing views are:

- (a) that a 2nd "John" penned the epistle who was known either as "John the Elder" or possibly "John the Presbyter," and
- (b) that a disciple of John wrote the book. In one statement, Papias seems to make a distinction between "John the Elder" and "John the Apostle"; however, elsewhere he uses the term "elder" to refer to the original apostles, so the "two men" should be interpreted as one and the same.

Internal Evidence

- The epistle itself supports the strong tradition for Johannine authorship.
- He is not mentioned by name, but he is an eyewitness (1:1-4) with great authority shown in his assertiveness (2:19; 4:6, 14).
- The style is also very similar to that of the 4th Gospel.



ESV 1 John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life.



- ❖ **Most conservative scholars date 1 John from AD 80-97 and liberals date it soon after AD 90-110.**
- ❖ **The epistle does not mention any persecution, which lasted during Domitian's reign (AD 81-96).**
- ❖ **This may suggest a date just before AD 81 or after AD 96. At any rate, John was a old man in his eighties or older when he wrote.**
- ❖ **This course uses a date of AD 85-95 as it likely preceded Revelation (AD 95-96).**

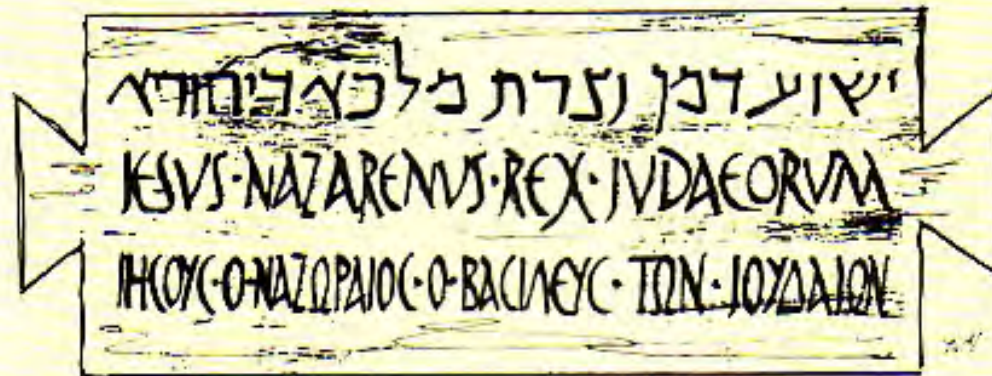
The admonition to keep oneself from idols (5:21) substantiates the tradition of John writing from **Ephesus** since idols were prominent in the pagan Greco-Roman culture but rare in Palestine.



Although Gnosticism did not develop into its worst form until the 2nd century, an early form of Gnosticism is evident in this letter.

Gnosticism had two basic heretical elements:

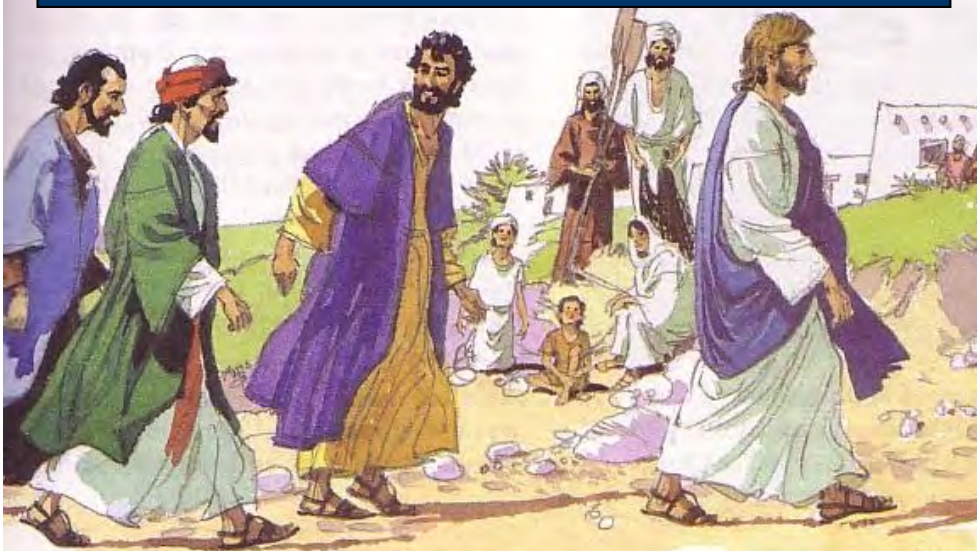
1. the exaltation of intellect (*gnosis*), and
2. the belief that matter is inherently evil.



John combats two forms of Gnostic teaching in his letter:

Docetic Gnosticism denied the *humanity* of Christ (4:2-3), saying that he only *seemed* to be human, so John wrote that he actually touched Jesus (1:1).

Cerinthian Gnosticism denied the *deity* of Christ. Cerinthus, who lived near John in Asia Minor, taught that Jesus was only a man upon whom "the Christ" descended at His baptism but left before His crucifixion. John replied that Jesus Christ came both by water (His baptism) *and* by blood (His death), thus refuting Cerinthus (5:7).





The practical outworking of Gnosticism fell into two camps.

Some Gnostics reasoned that since matter is evil, one should avoid it at all costs, resulting in asceticism—living alone like a monk untouched by material things.

In his letter John attempts to defeat asceticism by encouraging fellowship among believers (1:7).

Other Gnostics were fatalistic. They reasoned that no one can change the fact that matter is evil, so any type of immorality is OK.

John specifically responded to this latter philosophy. His letter shows that obedience to God's commands, especially by loving others, is the best rebuttal to the practices of Gnosticism. He also sought to defeat immorality by exhorting obedience and righteousness.



Characteristics

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- Absolute statements (e.g., 3:6).
- Abiding in Christ is clearly seen as obeying God's commands and loving one's brothers (2:28–4:16).
- Teaching by contrast (antithetical parallelism) is abundant as John sees everything as black or white.
- The style is very simple but profound in meaning. Concepts are frequently repeated, but not monotonously.
- It surprisingly has not one Old Testament quotation and only one incident (Cain, 3:12).

Summary Statement



John writes a general letter encouraging his readers to *obey God's commands by loving others* in order to protect them from *early Gnosticism* that denied either Christ's deity or humanity.

Ascending
Spiral
Structure
in 1 John

Therefore, **you know Him**

5:13-21

Therefore, **you have several witnesses**

5:6-12

Therefore, **your faith overcomes the world**

5:4-5

Therefore, since you have the Spirit of God, love the brothers and **believe that Jesus is the Christ**

4:7-5:3

Therefore, **test the spirits to see if they are spirits of God**

4:1-6

Therefore, **you love others born of Him**

3:11-24

Therefore, you should practice righteousness because **you are born of Him**

2:29-3:10

Therefore, **you remain in Him** while heretics depart, deny & deceive

2:18-28

Therefore, we should **love the brothers**

2:7-17

Therefore, we should **walk in the light**

1:5-2:6

Therefore, we have **fellowship with Him**

1:3-4

We witnessed the Word of life

1:1-2

Edited from
Roy Zuck's
Adaptation of
Lenski

I. One way to be protected from early Gnosticism was to **obey** God's commands (1 John 1–2) .

II. Another way to be protected from early Gnosticism was to **love** others (3:1–5:3).

III. The benefit of obedience is what we really **need** instead of early Gnosticism (5:4-21).

John's letter has at least five stated purposes:

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1. to promote **fellowship** (1:3),
2. to produce **joy** (1:4),
3. to protect **holiness** (2:1),
4. to prevent **heresy** (2:26)

Argument



The Gospel of Judas

- Judas said, "Master, could it be that my seed is under the control of the rulers?" Jesus answered and said to him, "... you will grieve much when you see the kingdom and all its generation." When he heard this, Judas said to him, "What good is it that I have received it? For you have set me apart for that generation." Jesus answered and said, "You will become the thirteenth, and you will be cursed by the other generations—and you will come to rule over them. In the last days they will curse your ascent [47] to the holy [generation]."

The Gospel of Judas

- Judas said to Jesus, "Look, what will those who have been baptized in your name do?" Jesus said, "... Truly [I] say to you, Judas, [those who] offer sacrifices to Saklas [...] God [—three lines missing—] everything that is evil. But you will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me."

Irenaeus (AD 180)



Against Heresies
1.31.1

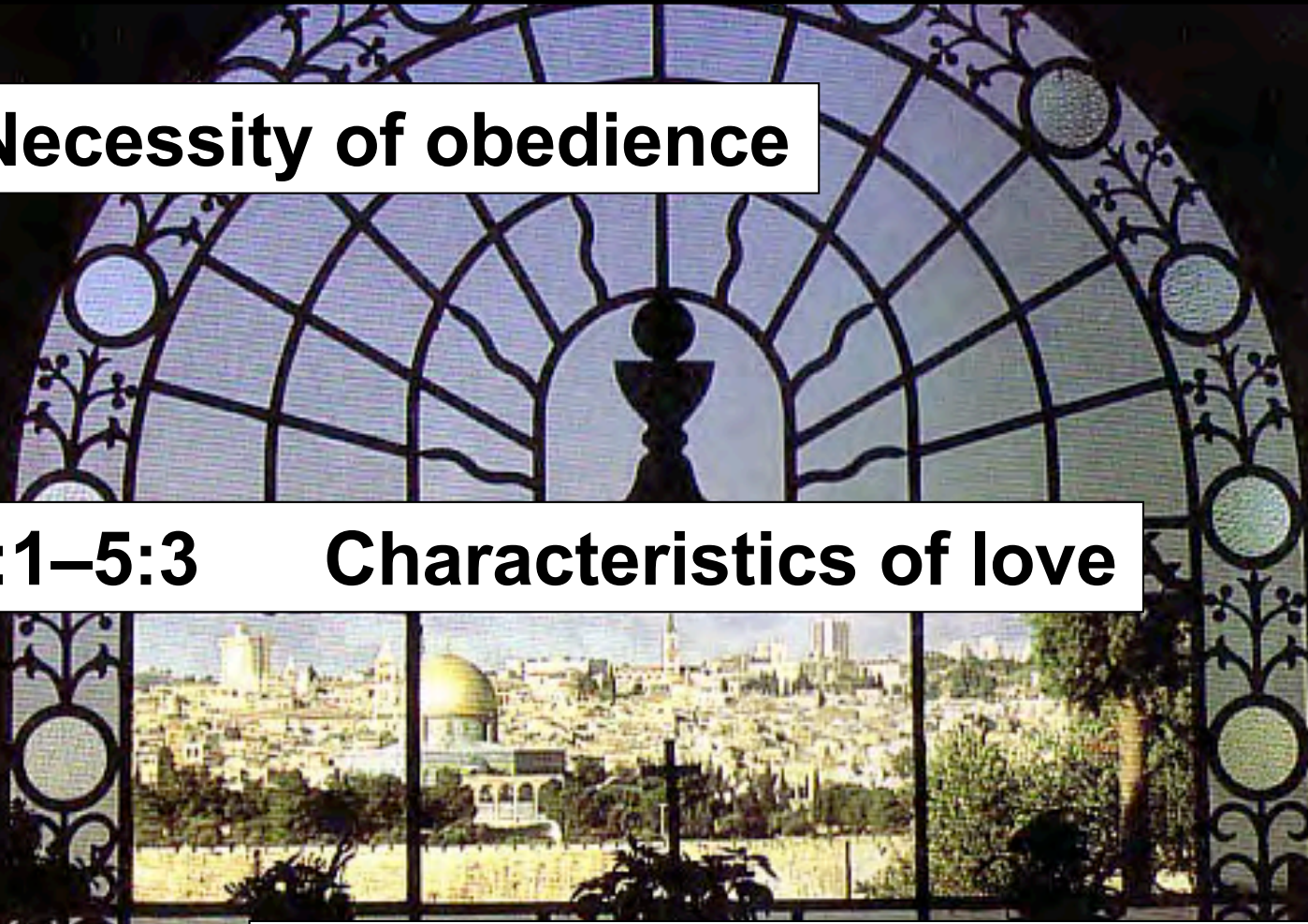
1. Others again declare that Cain derived his being from the Power above, and acknowledge that Esau, Korah, the Sodomites, and all such persons, are related to themselves. On this account, they add, they have been assailed by the Creator, yet no one of them has suffered injury. For Sophia was in the habit of carrying off that which belonged to her from them to herself. They declare that Judas the traitor was thoroughly acquainted with these things, and that he alone, knowing the truth as no others did, accomplished the mystery of the betrayal; by him all things, both earthly and heavenly, were thus thrown into confusion. They produce a fictitious history of this kind, which they style the ***Gospel of Judas.***

Obedience in love combats early Gnosticism

1–2 Necessity of obedience

3:1–5:3 Characteristics of love

5:4-21 Benefits of obedience



John's letter has at least five stated purposes:

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1. to promote **fellowship** (1:3),
2. to produce **joy** (1:4),
3. to protect **holiness** (2:1),
4. to prevent **heresy** (2:26), and
5. to provide **assurance** of salvation (5:13)

Argument



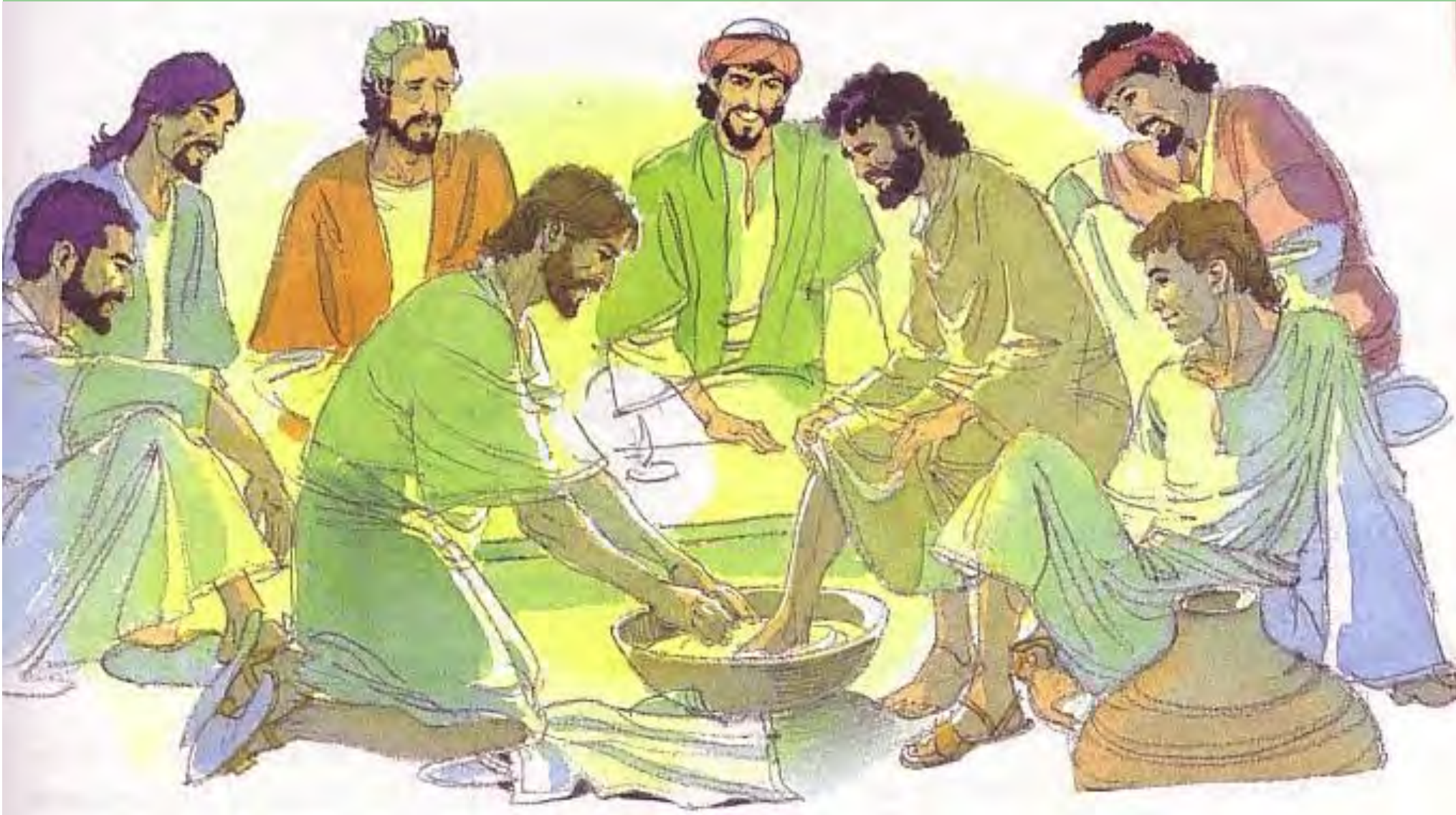
Should we
ever doubt?

Should we
ever doubt?

Should we
ever doubt?

And this is what God has testified:
He **has given us eternal life**, and this life is in
his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son **has life**;
whoever does not have God's Son does not
have life. ¹³I have written this to you who
believe in the name of the Son of God, so that
you may know **you have eternal life.**"

Key Word
Love





Both Nero (AD 60s) and Domitian (AD 90s) tested love for God

**I love You, Lord, and I lift my voice
to worship You, O my soul rejoice.
Take joy, my King, in what You hear,
may it be a sweet,
sweet sound in Your ear.
*(repeat)***

**May it be a sweet,
sweet sound in Your ear.**

Be Obedient

1 John

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We are sheep.



Sheep tend to stray.



Lost sheep get lonely.



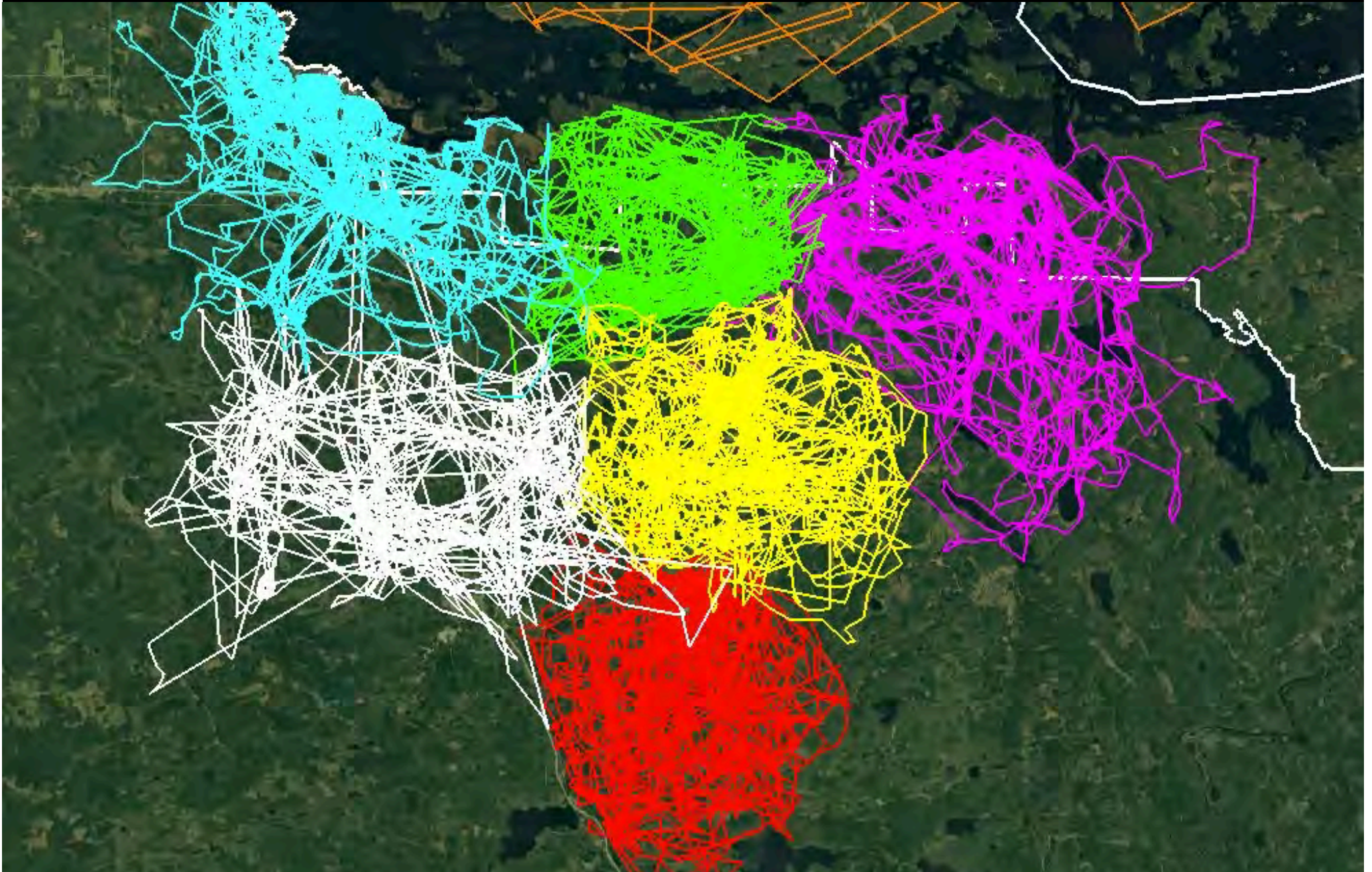
Sheep tend to return.



But straying has a price.



GPS Tracking Shows How Much Wolf Packs Avoid Each Other's Range



Have you strayed?

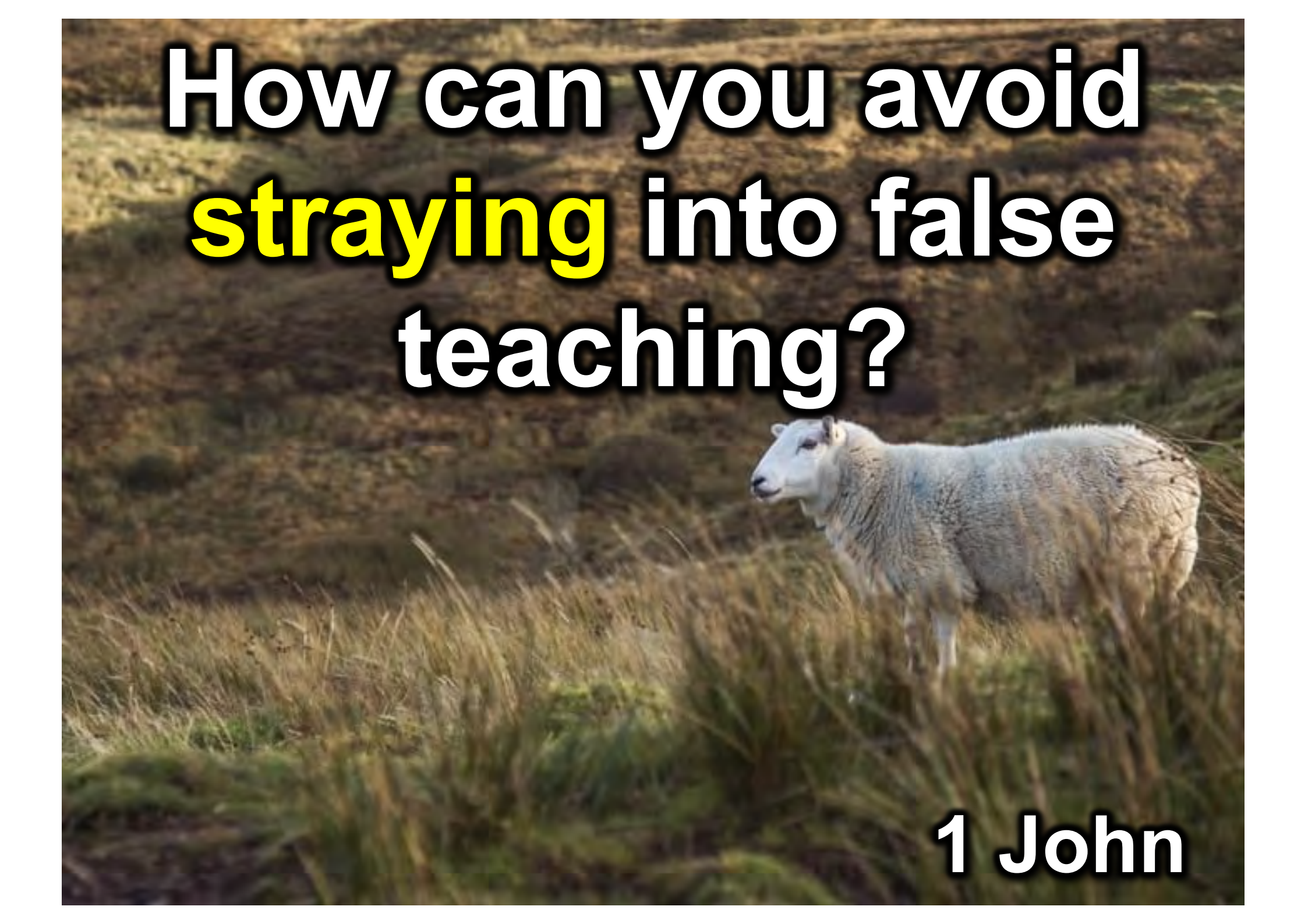
Buying?

Porn?

Law v. Grace?

Imbalanced?



A white sheep with a thick, woolly coat stands in a field of tall, golden-brown grass. The sheep is facing left, looking towards the horizon. The background is a soft-focus landscape of rolling hills under a warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The overall scene is peaceful and natural.

**How can you avoid
straying into false
teaching?**

1 John

Obedience in Love Combats Early Gnosticism

1 John

**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

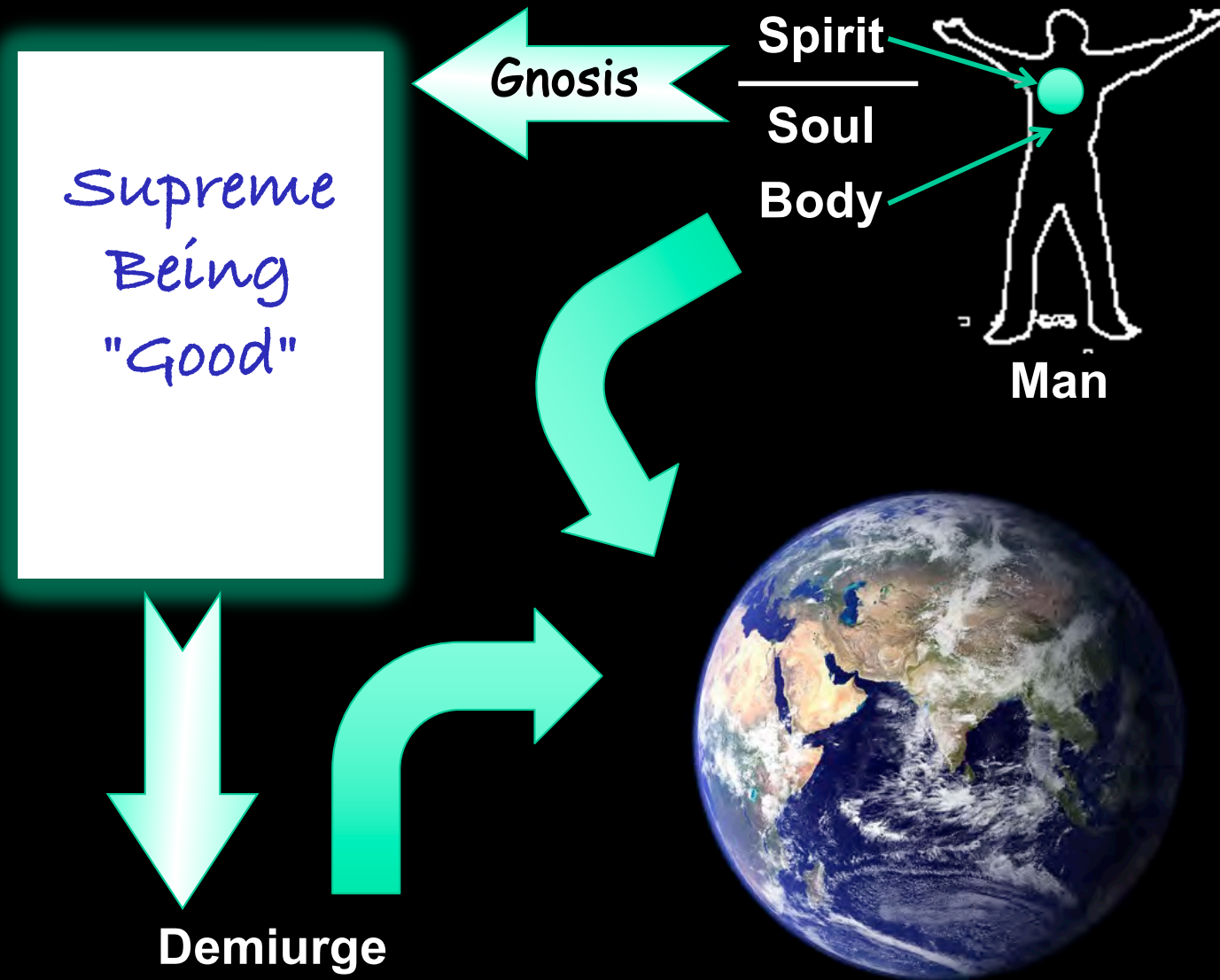
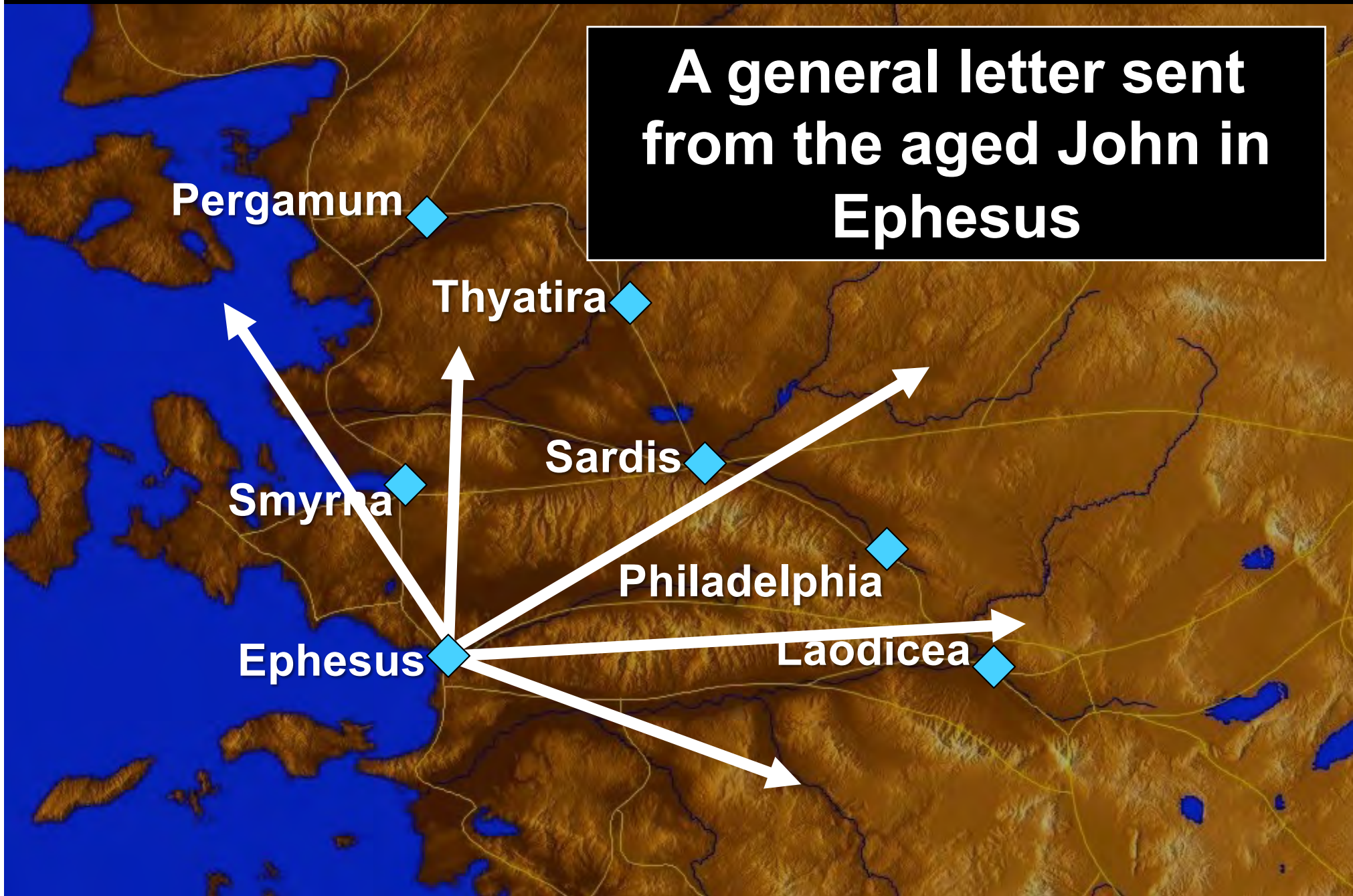


Chart 45

Origin/Destination

A general letter sent from the aged John in Ephesus



Pergamum

Thyatira

Smyrna

Sardis

Philadelphia

Ephesus

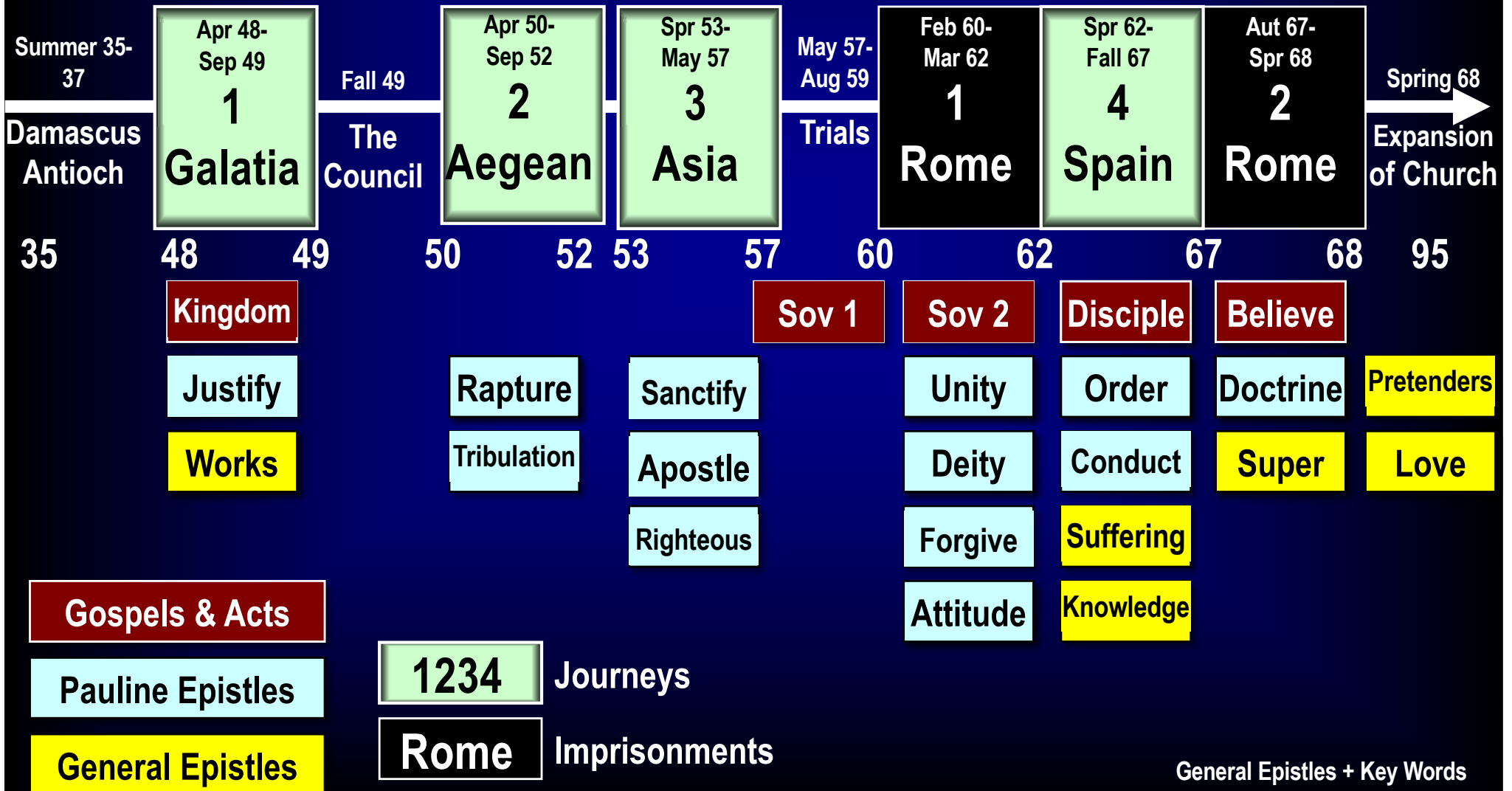
Laodicea

NT Overview (General + Key Words)

38
124
39-41

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

Acts 9 13 14 15 16 18 21 27 28



John's letter has at least five stated purposes:

1. to promote **fellowship** (1:3),
2. to produce **joy** (1:4),
3. to protect **holiness** (2:1),
4. to prevent **heresy** (2:26), and
5. to provide **assurance** of salvation (5:13)

Argument



- This makes 1 John **hard to sum up** in one theme or purpose and difficult to outline, especially since the subjects overlap.
- But the general theme of obedience, especially shown by **loving** others, **sums up all** of the above purposes.
- These benefits are many, but the **immediate benefit** of obedience by love is its **protection** from early Gnosticism.

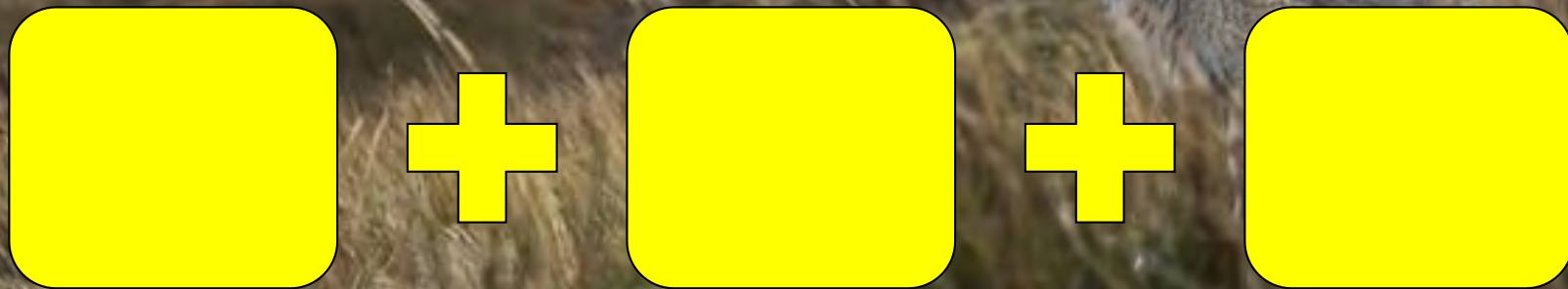
Obedience in Love Combats Early Gnosticism

Necessity of Obedience	Characteristics of Love	Benefits of Obedience
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Ephesus to Asia Minor Churches

AD 85-95

How can you avoid
straying into false
teaching?



1 John

HOW CAN YOU...

1 John

Obey

God's commands

(1-2)



AVOID

STRAYING

...INTO FALSE TEACHING?



1 John 1

I. **Obey** God's commands (1 John 1–2).

**Believe in Christ's humanity for
fellowship and joy (1:1-4).**





**"We proclaim to you the one who existed from the beginning, whom we have heard and seen. We saw him with our own eyes and touched him with our own hands. He is the Word of life"
(1 John 1:1 NLT).**

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

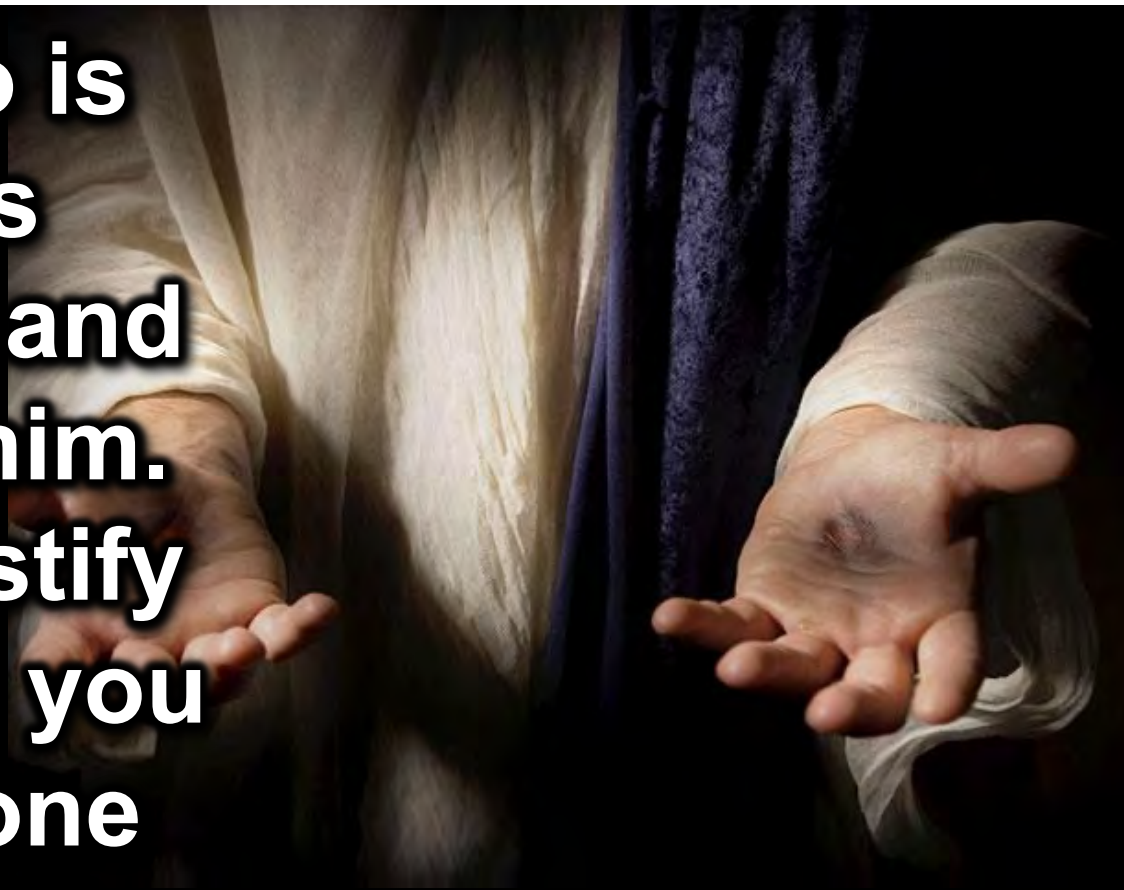
Water & Blood (5:6)

Led to Pride

Education exalted

**"This one who is
life itself was
revealed to us, and
we have seen him.
And now we testify
and proclaim to you
that he is the one
who is eternal life.**

**He was with the
Father, and then he
was revealed to us"
(1 John 1:2 NLT).**



"We proclaim to you what we ourselves have actually seen and heard so that you may have **fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. ⁴ We are writing these things so that you may fully share our **joy**"**
(1 John 1:3-4 NLT).

John taught that God showcased Jesus

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-292



JC Hall



God did the same thing when He sent Jesus Christ into the world. That's when the Word of Life was moved from behind the counters, out of the drawers and placed in a display case for all the world to see, handle and admire.

"That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched—this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us" (1 John 1:1-2).



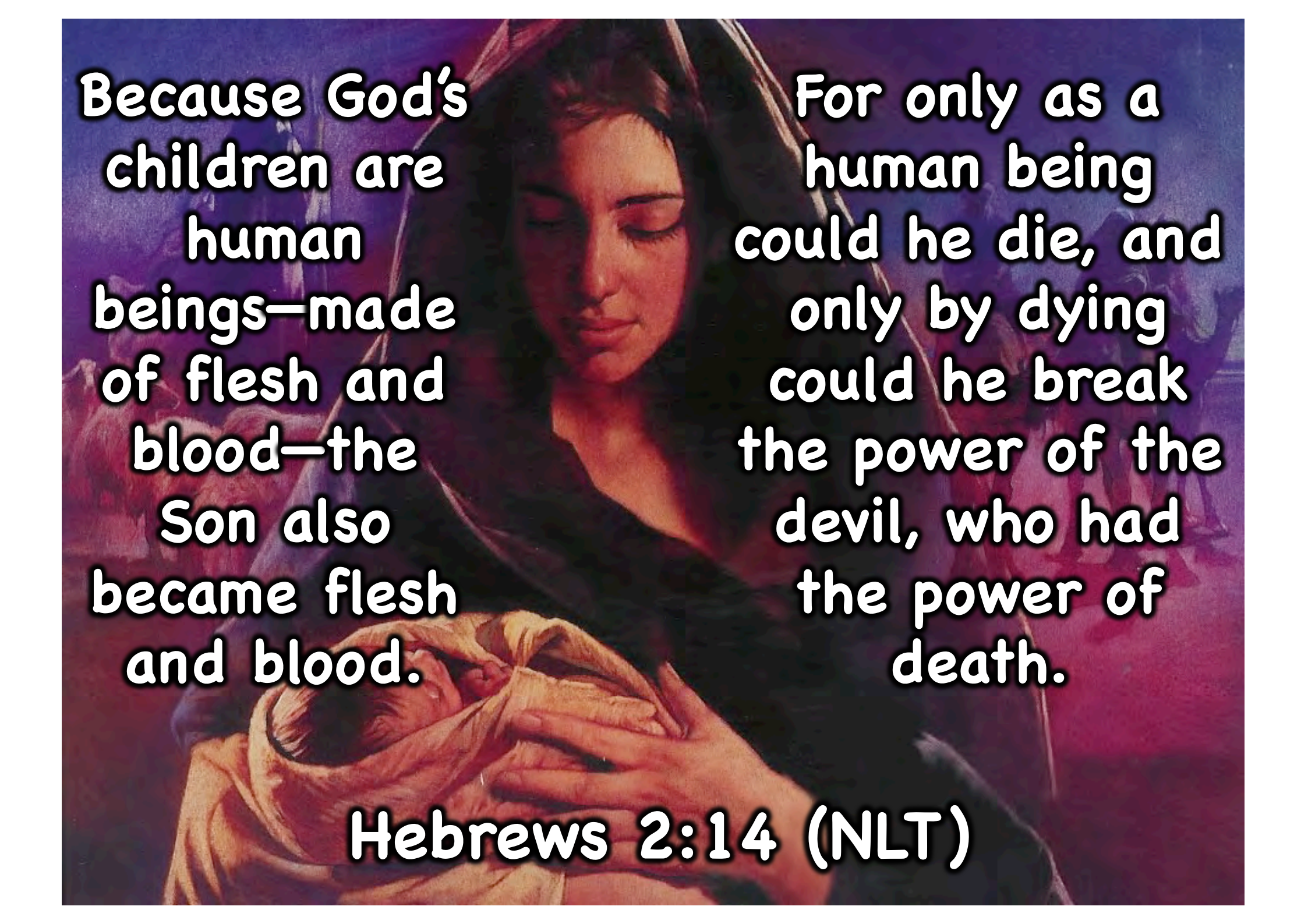
God Became Man

The Nativity





Wise Men Still Seek Him
Matthew 2:1-12

A painting of the Virgin Mary holding the infant Jesus. Mary is depicted with a serene expression, looking down at the child. The infant Jesus is wrapped in yellow swaddling clothes. The background is a soft, warm glow, suggesting a peaceful setting. The text is overlaid on the image in a white, bold, sans-serif font with a black outline.

**Because God's
children are
human
beings—made
of flesh and
blood—the
Son also
became flesh
and blood.**

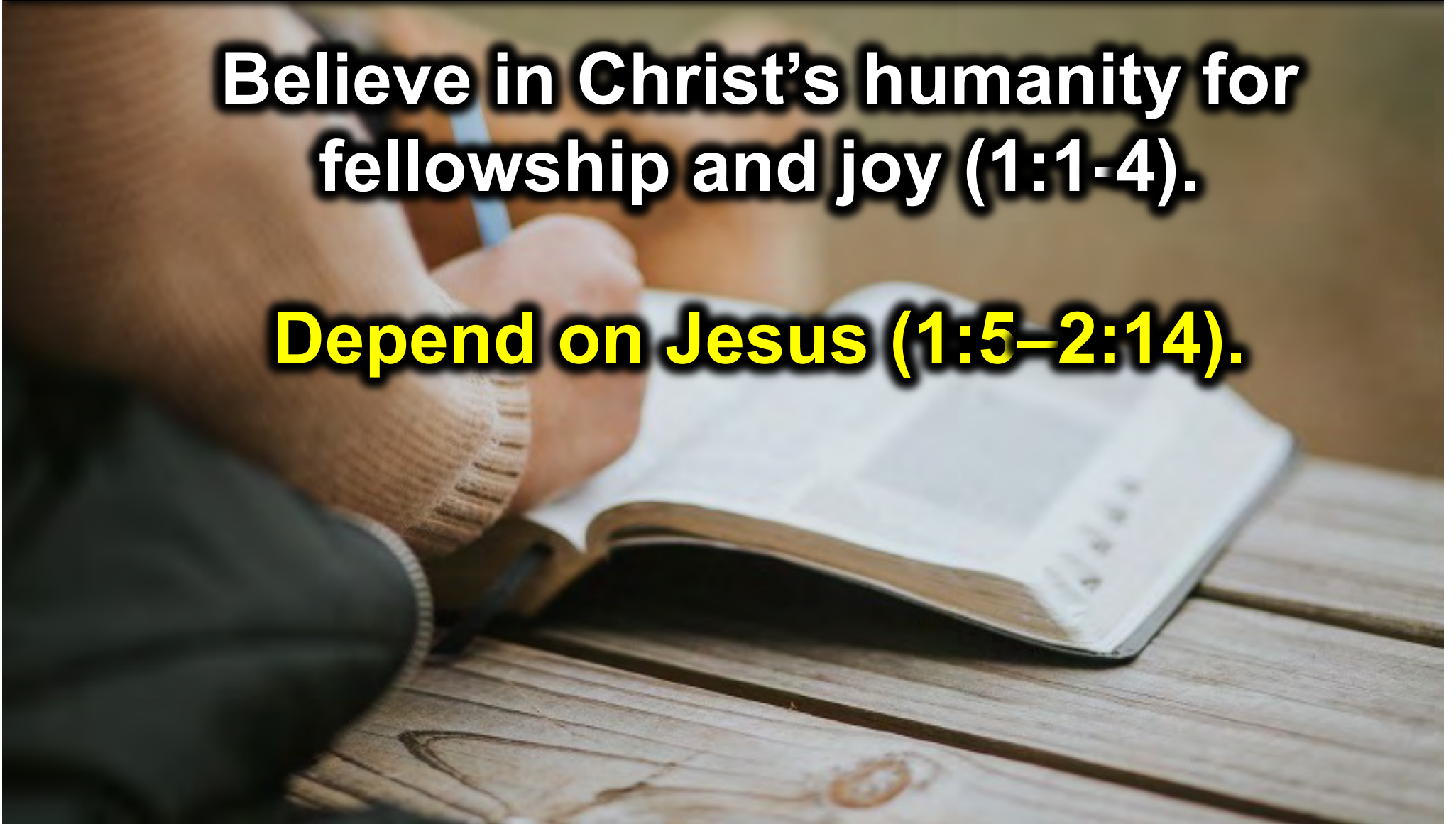
**For only as a
human being
could he die, and
only by dying
could he break
the power of the
devil, who had
the power of
death.**

Hebrews 2:14 (NLT)

I. Obey God's commands (1 John 1–2).

**Believe in Christ's humanity for
fellowship and joy (1:1-4).**

Depend on Jesus (1:5–2:14).




Light

Darkness



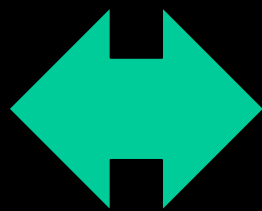
**"This is the message we heard from
Jesus and now declare to you:
God is light, and there is no darkness in
him at all" (1 John 1:5 NLT).**

**"So we are lying
if we say we
have fellowship
with God but go
on living in
spiritual
darkness; we are
not practicing
the truth.**

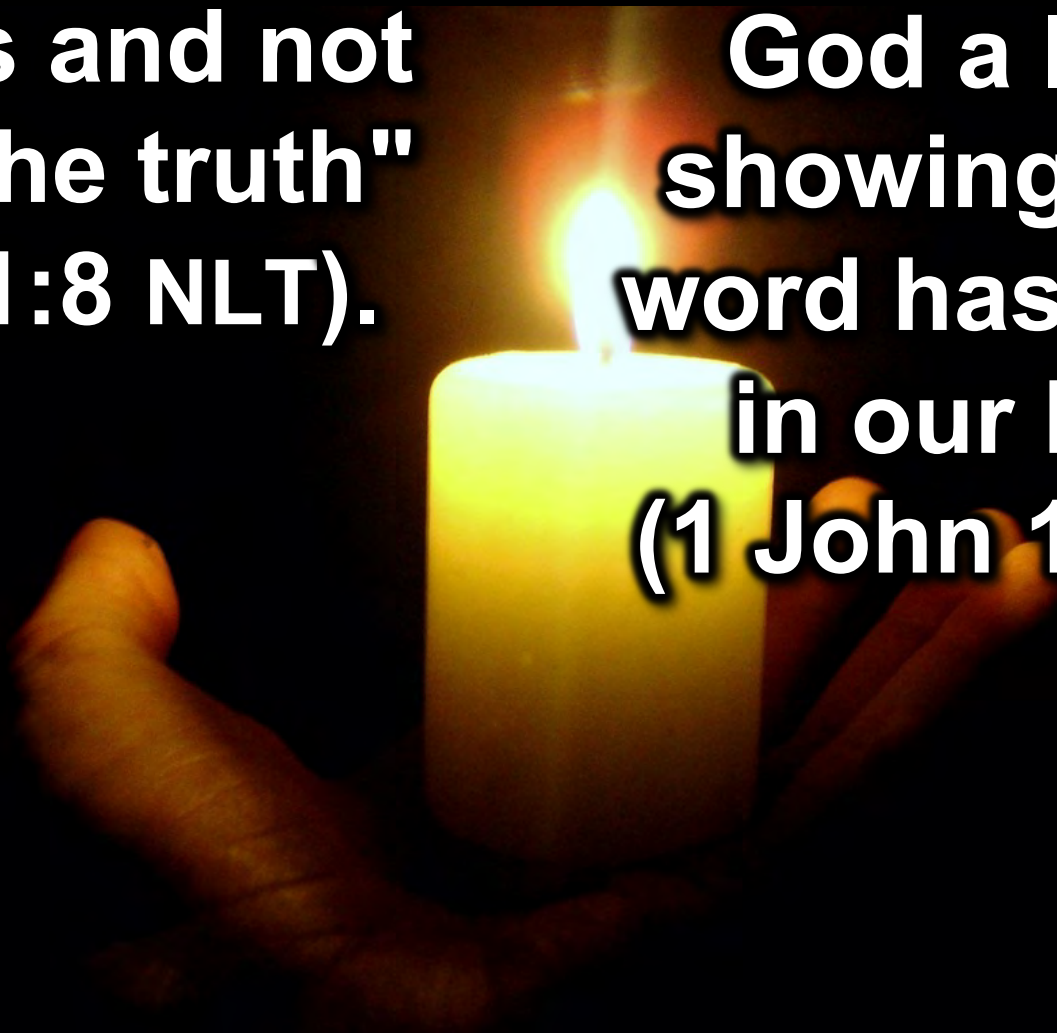


**⁷ But if we are
living in the light,
as God is in the
light, then we have
fellowship with
each other, and the
blood of Jesus, his
Son, cleanses us
from all sin"
(1 John 1:6-7 NLT).**

**"If we claim we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and not living in the truth"
(1 John 1:8 NLT).**



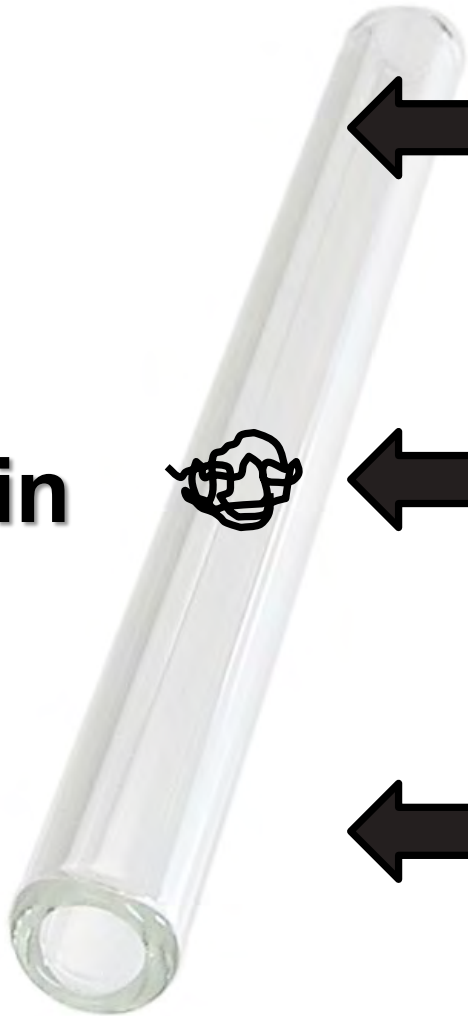
**"If we claim we have not sinned, we are calling God a liar and showing that his word has no place in our hearts"
(1 John 1:10 NLT).**



OT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

Sin



Pipe = **Relationship** with God
(never changing)

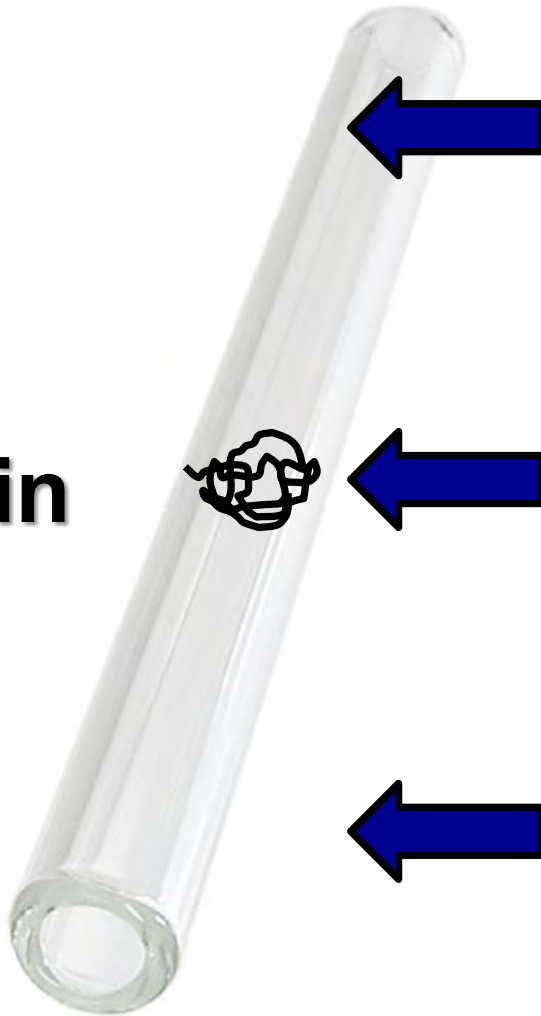
Clog = **Fellowship** with God
(hindered by sin)

Sacrifices = **Confession** of Sin
(sin forgiven to restore
fellowship but relationship
was never threatened)

NT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

Sin



Pipe = **Relationship** with God
(never changing)

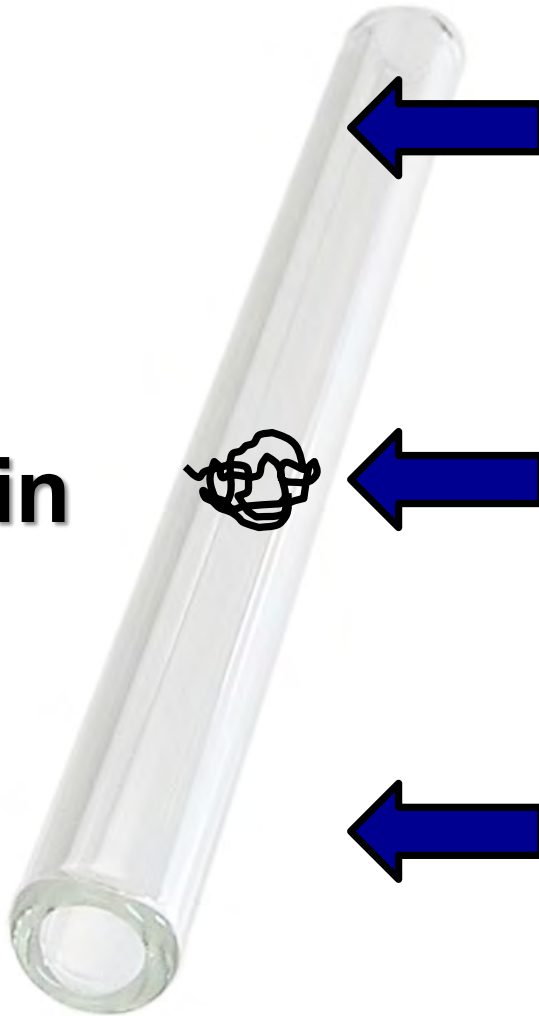
Clog = **Fellowship** with God
(hindered by sin)

Christ's Sacrifice = The Basis
for **Confession** of Sin (sin is
forgiven to restore fellowship
but relationship has never
been never threatened)

NT Forgiveness of Sin

121b

Sin



Pipe
(new)

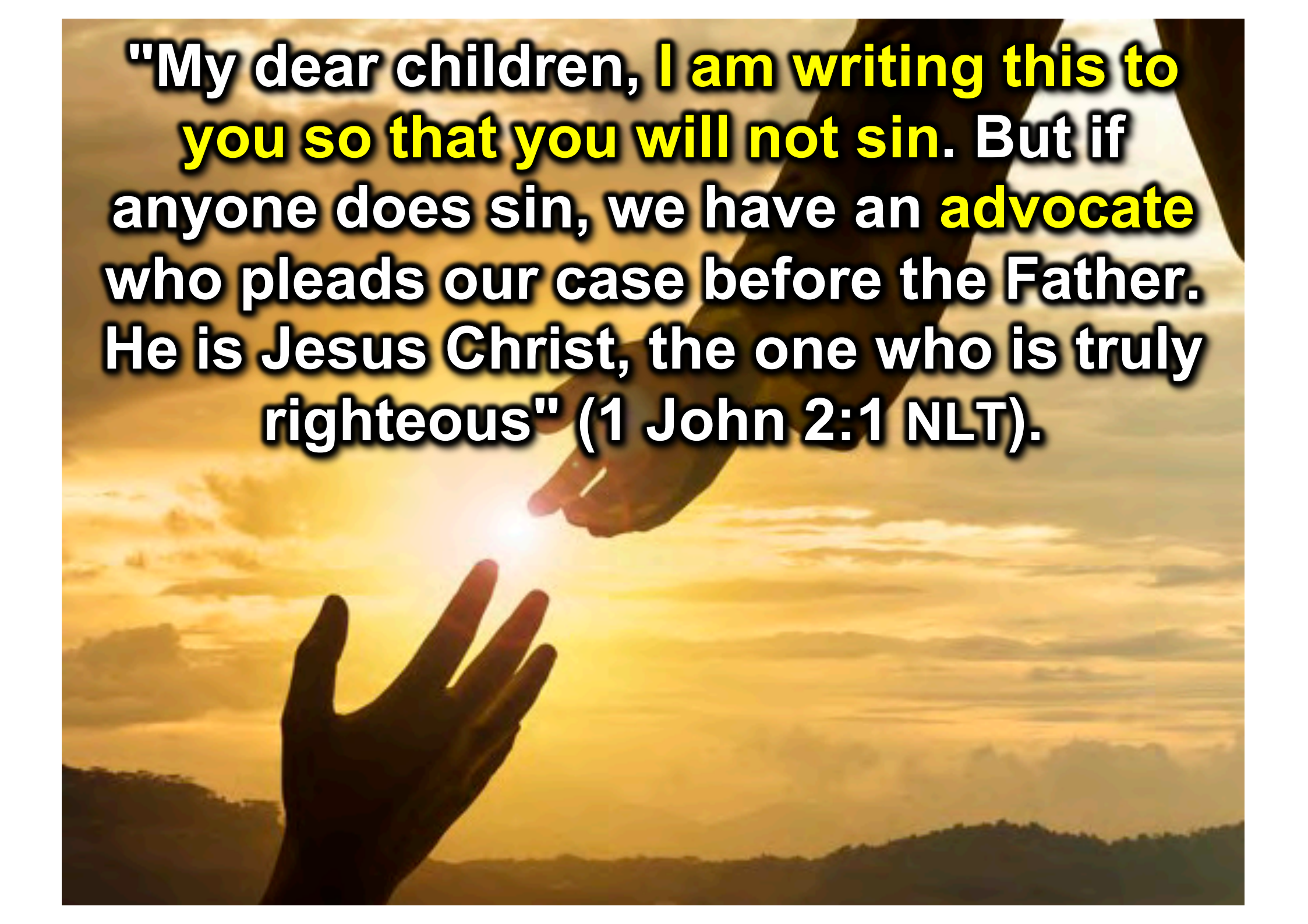
"If we confess our sins,
He is faithful and righteous
to forgive us our sins and
to cleanse us from all
unrighteousness"

Clog
(hindrance)

(1 John 1:9 NAU)

Christ's Sacrifice = The Basis
for **Confession** of Sin (sin is
forgiven to restore fellowship
but relationship has never
been never threatened)

1 John 2

A photograph of two hands reaching towards each other against a sunset background. The hand on the right is reaching down, and the hand on the left is reaching up. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and silhouettes of the hands and clouds. The text is overlaid on the upper portion of the image.

"My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous" (1 John 2:1 NLT).

“Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God’s right hand, pleading for us.”



■ **Romans 8:34 (NLT)**

**"He himself is the sacrifice that atones
for our sins—and not only our sins but
the sins of all the world"
(1 John 2:2 NLT).**



A background image showing a person's hands writing in a notebook on a wooden desk. The text is overlaid on this image.

I. Obey God's commands (1 John 1–2).

**Believe in Christ's humanity for
fellowship and joy (1:1-4).**

Depend on Jesus (1:5–2:14).

**Avoid two hindrances to obedience to
fight early Gnosticism (2:15-29).**

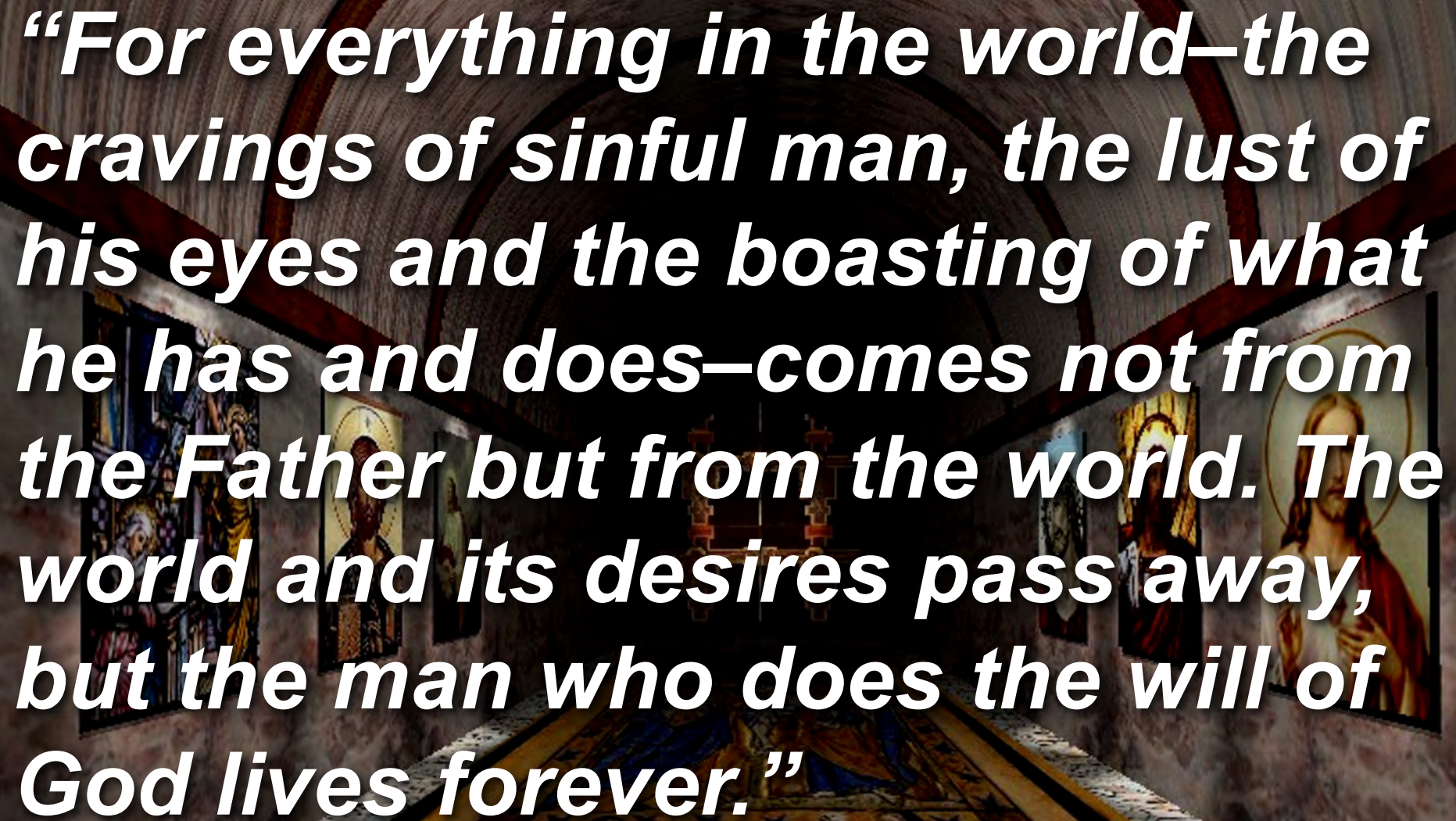
"Do not love the world" (1 John 2:15)





“Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.”

1 John 2:15 (NIV)

A perspective view of a long, arched hallway with a mosaic floor and religious paintings on the walls. The hallway is illuminated by warm, golden light, creating a sense of depth and grandeur. The walls are covered in various religious paintings, including depictions of Jesus Christ and other figures. The floor is made of stone tiles, and the ceiling is a series of arches. The overall atmosphere is one of a sacred and historical space.

***“For everything in the world—the
cravings of sinful man, the lust of
his eyes and the boasting of what
he has and does—comes not from
the Father but from the world. The
world and its desires pass away,
but the man who does the will of
God lives forever.”***

1 John 2:16-17 (NIV)



**"...for the world
and its desires are
passing away"
(1 John 2:17a)**



The Things of the World

Comparing Some Key Texts

World (1 John 2:15-16)	Sources of Temptation	Eve (Gen. 3)	Christ (Matt. 4)
"Cravings of sinful man"	Ungodly bodily desires (sex outside marriage, gluttony, etc.)	"Good for food"	Stones to bread
"Lust of the eyes"	Greed, coveting (10th commandment)	"Pleasing to the eye"	Possess all kingdoms
"Boasting of what he has and does"	Pride & boasting of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupation • position • worldly advantages • etc. 	"Desirable for gaining wisdom"	Acclaim by men ("throw yourself from the temple")

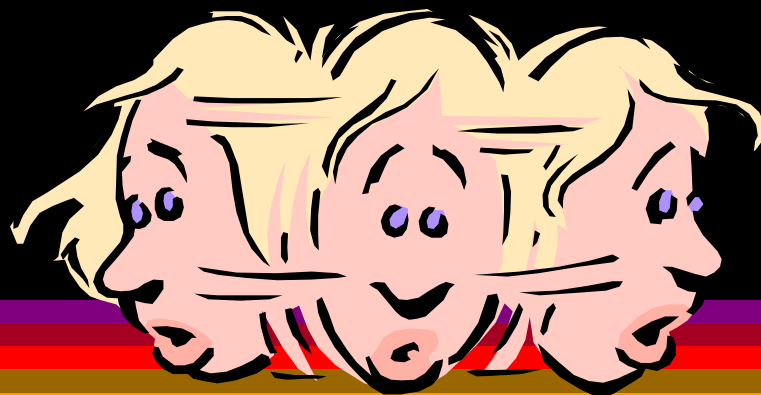
***Avoid two hindrances to obedience
to fight early Gnosticism (2:15-29).***

Worldliness
(2:15-17)

Deception
(2:18-29)

"Dear children, the last hour is here. You have heard that the Antichrist is coming, and already many such antichrists have appeared. From this **we know that the last hour has come. ¹⁹ These people left **our** churches, but they never really belonged with **us**; otherwise they would have stayed with **us**. When they left, it proved that they did not belong with **us**" (1 John 2:18-19 NLT).**





- ***What is the relationship of the anointing of the Spirit to indwelling?***

Controversial Issues about the Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The Anointing of the Spirit

*"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. **He anointed us,** ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come"
(2 Cor. 1:21-22 NIV)*

The Anointing of the Spirit

*"But **you have an anointing** from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth...²⁷ As for you, **the anointing you received from him remains in you**, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him" (1 John 2:20, 27)*

Ryrie on the Anointing

*"The difference between the anointing and indwelling seems to lie in their distinct purposes. The **indwelling** brings the **presence** of God into the life of the believer. The **anointing**, as far as the believer is concerned, is that he **might be taught** (1 John 2:20, 27). Actually, this seems to be the only purpose specified in the believer's case.*

Ryrie on the Anointing

*"However, if one may use the example of the anointing of Christ [Luke 4:18; Acts 4:27; 10:38; Heb. 1:9] and of Old Testament priests [Exod. 30:32-33; cf. kings 1 Sam. 10:1; Zech 4:14], then another purpose emerges—that of **service**. But...the full experience of the anointing depends on being filled with the Spirit"*

*(Ryrie, *The Holy Spirit*, 73).*

Key Verse



John's Key Purpose in Writing
"I am writing these things to you about those **who are trying to lead you astray**... And now, dear children, **continue in him**, so that when he appears we may be confident and unashamed before him at his coming" (1 John 2:26, 28).

Oprah Winfrey's Influence

**22 million viewers
each day!**

**Named most
influential celebrity
two years in a row
(2012-2013)**



Oprah Leads Millions Astray

"All that is divine, my heart is open to you..."

"The universe is not interested in your struggles and your pain and your sorrow..."

"My heart is open to find the flow, the flow, the flow, the flow that is my life."



Oprah Leads Millions Astray



“I am not talking about religion. I am a Christian. That is my faith. I'm not asking you to be a Christian. If you want to be one I can show you how. But it is not required. I have respect for all faiths. All faiths. But what I'm talking about is not faith or religion. I'm talking about spirituality,” Winfrey said.

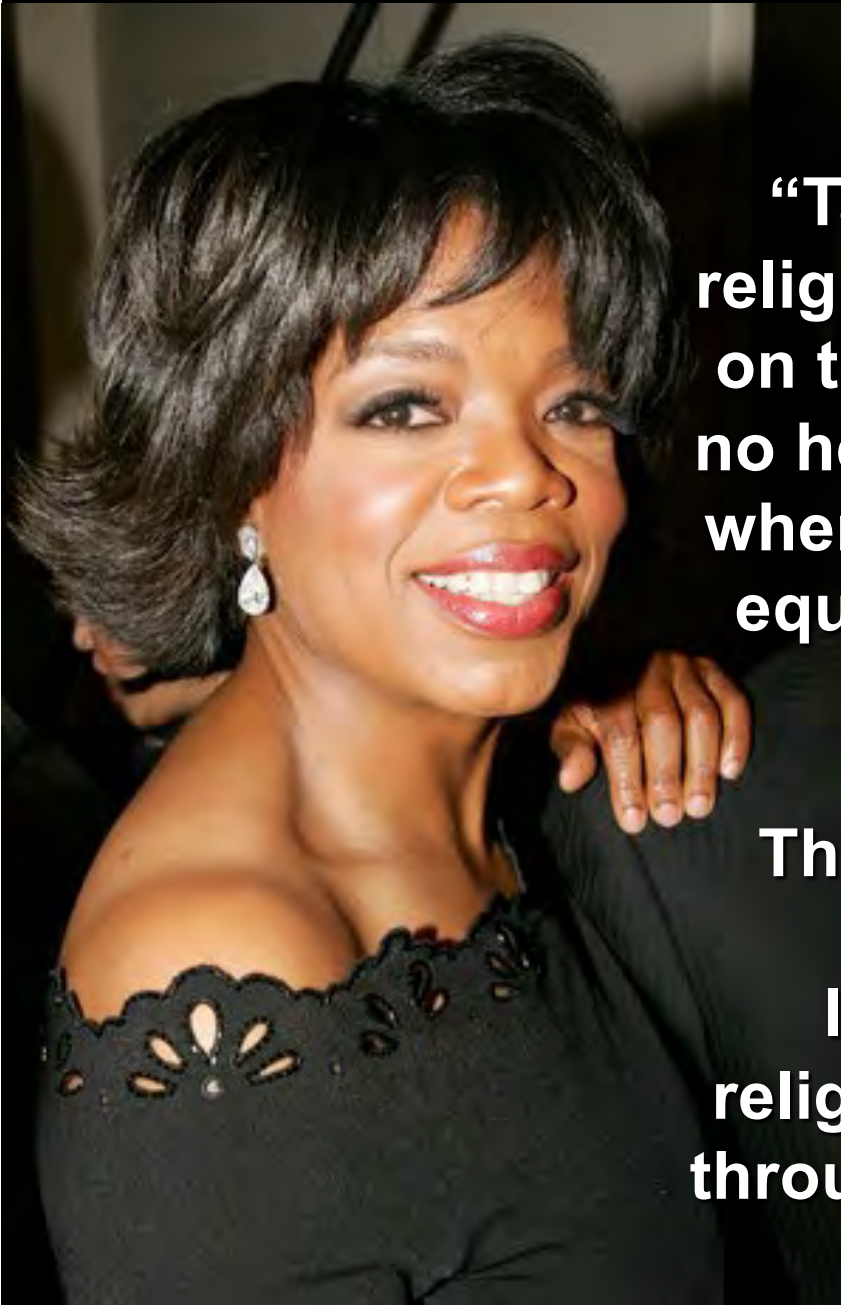
Oprah Leads Millions Astray

One commented on her...

“Take a few moments and imagine a religion where Jesus did not come to die on the cross, where there is no heaven, no hell, no sin, no salvation, no doctrine, where all spiritual paths in the world are equally valid and where ‘god’ is in you and in everything else you see.

That is the religion of Oprah Winfrey.

It is also the New Age ‘one world religion’ that many other spiritual gurus throughout the world have been trying to bring to fruition.”



Debunking The Da Vinci Code

A Seminar by Dr. Rick Griffith, Singapore Bible College
A free download at BibleStudyDownloads.org Theology link

295a

44 Languages!

THE
DA VINCI
CODE

ダ・ヴィン
コ



NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

BROWN

下
ダン・ブラウン
超前敏弥

ヨーロッパ史上、最大最高の謎
そしてついに、歴史は塗り替え

歴史の解説として
なにより話の作りか
世界中で売れている理

全米で驚異の720万部、
ヨーロッパでも話題騒然!

養老



DA VINCI
MYSTERIET

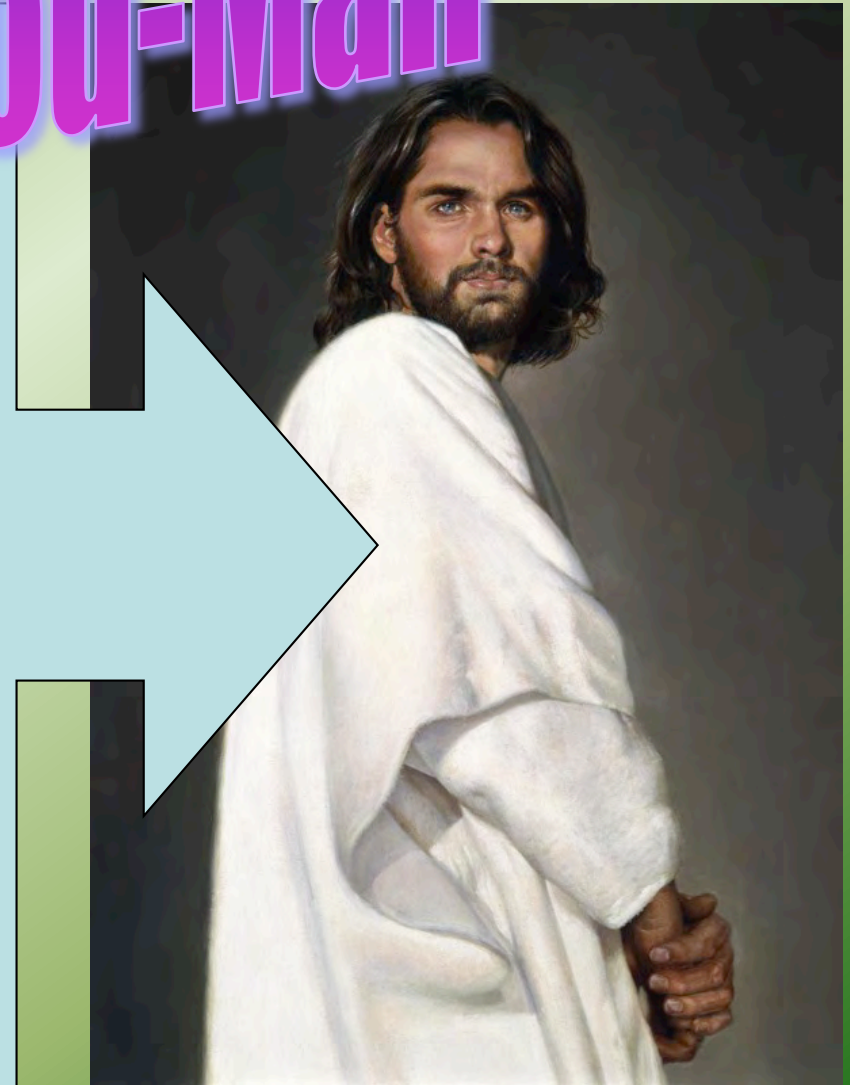
Brown:

Only human

**Who is
Jesus
Christ...
really?**

Bible:

God-Man



***Brown's view of Jesus through
"historian" Leigh Teabing...***

**"My dear," Teabing declared,
"until [AD 325], Jesus was
viewed by His followers as a
mortal prophet... a great and
powerful man, but a *man*
nonetheless. A mortal."**

**[Sophie:] "Not the Son of God?"
"Right," Teabing said. "Jesus'
establishment as 'the Son of
God' was officially proposed and
voted on by the Council of
Nicaea."**

Is the Bible reliable?

**Brown accuses
via the mouth of
"historian" Leigh
Teabing...**

**"The Bible is a product of man,
my dear. Not of God... [It] has
evolved through countless
translations, additions, and
revisions. History has never had
a definitive version of the book."**



"Saying that Dan Brown's book is about Christianity is like saying 'Finding Nemo' is about marine biology."

"We have just as much evidence to suggest that Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene as we have that clown fish talk."

Disney • PIXAR

www.disney.co.uk

Kenneth Boa & John Alan Turner, *The Gospel According to the Da Vinci Code*

HOW CAN YOU...

1 John

Obey

God's commands

(1-2)

Love

others

(3:1-5:3)



AVOID



STRAYING

...INTO FALSE TEACHING?

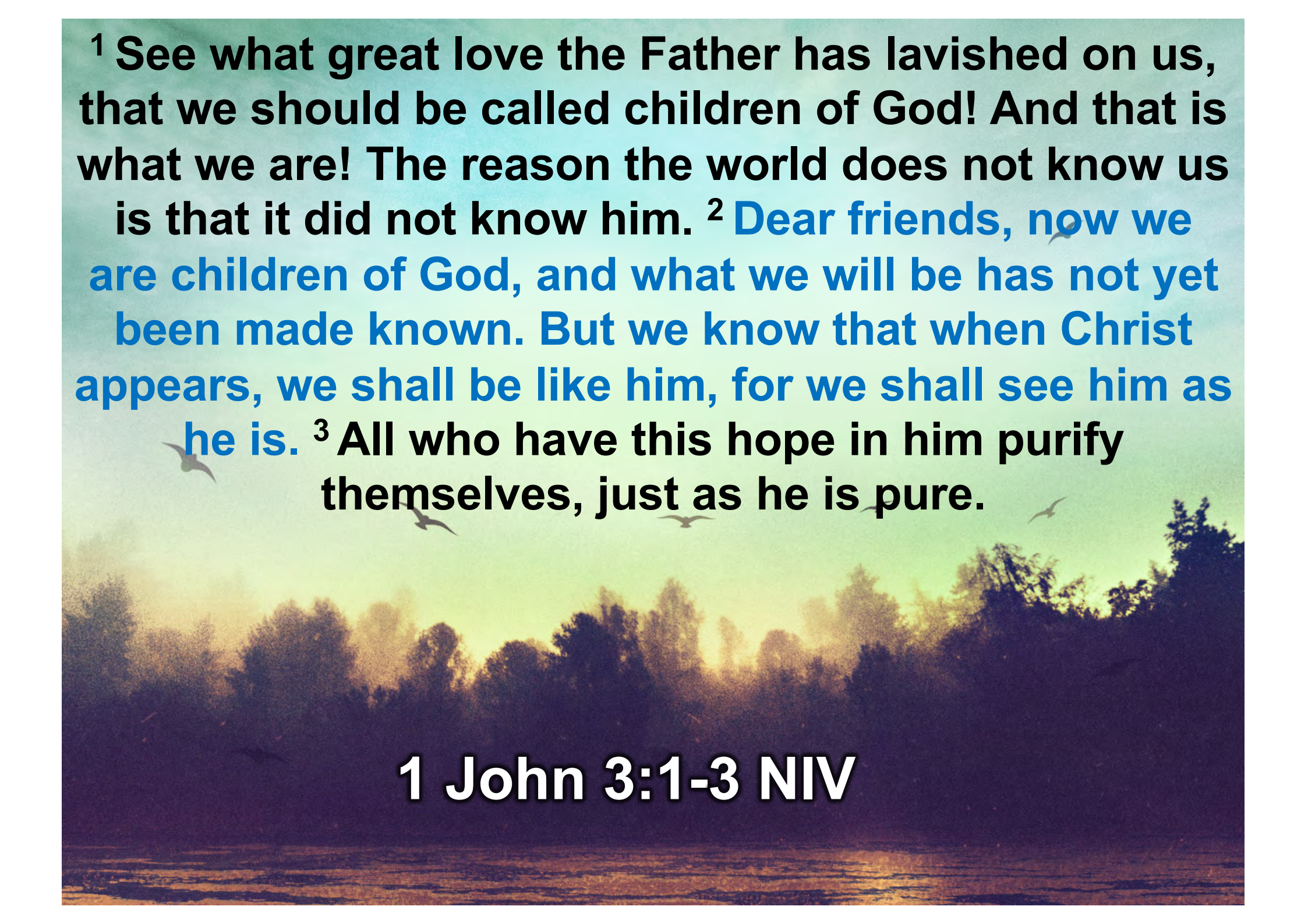


1 John 3

II. **Love** others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)





¹ See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ² Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ³ All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:1-3 NIV

How much can a believer sin (1 John 3:4)?

NLT (cf. NIV)

"Everyone who **sins** is breaking God's law, for all sin is contrary to the law of God."

Absolute

NAU (cf. NET)

"Everyone who **practices sin** also practices lawlessness; and sin is lawlessness."

Habitual

Both translations are possible in the Greek text.

However, wouldn't it be lawless to sin even once?

How much can a believer sin (1 John 3:6)?

NLT (cf. NIV)

"Anyone who continues to live in him will not sin. But anyone who **keeps on sinning does not know him or understand who he is."**

Habitual

NAU (cf. NET)

"No one who abides in Him **sins; no one who sins has seen Him or knows Him."**

Absolute

Each of the preceding four translations are inconsistent in rendering verses 4 and 6.

How? In one place each is absolute but then each is habitual in another.

BOTTOM LINE:

We sin when we follow Satan rather than God!

II. **Love** others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)





**"This is the message you have heard from the beginning: We should love one another"
(1 John 3:11 NLT).**

"DARKNESS

cannot drive out

DARKNESS.

Only light can do that.

HATE

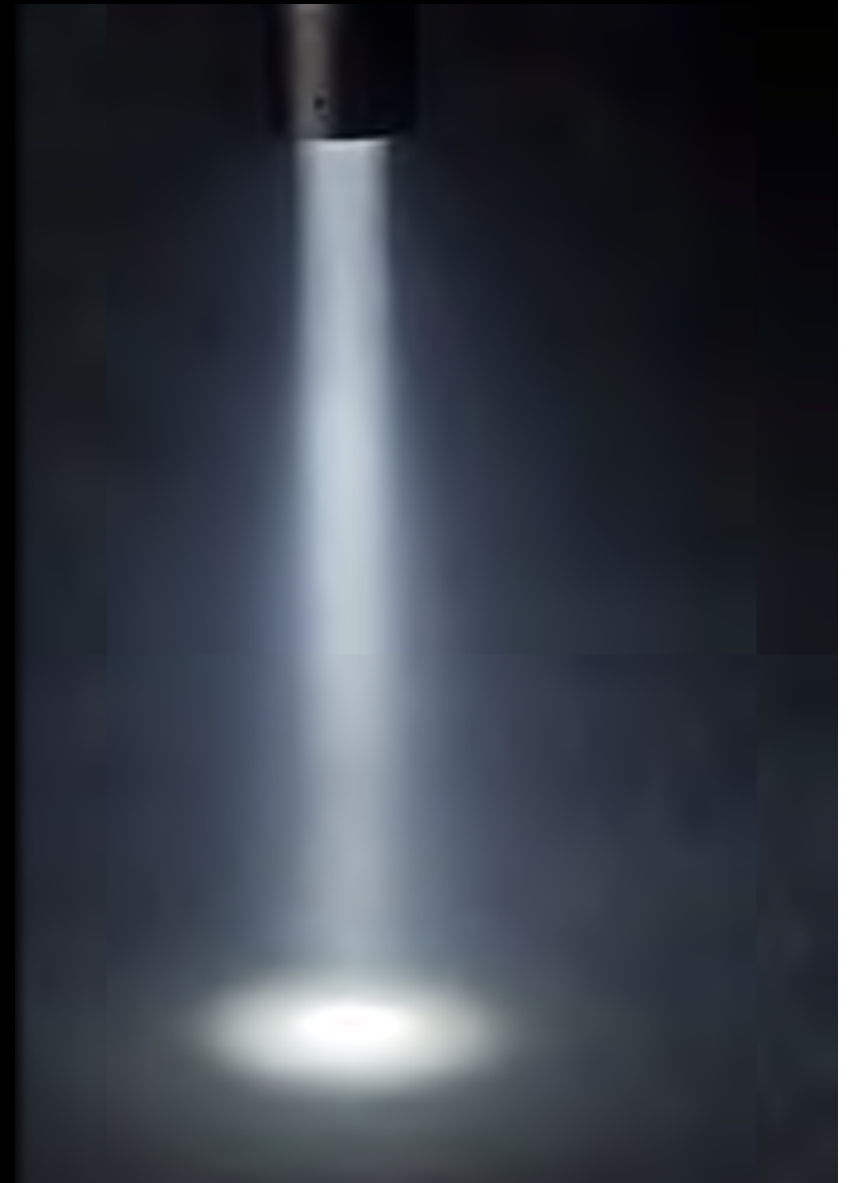
cannot drive out

HATE.

Only love can do that."

—Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.—

*Hatred of people is
from Satan.*



II. **Love** others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)

Show compassion (3:16-20)



"We know what real love is because Jesus gave up his life for us. So we also ought to give up our lives for our brothers and sisters. ¹⁷ If someone has enough money to live well and sees a brother or sister in need but shows no compassion—how can God's love be in that person?" (1 John 3:16-17 NLT).

"Dear children, let's not merely say that we love each other; let us show the truth by our actions. ¹⁹ Our actions will show that we belong to the truth, so we will be confident when we stand before God. ²⁰ Even if we feel guilty, God is greater than our feelings, and he knows everything" (1 John 3:18-20 NLT).

II. **Love** others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)

Show compassion (3:16-20)

Be confident before God (3:21-24)



"Dear friends, if we don't feel guilty, we can come to God with bold confidence" (1 John 3:21 NLT).



**"And we will receive from him whatever we ask because we obey him and do the things that please him"
(1 John 3:22 NLT)."**



"And this is his commandment: We must believe in the name of his Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as he commanded us. ²⁴ Those who obey God's commandments remain in fellowship with him, and he with them. And we know he lives in us because the Spirit he gave us lives in us"
(1 John 3:23-24 NLT).

1 John 4

II. **Love** others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)

Show compassion (3:16-20)

Be confident before God (3:21-24)

Obey apostolic teaching (4:1-6)





Test the spirits (4:1)

"Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world.

²This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God"

(1 John 4:1-2 NLT).

**"But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here"
(1 John 4:3 NLT).**

"But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.

⁵ Those people belong to this world, so they speak from the world's viewpoint, and the world listens to them"

(1 John 4:4-5 NLT).

**"But we belong to God, and those who know God listen to us. If they do not belong to God, they do not listen to us. That is how we know if someone has the Spirit of truth or the spirit of deception"
(1 John 4:6 NLT).**

II. **Love** others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)

Show compassion (3:16-20)

Be confident before God (3:21-24)

Obey apostolic teaching (4:1-6)

Care for believers (4:7-21)



"Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. ⁸ But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love" (1 John 4:7-8 NLT).



**WE LOVE
EACH OTHER
BECAUSE HE
LOVED US**



FIRST

1 JOHN 4:19

1 John 5

II. **Love** others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)

Show compassion (3:16-20)

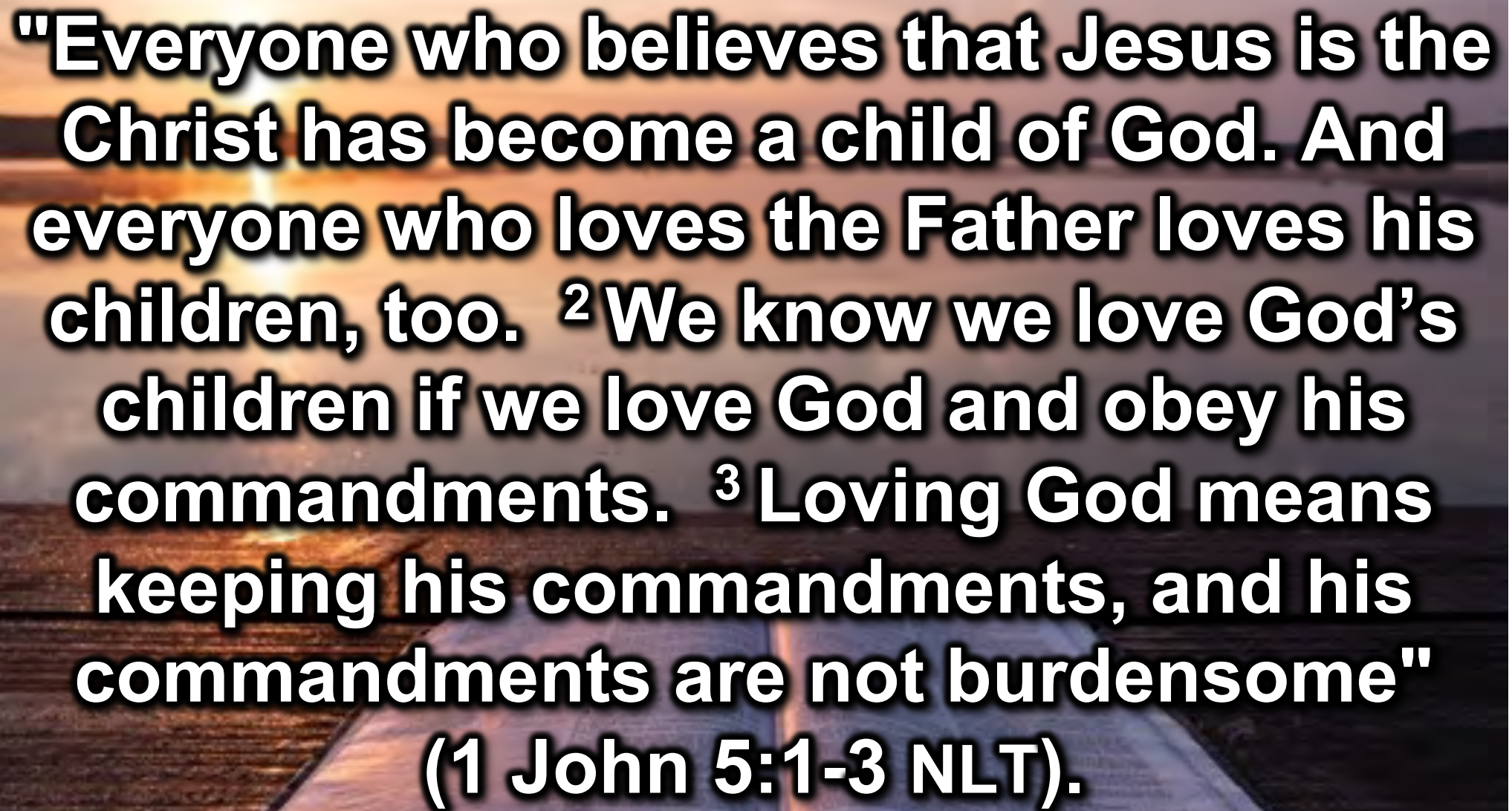
Be confident before God (3:21-24)

Obey apostolic teaching (4:1-6)

Care for believers (4:7-21)

Obey God's commands (5:1-3)



An open book lies on a dark wooden surface. The background is a soft-focus sunset or sunrise over a body of water, with a bright light source on the horizon. The text is overlaid in a large, bold, white font with a black outline.

**"Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Christ has become a child of God. And everyone who loves the Father loves his children, too. ²We know we love God's children if we love God and obey his commandments. ³Loving God means keeping his commandments, and his commandments are not burdensome"
(1 John 5:1-3 NLT).**

HOW CAN YOU...

1 John

Obey

God's commands

(1-2)

Love

others

(3:1-5:3)



AVOID



STRAYING



Realize that obedience produces

what you really need

(5:4-21)

...INTO FALSE TEACHING?



The Bible says that when we obey God's commands, we benefit. I think we naturally assume that if we look out for our own interests and concerns, we will be happy. But people who sacrifice for others will tell you that seasons of giving are the most rewarding of their lives.

— *Francis Chan* —

III. Realize that obedience produces what you really **need** (5:4-21).

Benefits of Obedience:

Victory over the world system (5:4-5)

**"For every child of God
defeats this evil world,
and we achieve this
victory through our
faith. ⁵ And who can win
this battle against the
world? Only those who
believe that Jesus is the
Son of God"
(1 John 5:4-5 NLT).**

III. Realize that obedience produces what you really **need** (5:4-21).

Benefits of Obedience:

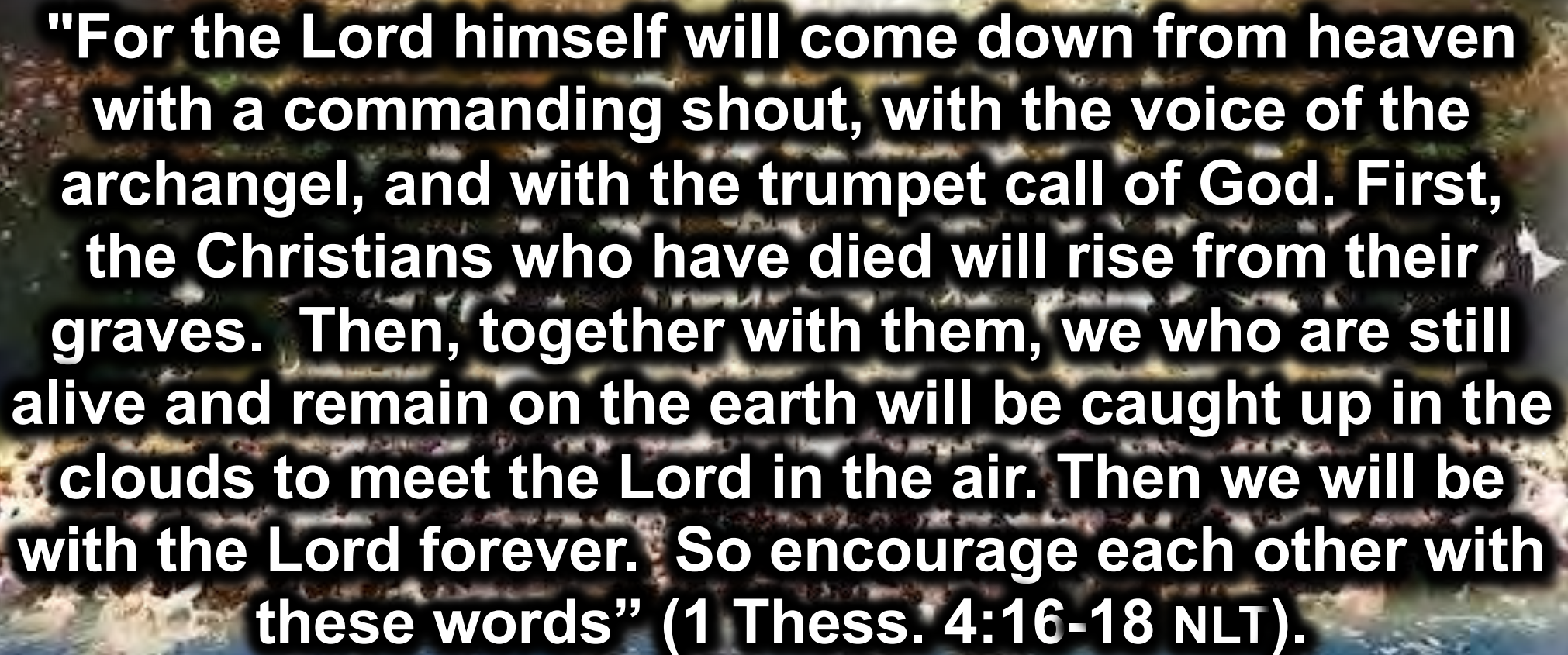
Victory over the world system (5:4-5)

Assurance of salvation (5:6-13)

Jesus Will Return to Earth



The Rapture (The “Catching Up”)



"For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words" (1 Thess. 4:16-18 NLT).

GOD'S *Gift* TO MANKIND



LUKE 1:32

"And this is what God has testified:
He has given us eternal life, and this life is
in his Son. **¹²Whoever has the Son has life**;
whoever does not have God's Son does not
have life. **¹³I have written this to you who
believe in the name of the Son of God, so
that you may know you have eternal life.**"



God's Gift (1 John 5:12-13)

***“Jesus, thank you
for the promise of
eternal life by simple
trust in you.***

***I trust you now that
you are indeed who
you said you were—
God’s Son—and I
thank you by faith
for giving me eternal
life. Amen.”***

A Prayer



Eternal Security



A close-up photograph of a rusty, circular padlock mounted on a dark, textured metal surface. The padlock is the central focus, showing signs of age and wear. The words "ETERNAL" and "SECURITY" are printed in large, white, bold, sans-serif capital letters on black rectangular backgrounds that span across the middle of the image, flanking the padlock. The background metal has some circular indentations or rivets.

ETERNAL

SECURITY

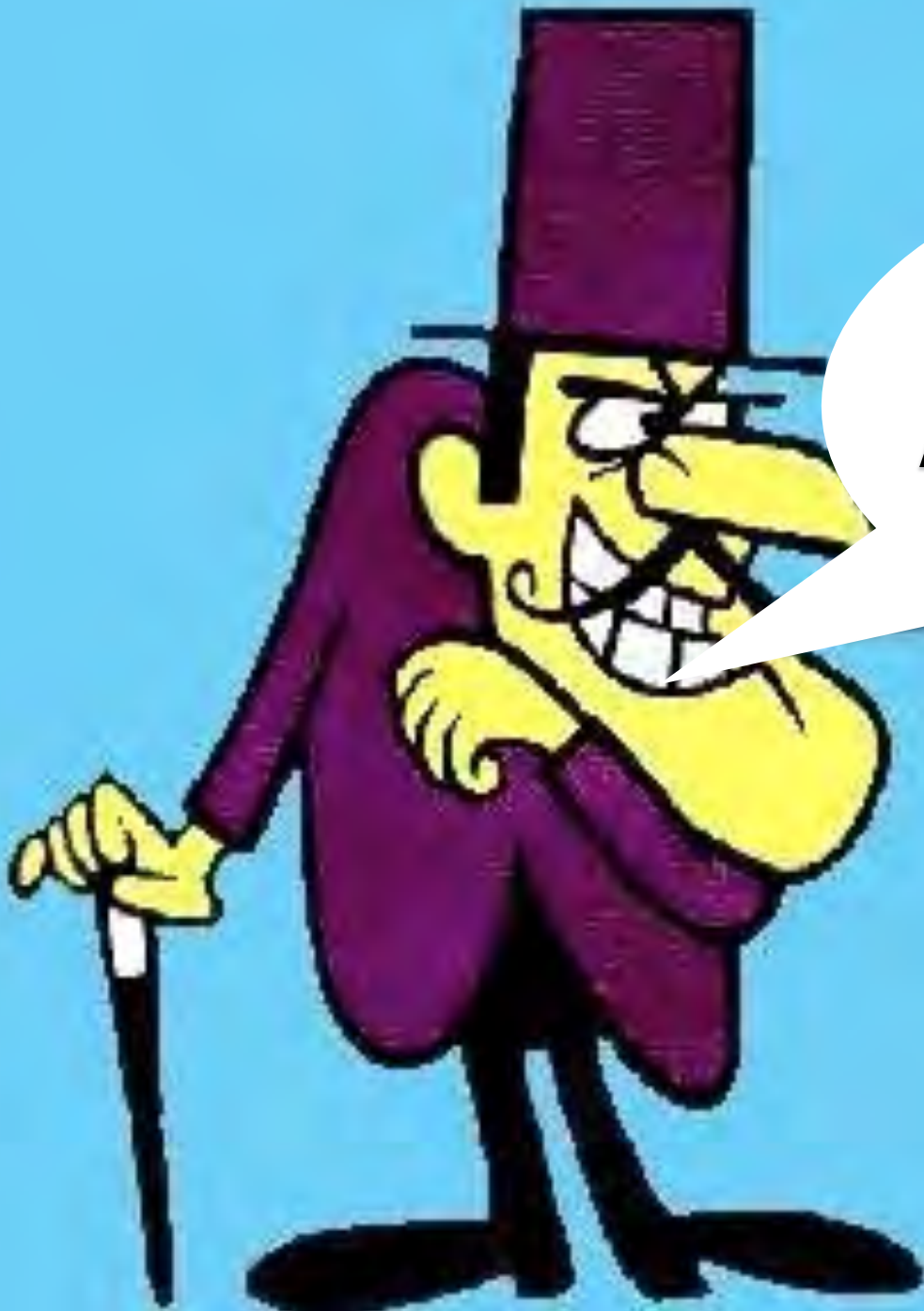
“Once Saved, Always Saved”



**Some
Despise
Security**

***MY TEACHING OF
ETERNAL SECURITY,
ALSO KNOWN AS ONCE
SAVED ALWAYS SAVED
OR THE PERSEVERANCE
OF THE SAINTS, IS THE
BEST LIE I'VE EVER
DEvised AGAINST THE
RIGHTEOUS. CHANCES
ARE, IF YOU ARE LIKE
MOST, I WILL DECEIVE
AND RECAPTURE YOU
TOO.***

**Ha!
Ha! Ha! Ha!**



***YOU CAN
TRUST ME! I'M AN
ETERNAL SECURITY
TEACHER.***

Distinguishing Terms

	Eternal Security	Assurance of Salvation
Basic Meaning	Being saved from the penalty of sin forever (once saved, always saved)	<u>Knowing</u> that we are saved from the penalty of sin forever
Definition	“The work of God which guarantees that the gift of salvation, once received, is forever and cannot be lost” (Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i> , 328)	“The realization of the truth of eternal security or perseverance” (Ryrie, <i>Basic Theology</i> , 328)

Distinguishing Terms

	Eternal Security	Assurance of Salvation
Spirit's Ministry	Sealing (Eph 1:13-14)	Assuring (Rom 8:15-17)
Believer's...	Position as child of God (Rom 8:16b)	Practice or confidence (Rom 8:16a)
Recipients	All Christians possess	Some Christians doubt
Permanence	Can't be lost (John 6:39-40; 10:27-29; Rom 8:30, 38-39; Heb 7:25)	Can be lost (for this reason John wrote 1 John 5:11-13)
Songs	"I Know Whom I Have Believed" "In Christ Alone" "The Solid Rock"	"Blessed Assurance" "Now I Belong to Jesus"

Theological Support for Eternal Security



The Work of the Triune God Supports Security

296a



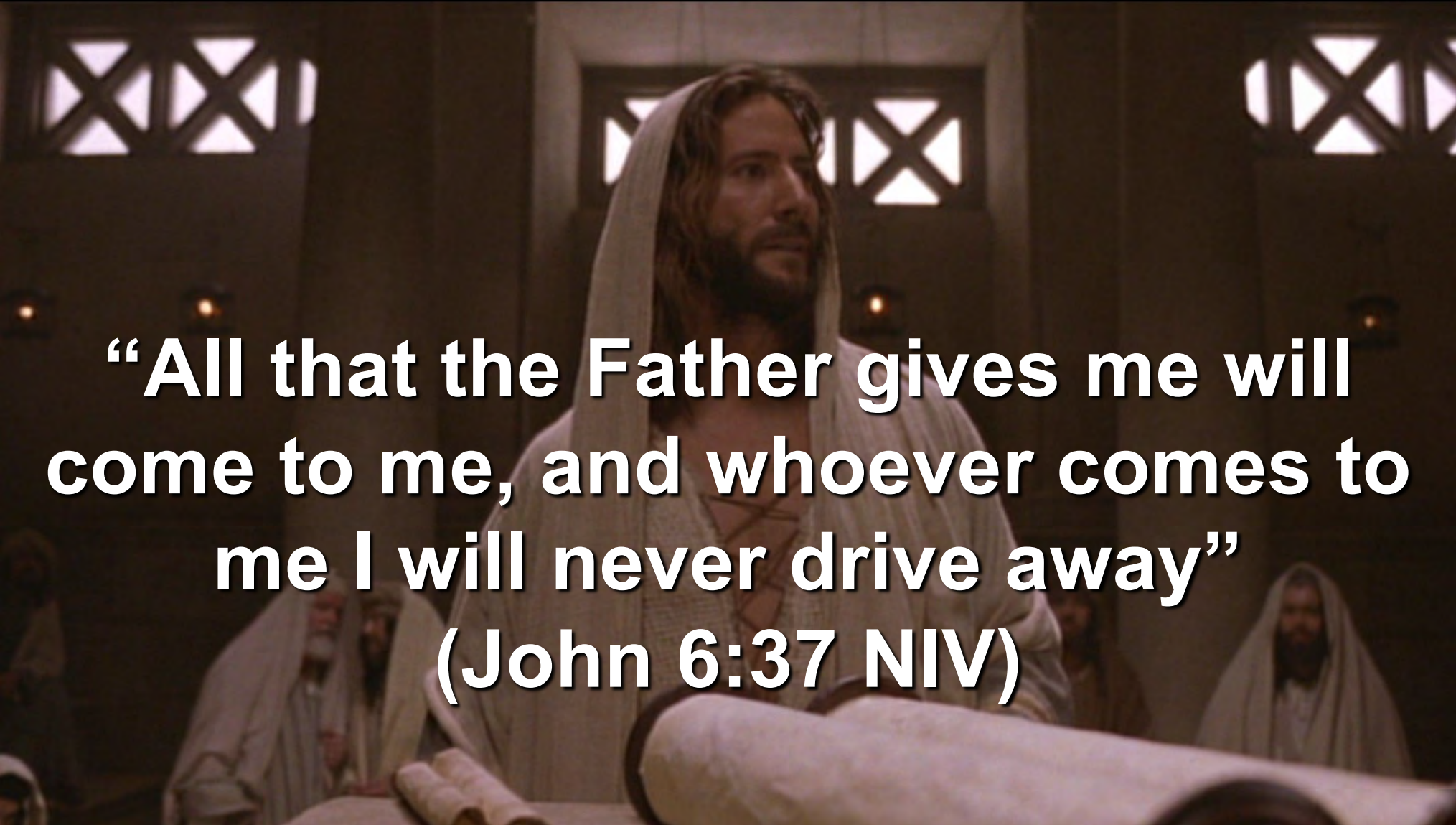
The Work of God the Father



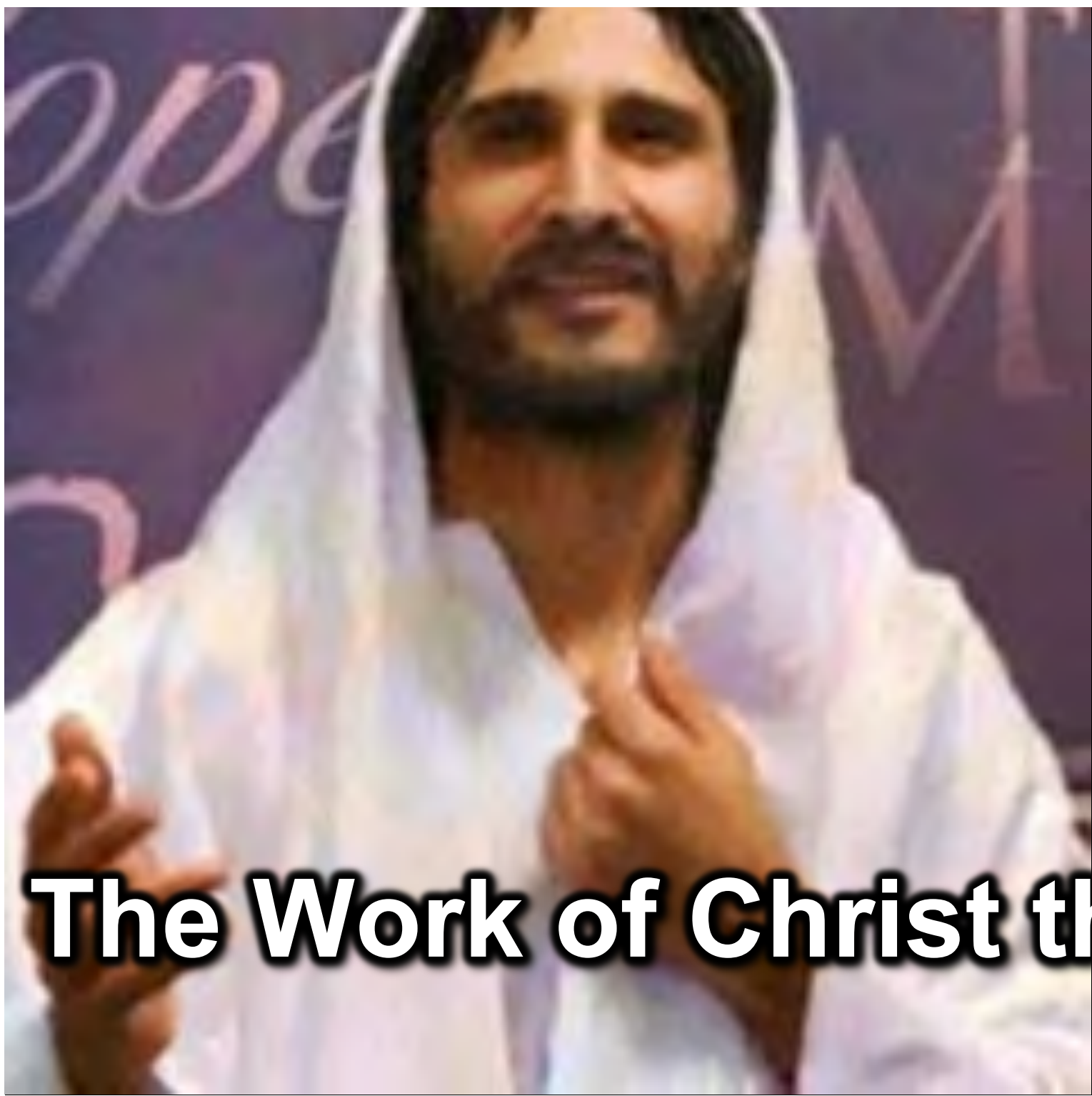


Election

Permanent?

A still from a film showing Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a white head covering. He is holding a large white scroll in front of him. The background is a dimly lit interior with several windows featuring a cross-shaped lattice pattern. Other people in white robes are visible in the background.

**“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away”
(John 6:37 NIV)**



The Work of Christ the Son



“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. ²⁸I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. ²⁹My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father’s hand” (John 10:27-29 NLT)

Believe It or Not!

296a

How do we
know Jesus
has given us
eternal life?



Can we *know*?

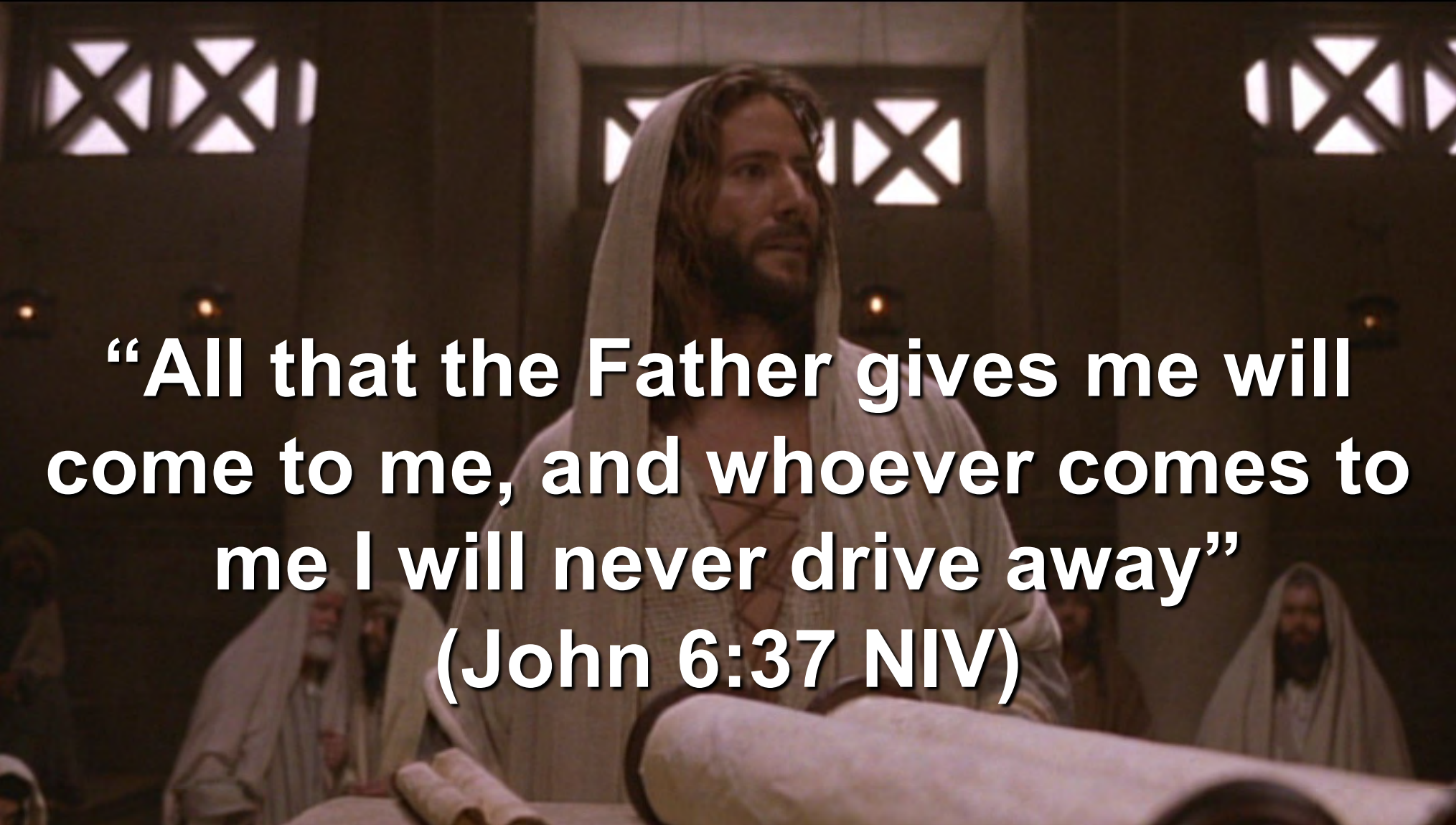
An Astonishing Claim!

296a

“I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me **have eternal life**. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life”

— John 5:24

Permanent?

A cinematic still of Jesus with long brown hair and a beard, wearing a white robe and a white head covering. He is holding a large white scroll in front of him. The background is a dimly lit interior with several windows featuring a cross-shaped lattice pattern. Other people in white robes are visible in the background, some looking towards Jesus.

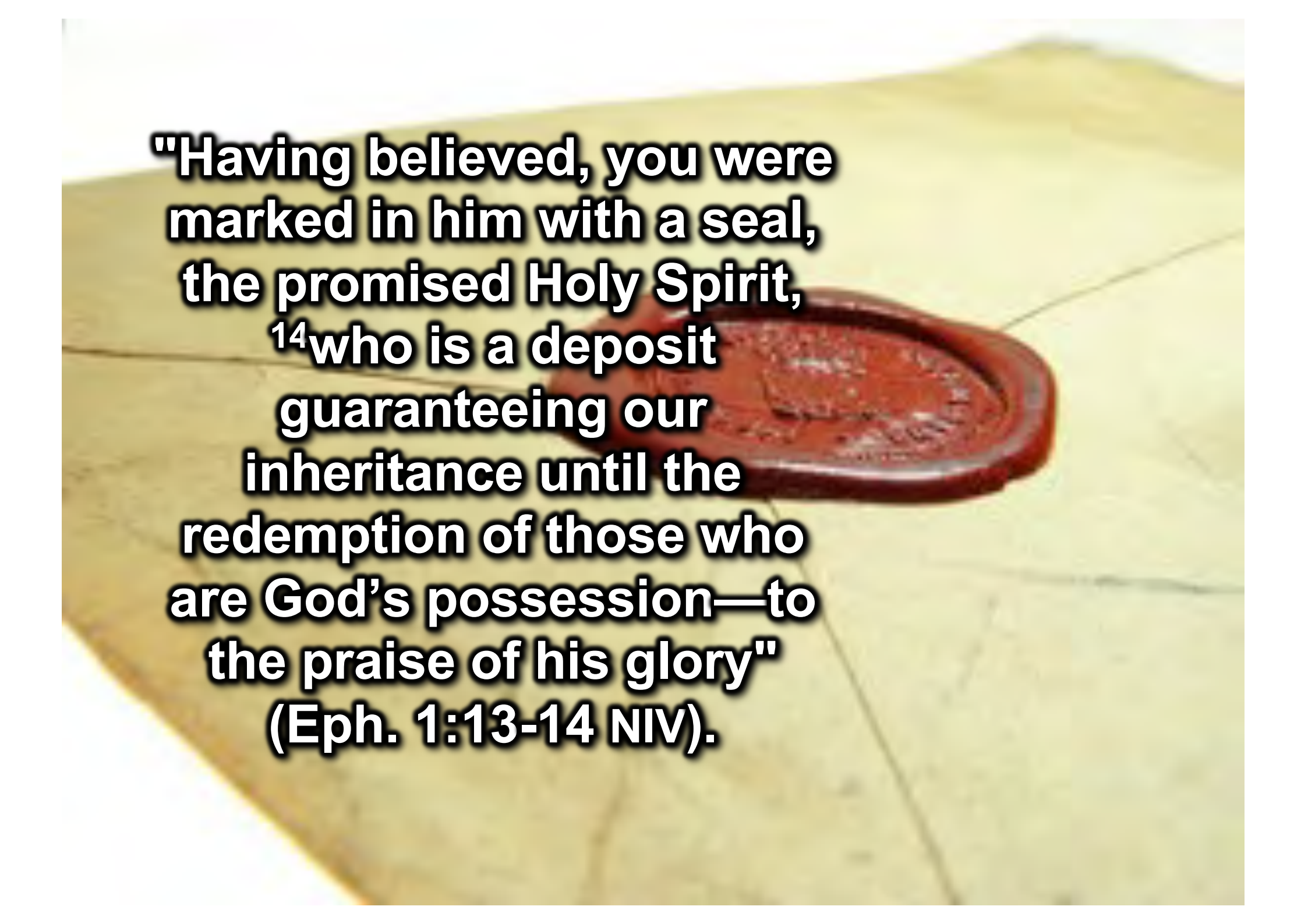
**“All that the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away”
(John 6:37 NIV)**

The Sealing Work of the Spirit



*A Seal Guarantees Security and
Provides Assurance*





"Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit,¹⁴ who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory" (Eph. 1:13-14 NIV).

*Assurance
of
Salvation*

"If you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved"

Romans 10:9-10 NLT

The Nature of Salvation

***Our deliverance from sin
proves our security***

The Believer's Standing Before God Proves Security

296b



Biblical Support for Eternal Security



Assurance in 1 John 5:11-13

296c

Should we
ever doubt?

Should we
ever doubt?

Should we
ever doubt?

And this is what God has testified:
He **has given us eternal life**, and this life is in
his Son. ¹²Whoever has the Son **has life**;
whoever does not have God's Son does not
have life. ¹³I have written this to you who
believe in the name of the Son of God, so that
you may know **you have eternal life.**"

**WE NEED TO ATTAIN GOD'S
RIGHTEOUSNESS—BUT HOW?**



RIGHTEOUSNESS IN ROMANS

God's *Righteousness* by Justification by Faith in Christ—Not the Law

Chapters 1–11

Chapters 12–16

Righteousness Explained

Righteousness Applied

Theological

Practical

What to Believe

How to Behave

Vertical

Horizontal

Relationship to God

Relationship to Others

155h

"It is finished"



Justification (3:24)
God's act of declaring us "not guilty" for our sins, making us right with him

Justice (3:25-26)
The fairness of God where He punishes sin in an individual himself or in a Sinless Substitute (Jesus Christ)

Grace is...

God's
Riches
At
Christ's
Expense

Romans 3:24

No Condemnation (Rom 8:1)! ^{154b}



Security in Romans 8

- **We are not condemned—no Christian will go to hell (8:1)**
- **We are set free from the law of sin and death (8:2)**
- **We possess the Spirit of Christ (8:9)**
- **The Spirit will give us glorified bodies (8:11)**
- **We are adopted into God's family (8:14, 16, 17, 21, 23)**
- **We will receive the redemption of our bodies (8:23)**
- **We have hope that will be fulfilled (8:24-25)**
- **We will be conformed to Christ's likeness (8:29)**
- **All the predestined will eventually be glorified (8:30)**
- **Nothing can separate us from God's love (8:35-39)**
- **We are already more than conquerors over sin (8:37)**

Roman's 3 Tenses of Salvation

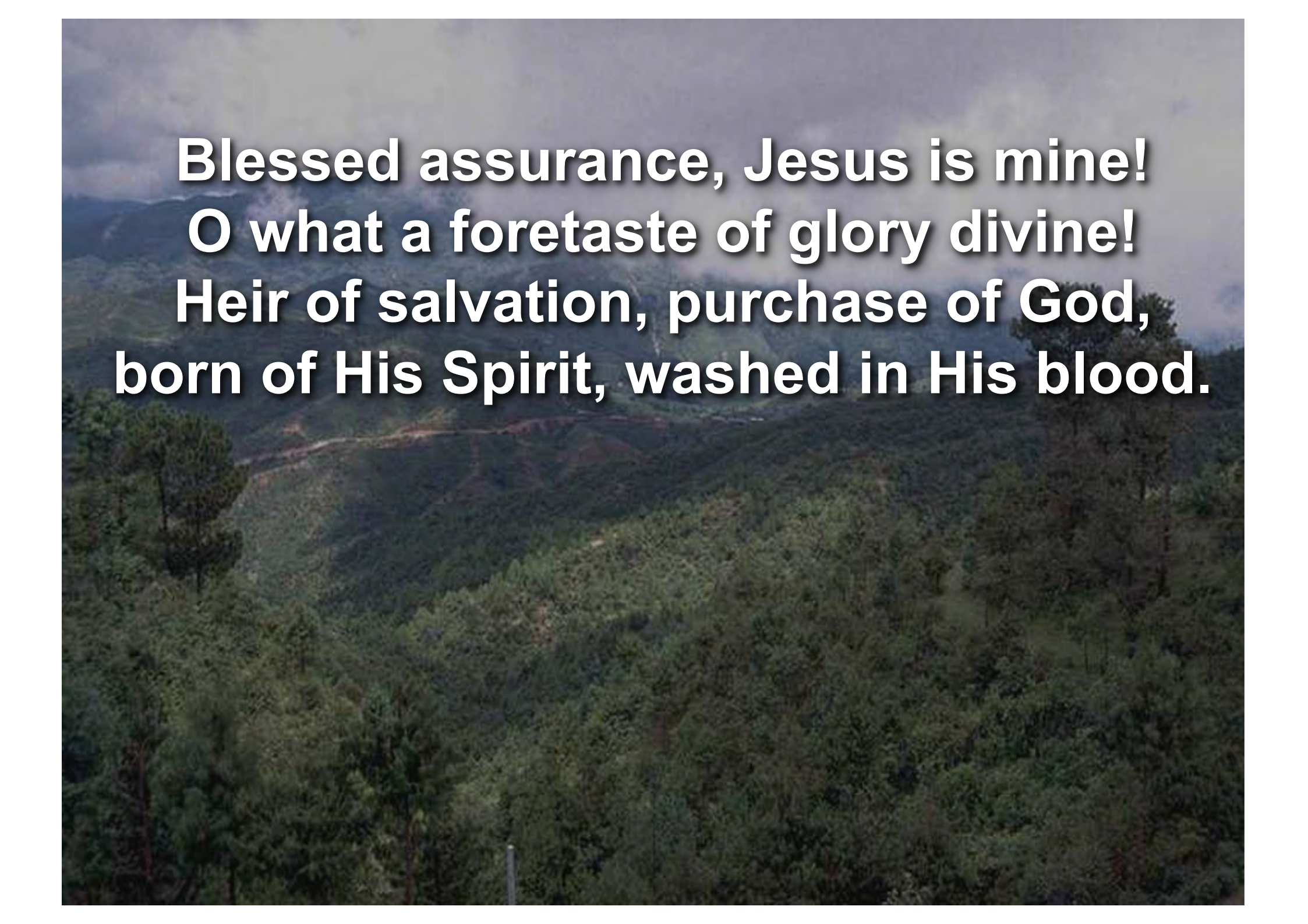
TENSE	MY STATUS	FREE FROM SIN'S...	TIME	DOCTRINE OF...	
Past	I have been saved	Penalty--by His death (3:21-24) Rule--by my death (6:3-7)	When I received Christ	Justification (Positional Sanctification)	
Present	I am being saved	Power--by indwelling Spirit (8:2-14)	As I walk in the Spirit	(Progressive Sanctification)	
Future	I shall be saved	Presence--by redemption of my body (8:22-25)	When I get my new body	Glorification (Final Sanctification)	

Adapted from Kay Arthur, *1 Peter: In & Out* (Precept Ministries, 1990), 13

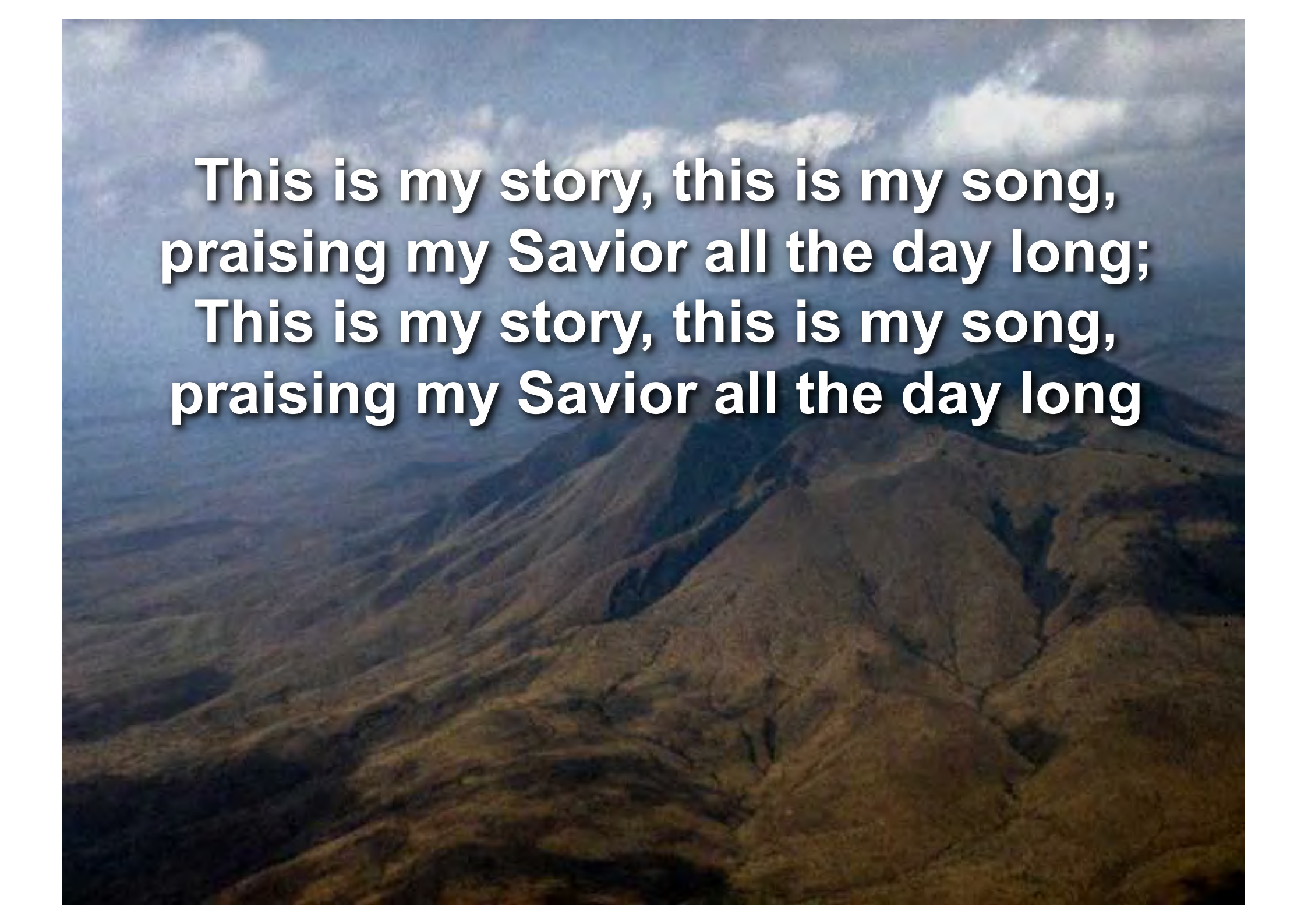
An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The foreground shows rugged, brownish hills with some sparse vegetation. The middle ground features a series of rolling ridges and valleys, leading to more distant, hazy mountain peaks. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright but slightly overcast day. The text is centered over the middle of the image.

Blessed Assurance

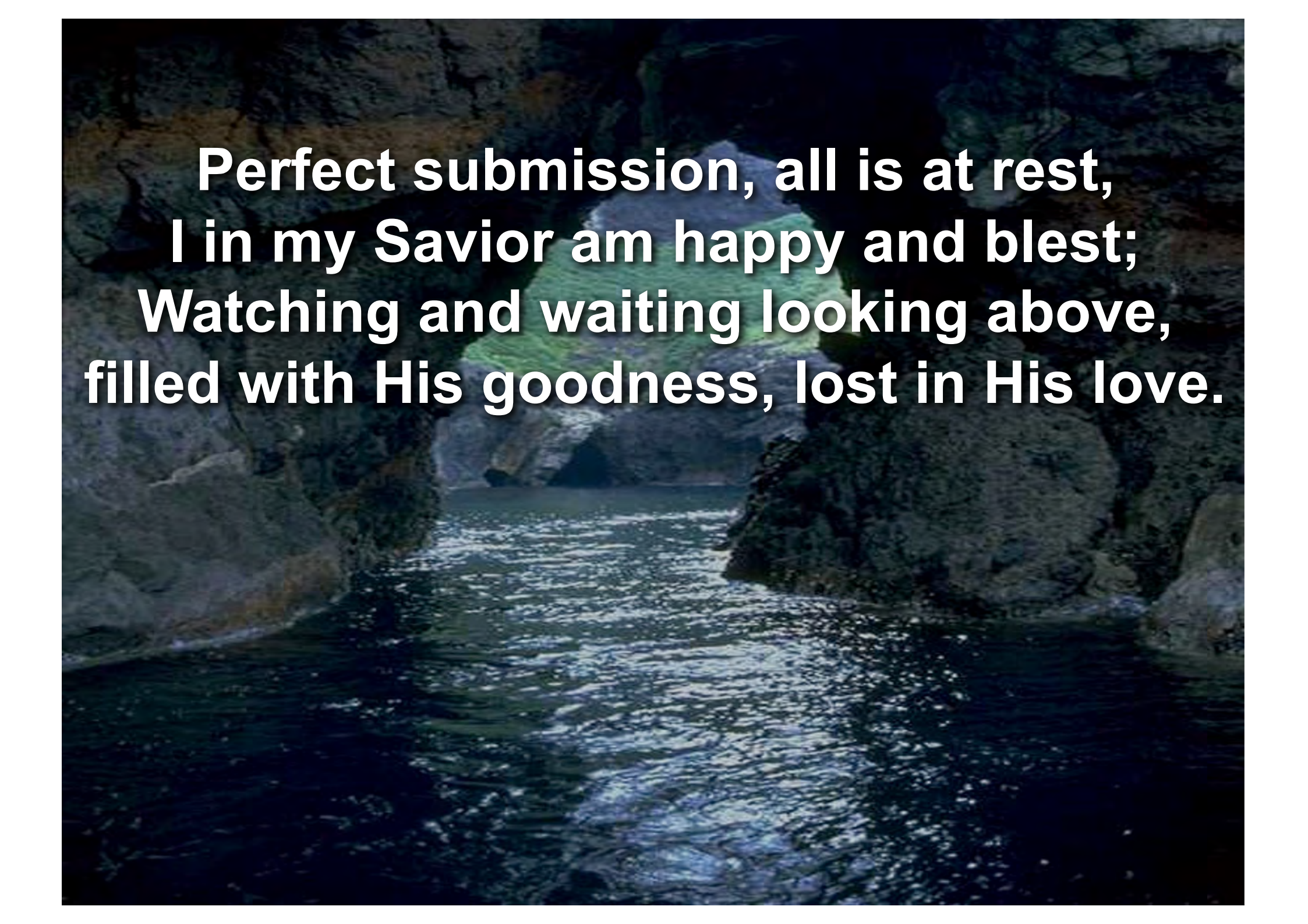
Fanny Crosby

A scenic view of a forested valley with a winding road, overlaid with white text. The background shows a lush green forest covering rolling hills, with a dirt road curving through the landscape. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. The text is centered and reads:

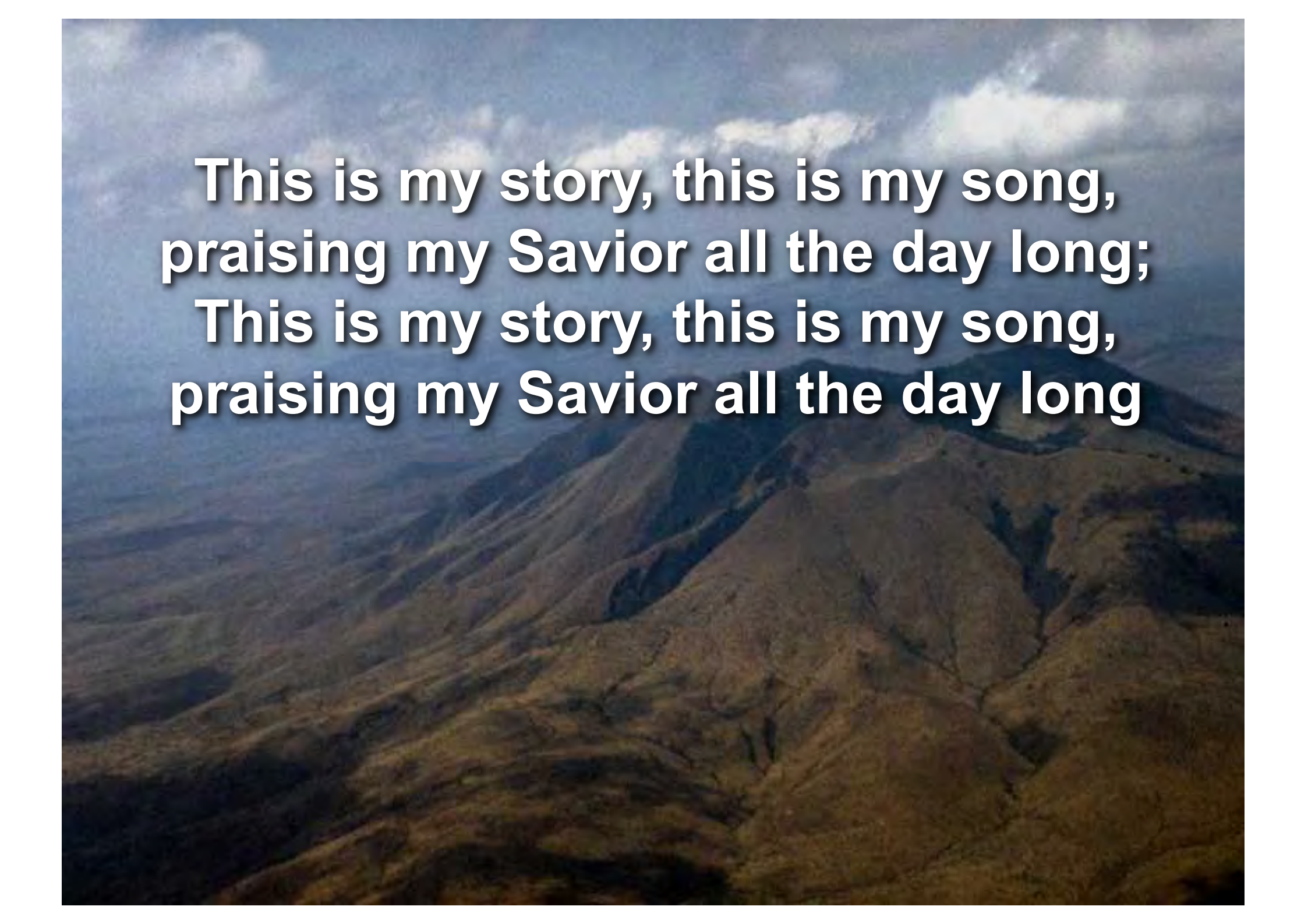
**Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of His Spirit, washed in His blood.**

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range with rolling hills and valleys. The terrain is covered in sparse, dry vegetation, appearing in shades of brown and tan. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, clear day. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image, centered horizontally.

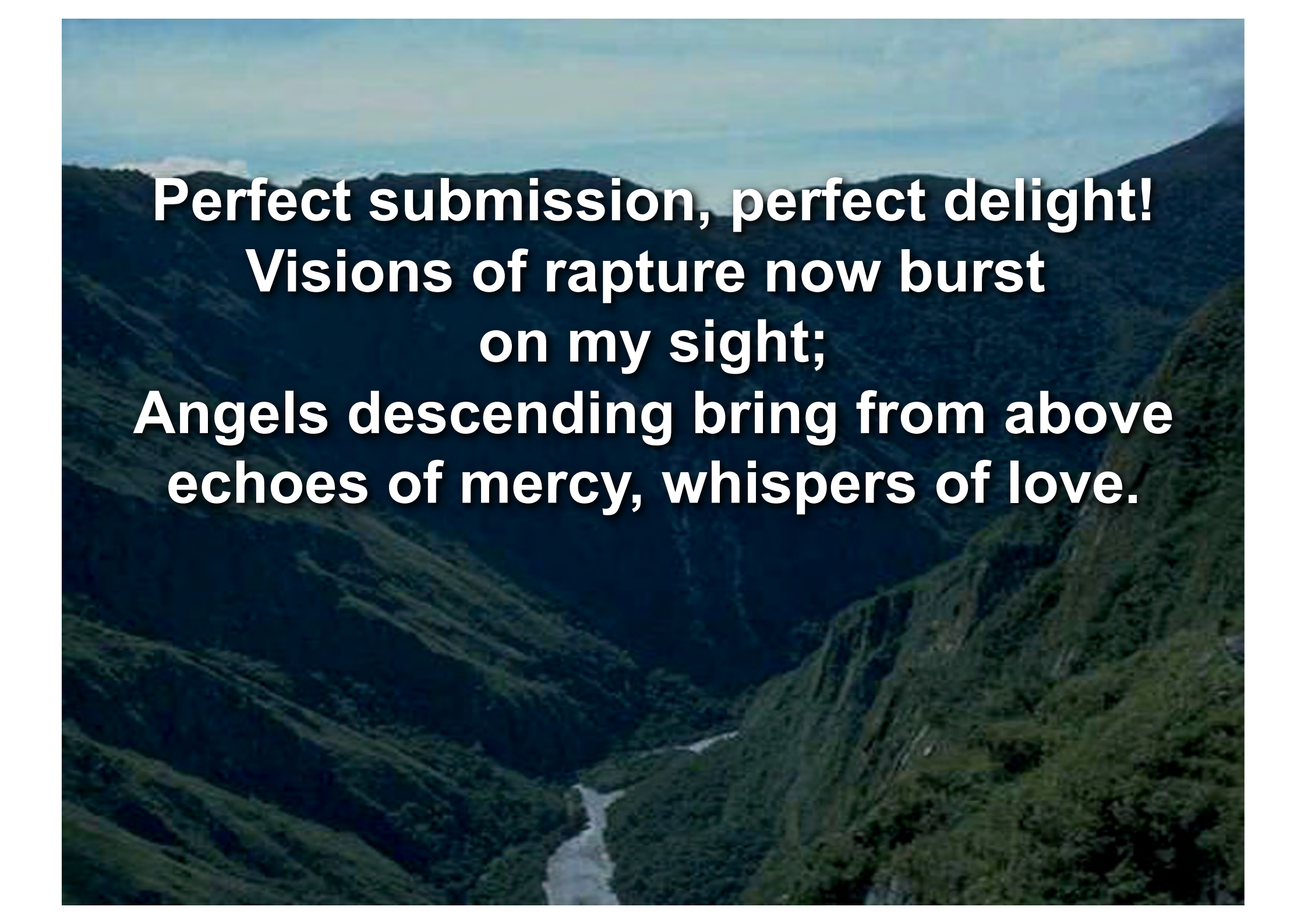
**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long**

A photograph of a narrow, rocky passage leading to a body of water. The rocks are dark and textured, framing the water. In the distance, a bright light source, possibly the sun, is visible through the opening, creating a strong glow and illuminating the water and rocks. The overall scene is serene and peaceful.

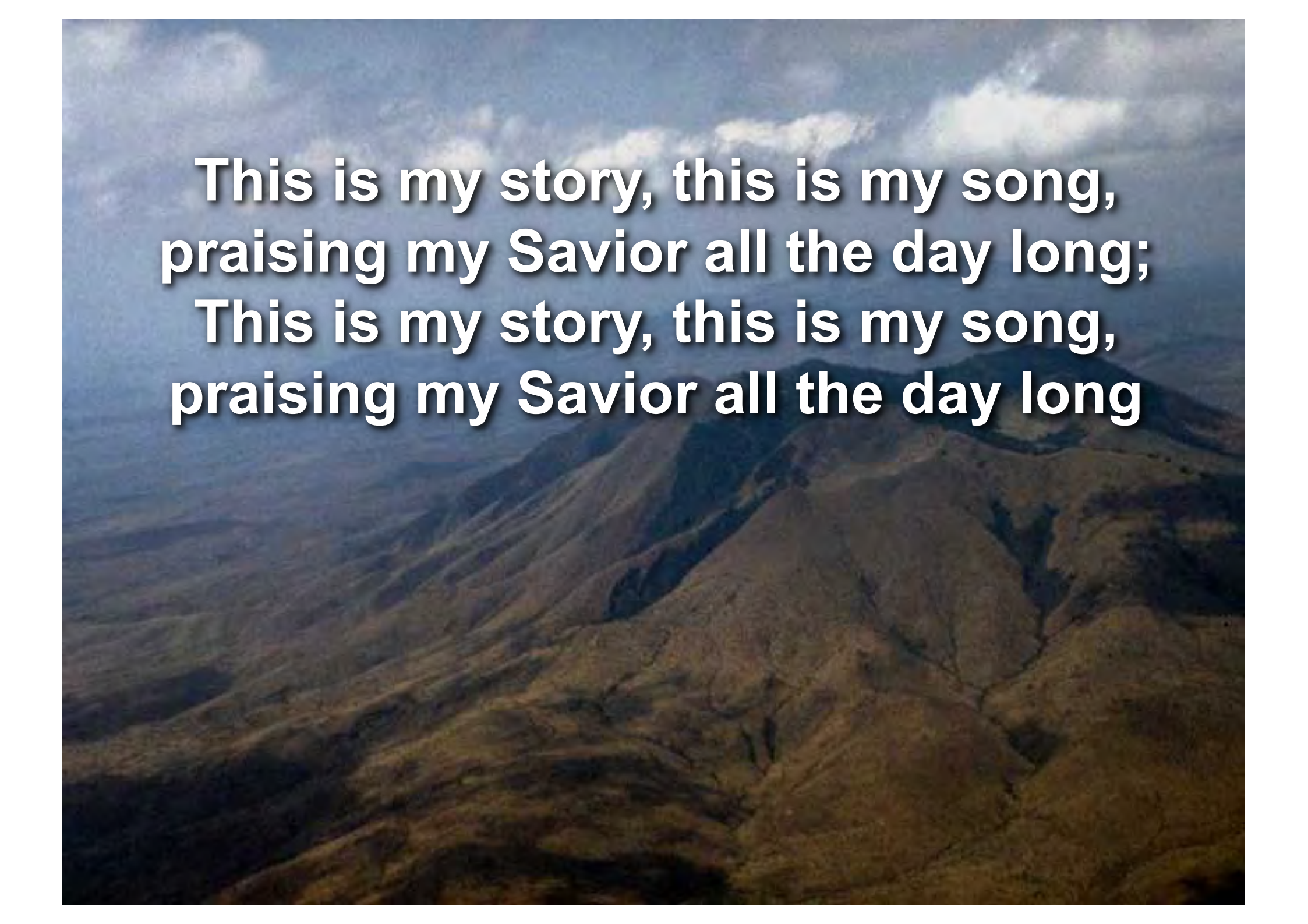
**Perfect submission, all is at rest,
I in my Savior am happy and blest;
Watching and waiting looking above,
filled with His goodness, lost in His love.**

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range. The terrain is rugged and brownish, with a prominent river valley winding through the center. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting is somewhat dim, suggesting an overcast day or late afternoon. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image.

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long**

An aerial photograph of a deep, lush green valley. A river winds through the center of the valley, surrounded by dense vegetation. The valley is flanked by steep, forested hillsides. The sky above is a clear, pale blue. The text is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

**Perfect submission, perfect delight!
Visions of rapture now burst
on my sight;
Angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love.**

An aerial photograph of a vast mountain range with rolling hills and valleys. The terrain is covered in sparse, dry vegetation, appearing in shades of brown and tan. The sky is filled with soft, white clouds, and the overall lighting suggests a bright, clear day. The text is overlaid in the upper half of the image.

**This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long;
This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long**

A Parable on Romans 8:28-30

One day a very *wise* and *skillful sculptor* desired to make a *beautiful marble statute...*

From among the *many possibilities* in the marble quarry he *selected one rough stone* which he would use for this purpose.



- Foreknowledge

He **marked it** and thereby **destined it** for the beautiful finished product which he had in mind. That mark **preserved it** from being discarded and destroyed.



• **Predestination**



Sometime later he sent his ***helper*** to fetch the stone and place it on his own work table.

- **Calling and justification**

Then the ***sculptor began to chisel, rasp, and file*** on that block of rough stone shaping into the ***likeness of the clay model*** that served as his pattern. In the process, however, he did ***nothing to ruin the stone*** and he saw to it that ***no one else marred*** it either.



- Progressive sanctification & eternal security

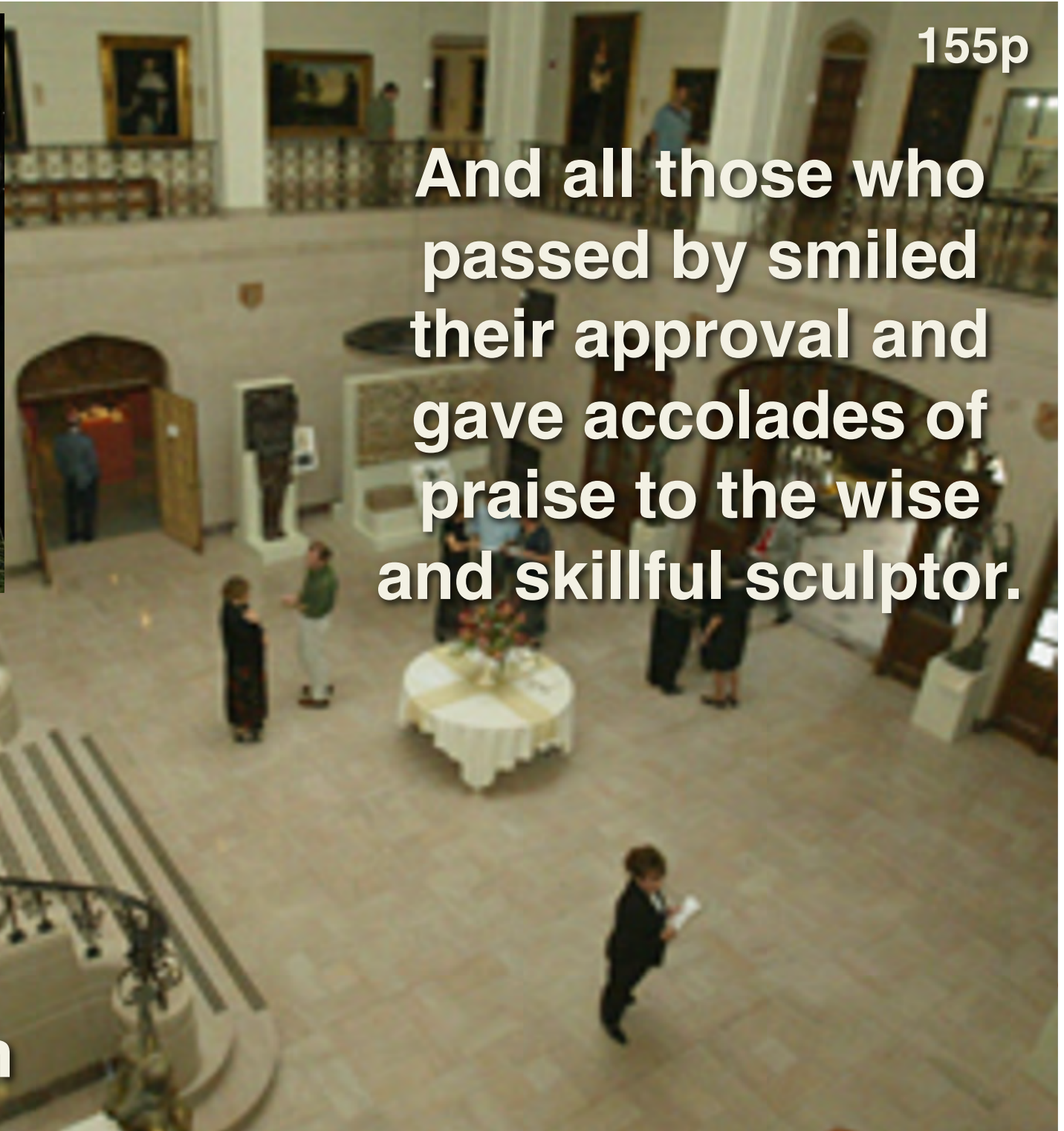
Then one day ***his work was done.*** The ***statue*** was ***complete*** with all its features finely honed in ***full conformity*** with his clay model. The time had come to ***remove it*** from the clutter of the work bench and ***take it to the palace court*** where it would be ***unveiled for public display.***



- Rapture

And all those who passed by smiled their approval and gave accolades of praise to the wise and skillful sculptor.

• Glorification



"In all things God works for good..." (8:28-30)

■ **Glorified**

■ **Justified**

■ **Called**

■ **Predestined**

■ **Foreknew**

III. Realize that obedience produces what you really **need** (5:4-21).

Benefits of Obedience:

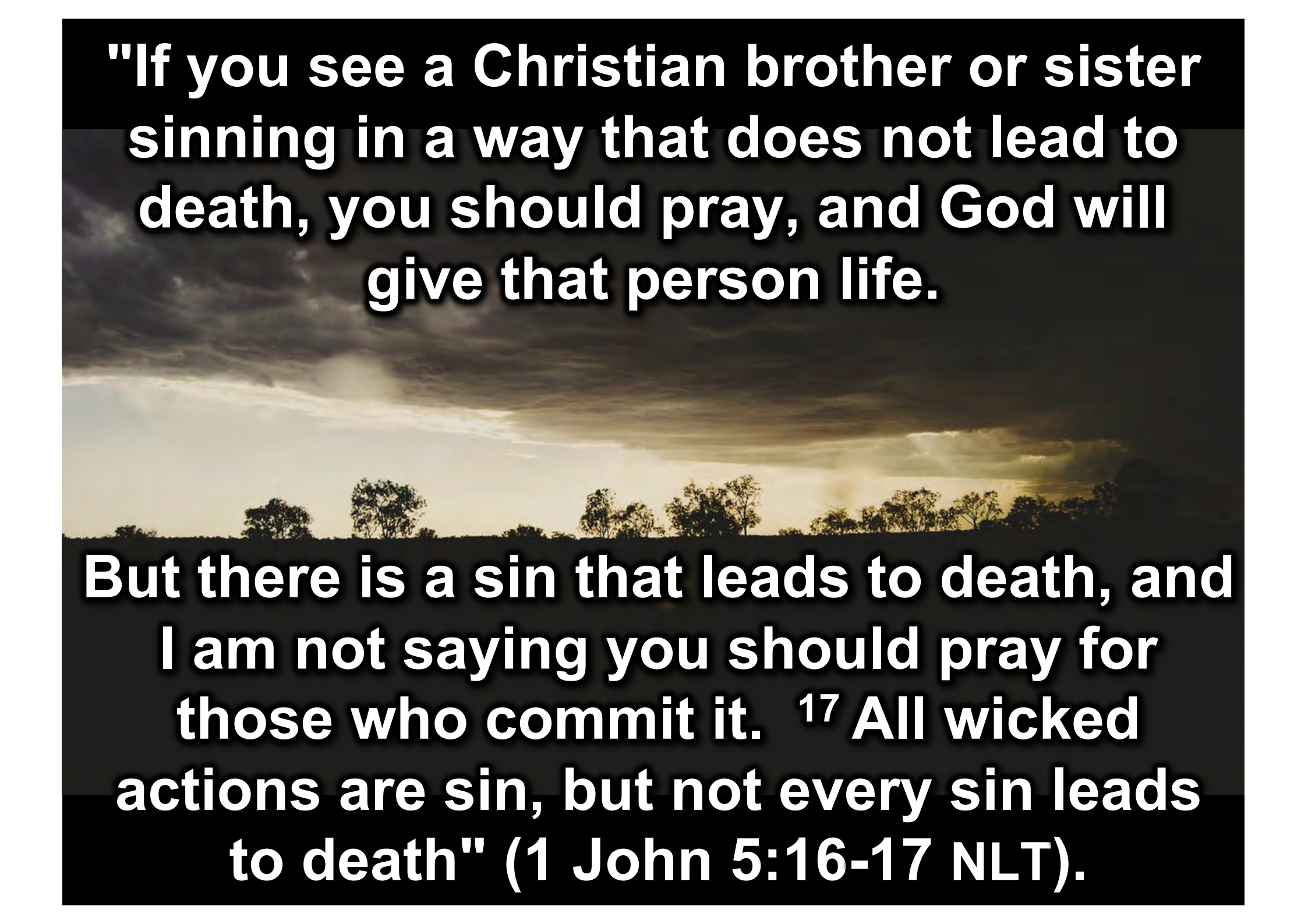
Victory over the world system (5:4-5)

Assurance of salvation (5:6-13)

Guidance in prayer (5:14-17)

"And we are confident that he hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases him. ¹⁵ And since we know he hears us when we make our requests, we also know that he will give us what we ask for" (1 John 5:14-15 NLT).

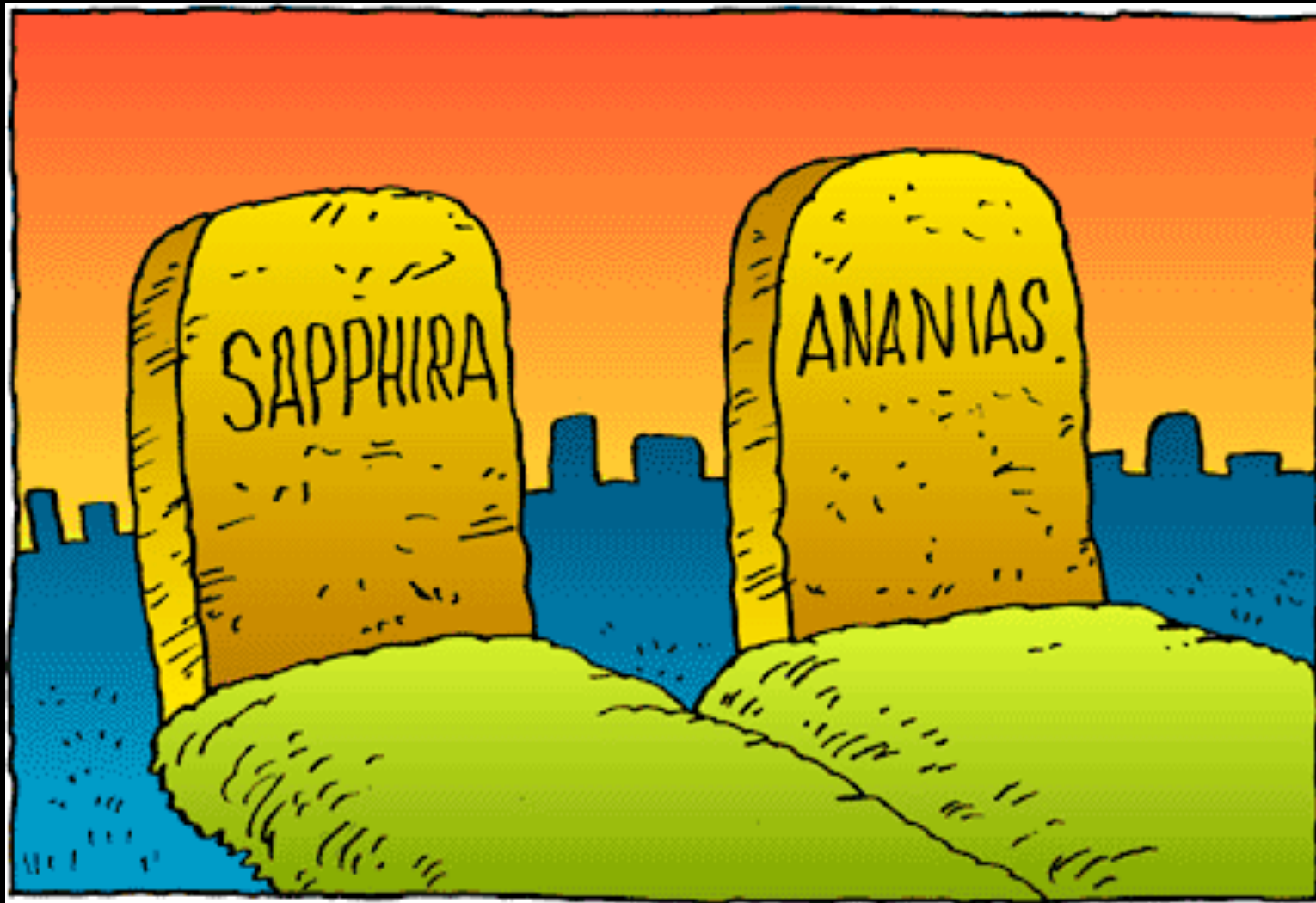




"If you see a Christian brother or sister sinning in a way that does not lead to death, you should pray, and God will give that person life.

But there is a sin that leads to death, and I am not saying you should pray for those who commit it. ¹⁷ All wicked actions are sin, but not every sin leads to death" (1 John 5:16-17 NLT).

**However, there is still
divine discipline...**

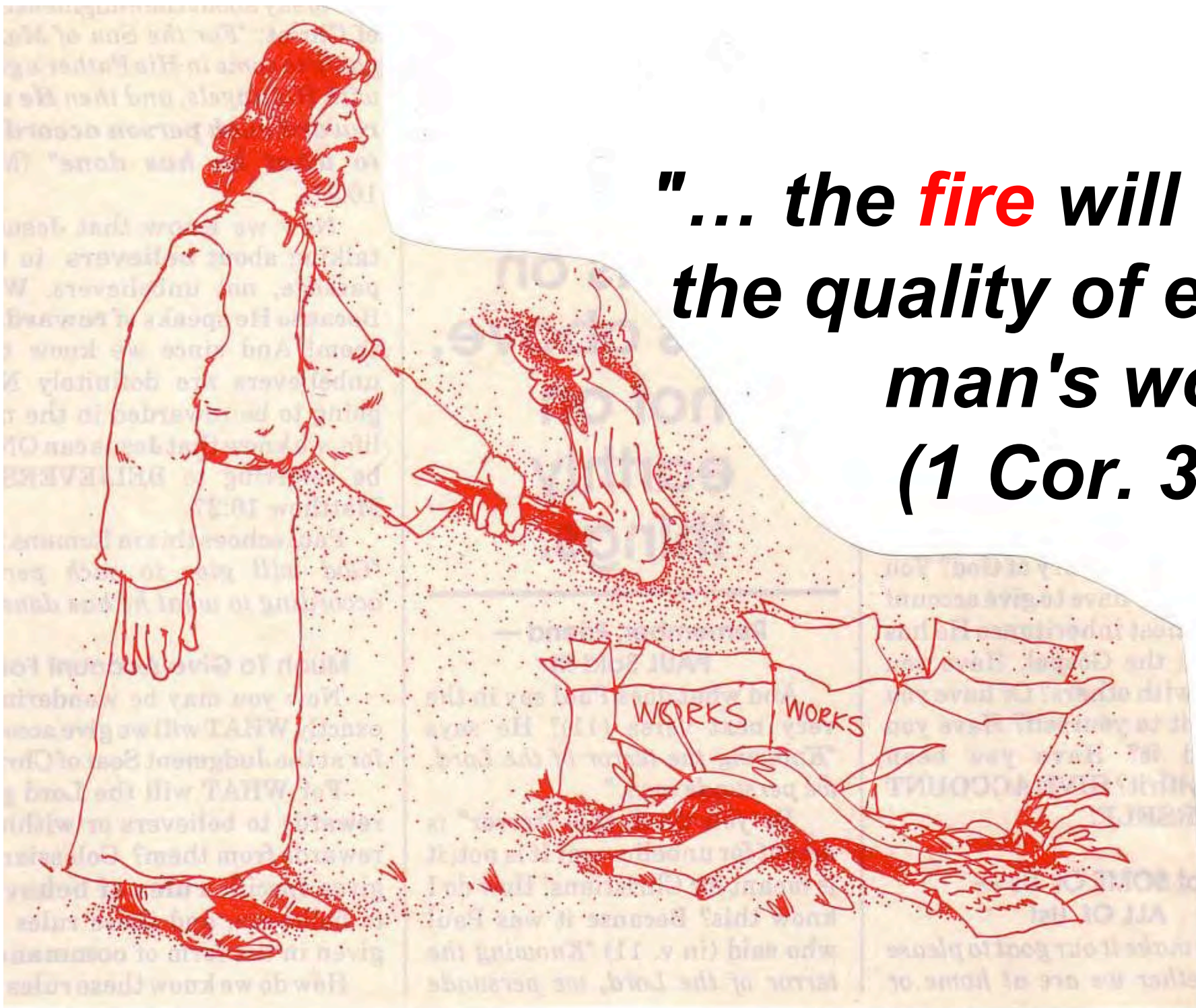


Ananias & Sapphira

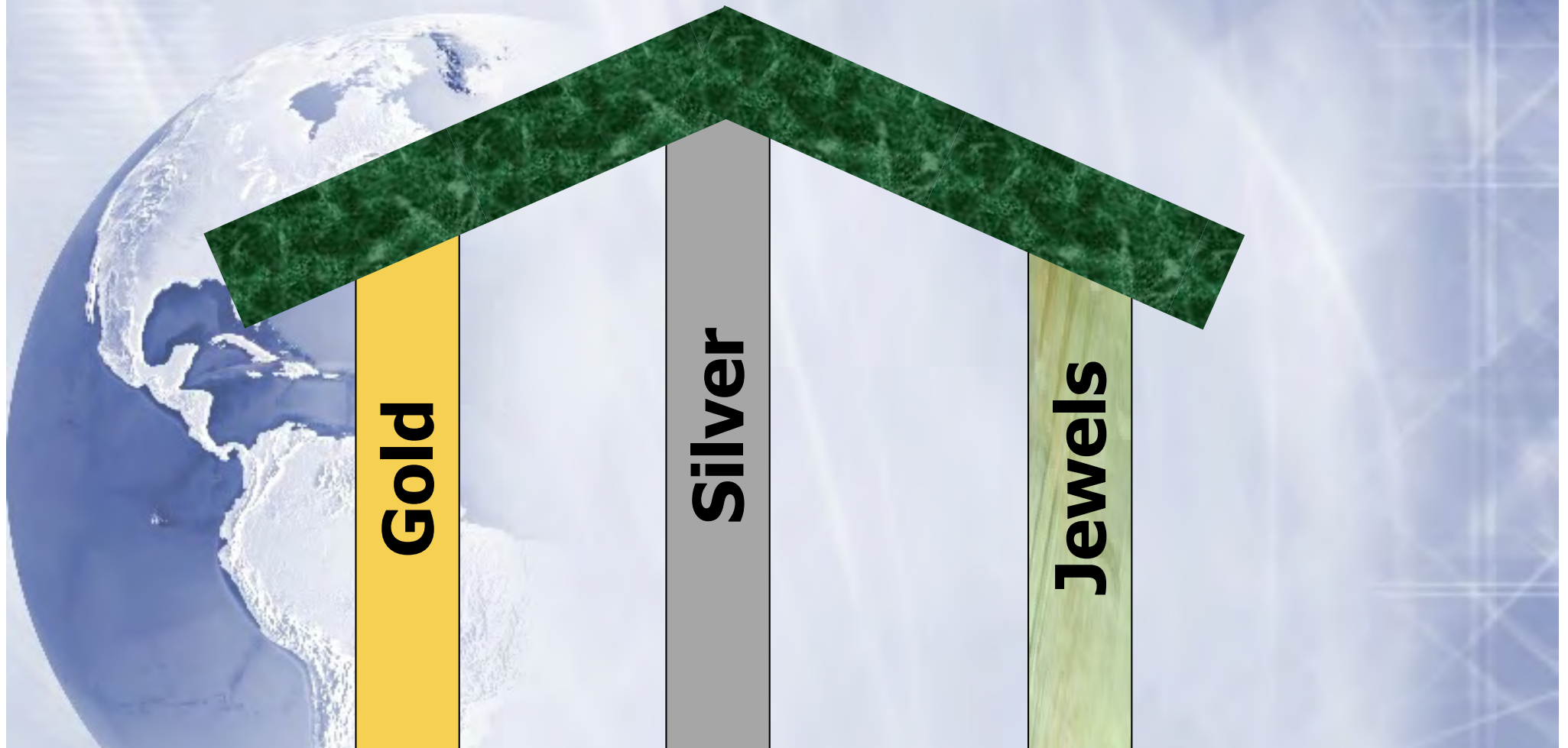


Acts 5

**"... the *fire* will test
the quality of each
man's work"
(1 Cor. 3:13)**



Lasting Building Materials (3:12a)



Foundation: Apostles & Prophets (Eph. 2:20)

Foundation: The Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11)

Perishable Building Materials (3:12b)



Foundation: Apostles & Prophets (Eph. 2:20)

Foundation: The Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor. 3:11)



**"saved
as
through
fire..."
(1 Cor
3:15)**

Believers Can Be “Disqualified”

"Don't you realize that in a race everyone runs, but only one person gets the prize? So run to win! ²⁵All athletes are disciplined in their training. They do it to win a prize that will fade away, but we do it for an eternal prize. ²⁶So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. ²⁷I discipline my body like an athlete, training it to do what it should. Otherwise, **I fear that after preaching to others I myself might be disqualified" (1 Cor. 9:24-27 NLT).**



Christ promises rewards for perseverance (Rev. 3:11b).



"I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown" (NLT).

Rewards can be lost!

"Watch out that you do not lose what we have worked so hard to achieve. Be diligent so that you receive your full reward" (2 John 8 NLT)



1 Corinthians 11:27-29 (NIV)

²⁷Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. ²⁹For **anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.**

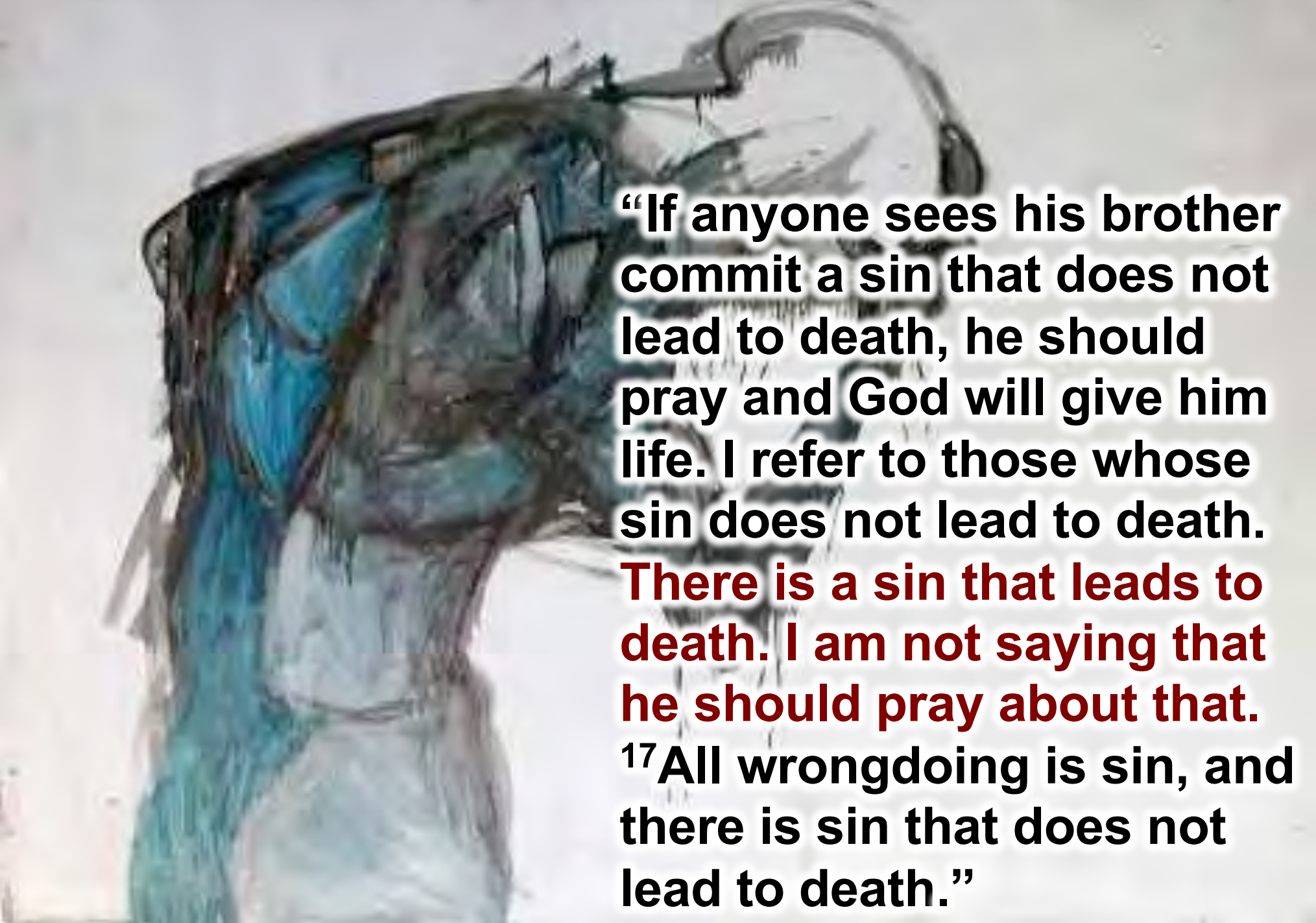


1 Corinthians 11:30-32 (NIV)

³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. ³² When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.



Some sin leads to premature death (1 John 5:16-17 NIV)



“If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that. ¹⁷All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death.”

III. Realize that obedience produces what you really **need** (5:4-21).

Benefits of Obedience:

Victory over the world system (5:4-5)

Assurance of salvation (5:6-13)

Guidance in prayer (5:14-17)

Freedom from habitual sin (5:18-20)

How much can a believer sin (1 John 5:18)?

NLT (cf. NIV)

"We know that God's children do not make a **practice of sinning**, for God's Son holds them securely, and the evil one cannot touch them."

Habitual

NAU (cf. NET)

"We know that no one who is born of God **sins**; but He who was born of God keeps him, and the evil one does not touch him."

Absolute

III. Realize that obedience produces what you really **need (5:4-21).**

Benefits of Obedience:

Victory over the world system (5:4-5)

Assurance of salvation (5:6-13)

Guidance in prayer (5:14-17)

Freedom from habitual sin (5:18-20)

**Fidelity to God by avoiding idolatry
(5:21)**

Derek Tidball

Preacher, keep yourself from idols



*"Keep yourself
from idols"*



1 John 5:21 (NIV)

"Dear children, keep away from anything that might take God's place in your hearts" (1 John 5:21 NLT).



I D O L S

American Idol has **9 million** facebook fans... that's **2 million** more than God.



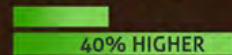
By the time the average American youth becomes **65 years** old, they will have spent **14 years** of their life watching TV compared to **1 year** spent in church and Sunday School even if they faithfully attend.



40% of Americans admit that they live beyond their means. **98%** of the U.S.'s **\$798.3 billion** is made up of **credit card debt**. Adults 55 and older are **73%** more likely to have credit card debt than younger adults.



Divorce rates are **40% higher** in marriages where a spouse is a **workaholic**.



In the U.S., **85.8%** of males and **66.5%** of females work more than **40 hours** per week.



In a survey of **1600 managers** from multiple companies, **half** continuously check their **work email** during vacation and before bedtime. **26%** admit to bringing their **mobile device** to bed with them.



According to statistics reported by ABC News, nearly **30%** of students are either **bullies** or **victims** of bullying, and **160,000** kids stay home from school **every day** because of fear of bullying.



One-third of teenage males feel pressure from their friends to have **sex**.

8 out of 10 people in the U.S. suffer from an **eating disorder**. **90%** of this number are **women**.



Adults over the **age of 45** are **three times** more likely to **drink alcohol every day** than younger people due to changes such as **retirement** or **bereavement**.



People spend **46.7%** of their time thinking about something other than what they are actually doing.

40 million people in the U.S. will experience an **impairment** because of an **anxiety condition** this year.

"Yesterday is gone. Tomorrow has not yet come. We have only today. Let us begin."

Mother Teresa

1 in 50 children in the U.S. are **homeless**. **90%** of homeless and runaway children are from **fatherless** homes.



For the **1.9 billion** children from the developing world, there are:

- 640 million** without adequate shelter (**1 in 3**)
- 400 million** with no access to **safe water** (**1 in 5**)
- 270 million** with no access to **health services** (**1 in 7**)

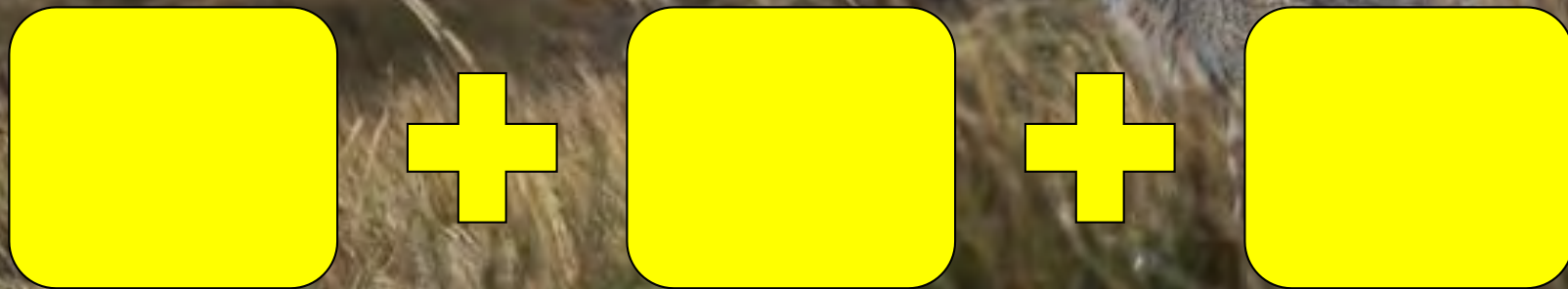


15% of depressed people will commit **suicide**.



Over **44 million** people in America categorize themselves as **lonely**.

How can you avoid
straying into false
teaching?



1 John

HOW CAN YOU...

1 John

Obey

God's commands

(1-2)

Love

others

(3:1-5:3)



AVOID



STRAYING



Realize that obedience produces

what you really need

(5:4-21)

...INTO FALSE TEACHING?

I. **Obey** God's commands (1–2).

Believe in Christ's humanity for fellowship and joy (1:1-4).

Depend on Jesus (1:5–2:14).

Avoid two hindrances to obedience to fight early Gnosticism (2:15-29).

1 John

II. Love others (3:1–5:3).

Don't sin (3:1-10)

Don't hate believers (3:11-15)

Show compassion (3:16-20)

Be confident before God (3:21-24)

Obey apostolic teaching (4:1-6)

Care for believers (4:7-21)

Obey God's commands (5:1-3)

1 John

III. Realize that obedience produces what you really **need (5:4-21).**

Benefits of Obedience:

Victory over the world system (5:4-5)

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**Fidelity to God by avoiding idolatry
(5:21)**

1 John

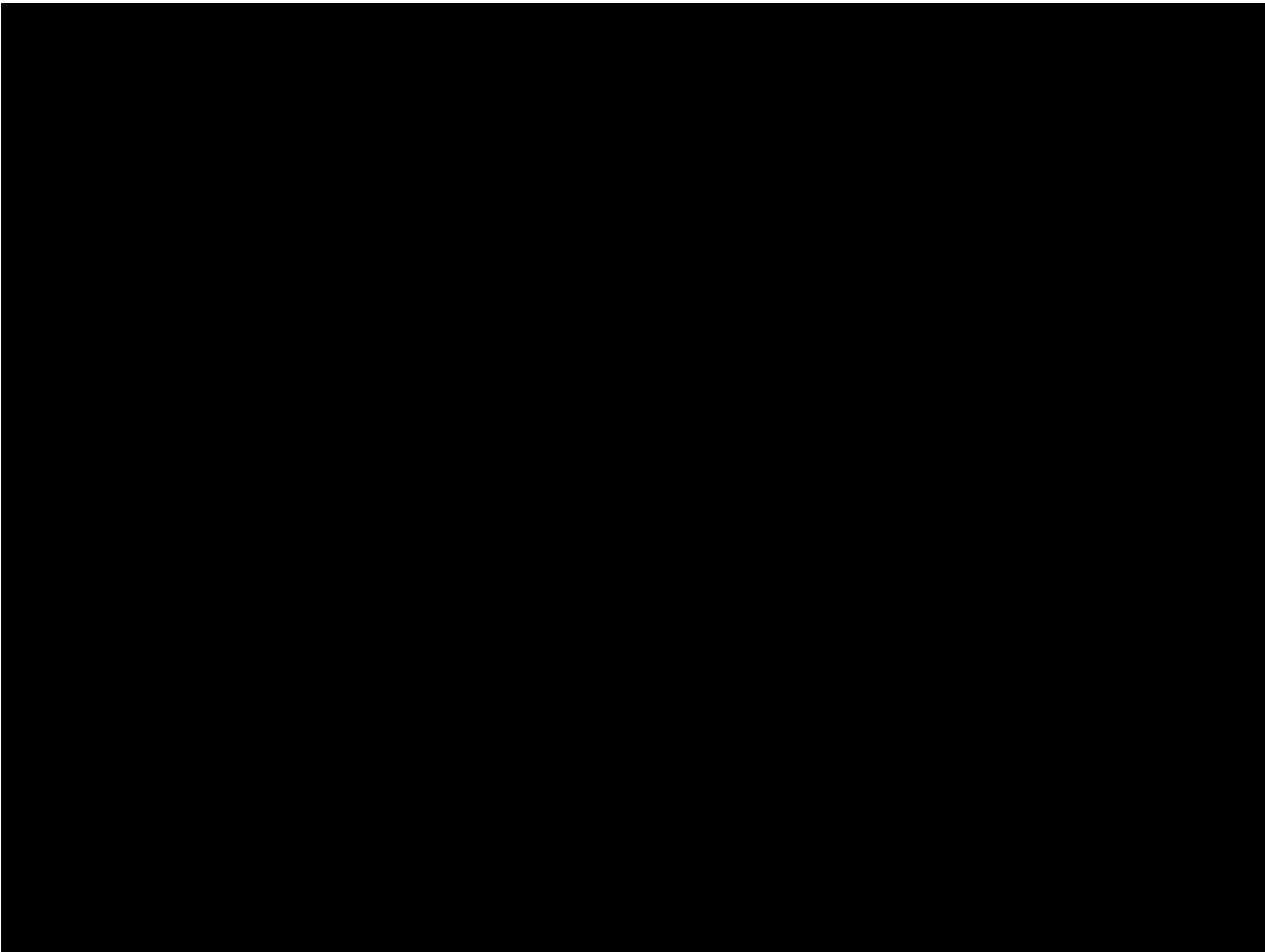
Main Idea of the Letter

**Obey God and love others and
you'll have what you really
need instead of false teaching.**

1 John

- **How** can you **show love** to another believer so that heresy might be thwarted?
- **Whom** do you know that **needs** to see Christian love shown in order to turn from false teaching?





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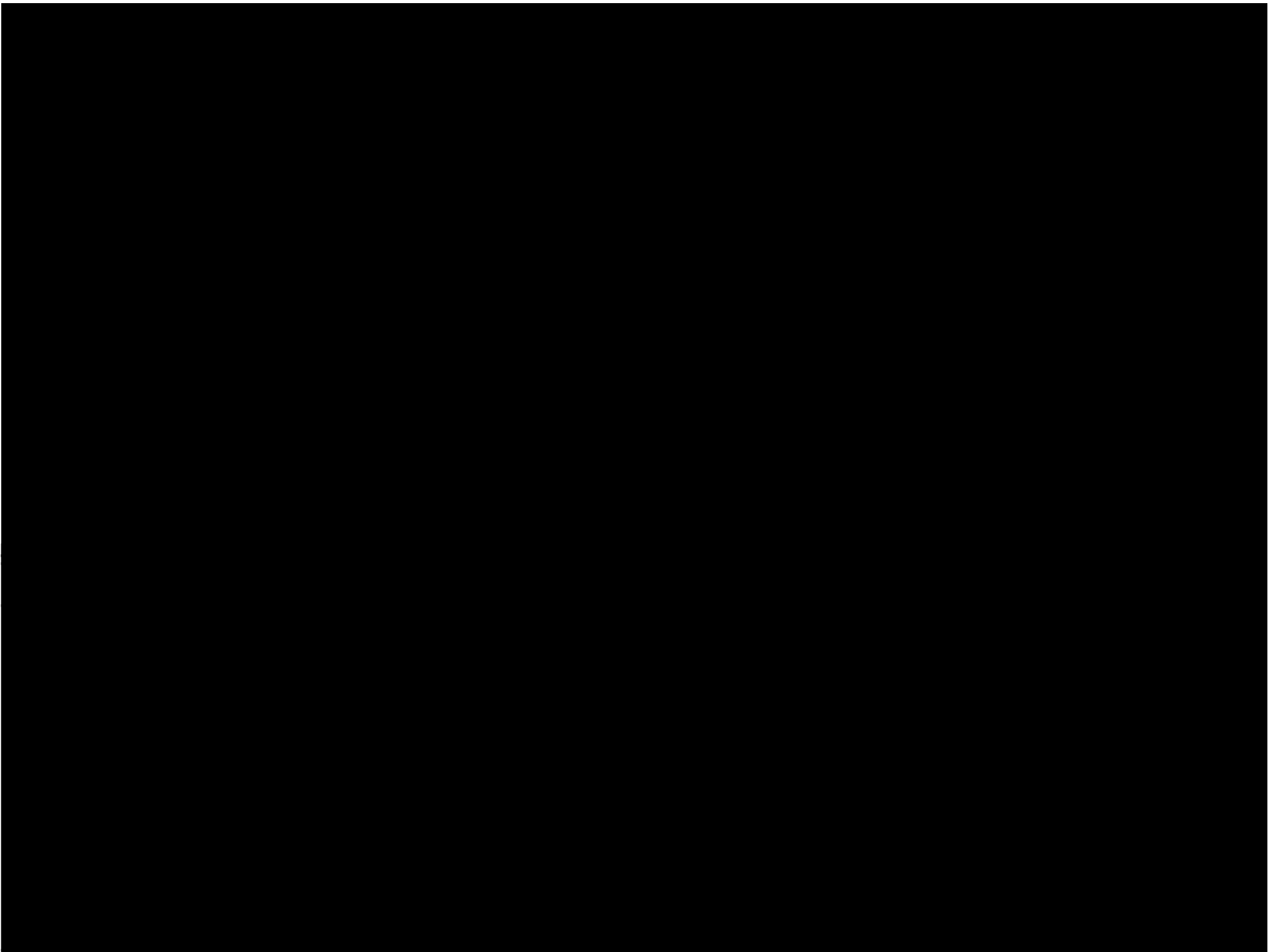
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