



# The Doctrine of **Election**

***Soteriology: God's Rescue Program***

# Defining Election

**God's choice of an individual or group for a specific purpose or destiny**



**YA KNOW, I'M STARTING TO  
FEEL LIKE IT'S MEANT FOR  
ME TO DECK YOU!**

**OH YEAH? WELL,  
WHATEVER YOU CHOOSE  
TO DO, BUDDY!**



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**A Calvinist and an Armenian square off...**

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***A Calvinist and an Arminian square off...***

# Armenian or Arminian?



# Predestination

notrecinema.com



PREDESTINATION

# Election has no conditions

**T**otal Depravity

**U**nconditional Election

**L**imited Atonement

**I**rresistible Grace

**P**erseverance of the Saints



# Five Unbreakable Links in God's Plan of Salvation

51



Foreknown  
Predestined  
Called  
Justified  
Glorified

**God's Golden Chain**

**Eternity  
(Past)**

**Eternity  
(Future)**

# Five Unbreakable Links in God's Plan of Salvation

51

**"And we know that He [God] works all things [even trials and suffering, cf. vv. 18, 35-36] together [in constructive harmony] for good [our spiritual benefit in being conformed to the character beauty of Christ, cf. v. 29] to those who love God [as viewed from the human side], to those who are called ones according to His purpose [as viewed from the divine side]" (Romans 8:28).**

# Five Unbreakable Links in God's Plan of Salvation

51

"[We know this] because those whom He [God] **foreknew** [in electing grace], He also **predestined** [His predetermined goal] to take on and have the likeness [inwardly and outwardly] of His Son in order that He [the Son, Jesus Christ] might be the firstborn [the preeminent One] among many brothers [those who are sons/children of God, cf. vv. 14-16]"  
(Romans 8:29).

# Five Unbreakable Links in God's Plan of Salvation

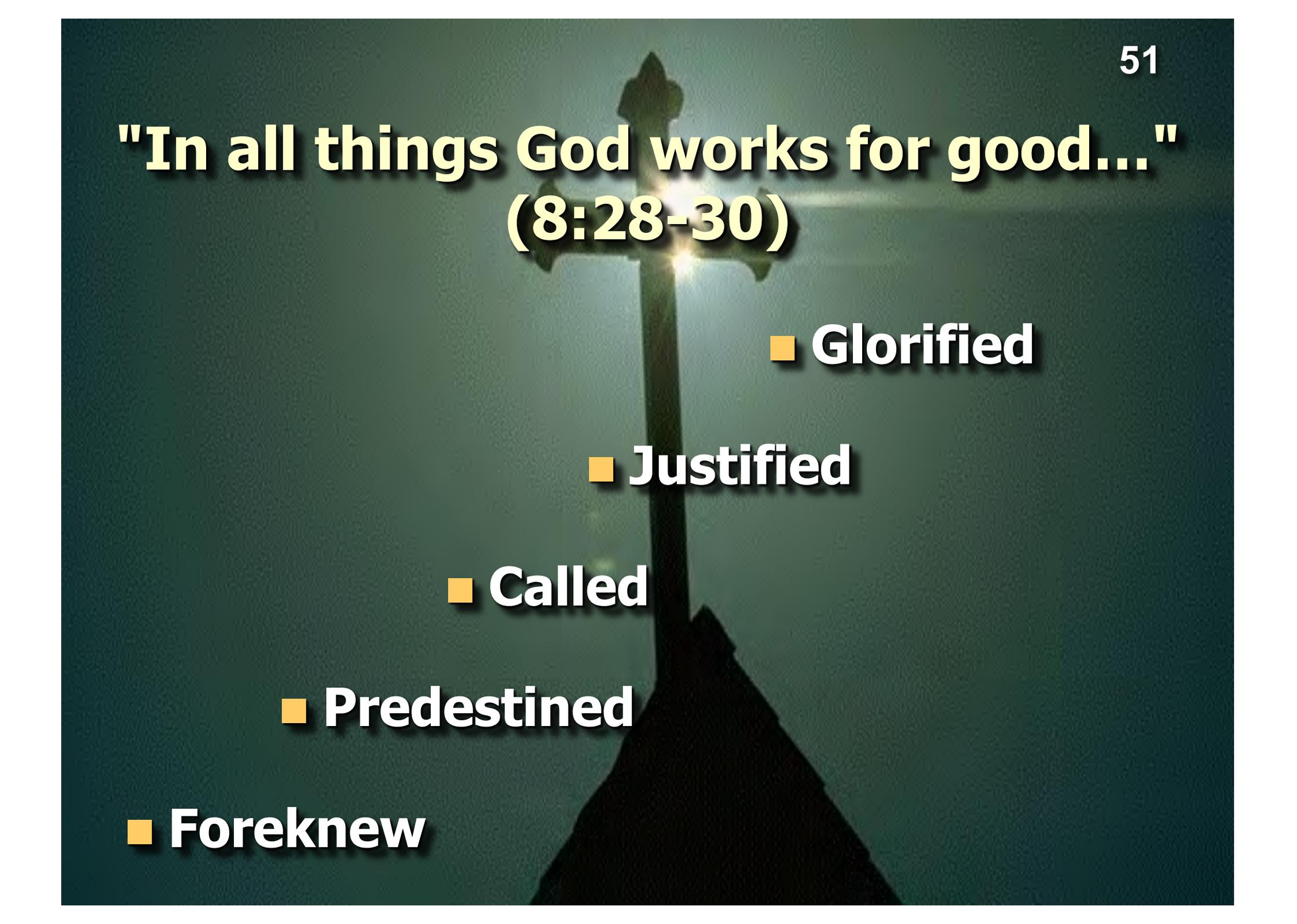
51

"and those whom He [God] predestined, these [without the loss of one] He also **called** [the effectual, conversion-producing call to which a person responds with the obedience of faith, cf. Rom. 1:5; 10:16; 15:18; 16:26]"  
(Romans 8:30a).

# Five Unbreakable Links in God's Plan of Salvation

51

"and those whom he called, these [without the loss of one] He also **justified** [God's gift of a right standing before Him received by faith, cf. Rom. 5:1], and those whom He justified, these [without the loss of one] He also **glorified** [an already certain event (cf. v. 29) though not yet realized and thus still future]"  
(Romans 8:30b).



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

■ **Glorified**

■ **Justified**

■ **Called**

■ **Predestined**

■ **Foreknew**

**Have a seat, Kermit. Want I'm about to tell you might come as a big shock...**



# 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 it 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

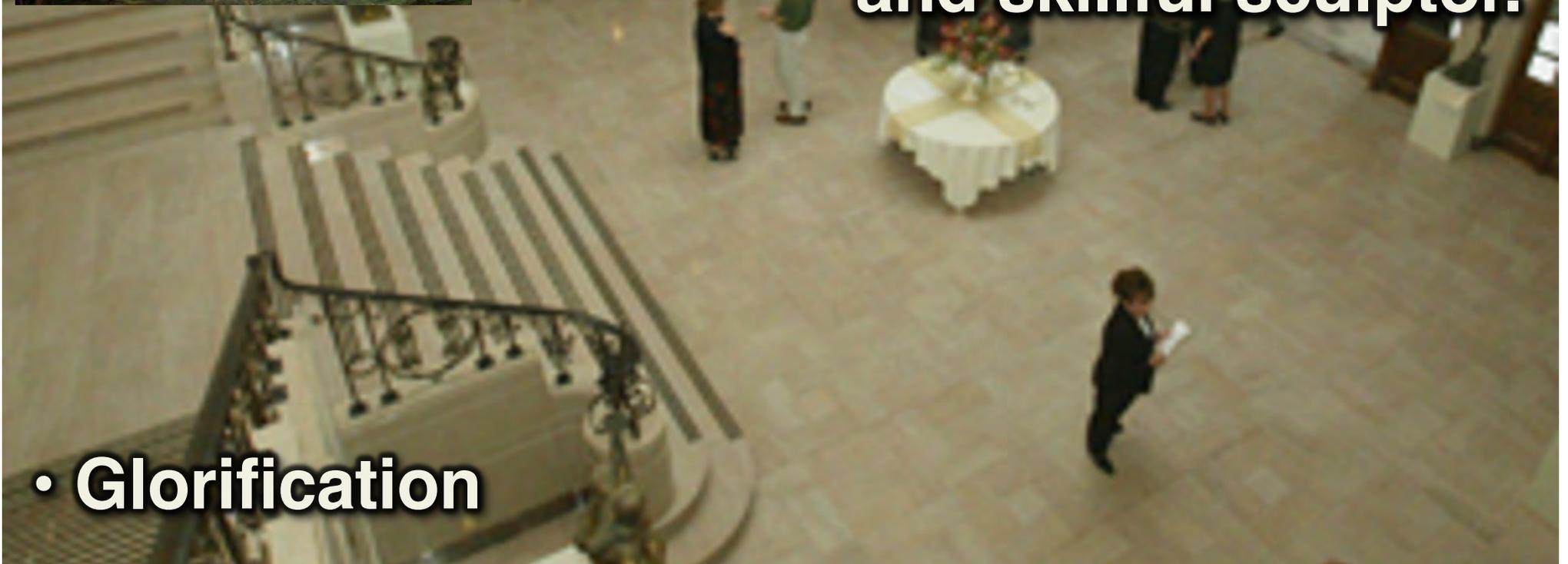
Then one day ***his work was done.*** The ***statue*** was ***complete*** with all its features finely honed in ***full conformity*** with his clay model. The time had come to ***remove it*** from the clutter of the work bench and ***take it to the palace court*** where it would be ***unveiled for public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



- Rapture

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

**• Glorification**



**"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)**



## Theological Words in Romans

<b>Election</b>	<b>Romans 9:10-13</b>	<b>God's choice of an individual or group for a specific purpose or destiny</b>
<b>Justification</b>	<b>Romans 4:25; 5:18</b>	<b>God's act of declaring us "not guilty" for our sins, making us "right" with him</b>
<b>Propitiation</b>	<b>Romans 3:25</b>	<b>God removing punishment for sin by the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ so that God's righteous anger is satisfied</b>
<b>Redemption</b>	<b>Romans 3:24; 8:23</b>	<b>Jesus Christ has paid the price so we can go free. The price of sin is death; Jesus paid the price with his blood.</b>
<b>Sanctification</b>	<b>Romans 5:2; 15:16</b>	<b>Becoming more and more like Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit.</b>
<b>Glorification</b>	<b>Romans 8:18, 19, 30</b>	<b>The believer's final state of being in complete conformance to the character of Jesus Christ in a resurrected body that will last forever (1 John 3:2).</b>

The image features a decorative border at the top and bottom consisting of a repeating Greek key (meander) pattern in shades of brown and gold. The background is a textured, parchment-like surface in a warm, aged brown color.

**"For I am convinced that neither death,  
nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor  
any other created thing, will be able to  
separate us from the love of God,  
which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."**

**Romans 8:38-39 (NAU)**

The image features a decorative border at the bottom consisting of a repeating Greek key (meander) pattern in shades of brown and gold, matching the top border.



**I'm going to  
HEAVEN!  
Sorry...  
all seats  
are taken.**

# Is God's election fair?



**"Are we saying, then, that God was unfair? Of course not! <sup>15</sup>For God said to Moses, 'I will show mercy to anyone I choose, and I will show compassion to anyone I choose.'  
<sup>16</sup>So it is God who decides to show mercy. We can neither choose it nor work for it"  
(Romans 9:14-16 NLT).**





**"For the Scriptures say that God told Pharaoh, 'I have appointed you for the very purpose of displaying my power in you and to spread my fame throughout the earth.'**

**<sup>18</sup>So you see, God chooses to show mercy to some, and he chooses to harden the hearts of others so they refuse to listen"  
(Romans 9:17-18 NLT).**

**"Well then, you might say,  
'Why does God blame  
people for not  
responding? Haven't they  
simply done what he  
makes them do?"**



**<sup>20</sup>No, don't say that. Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, 'Why have you made me like this?'"  
(Romans 9:19-20 NLT).**

**"When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn't he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into?"  
(Romans 9:21 NLT).**



**"In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction. <sup>23</sup>He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory. <sup>24</sup>And we are among those whom he selected, both from the Jews and from the Gentiles" (Romans 9:22-24 NLT).**



# RIGHTEOUSNESS IN ROMANS

Theme	Needed	Provided	Imparted	Proved	Applied	Disseminated
Intro 1:1-17	Condemnation 1:18– 3:20	Justification 3:21– 5:21	Sanctification 6–8	Election 9–11	Transformation 12:1– 15:13	Propagation 15:14– 16:27
Start	Sin	Salvation	Set Apart	Sovereignty	Service	Send

# MAKE HIM FAMOUS

around the corner and around the world

Are all the following people  
**really** condemned without  
Christ?

Condemned?



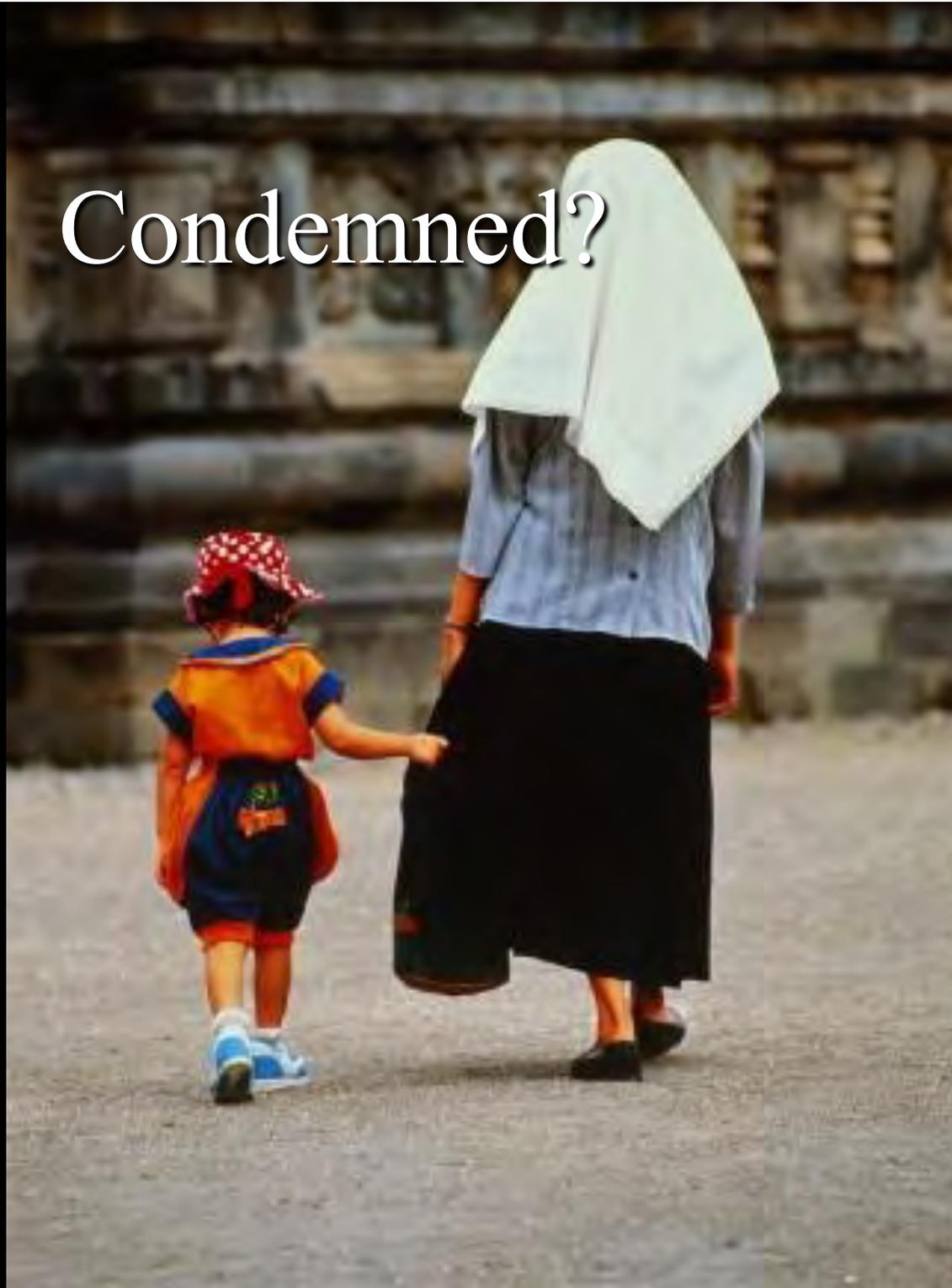
Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



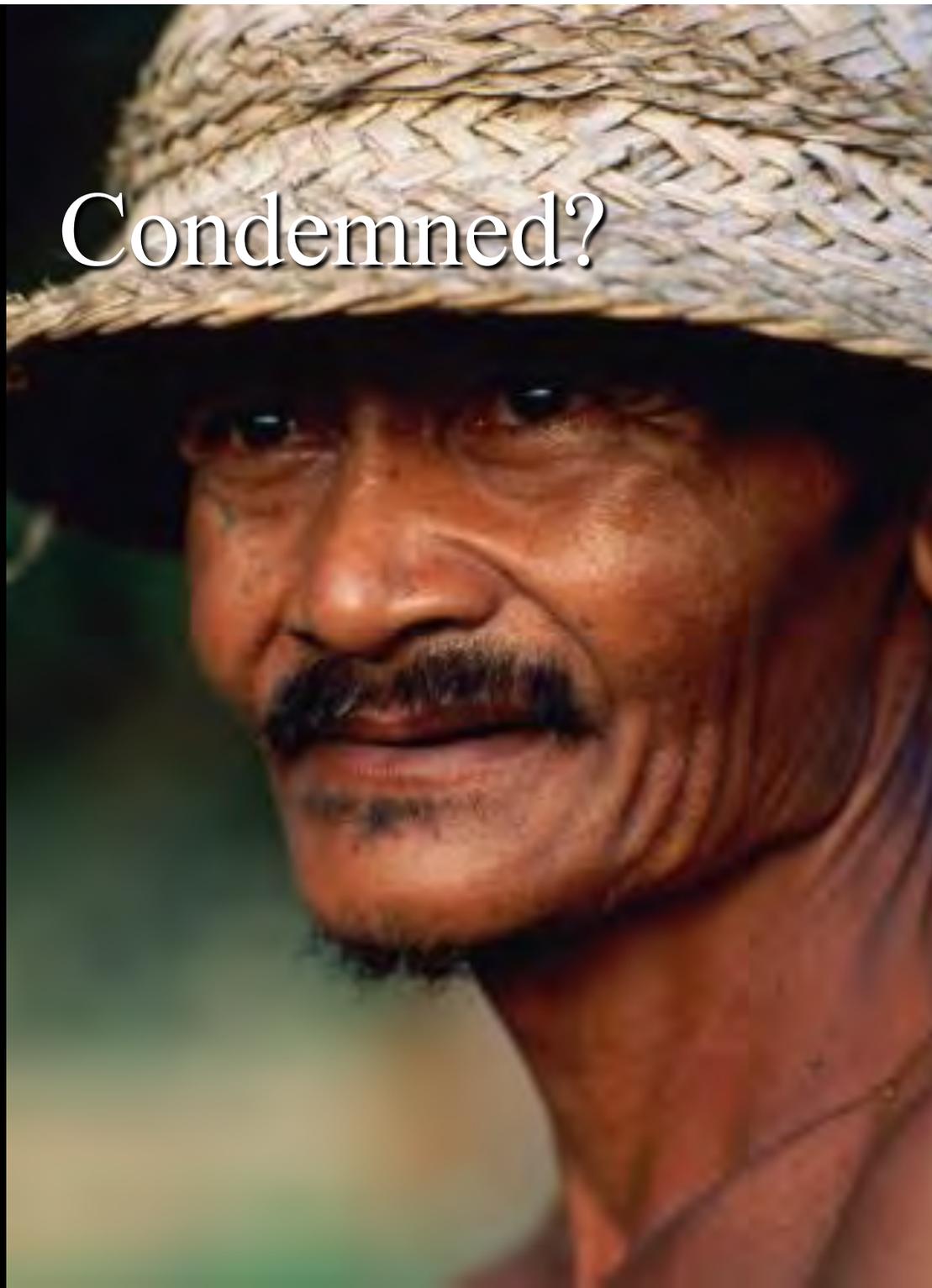
Condemned?





Condemned?

Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



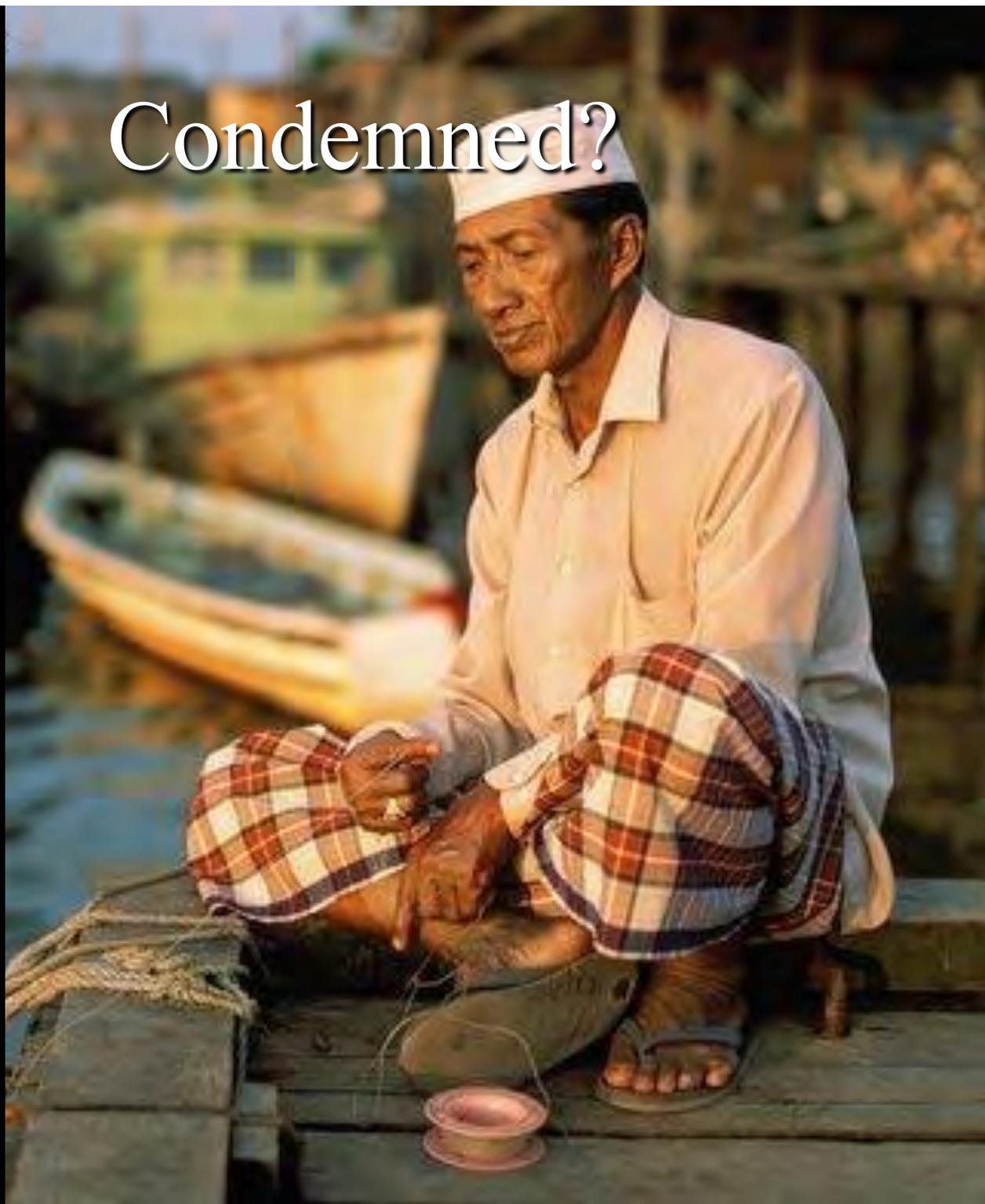
Condemned?





Condemned?

Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?

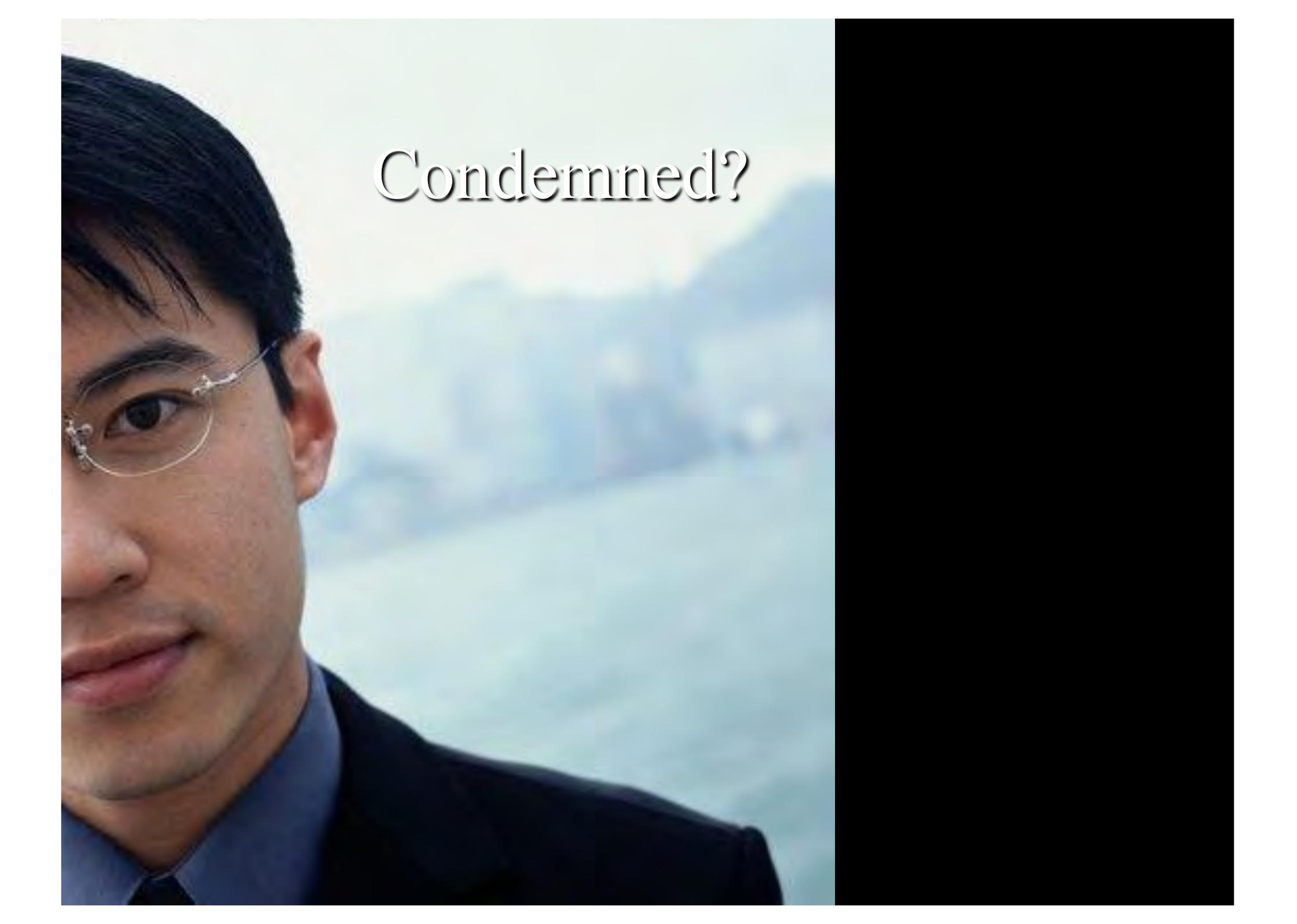


Condemned?



A photograph of three young people (two men and one woman) smiling and looking towards the camera. They are positioned on a rooftop or balcony, with their arms raised and hands touching. The background shows a cityscape with buildings and a clear sky. The image is oriented vertically, with the people's heads at the top. The text "Condemned?" is overlaid in the center of the image.

Condemned?



Condemned?

Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



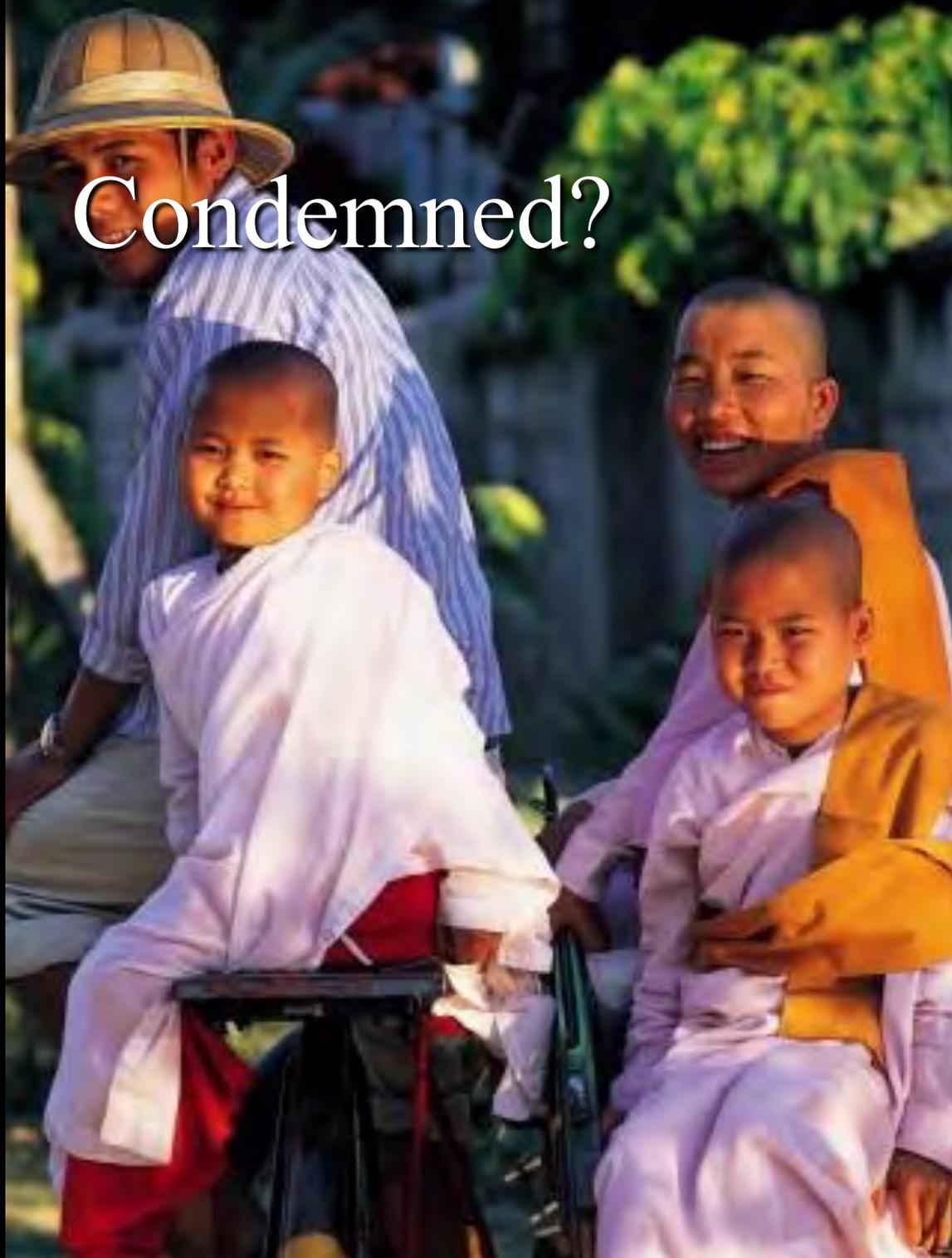
Condemned?



# Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



# Condemned?



Condemned?



Condemned?



# MAKE HIM FAMOUS

around the corner and around the world

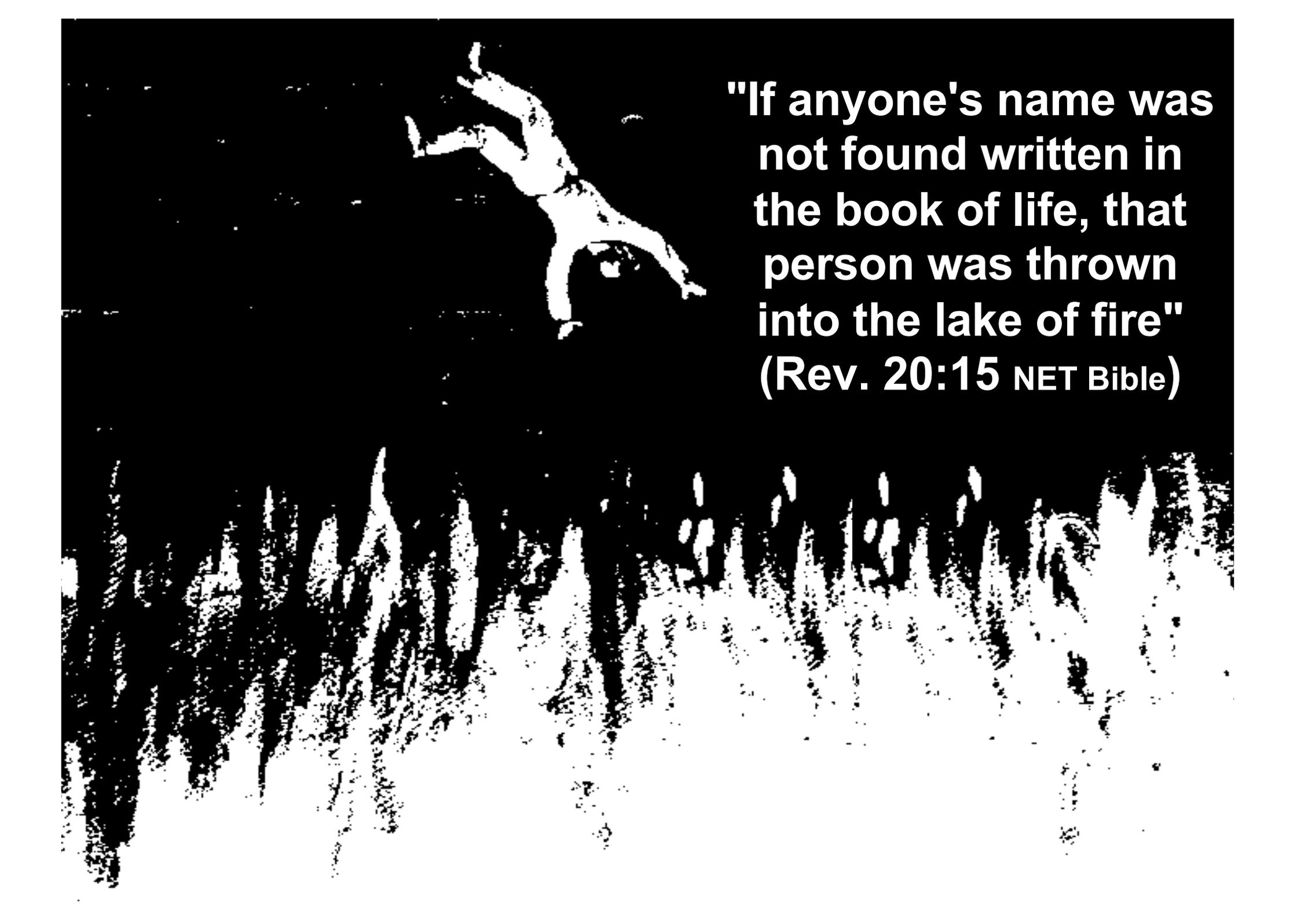
Are all the preceding people  
**really** condemned without  
Christ?

# What About the Unreached?



A digital illustration of a hellish landscape. The scene is dominated by intense red and orange colors, suggesting fire and lava. In the foreground, there are jagged, dark, rocky formations. A single human skull is placed on a small mound of dark earth in the center of the scene. The background features a bright, yellowish-green glow, possibly representing a source of light or fire. The overall atmosphere is one of torment and suffering.

**Hell: What if  
it's Real?**

A high-contrast, black and white image depicting a person falling into a lake of fire. The person is in mid-air, with their arms and legs outstretched, appearing to be falling from the top left towards the center. Below them, a large, intense fire rages, with numerous bright, vertical flames reaching upwards. The background is dark, making the fire and the falling figure stand out prominently. The overall scene is dramatic and apocalyptic.

**"If anyone's name was  
not found written in  
the book of life, that  
person was thrown  
into the lake of fire"  
(Rev. 20:15 NET Bible)**

# Attacks on Hell



**Universalism**  
**Annihilationism**  
**Purgatory**

# Universalism



**What is it?**

**Arguments cited**

**Rebuttals**

LOVE WINS

A BOOK ABOUT  
HEAVEN, HELL AND  
THE FATE OF  
EVERY PERSON  
WHO EVER LIVED

ROB BELL

## Recent Universalism



**Of his 10,000-member Grand Rapids Mars Hill Bible Church, 3000 left after the book, then Bell himself left for California to run a "faith-inflected talk show"**





**"Then I saw a  
great white  
throne..."  
(20:11)**

# The Lake of Fire (20:14-15)



# Annihilationism



**What is it?**

**Arguments cited**

**Rebuttals**

# Annihilationist Groups

- **Seventh-Day Adventists**
- **Jehovah's Witnesses**
- **Some "Evangelicals"?**



# Annihilationist Arguments

Rebuttals

- God is too nice to send people to eternal hell

God is absolutely just and holy

- "Destruction" implies annihilation

"Destruction" refers to physical death

# Church of England Report, January 1996

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- "Hell as ultimate non-being is the way in which we've put it. The horrible demons are the imaginations of inventors and medievalists."

Bishop John Taylor

One of the authors of the report

52  
pt. b

# Purgatory

What is it?



52  
pt. b

## Arguments Cited for Purgatory

- "Not good enough for heaven but not bad enough for hell"
- 2 Maccabees



52  
pt. b

# Rebuttals to Purgatory

- **Salvation by works**
- **Apocrypha**
- **No second chance**

# The "It's sincerity that counts most" argument

52  
pt. c



**Another view...**

**52  
pt. d**

**Responding in  
faith to the  
light received**

**=**

**God saves  
them based on  
Christ's death**



**The only proper response to the state of the unevangelized is that they indeed are lost without Christ. This is supported in several ways...**

# God's Wrath (Romans 1:18-20)

- **The Reality (18a)**
- **The Reason (18b-20a)**
- **The Result (20b)**

52  
pt. a



WHY YOU ARE  
**WITHOUT** **EXCUSE**

ROMANS 1:20

Romans 1:20

52  
pt. a

**Person who  
is Limitless**

**Person who is  
Supernatural**

For since the creation of the world  
God's invisible qualities-- his  
eternal power and divine nature—  
have been clearly seen, being  
understood from what has been  
made, so that men are without  
excuse (NIV).

# Romans 1:20

52  
pt. a

Since the start of creation... people have = literal 24-hour days  
seen God

For ~~since the creation~~ of the world  
God's invisible qualities-- his  
eternal power and divine nature--  
~~have been clearly seen~~, being  
understood from what has been  
made, so that men are without  
excuse (NIV).



**IT'S  
YOUR  
CHOICE**



# Why God is Angry at Gentiles (Rom. 1:21-32)

52  
e.1)b]

Ignore God (21-23)

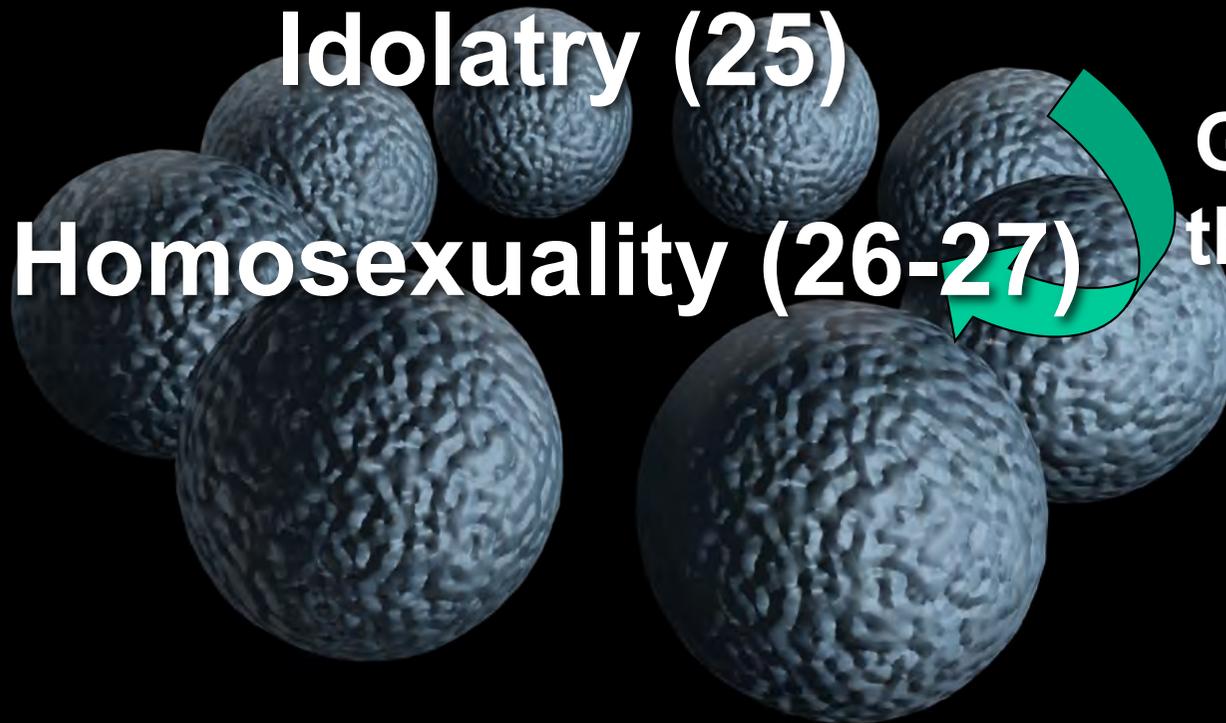
Impurity (24)

Idolatry (25)

Homosexuality (26-27)

God gave  
them over

God gave  
them over

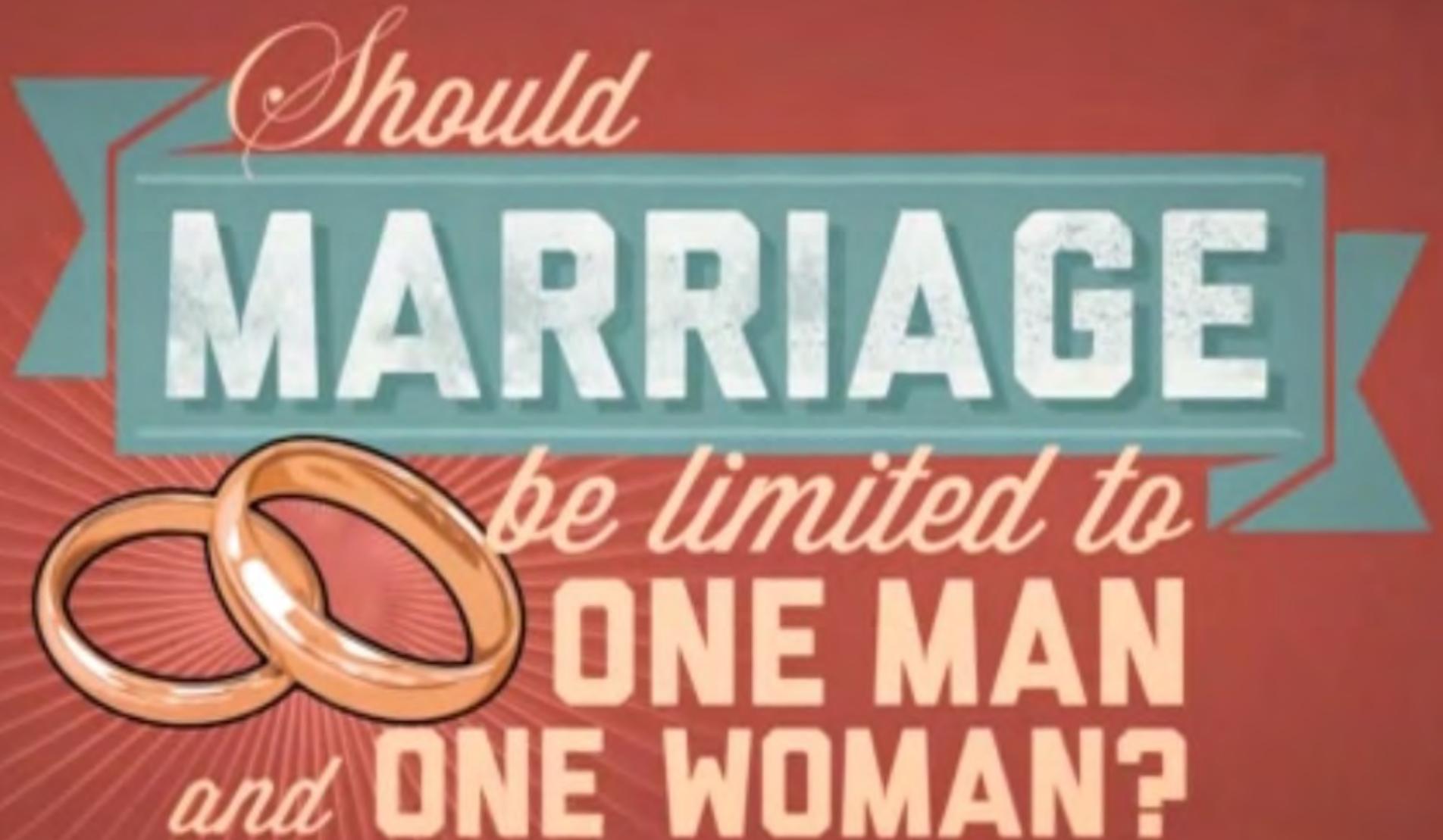


# What About Homosexuality?



# What About Same Sex "Marriage"?

See Family Research Council ([frcblog](http://frcblog.com)) on YouTube



# Why God is Angry at Gentiles (Rom. 1:21-32)

Ignore God (21-23)

God gave  
them over

Impurity (24)

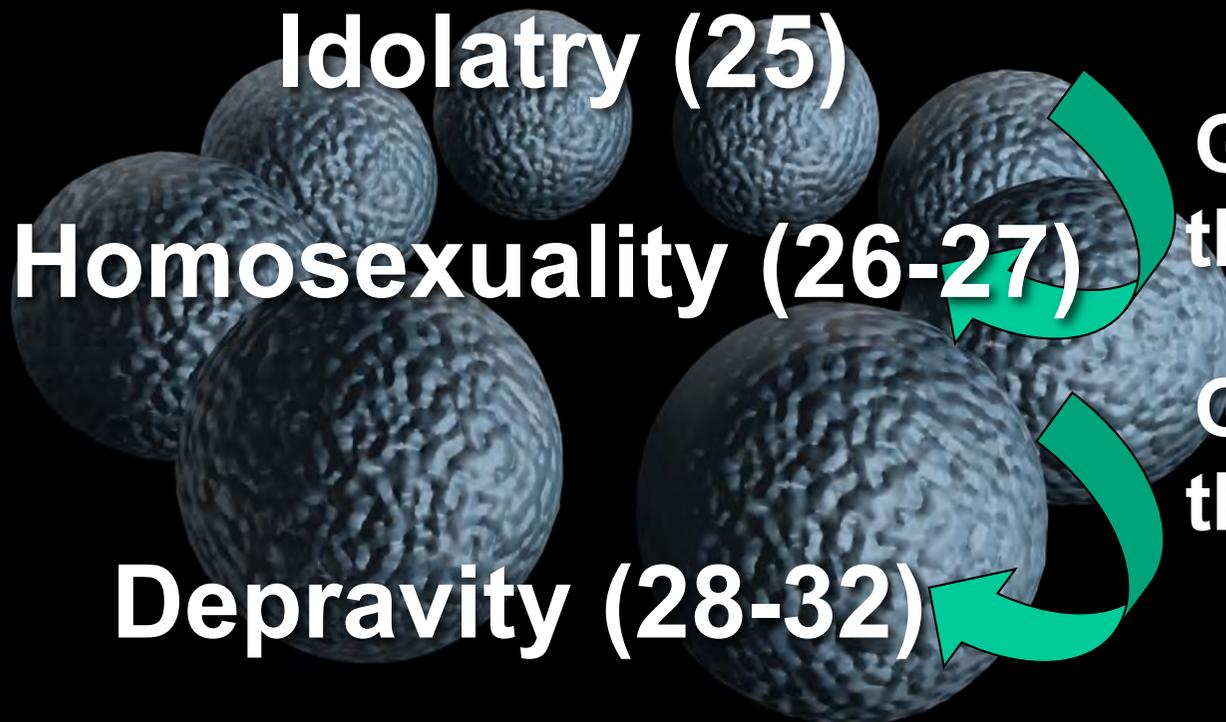
Idolatry (25)

God gave  
them over

Homosexuality (26-27)

God gave  
them over

Depravity (28-32)



# All Are Under Sin

**10<sup>b</sup> "No one is righteous—  
not even one.**

**11 No one is truly wise;  
no one is seeking God.**

**12 All have turned away;  
all have become useless.**

**No one does good,  
not a single one (Pss 14:1-3; 53:1-3—Greek version).**

**13 "Their talk is foul, like... stench from an open grave.  
Their tongues are filled with lies."**

**"Snake venom drips from their lips" (Ps 5:9 Gr.; 140:3).**

**14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness" (Ps  
10:7 Gr. version).**

**15 "They rush to commit murder.**

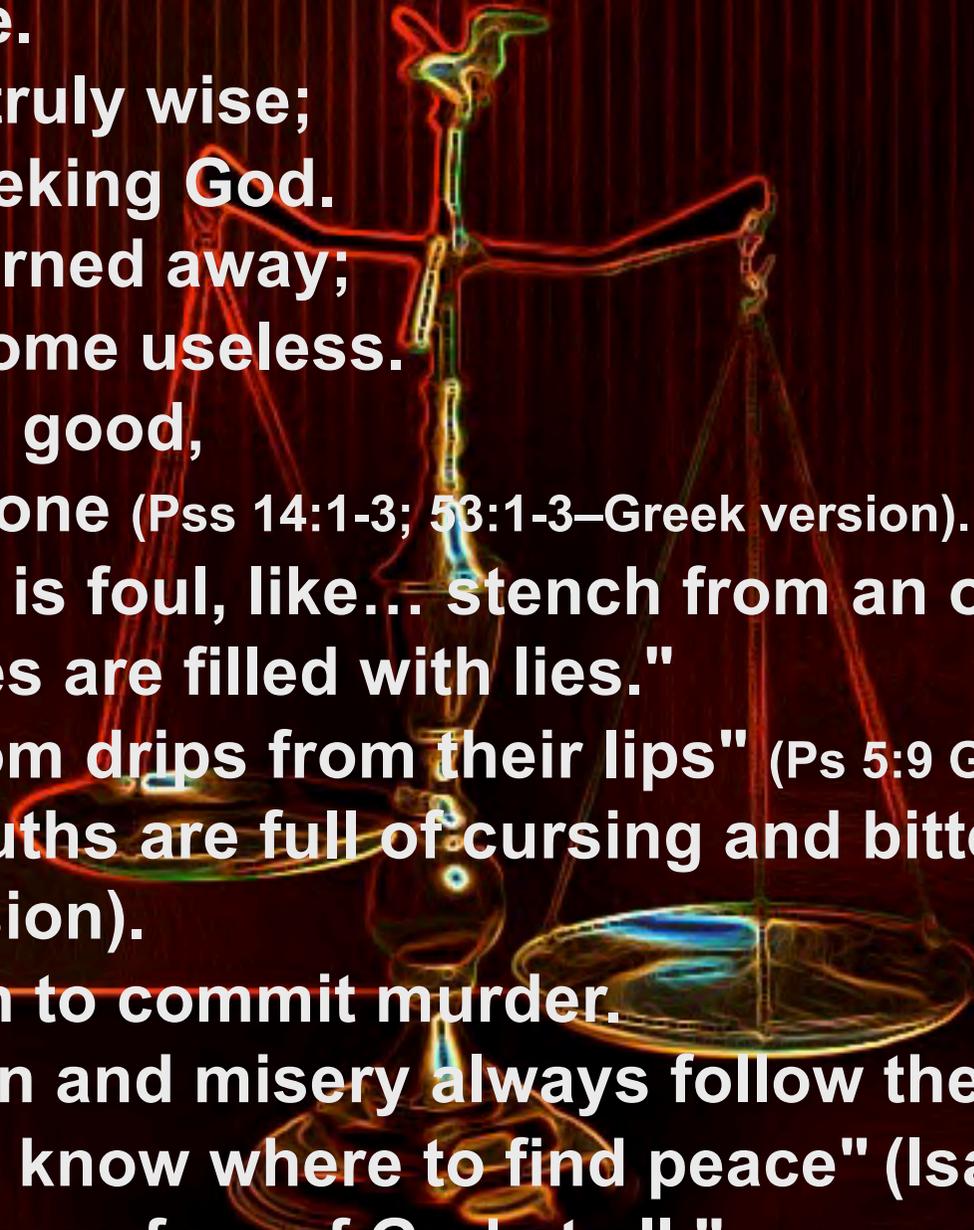
**16 Destruction and misery always follow them.**

**17 They don't know where to find peace" (Isa 59:7-8).**

**18 "They have no fear of God at all."**

**(Rom 3:10b-18 NLT)**

**52  
e.1)c]**

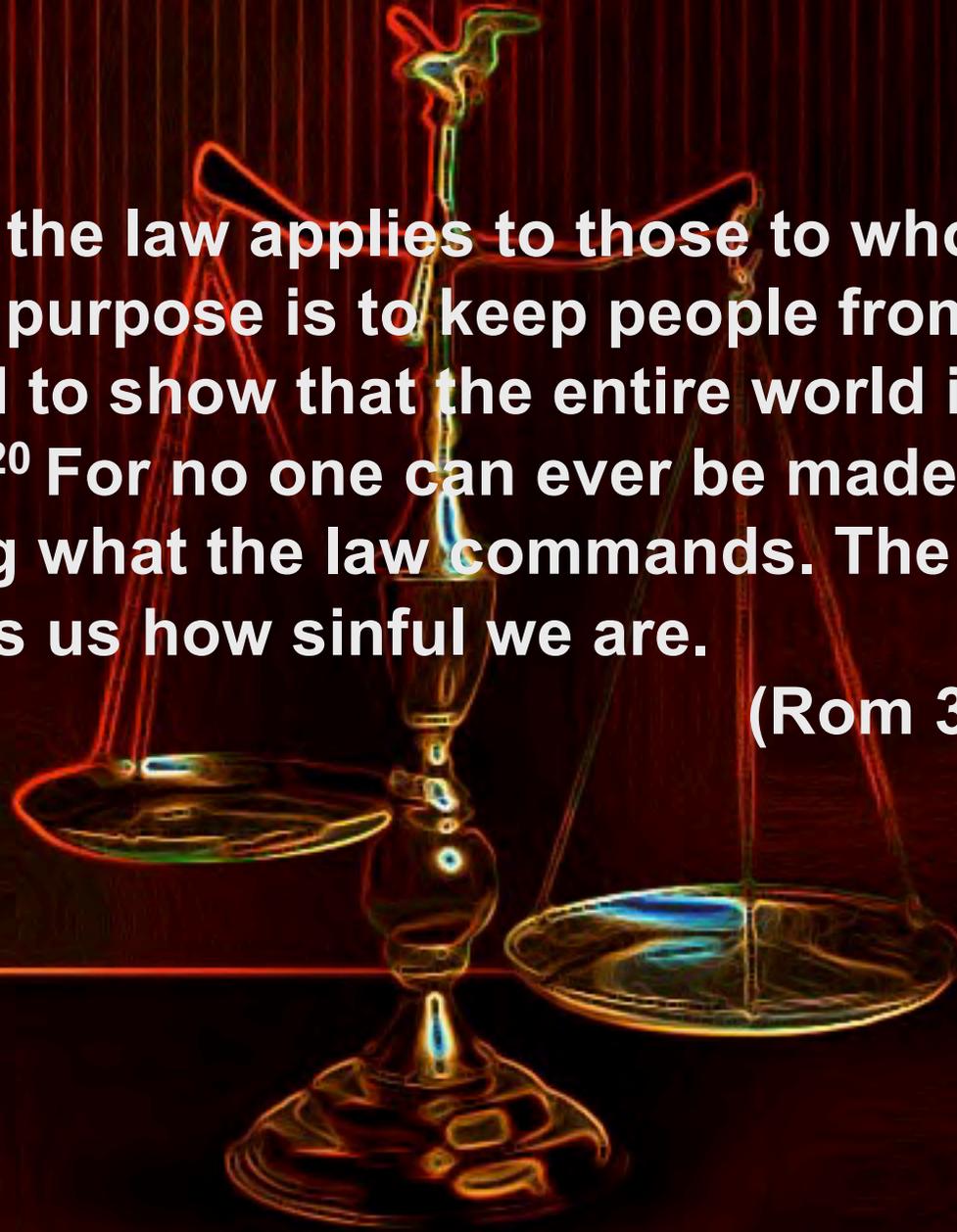


# The Law Won't Save

52  
e.1)c]

<sup>19</sup> Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. <sup>20</sup> For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

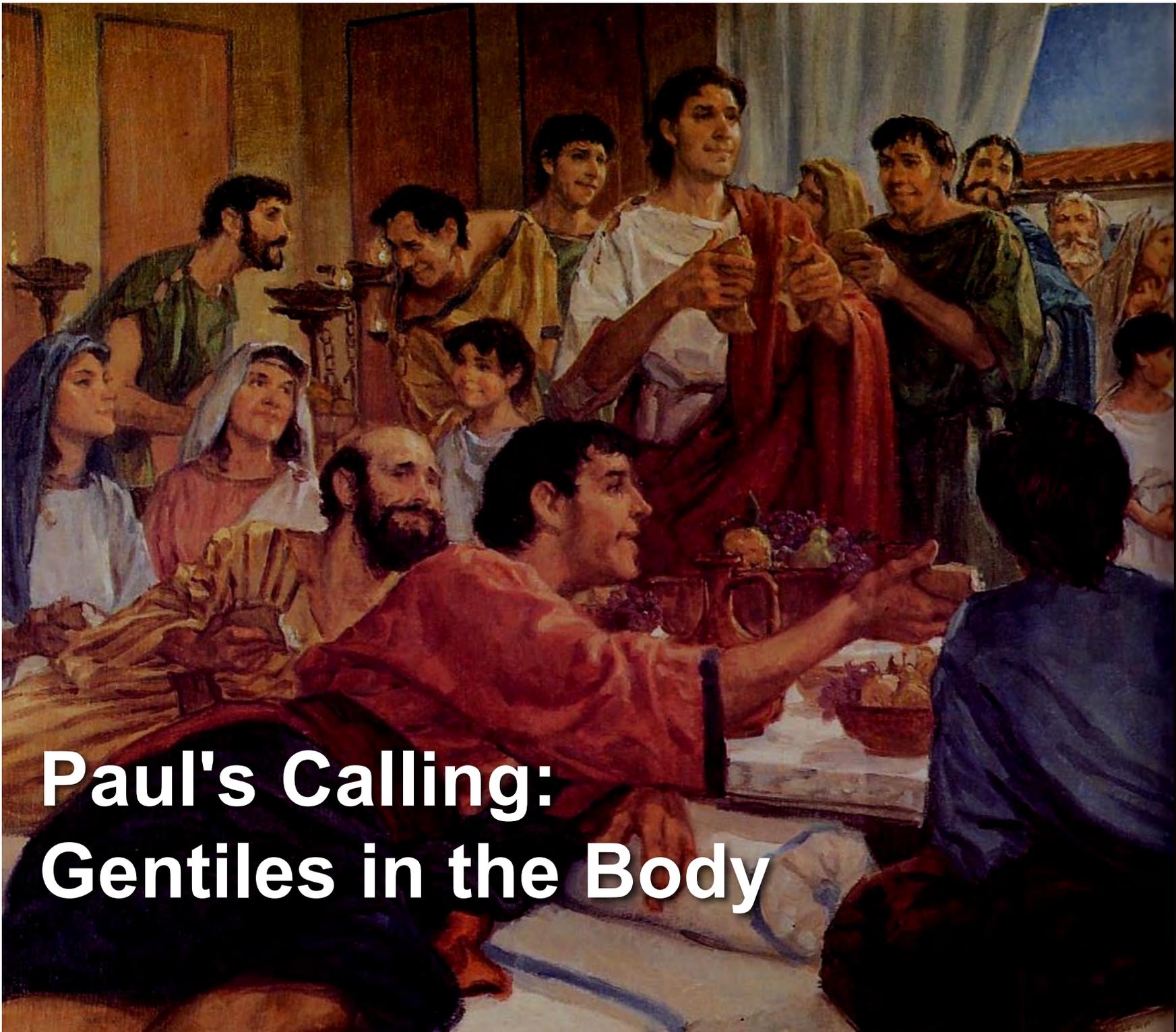
(Rom 3:19-20 NLT)



# Acts 1:8 NAU

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in **Jerusalem**, and in all Judea and Samaria, and ***even to the remotest part of the earth.***"





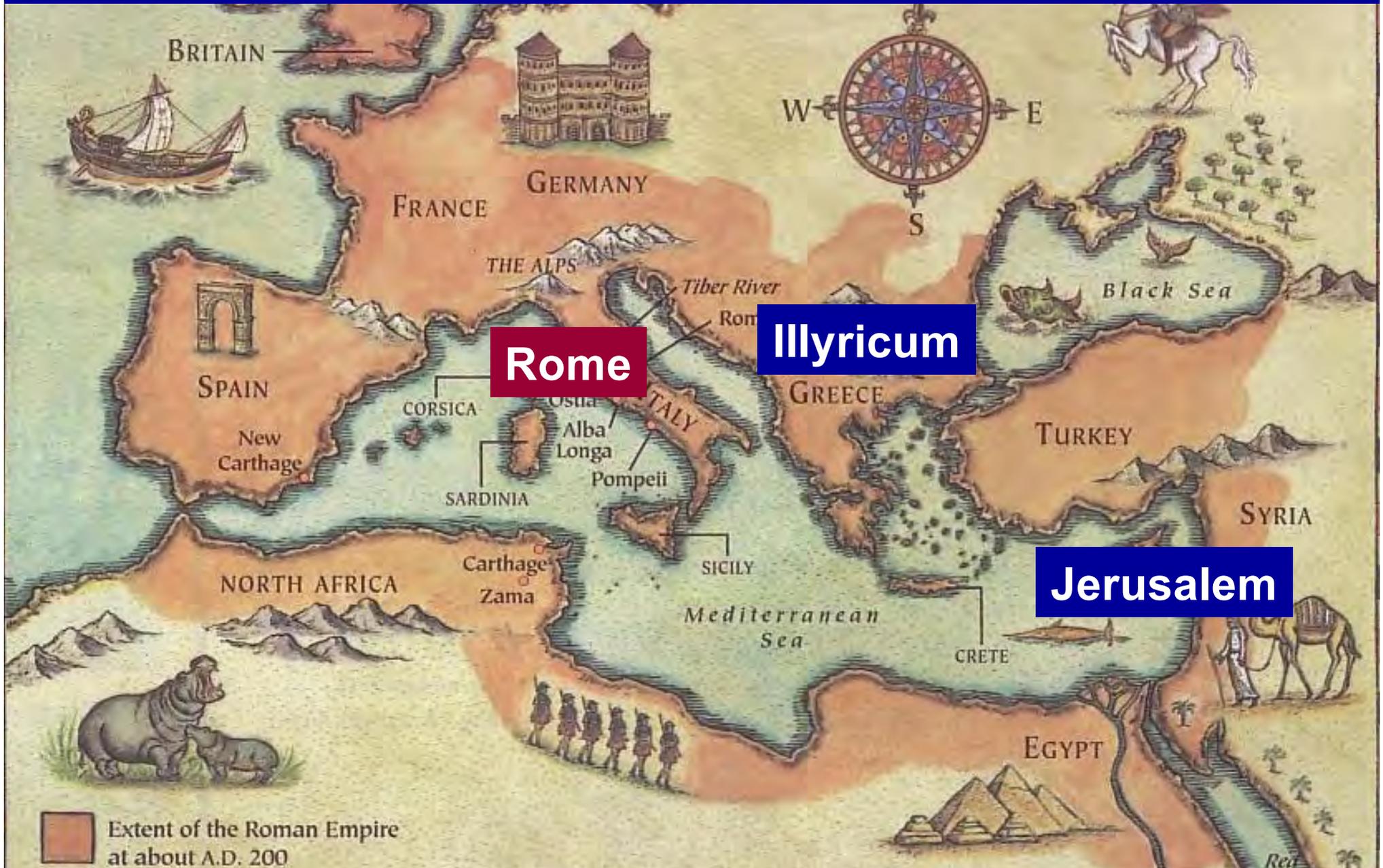
# Paul's Calling: Gentiles in the Body

53  
e.3)



# Paul's Ministry Westwards

53  
e.3)



20 My ambition has always been to preach the Good News **where the name of Christ has never been heard**, rather than where a church has already been started by someone else. 53  
e.3)

21 I have been following the plan spoken of in the Scriptures, where it says,  
"Those who have **never been told** about him will see, and those who have **never heard of him** will understand."

22 In fact, my visit to you has been delayed so long because I have been preaching in these places.

—*Romans 15:20-22*

# The Logical Argument

53  
e.4)

If the unreached are not headed for hell, then the worst thing a Christian could do is to tell them about Christ!

Why? Because *if they hear* the message, there's a possibility of rejecting it and going to hell; however, *if they don't hear* the message in the first place, hell isn't even a possibility. Therefore, the best decision is to call back all our missionaries.



# What's the Difference?

53  
pt. 2

## *Grace*

...is God  
giving us  
what we  
do **not**  
deserve

## *Mercy*

...is God  
**not** giving us  
what we  
**do**  
deserve



# **What about babies who die?**

**53  
pt. 2**

**I believe that they go to  
heaven based on two texts:**

- 1. David showed confidence to see his infant son who died (2 Sam. 12:23).**
- 2. Jesus noted that the kingdom of God belonged to little children (Mark 10:14-15).**



# How can I communicate hell to non-Christians?

53  
pt. 3

## A few suggestions:

- a. Don't be afraid to talk about hell. Jesus wasn't! Christ talked about hell even more than He did about heaven.
- b. Talk about sin in your evangelistic presentations. Talk about how God is holy and just and thus must judge sin.
- c. Remind unbelievers that hell was "prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41). Man through his disobedience has entered into this arrangement.



# How can I communicate hell to non-Christians?

53  
pt. 3

**A few suggestions:**

- d. Avoid speaking of hell and sin as "spiritual separation from God." Unbelievers are used to being separated from God and because of their sin many have convinced themselves that separation is good—so this hardly seems like a punishment!**
- e. Teach about hell in balance with even more fundamental doctrines**

# Salvation by Works?

## Works Verses

Rom. 2:6 God "will give to each person according to what he has done."

Rom. 2:7 To those who by persistence **in doing good** seek glory, honor and immortality, **he will give eternal life.**

Rom. 2:8 But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.

Rom. 2:13 For it is not those who hear the law who are righteous in God's sight, but **it is those who obey the law who will be declared righteous.**

## Explanation

54

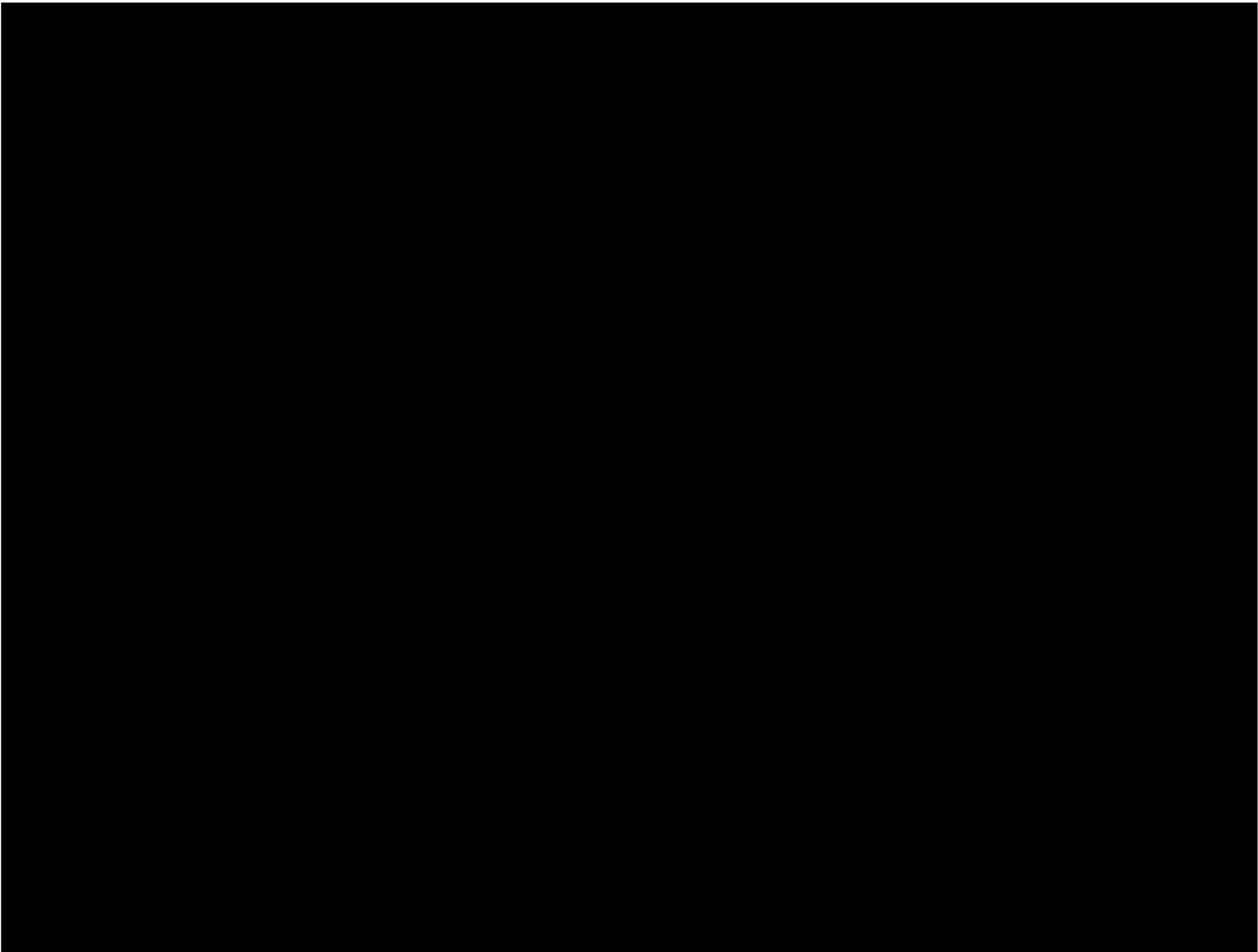
These verses seem to teach salvation by works while others teach salvation by faith (e.g., Rom. 3:20). Paul appears to teach salvation by works elsewhere (cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 2 Cor. 5:10; Gal. 5:21) but he did not see these as contradicting.

**It is better to see Romans 2:7, 13 as hypothetical.** Paul simply says that eternal life would be possible *if* one could keep the law entirely, but since no one can do this then all alike are under sin.

This fits his argument that all persons are under judgment in Romans 1–3 and it also harmonizes well with 3:19-20.

**Can you really say,  
"God loves you"  
to anyone?**





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