

# The Nature of the Gospel



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



**What would you say?**

**Write your answer on a  
piece of paper.**

***A person was just in a car accident and has  
only one minute to live. He says to you,  
“How can I know if I will go to heaven?”***



**What is the Gospel that saves us?**

***How do we “contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints” (Jude 3) if we don’t even know what that faith is?***

# Repentance

## What is it?

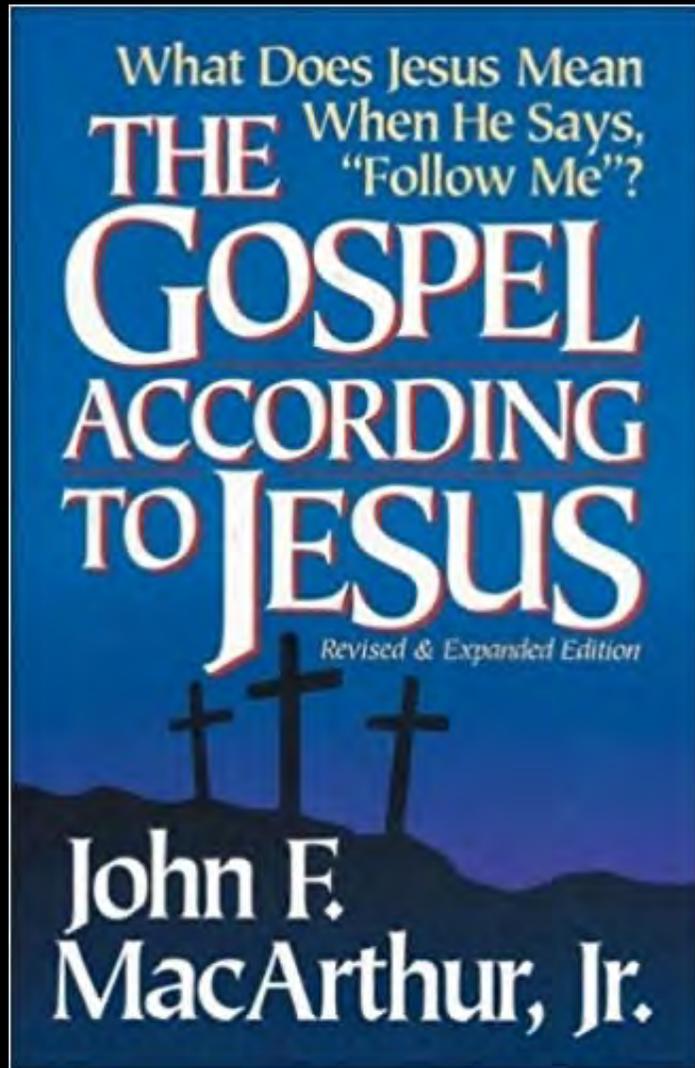


# Repentance

**Is it “to turn from sin”?**



# Repentance

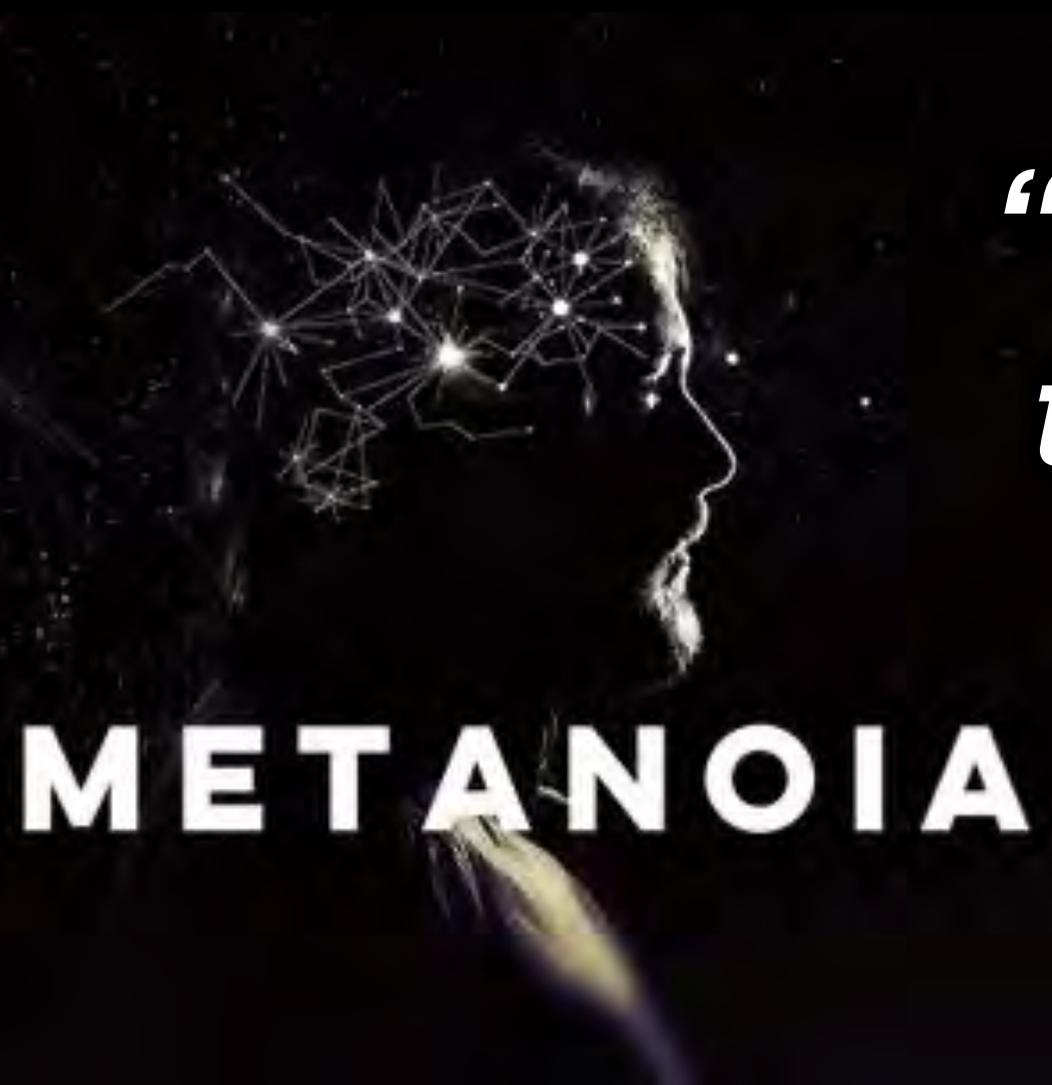


**“No evangelism that omits the message of repentance can properly be called the gospel, for sinners cannot come to Jesus Christ apart from a radical change of heart, mind, and will.”**

**John MacArthur, *The Gospel According to Jesus*  
(Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988), 81**

# Repentance

*“to change  
the mind”*  
(Greek)



**METANOIA**

# Repentance

It is an “afterthought” or “second opinion.” Charles Ryrie, for example, says, “Repentance means a genuine change of mind that affects the life in some way. Like other significant theological terms it must be defined specifically by asking a further question, namely, change the mind about what? Christians can repent of specific sins and stop doing them (Revelation 2:5; 2 Corinthians 7:9).” Do non-Christians have to repent? Ryrie says yes, if one defines repentance correctly. “Saving repentance,” he says, “has to involve a change of mind about Jesus Christ so that whatever a person thought of Him before, he changes his mind and trusts Him to be his Savior [*Basic Theology*, 390].” This approach seems quite plausible to me and works in the majority of the passages where repentance is mentioned in the New Testament. —Dillow, *Final Destiny*, 33

# Repentance

The best interpretation of *metanoeo* in the New Testament is to acknowledge, to change one's mind about something, to admit, to feel sorry for. A good Old Testament illustration of this usage would be Jeremiah 8:6.

*I have listened and heard,  
They have spoken what is not right; No man  
repented of his wickedness, saying, "What have I  
done?" Everyone turned to his course, like a horse  
charging into the battle.*

—Dillow, *Final Destiny*, 35

# The Gospel

**Is it really  
changing our  
lives?**



Too often the **results** of the gospel are confused with the **nature** of the gospel.



# The Problem: A False Gospel Proclaimed

## STEPS OF SALVATION: FROM SINNER TO SAVED:

**SAVED**

**MAN'S PART**

**GOD'S PART**

Remain Faithful  
Col 1:21;  
Rev 2:10

**Baptism into Christ**  
Mk 16:16  
1 Pet 3:21

**Confess Faith**

**Repent of Sins**  
Rom 10:9-10;  
Acts 8:37

**Believe Gospel**  
Acts 2:38, 17:30

**Hear Gospel**  
Jn 8:24;  
Heb 11:6

**Spirit Revealed**  
Rom 10:13;  
Jn 6:44, 45

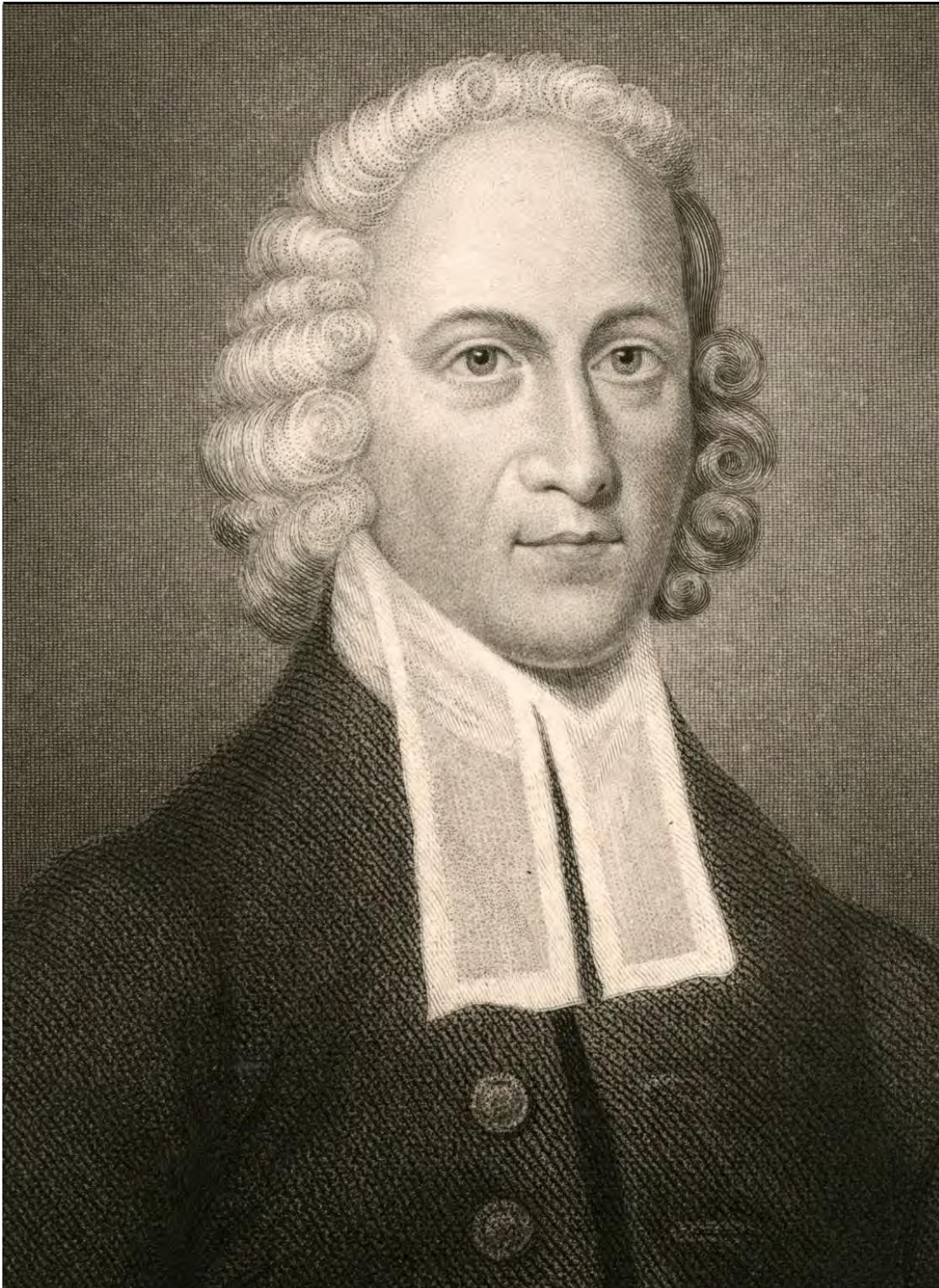
**Jesus Shed His Blood**  
Eph 1:7;  
1 Pet 1:19

**God Sent His Son**  
Jn 3:16;  
1 Jn 4:10

**SINNER**



*—A Church of Christ view*



# Grace

**“You contribute nothing to your salvation except the sin that made it necessary.”**

**JONATHAN EDWARDS  
1703-1758**

**The Gospel is...**

**68**

**GOOD NEWS!**



# John



**What must you trust about Jesus to be saved?**

**What is saving faith?**

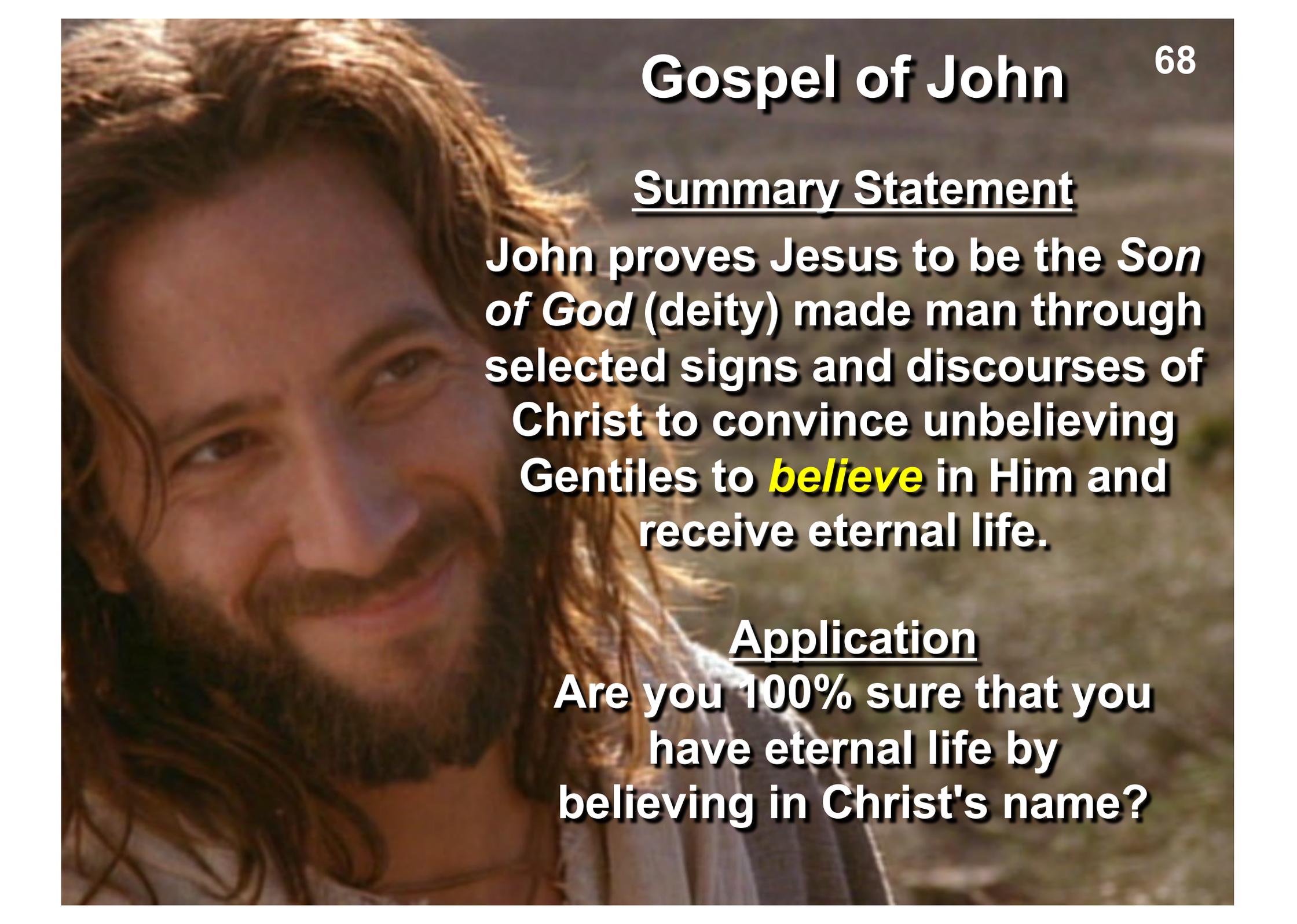
**Must you add anything to this?**

**How is it different from false faith?**

**Key Word**  
**Believe**

**Key Verse**

"Jesus did many other miraculous signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book. But these are written ***that you may believe*** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name" (20:30-31).



# Gospel of John

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## Summary Statement

John proves Jesus to be the *Son of God* (deity) made man through selected signs and discourses of Christ to convince unbelieving Gentiles to **believe** in Him and receive eternal life.

## Application

Are you 100% sure that you have eternal life by believing in Christ's name?

# Signs in John's Gospel

Signs unique to John's Gospel in yellow (6 of the 9 miracles)

**WATER  
TO WINE**  
2:1-11

**HEALING  
OFFICIAL'S  
SON**  
4:46-54

**HEALING  
PARALYTIC**  
5:1-18

**FEEDING  
5000**  
6:1-15

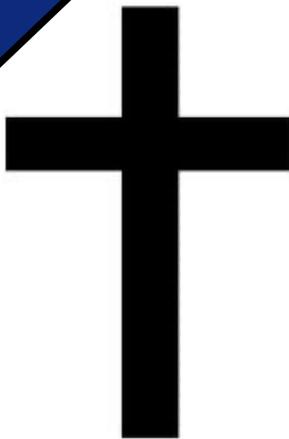
**WALKING  
ON WATER**  
6:16-24

**HEALING  
BLIND MAN**  
9:1-7

**RAISING  
LAZARUS**  
11:1-45

**CHRIST'S  
RESURRECTION**  
20:1-31

**FISH  
CATCH**  
21:1-3



# Assurance in 1 John 5:11-13

62 b) (2)  
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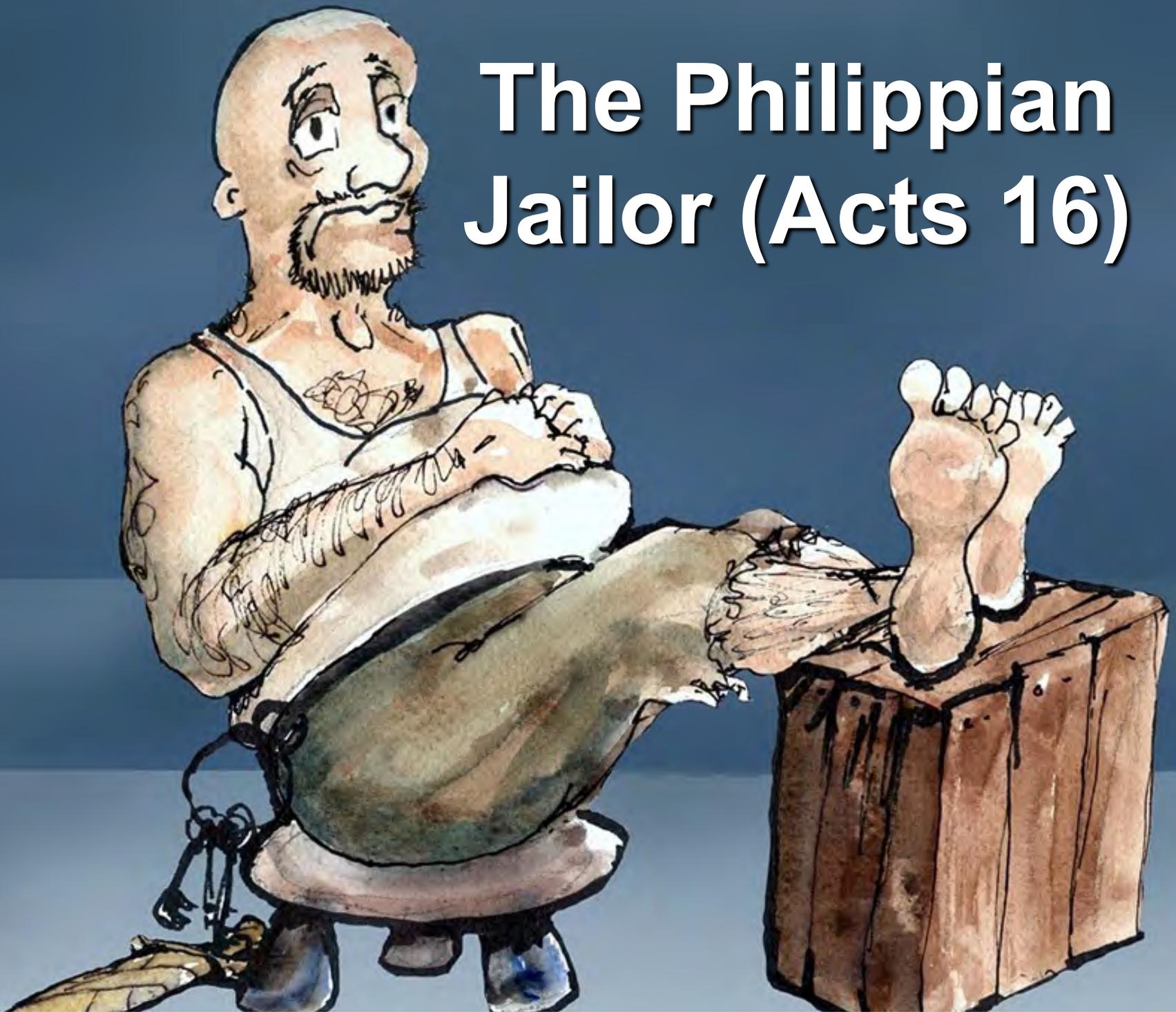
Should we  
ever doubt?

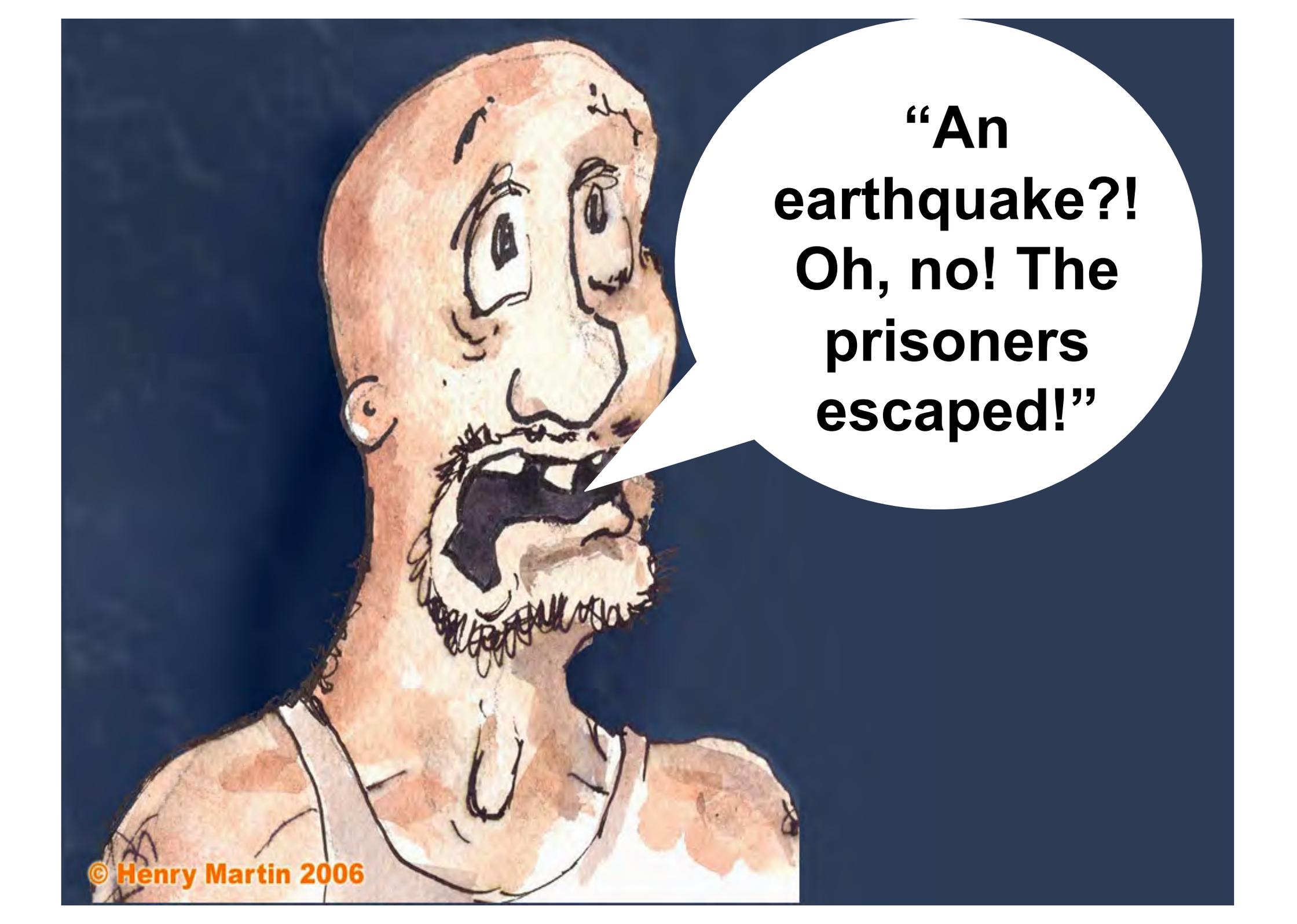
Should we  
ever doubt?

Should we  
ever doubt?

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

# The Philippian Jailor (Acts 16)



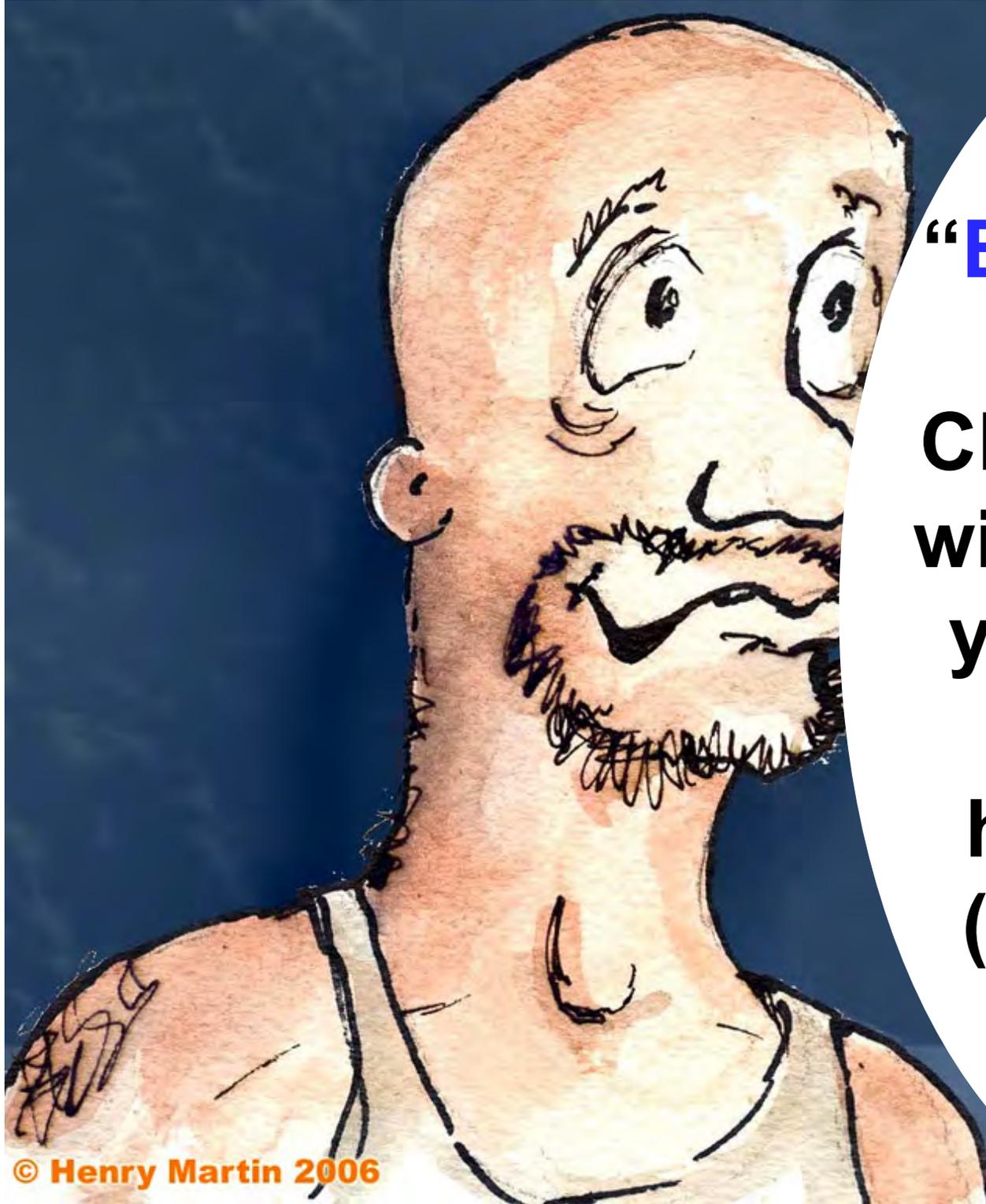


**“An  
earthquake?!  
Oh, no! The  
prisoners  
escaped!”**





**“What must I  
do to be  
saved?”**



**“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved—you and your entire household!”  
(Acts 16:16).**



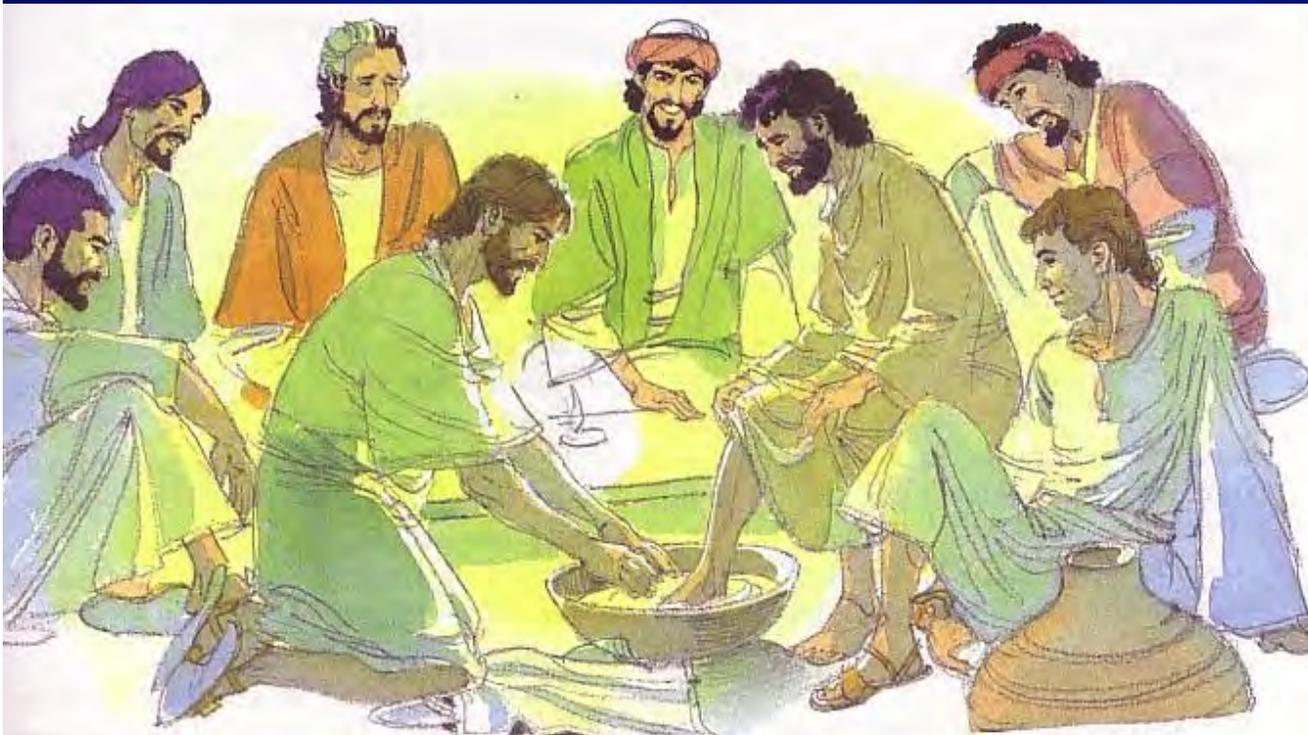
*Jesus has always been God*

"In the beginning  
was the Word,  
and the Word was **with God**,  
and the Word **was God**"

(John 1:1)

# God became man in Jesus

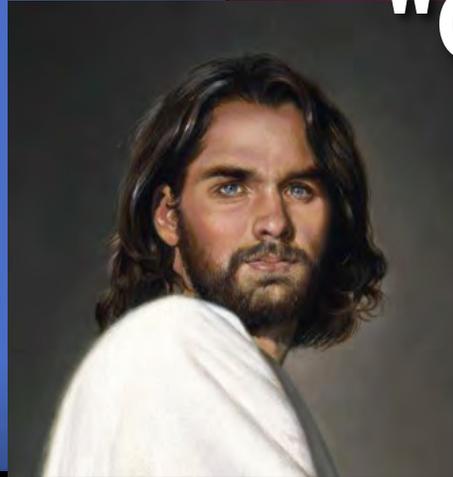
- "So the Word became human and lived here on earth among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the only Son of the Father" (John 1:14 NLT)



**Paul:**

**"Christ, who is  
God over all"**

**Rom. 9:5**



**Peter:**

**"God and Savior  
Jesus Christ"**

**2 Pet. 1:1**

## **1st century belief in Deity**

**The Father:**

**"About the Son He  
says, 'Your throne,  
O God...'"** Heb. 1:8

**Jesus:**

**"I and the Father  
are one"**  
John 10:30

**The Gospel is...**

**GOOD NEWS!**



**JESUS CHRIST**

**MAN**

**GOD**



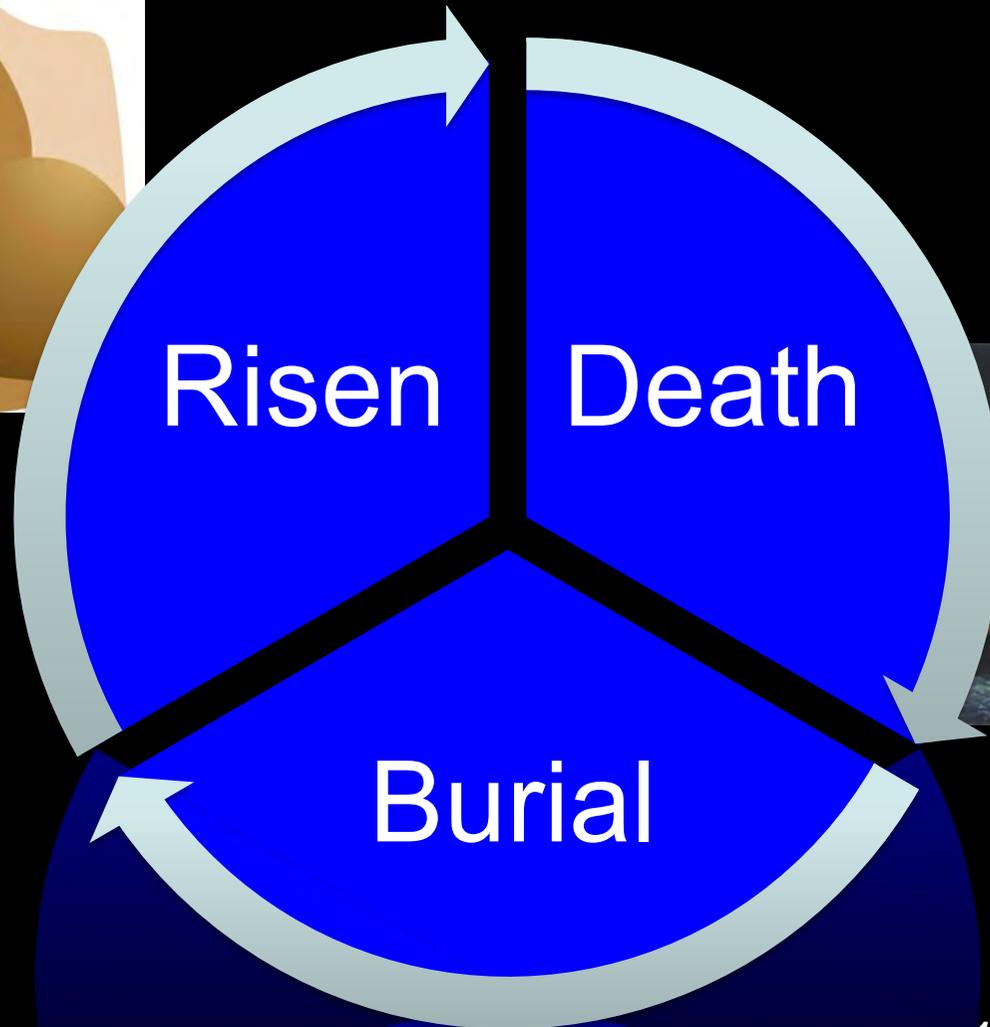
**What's the Gospel?**

# The Full Gospel

"Let me now remind you... of the Good News [Gospel] I preached to you before..." (NLT)



"He was raised from the dead on the third day..."



"Christ died for our sins..."



"He was buried..."

1 Cor. 15:3-4

# *What's the Difference?*

Alive

Dead

Marx

Mohammed

Buddha



# *What's the Difference?*

“He was seen by Peter and then by the Twelve. <sup>6</sup>After that, he was seen by more than 500 of his followers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have died. <sup>7</sup>Then he was seen by James and later by all the apostles.”

Alive

Dead



Jesus

Marx

Mohammed

Buddha



*1 Cor. 15:5-7*

*Do you share...*

**THE  
RISEN  
CHRIST ?**

**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**

**"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)

**What must you share to have a  
clear gospel presentation?**

***Faith alone in Christ alone***

**Our Problem**

- 1. We have sinned against a holy God**
- 2. Our sin deserves death**

**God's Solution**

- 3. God became man in Jesus Christ**
- 4. Jesus was our substitute on the cross**

**Our Responsibility is one:**

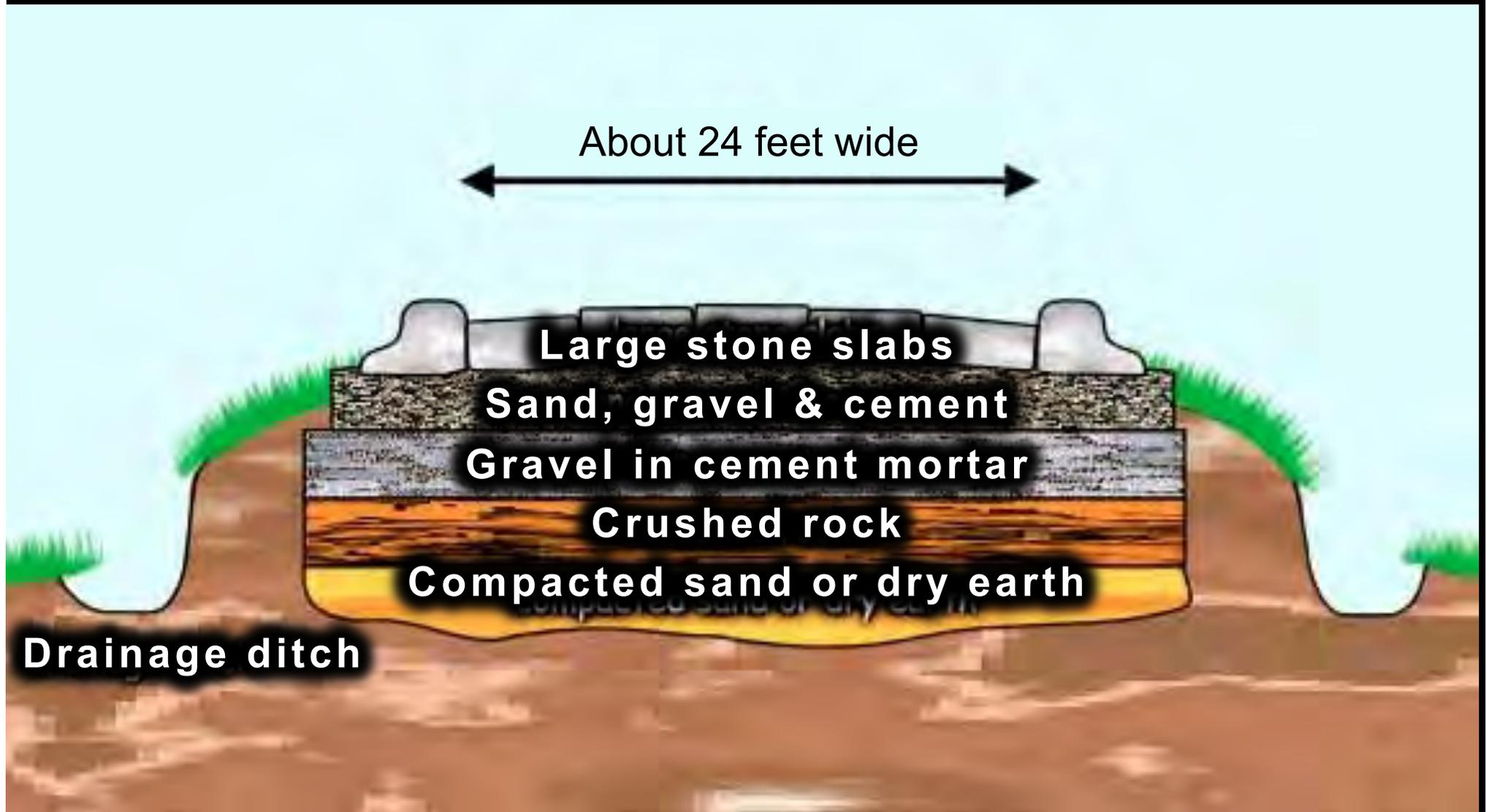
- 5. Believe (trust, have faith) in Christ's death,  
burial and resurrection to forgive your sin**

# The Roman Road

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# The Roman Road



# The Roman Road

Romans 10:9

Romans 10:13

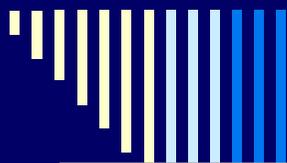
Romans 5:8

Romans 6:23

Romans  
6:23

Romans  
3:23





# The Roman Road

Rom. 3:23

Everyone has **sinned**.



Rom. 6:23

The penalty for our sin is **death**.

Rom. 5:8

Jesus Christ **died for sin**.



Rom. 10:8-10

To be forgiven for our sin, we must **believe** and confess Jesus as Lord.



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# Substitution View

**JESUS PAID IT ALL**

**Isaiah 53:5**

# Penal Substitution



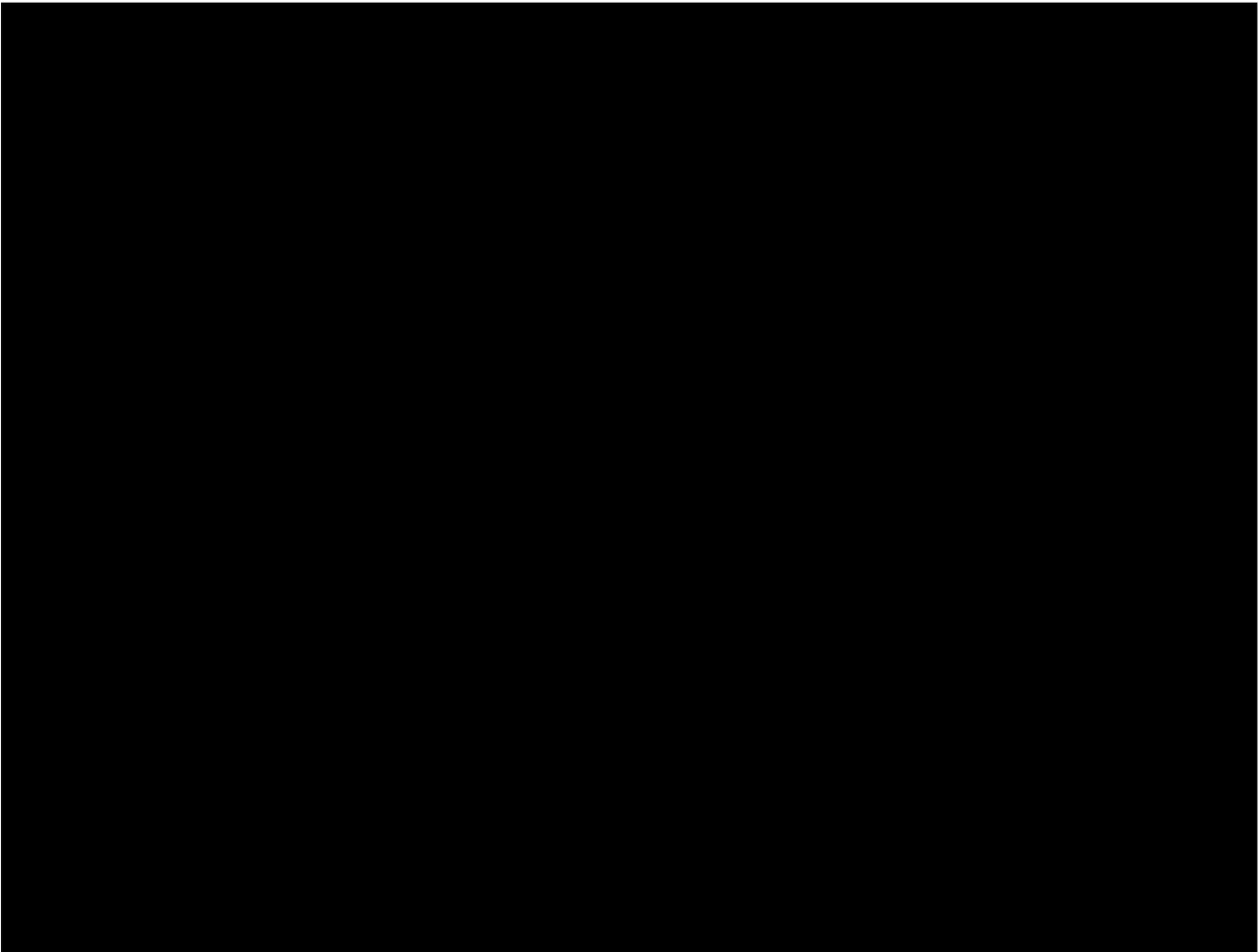
**"Christ the sinless  
One took on  
Himself the penalty  
that should have  
been borne by man  
and others"**

**—Ryrie, *Basic Theology*, 356**

**Jesus' death paid for our sin**



**Tell them.**



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