

GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



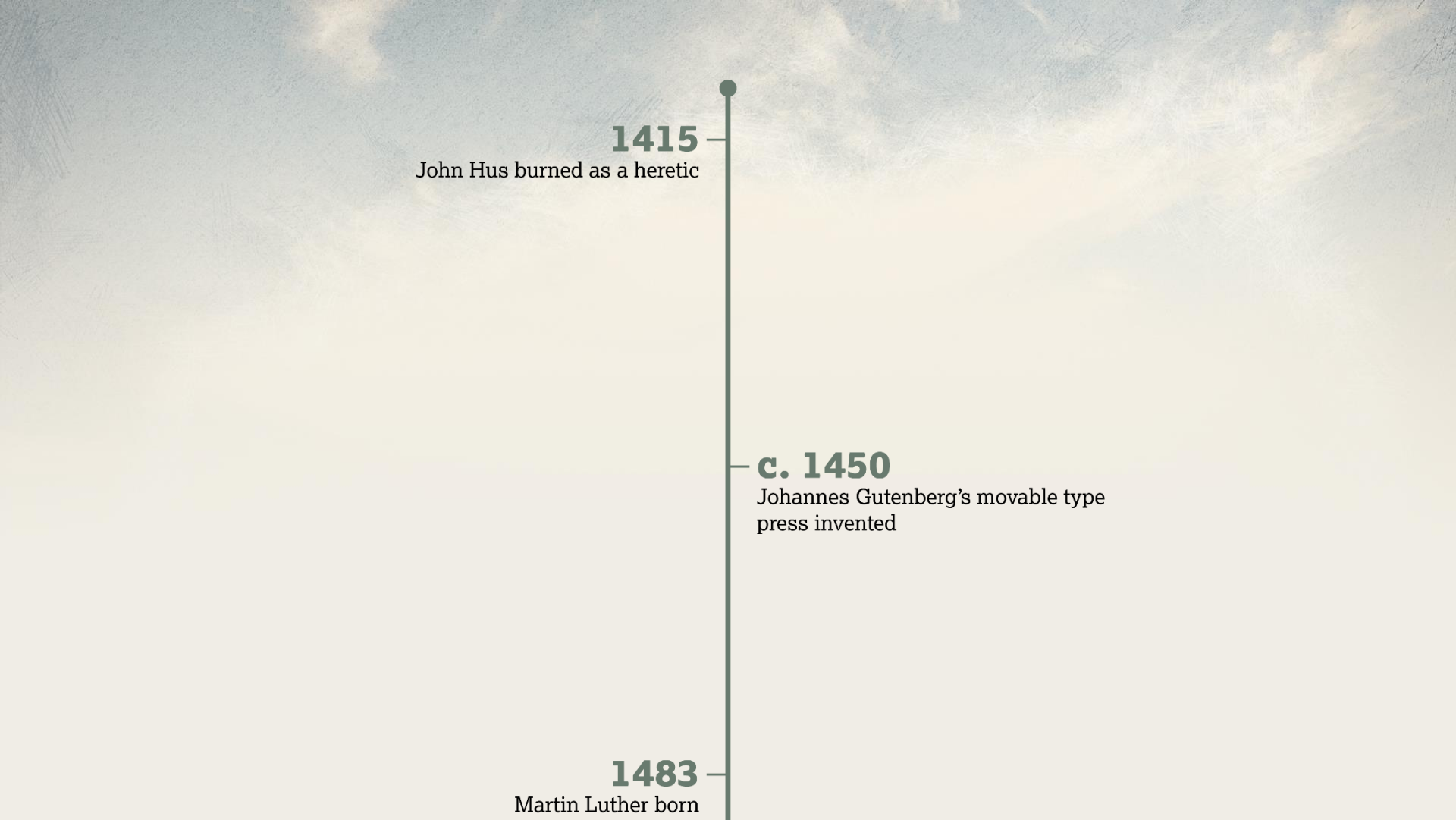
Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 1

These Things Alone



1415

John Hus burned as a heretic

c. 1450

Johannes Gutenberg's movable type
press invented

1483

Martin Luther born

Introduction:

Martin Luther and the Roman Catholic Church

Martin himself . . . has scorned
to revoke his errors . . . He has
now been declared a heretic . . .

—*Decet Romanum Pontificem*



What Is the Gospel?

Romans 1

- Paul saw himself as a servant of Jesus Christ set apart for what purpose (v. 1)?

To share the gospel

Romans 1

- Paul viewed the gospel as a promise from God. Where was the promise recorded (v. 2)?

In the holy Scriptures as they revealed God's Son

Definitions

- Grace

The unmerited gift of God for salvation and living in Christ

- Faith

Full confidence in something promised



Grace and Faith

Romans 1:16–17

- Who or what empowers the gospel?
God
- What phrases in these verses indicate that salvation is by faith alone and not our works?
“to everyone who believes”; “from faith to/for faith”; “the righteous/just shall live by faith”

What does this verse say about our salvation or justification?

- Romans 3:20

No one is justified or declared righteous by the works of the Law.

What does this verse say about our salvation or justification?

- Romans 3:27–28

A person is justified by faith
apart from the works of the Law.

What does this verse say about our salvation or justification?

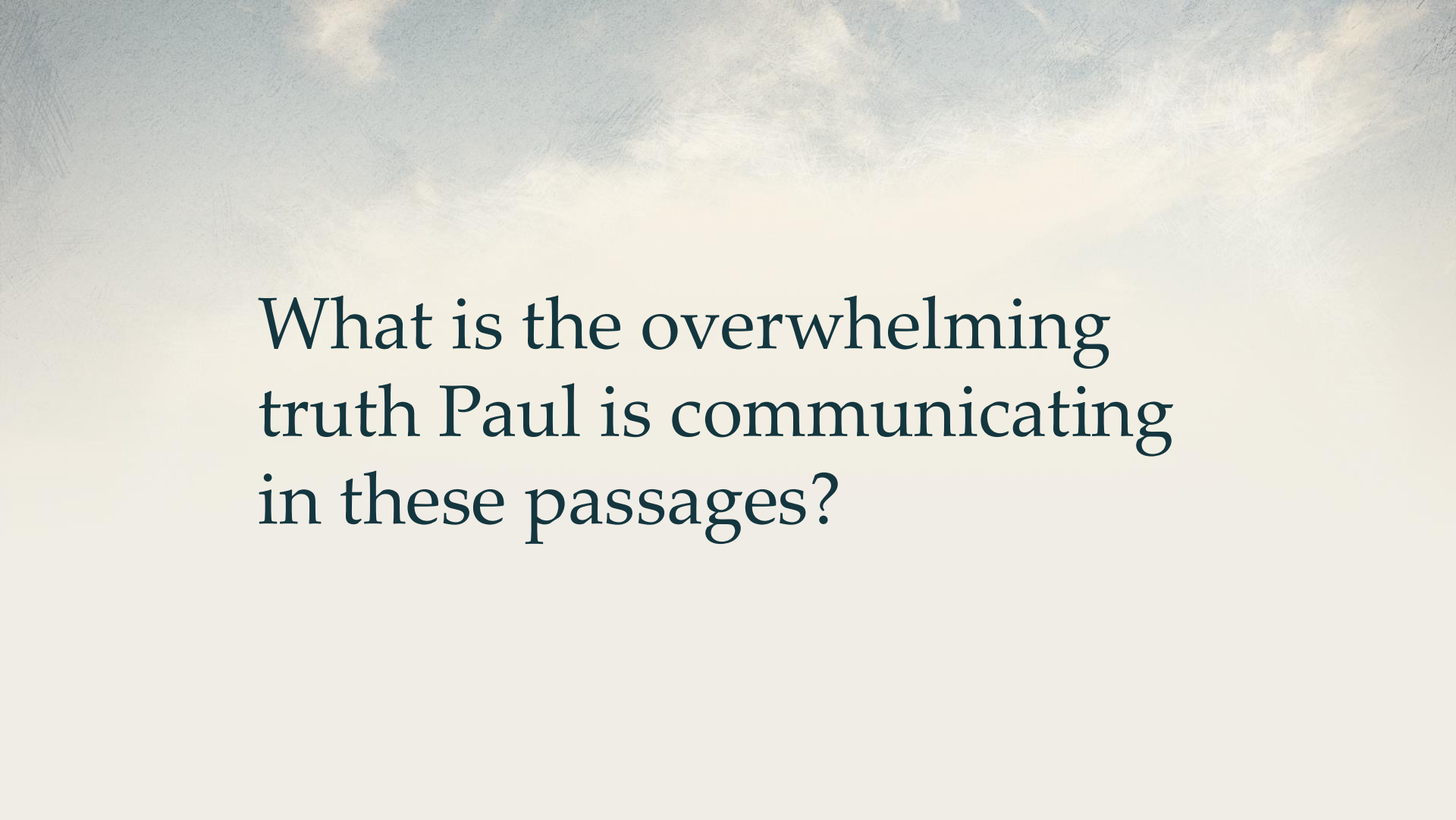
- Romans 4:5

Faith is counted as
righteousness for those who
believe God.

What does this verse say about our salvation or justification?

- Romans 5:1–2

Christians have been justified by faith.

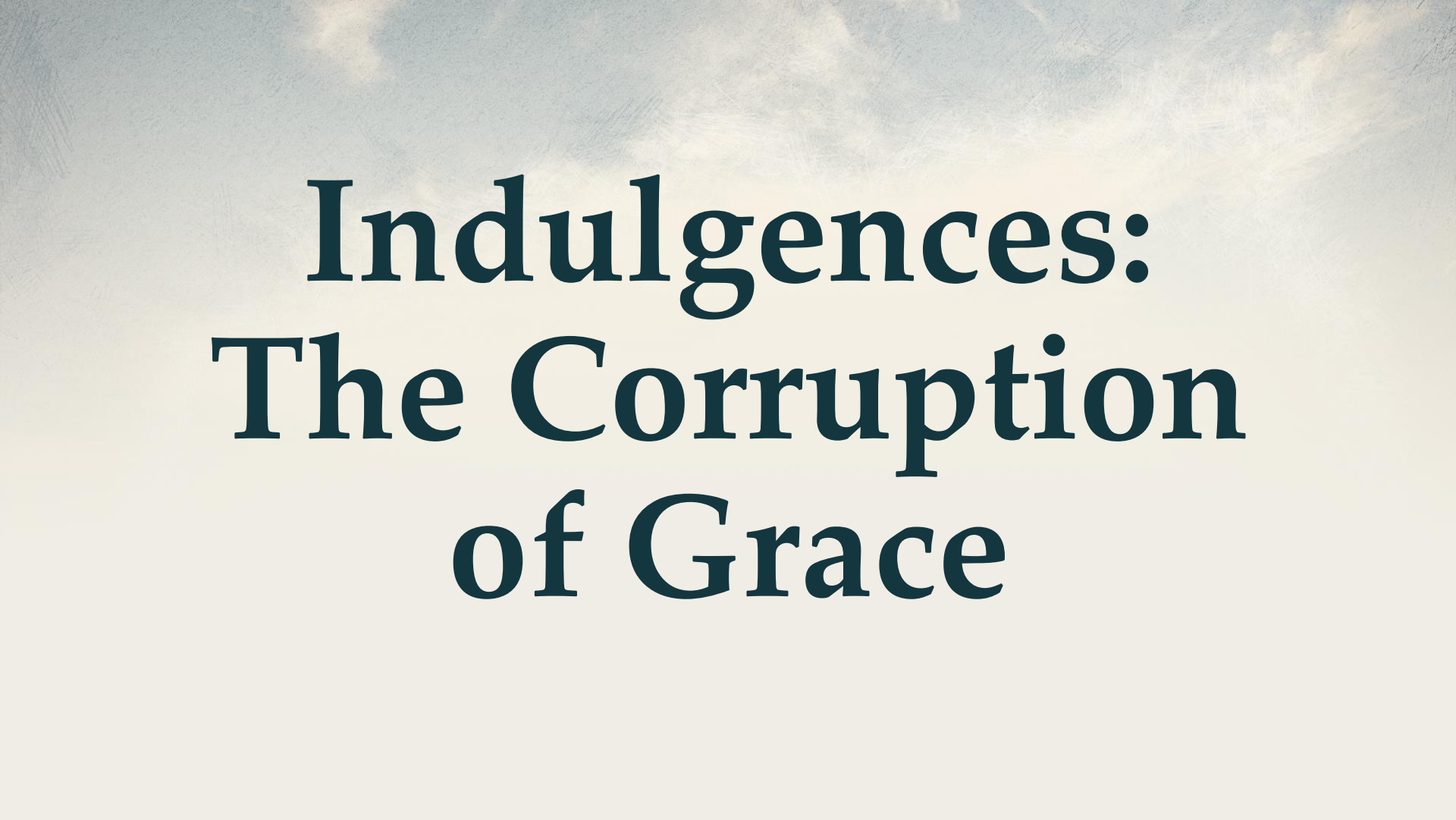


What is the overwhelming
truth Paul is communicating
in these passages?

The Five Solas

- *Sola Gratia*—We are saved by grace alone.
- *Sola Fide*—This salvation comes through faith alone.
- *Solus Christus*—Faith is in Christ alone.
- *Sola Scriptura*—Faith and practice are revealed in Scripture alone.
- *Sola Deo Gloria*—We live as Christians for the glory of God alone.





Indulgences: The Corruption of Grace



Wittenburg

Worms

HOLY ROMAN
EMPIRE

Rome

Luther's Theses Against Indulgences

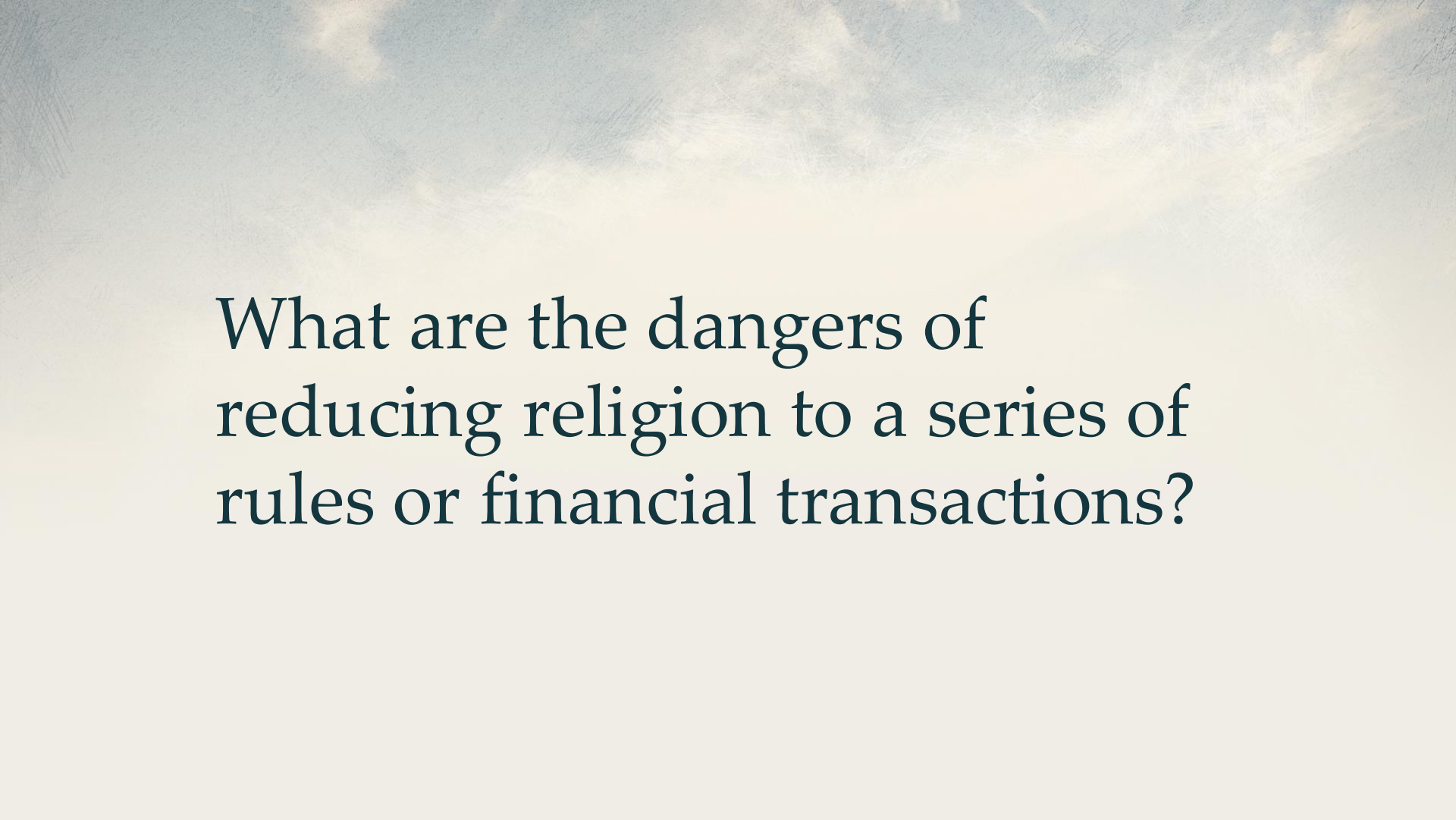
- Would you have been convinced to reject indulgences by these arguments?

Luther's Theses Against Indulgences

- What do you think of Luther's argument in thesis #82 that, if the pope had power to remove sin for money, he should instead do it merely out of love?

Luther's Theses Against Indulgences

- What does Luther imply about the motives of Rome in issuing indulgences?



What are the dangers of
reducing religion to a series of
rules or financial transactions?



Further Reading

Luther on Trial

Luther on Trial

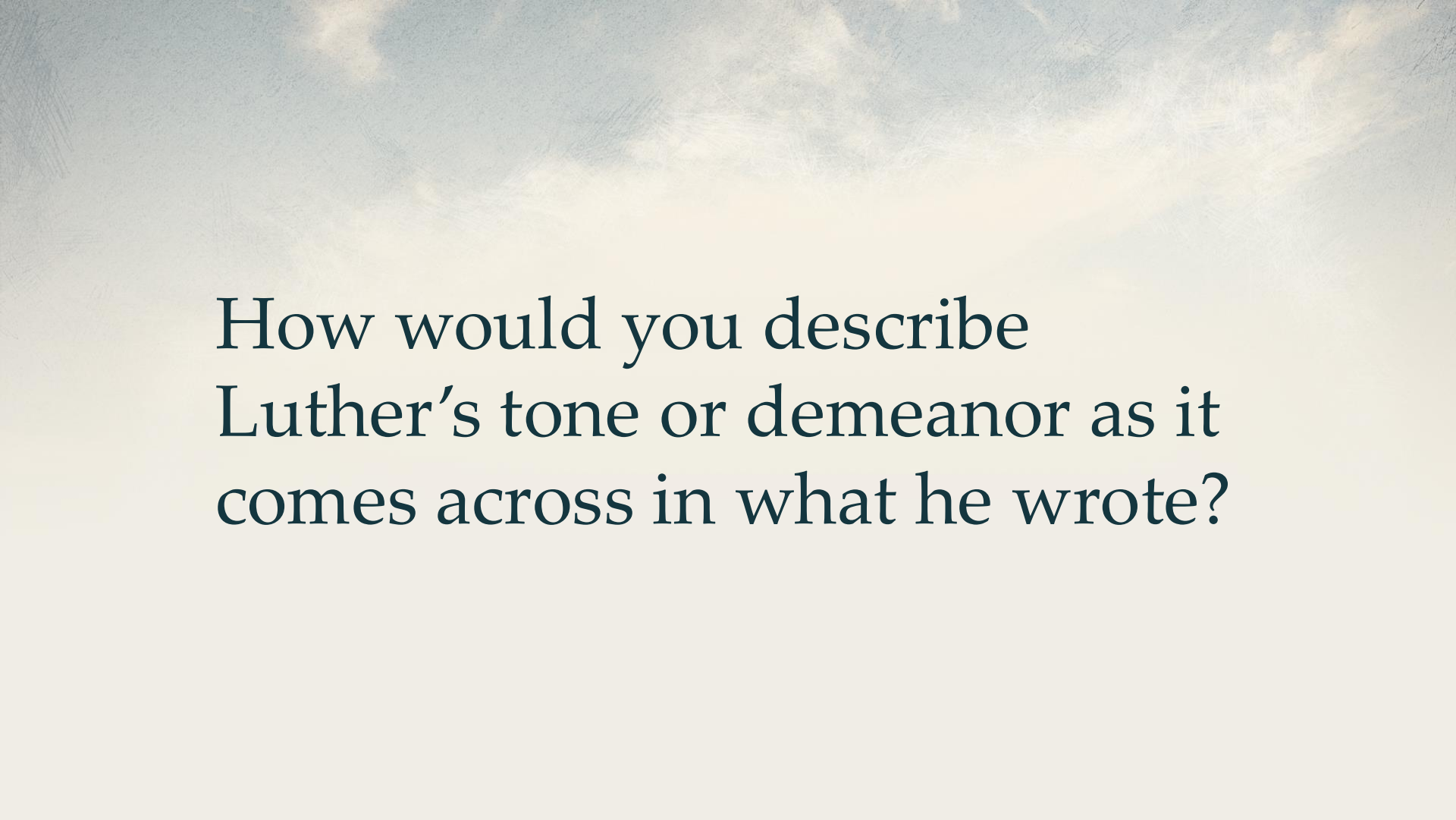
- In the second paragraph of his statement, what did Luther specify should be the measure for determining if his claims about the gospel were correct?

The writings of the prophets and apostles, the Bible

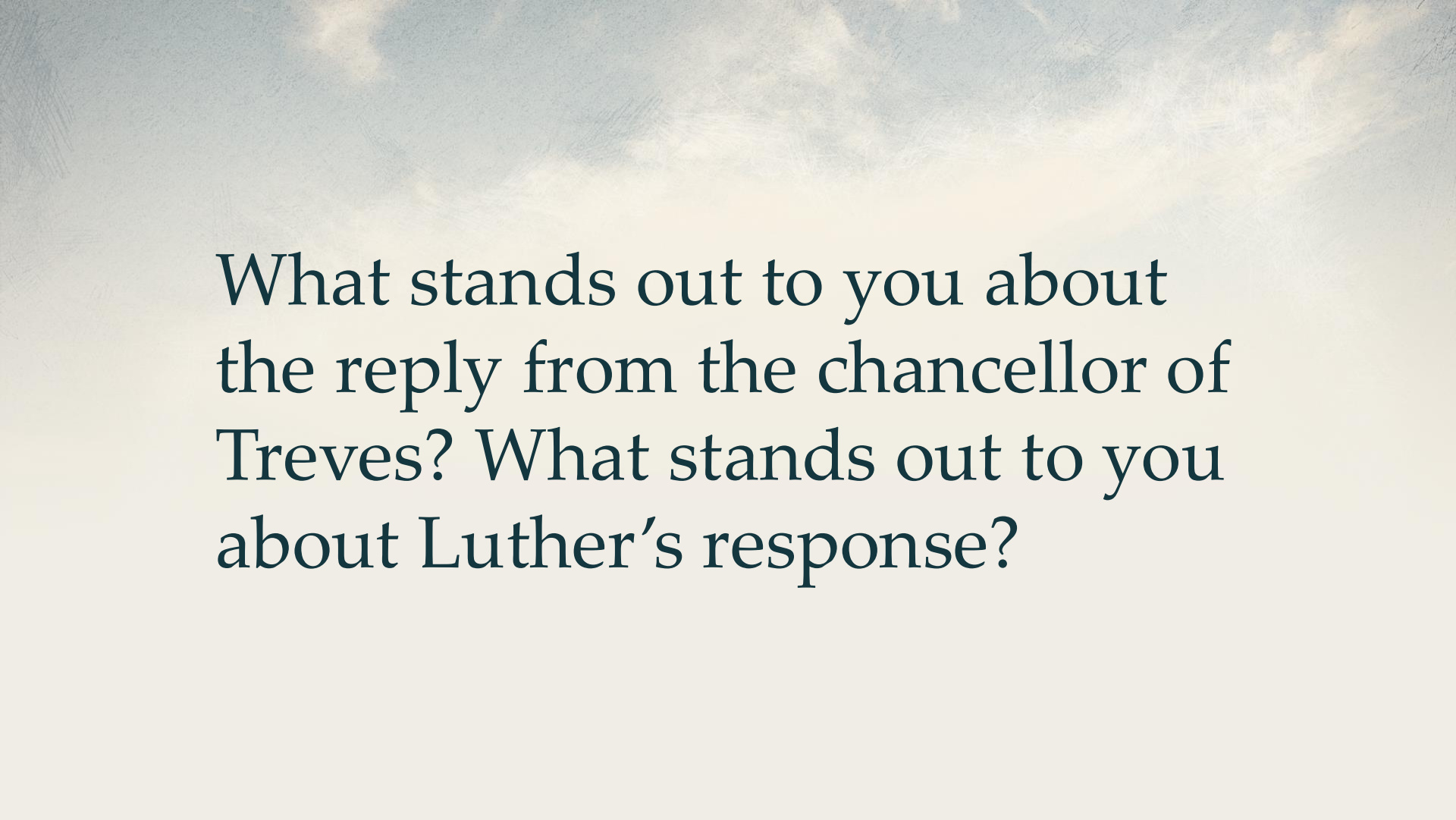
Luther on Trial

- Why do you think that it is unsafe, as Luther stated, for a Christian to go against their conscience?

God gave us our conscience as a guide.



How would you describe
Luther's tone or demeanor as it
comes across in what he wrote?



What stands out to you about the reply from the chancellor of Treves? What stands out to you about Luther's response?

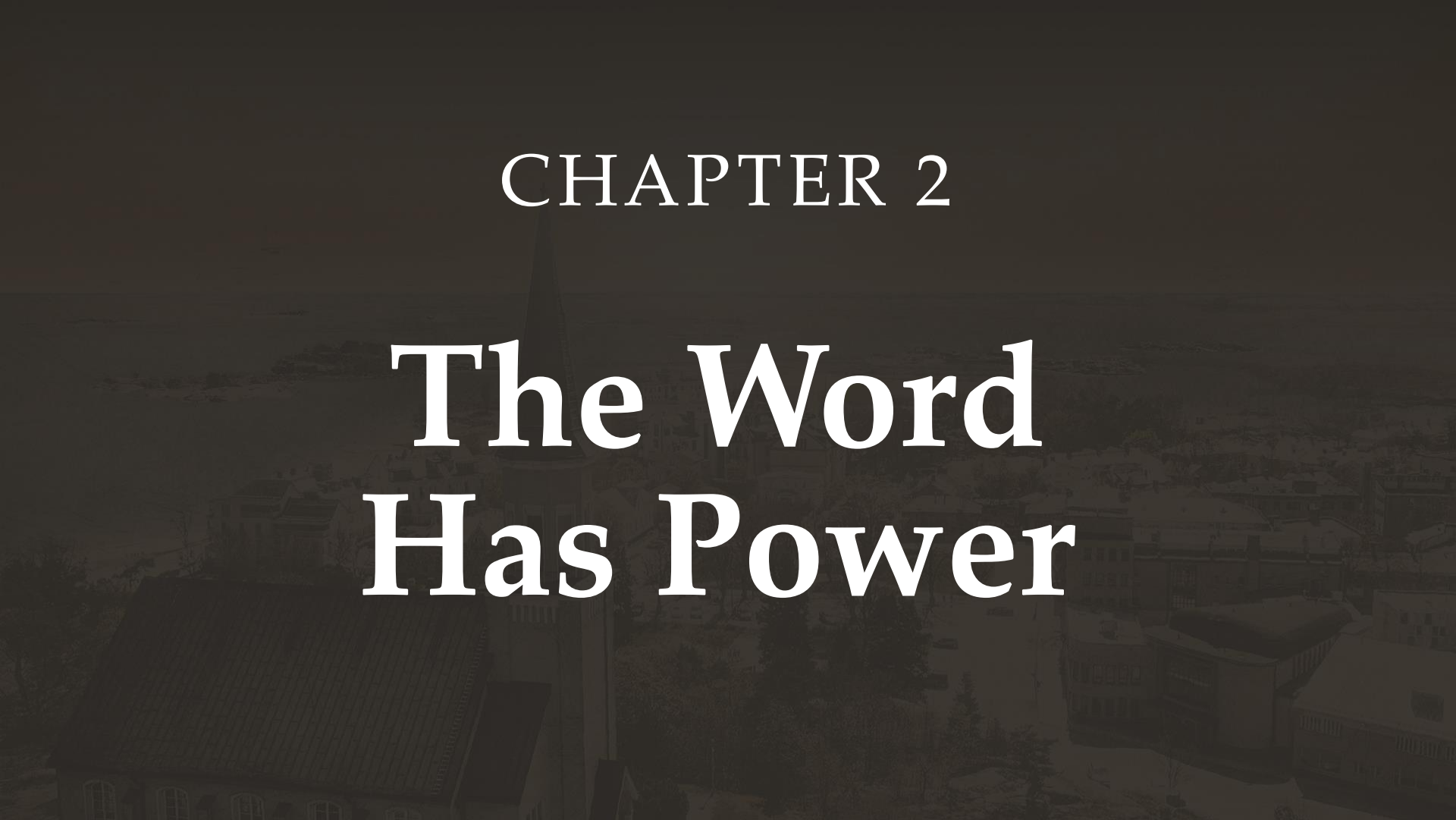


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



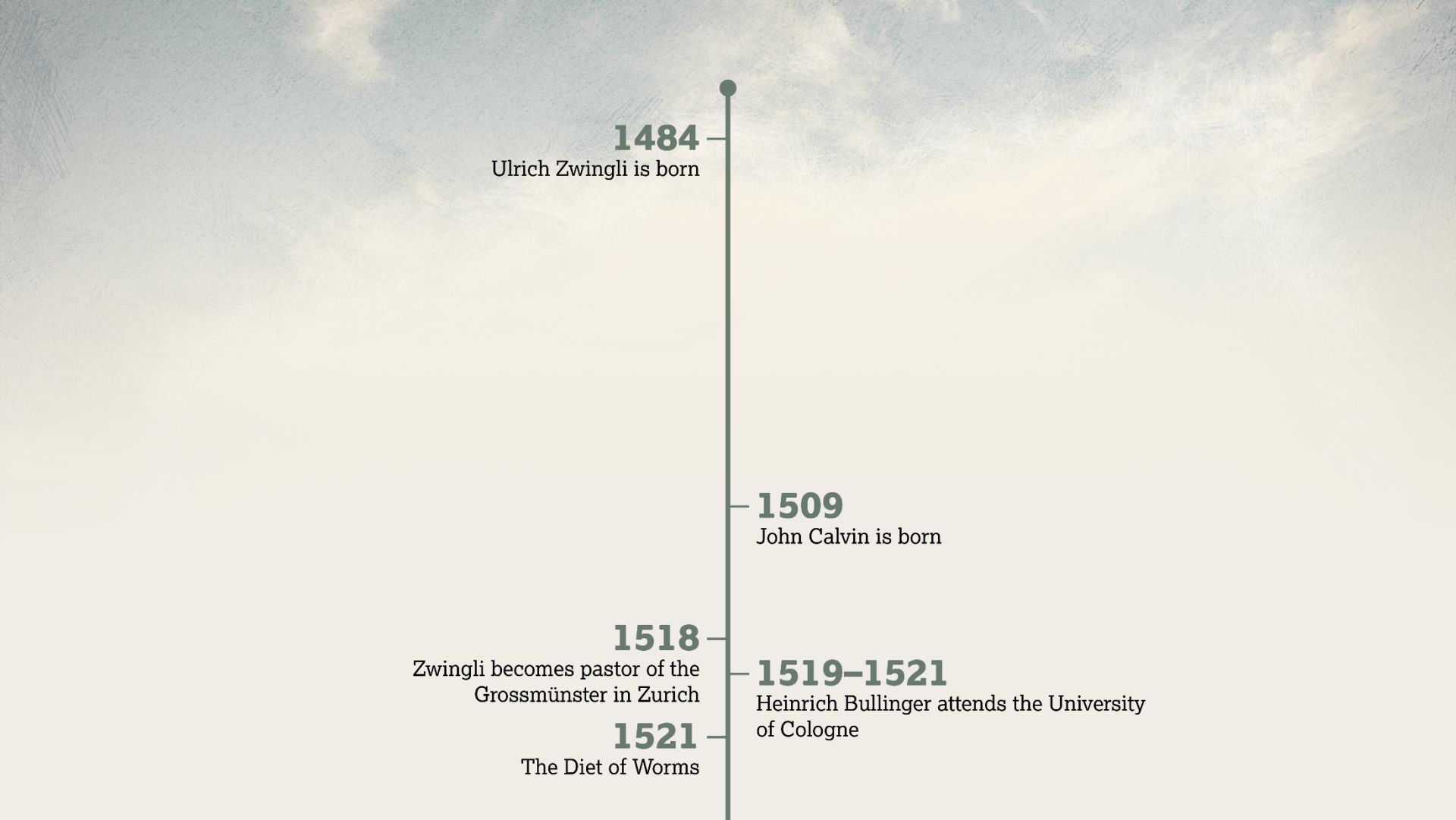
Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 2

The Word Has Power



1484

Ulrich Zwingli is born

1509

John Calvin is born

1518

Zwingli becomes pastor of the
Grossmünster in Zurich

1519–1521

Heinrich Bullinger attends the University
of Cologne

1521

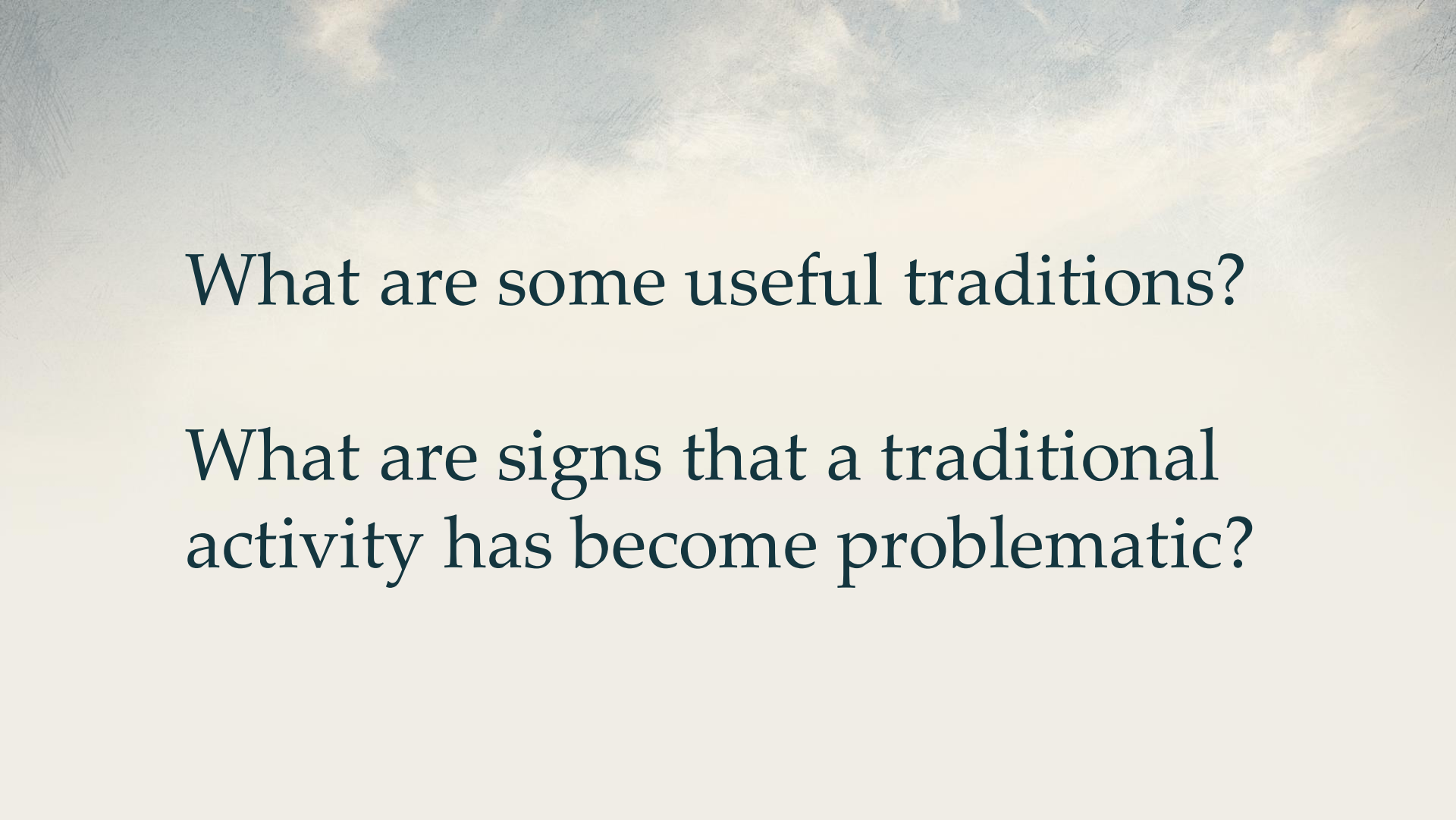
The Diet of Worms

Introduction:

The Battle Between Scripture and Tradition

In short, if you want to fast, do so;
if you do not wish to eat meat,
eat it not; but leave Christians a
free choice in the matter.

—Ulrich Zwingli,
*“Of Freedom of Choice in the
Selection of Foods”*



What are some useful traditions?

What are signs that a traditional activity has become problematic?

Sola Scriptura

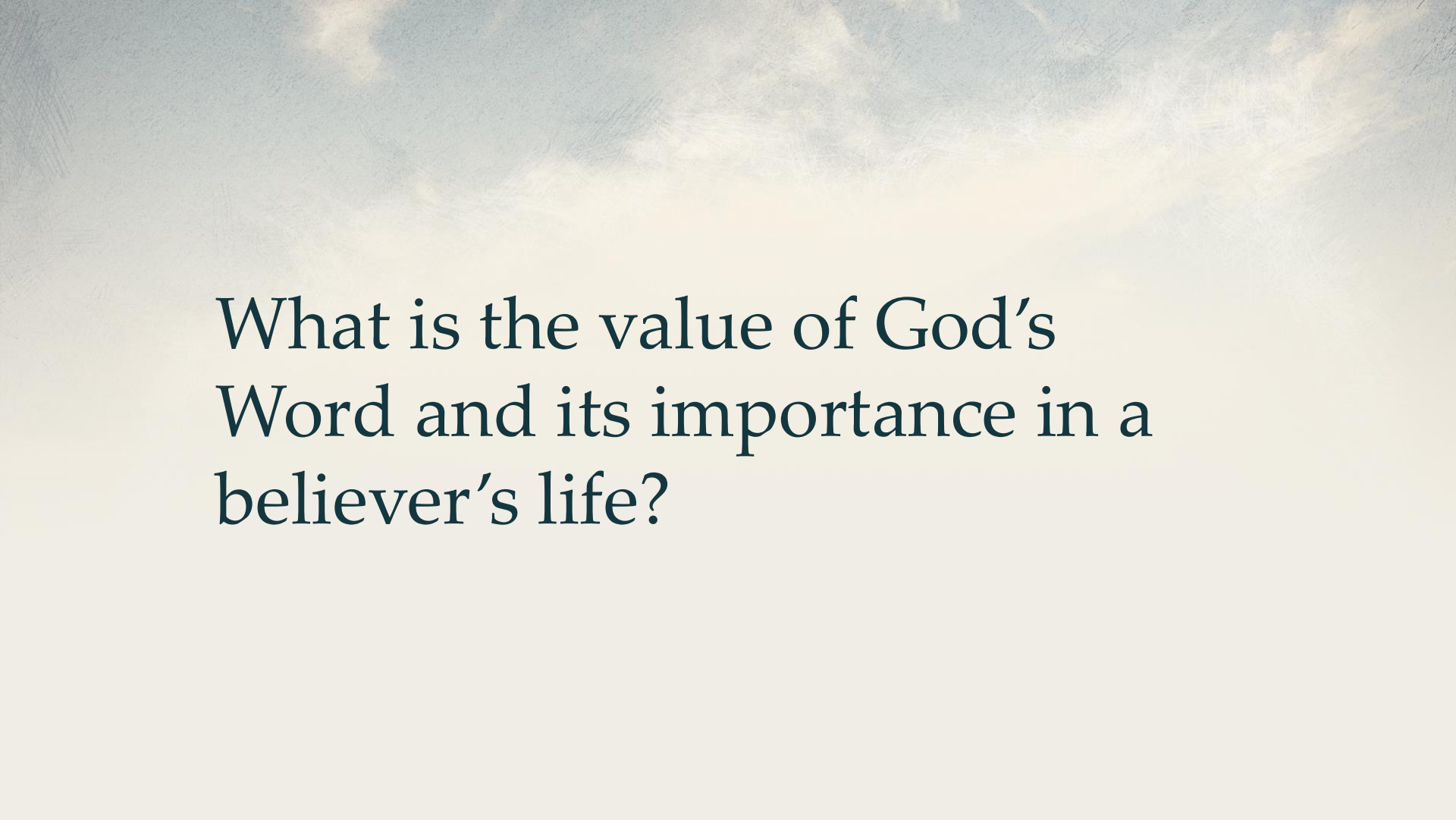
Whatsoever things are necessary to know concerning God, the works, judgments, will and commandments of God, concerning Christ, our faith in Christ, and the duties of a holy life; all those things, I say are fully taught in the Word of God.

—Heinrich Bullinger

Sola Scripture

- What benefits come from studying God's Word?

Knowledge of God's character, wisdom, discerning right and wrong, developing a biblical worldview, guidance for living, and correction for sin



What is the value of God's
Word and its importance in a
believer's life?

2 Timothy 3:10–15

- What does Paul encourage Timothy to continue pursuing (v. 14)?

The things he has heard
and learned

2 Timothy 3:10–15

- What has the power to make a person wise for salvation through faith in Christ (v. 15)?

The Scriptures / the sacred writings

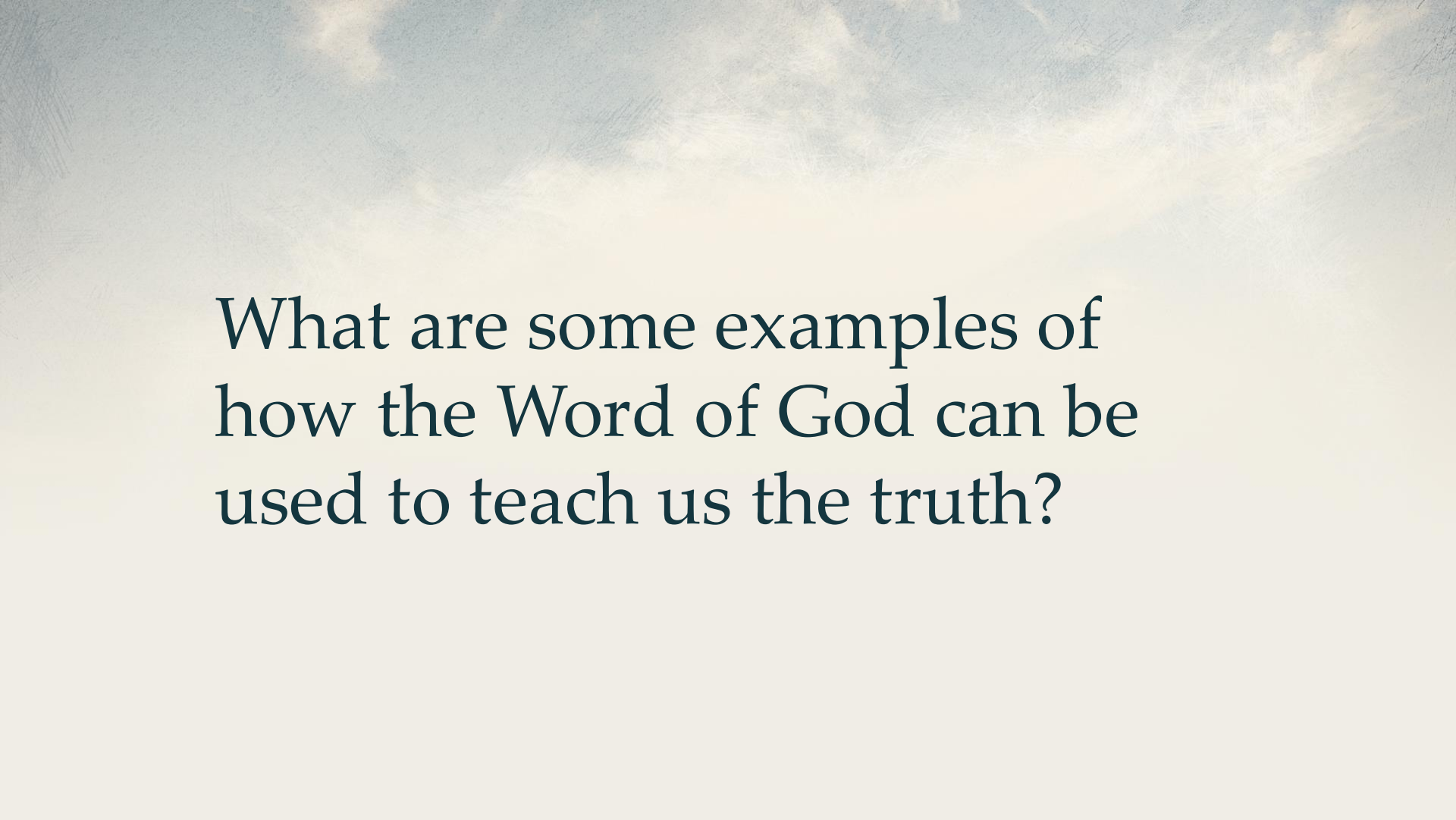
2 Timothy 3:10–15

- Paul also warns that people who pursue life according to God's Word will face what (v. 12)?

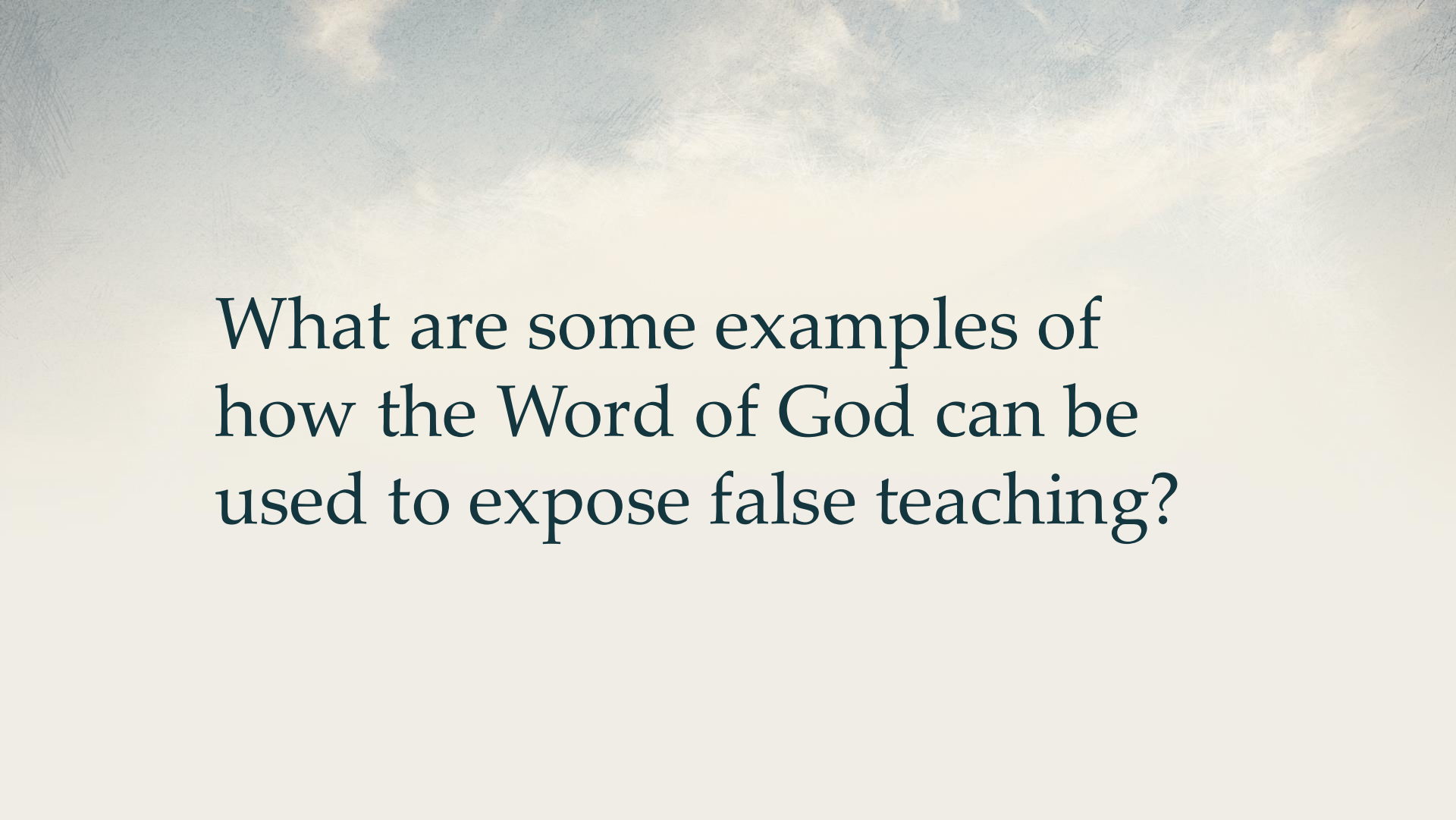
Persecution



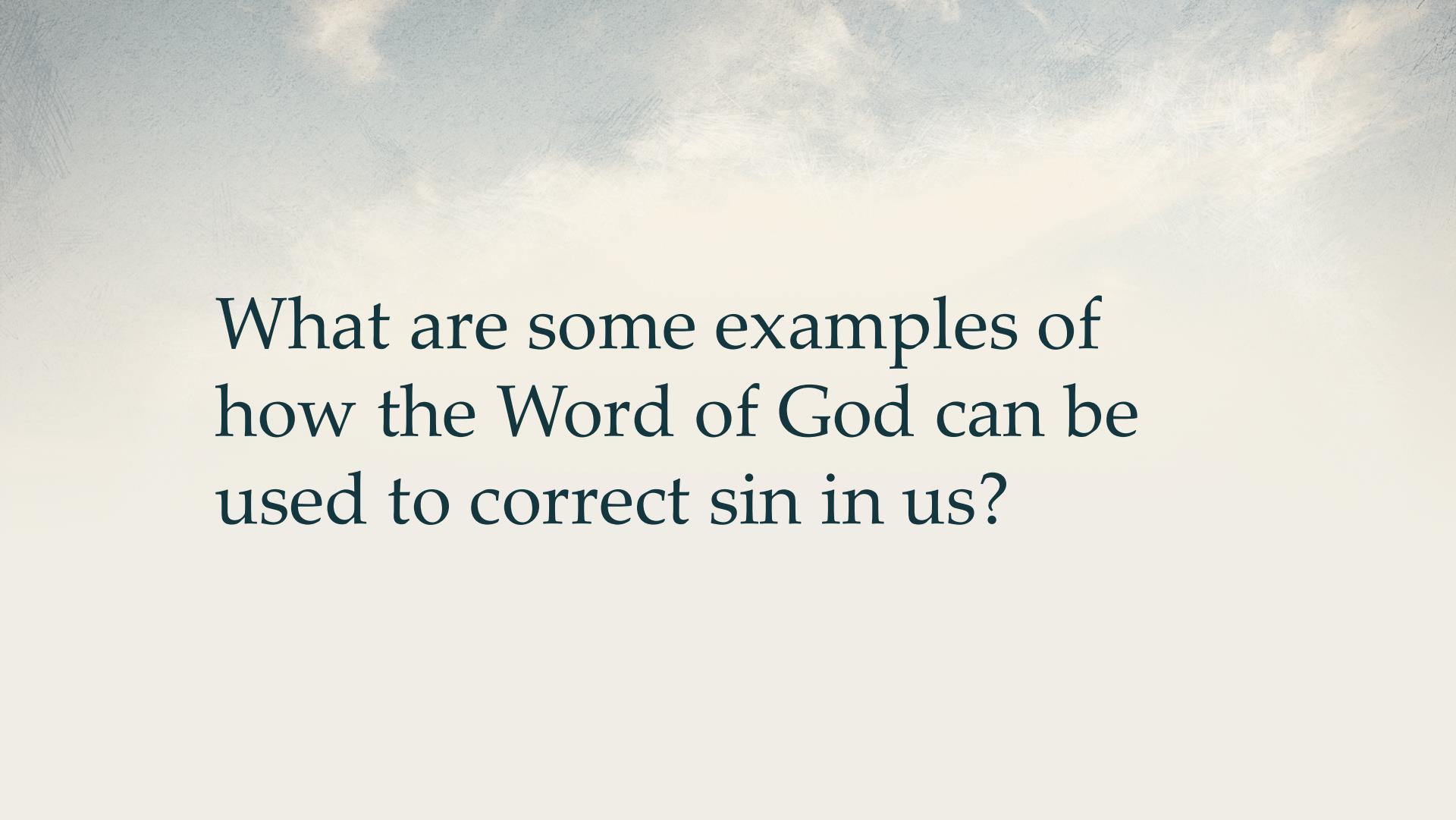
The Power of Scripture



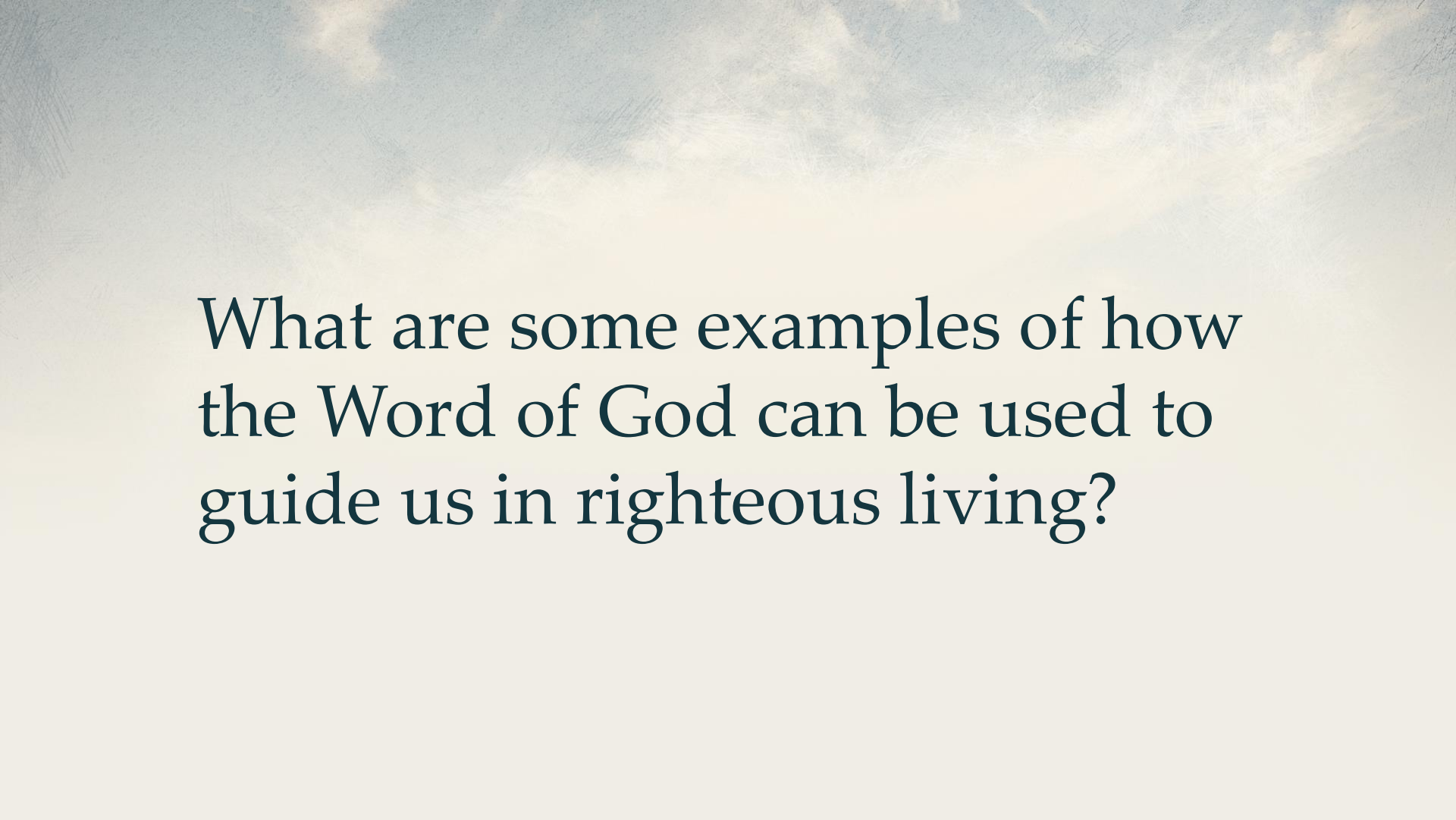
What are some examples of
how the Word of God can be
used to teach us the truth?



What are some examples of
how the Word of God can be
used to expose false teaching?



What are some examples of
how the Word of God can be
used to correct sin in us?



What are some examples of how
the Word of God can be used to
guide us in righteous living?

The Power of Scripture

- How would these four benefits of the Bible help us become mature and prepare us to do good works?

As we are taught to discern between truth and falsehood, we grow more like Christ. We reject our sinful practices and seek ways to serve God in righteousness.



Paris

Orléans

Strasbourg

Basel

Zurich

Geneva

LAKE
GENEVA



Wittenburg

Zurich

Geneva

Rome

Orléans

Paris

Strasbourg

Basel

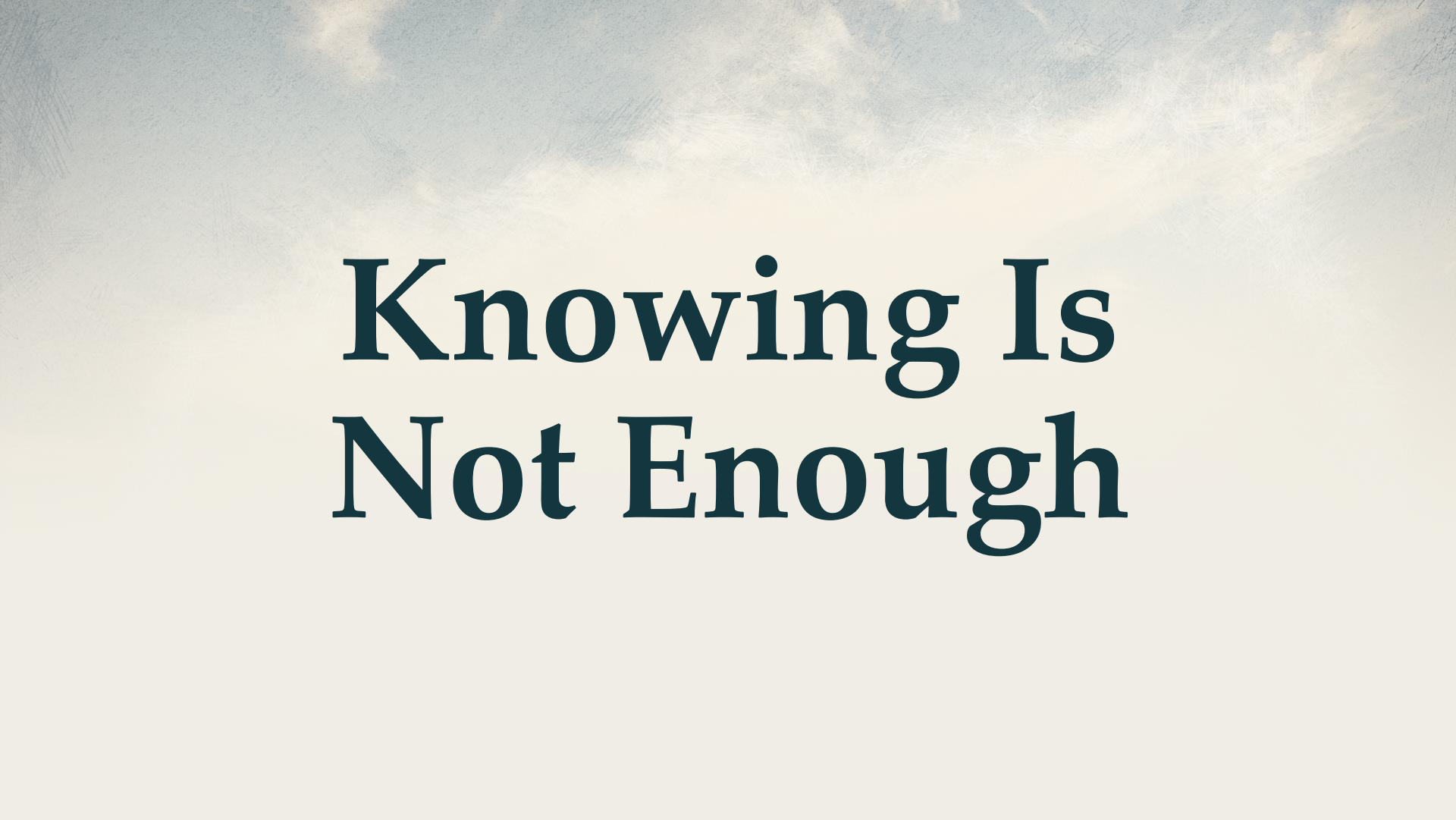
Zurich

Geneva

LAKE
GENEVA



The Path to Geneva

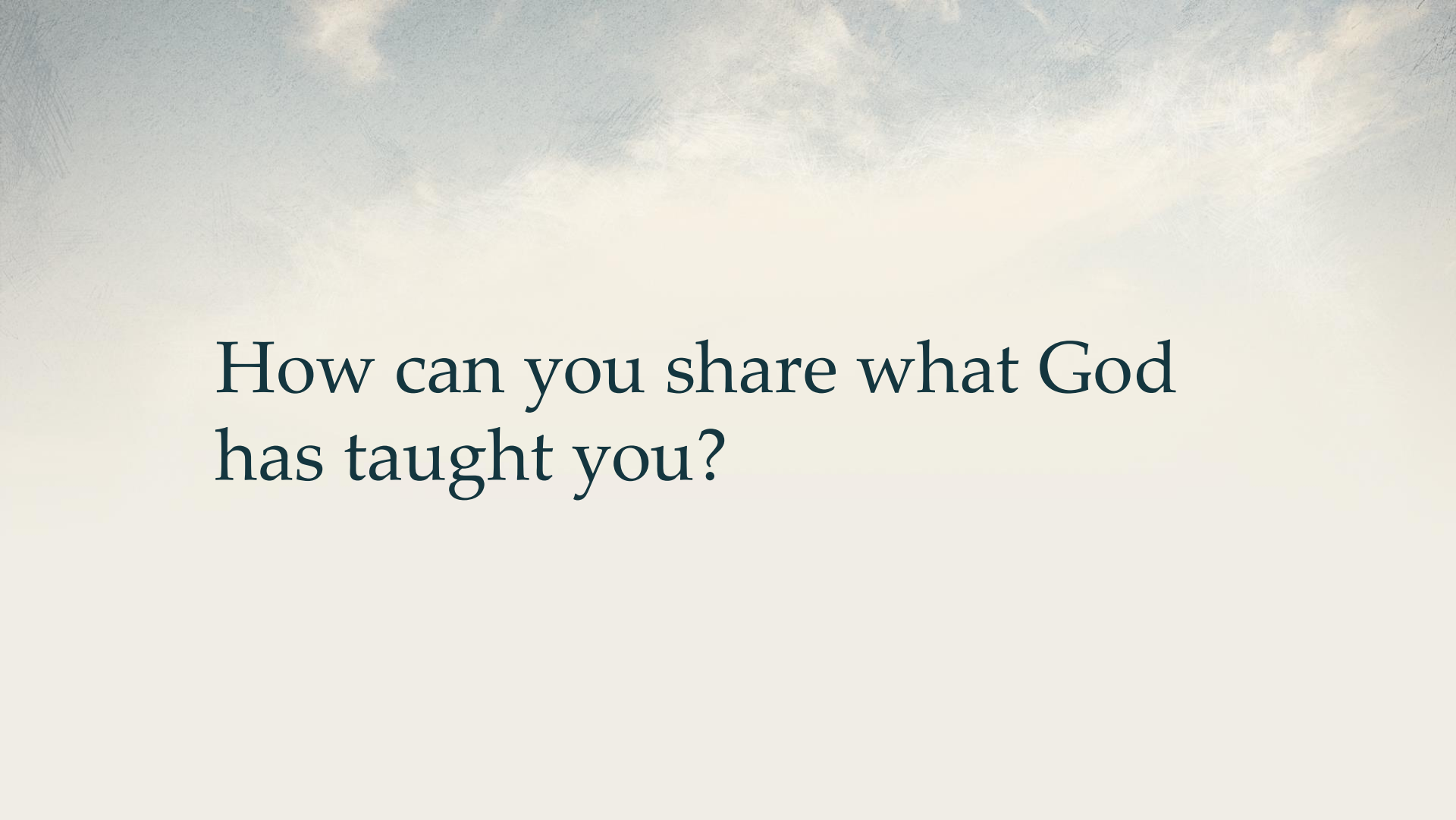


Knowing Is
Not Enough

2 Timothy 4:1–2

- What does Paul encourage Timothy to do?

Preach the Word, always be ready to minister with patience



How can you share what God
has taught you?

Things I've Learned	Ways I Can Share
Example: <i>the gospel</i>	...
<i>Promise of God's presence</i>	...
<i>God's work in biblical stories</i>	...
<i>God's promise of strength in trials</i>	...
<i>God's character</i>	...



**Be Prepared for
Some Rejection**

2 Timothy 4:3–5

- What does Paul say many people want to hear (vv. 3–4)?

Many people want to hear myths or fables that fit what they want to hear and already believe.

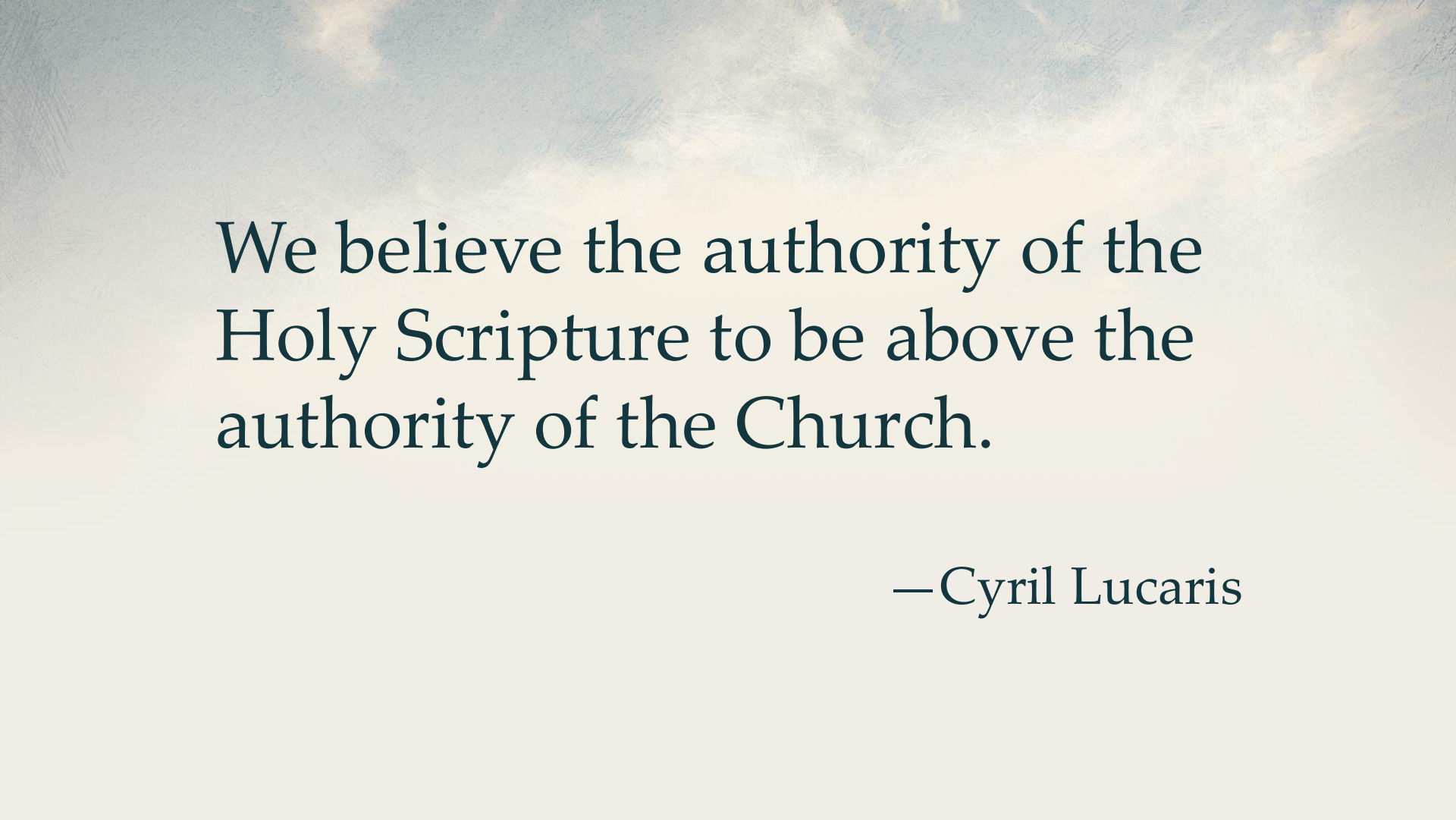
2 Timothy 4:3–5

- How should we respond to rejection of God's message (v. 5)?

We should remain steady and confident, continuing to share the gospel and serve.



Broadcasting the Word

The background of the image is a soft, painterly depiction of a sky with light blue and white clouds. The clouds are more concentrated at the top, creating a sense of depth and atmosphere. The overall tone is calm and serene.

We believe the authority of the
Holy Scripture to be above the
authority of the Church.

—Cyril Lucaris

Hence it is easy to understand that we must give diligent heed both to the reading and hearing of Scripture, if we would obtain any benefit from the Spirit of God . . .

—John Calvin,
Institutes of the Christian Religion

Further Reading:

Calvin on Knowing God



Calving on Knowing God

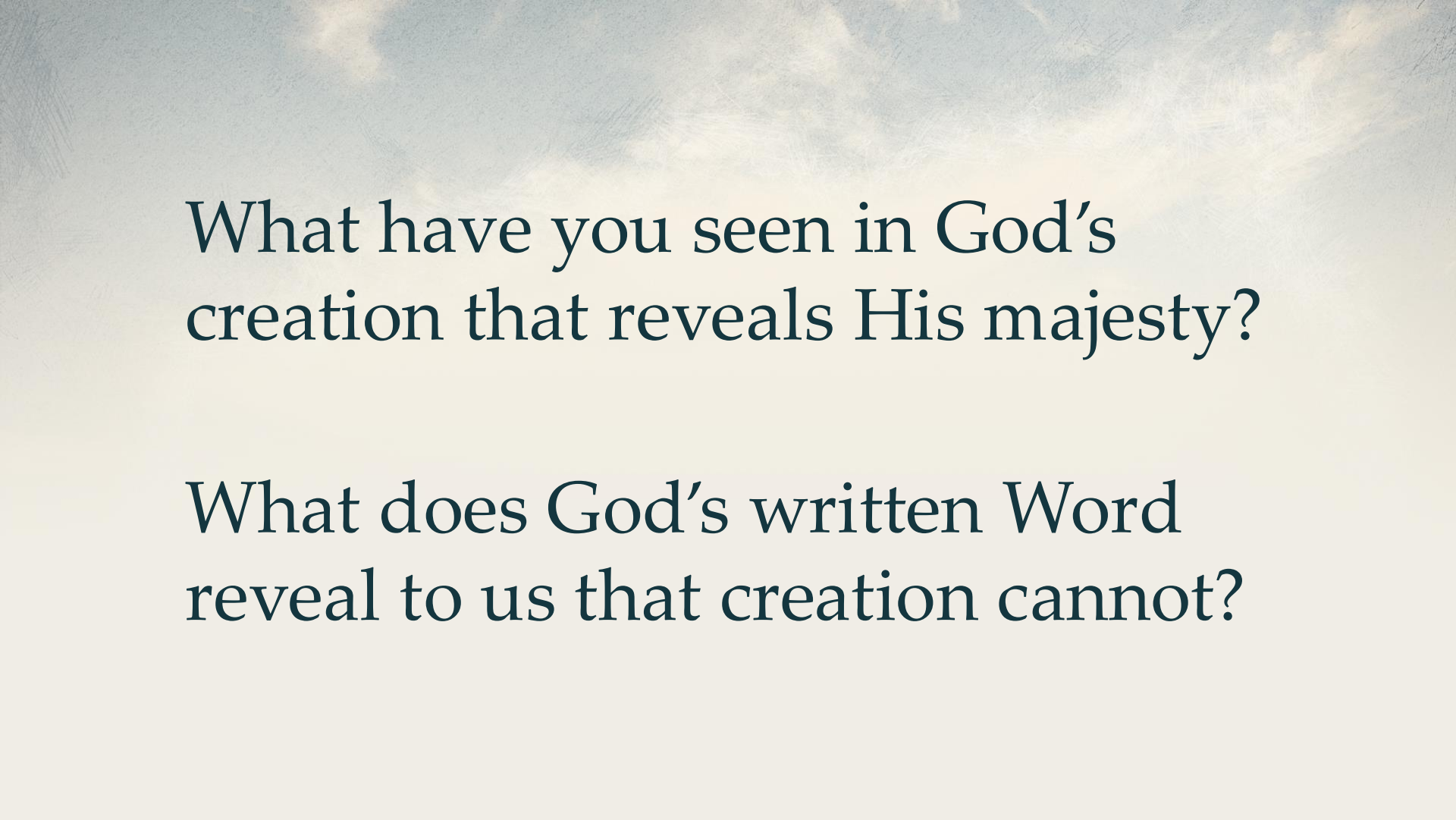
- Based on Calvin's statement in the second paragraph, what are some of the reasons we should be thankful that God chose to give us the Bible?

Scripture prompts us to remember God, and it can protect us from doctrinal error and false religion.

Calving on Knowing God

- Summarize Calvin's explanation, found in the third paragraph, for why the church does not grant Scripture its authority.

The teaching of the prophets and apostles is found in Scripture, thus it existed before the Church.



What have you seen in God's
creation that reveals His majesty?

What does God's written Word
reveal to us that creation cannot?

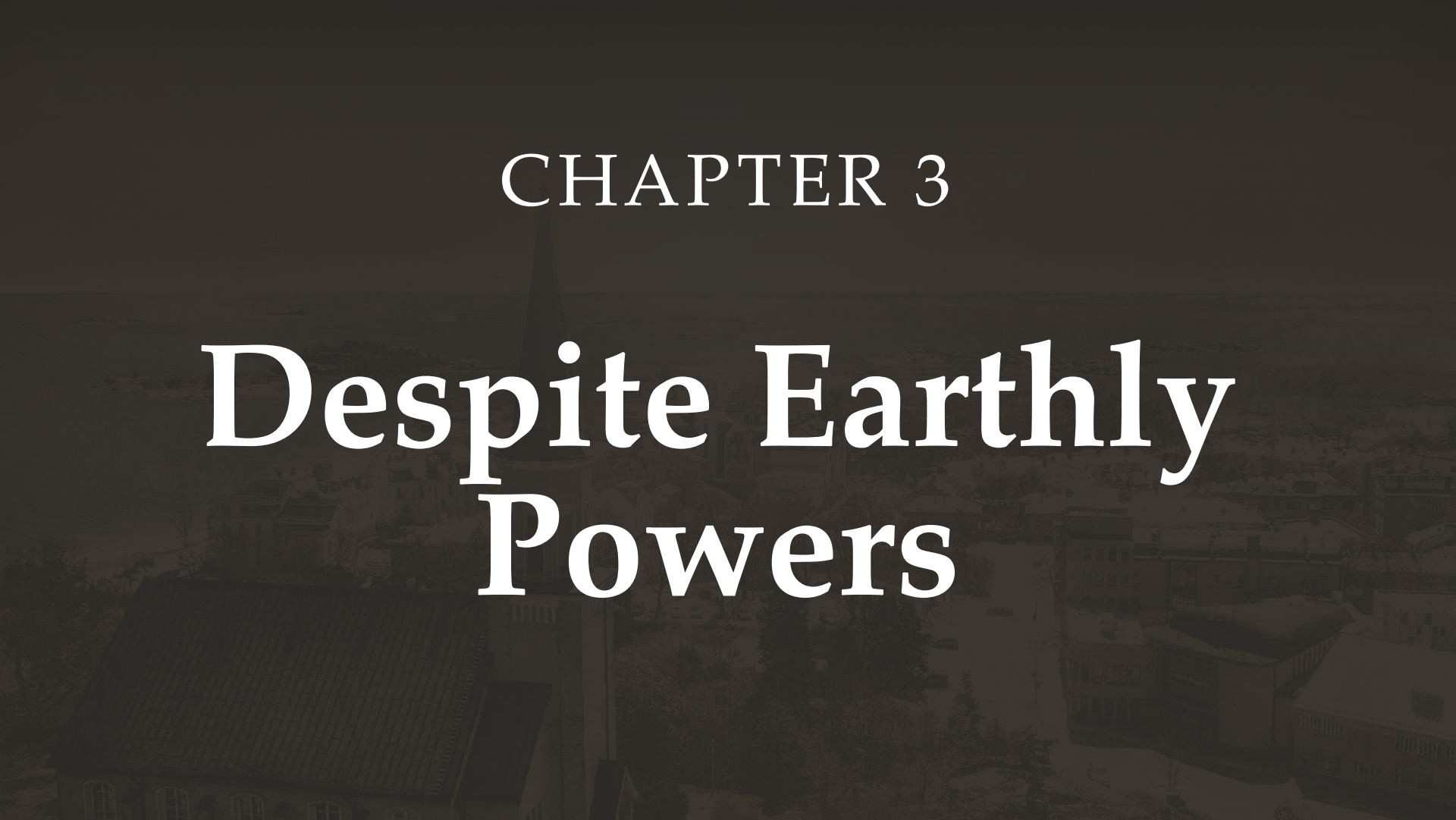


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 3

Despite Earthly Powers



1509

Henry VIII crowned King of England

1533

Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine of Aragon annulled

Introduction:

The Tudor Dynasty of England





In the Face of Opposition

Acts 4:1–4

- How did the leaders react to Peter and the apostles' proclamation of Jesus Christ?

They were annoyed and angry.
They arrested the apostles.

Acts 4:1–4

- How did God work despite this opposition?

Many who heard the gospel believed.

Acts 4:5–12

- How would you describe Peter's response to the religious leaders?
Bold, specific, unapologetic,
accusatory

Acts 4:5–12

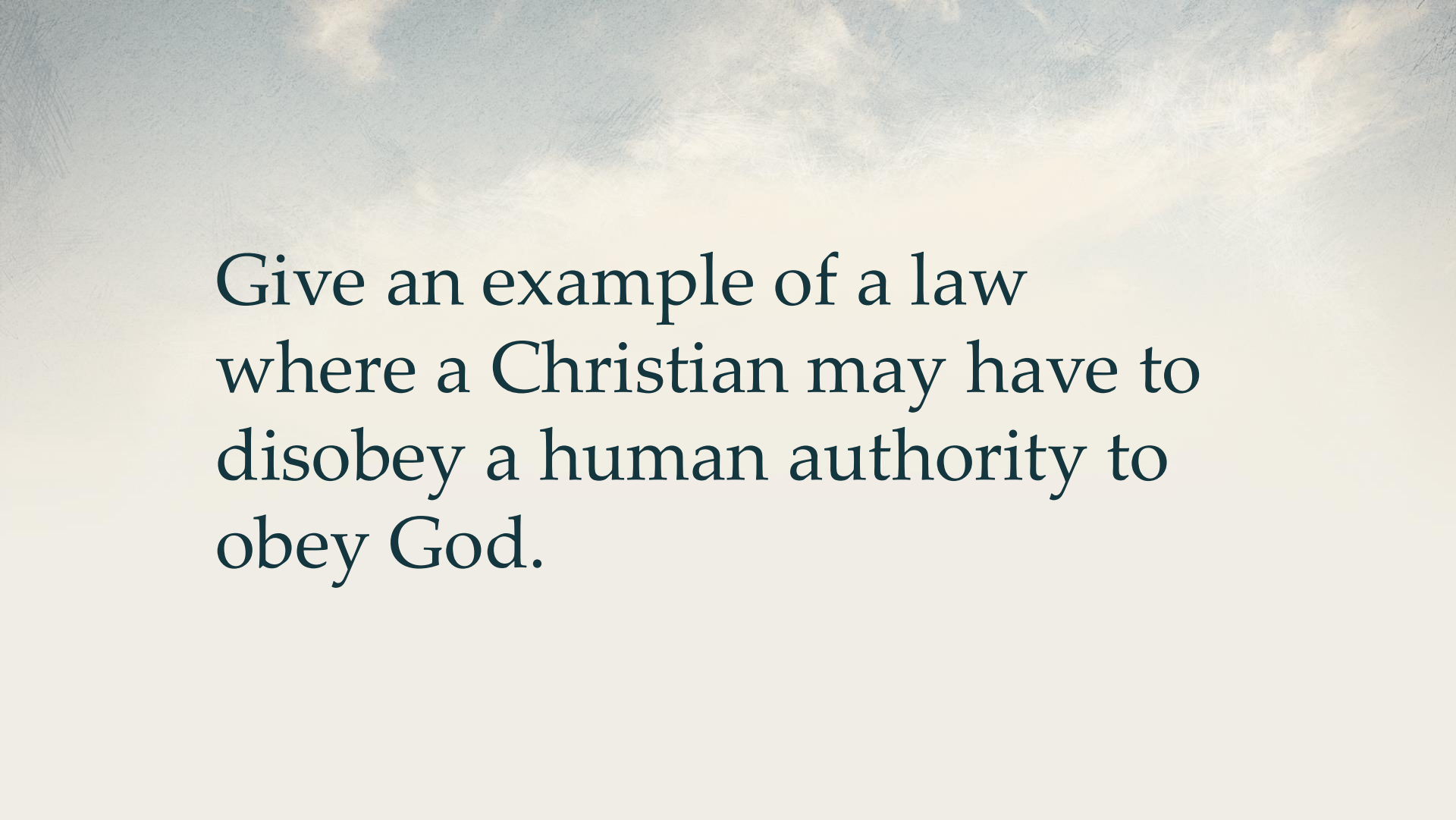
- Verses 11–12 capture the Reformation doctrine of solus Christus. How would you summarize these two verses?

All spiritual power rests in Jesus, and He is the only way of salvation.

Acts 4:13–22

- How did Peter and John respond to the council's command to stop preaching in Jesus' name?

We will obey God and preach Christ even if you command us otherwise.



Give an example of a law
where a Christian may have to
disobey a human authority to
obey God.



God Is Sovereign Over Rulers

Acts 4:23–28

- You may have expected the apostles' arrests to instill fear in the early Christians. Instead, how did they respond to the news (v. 24)?

They praised God.

Acts 4:23–28

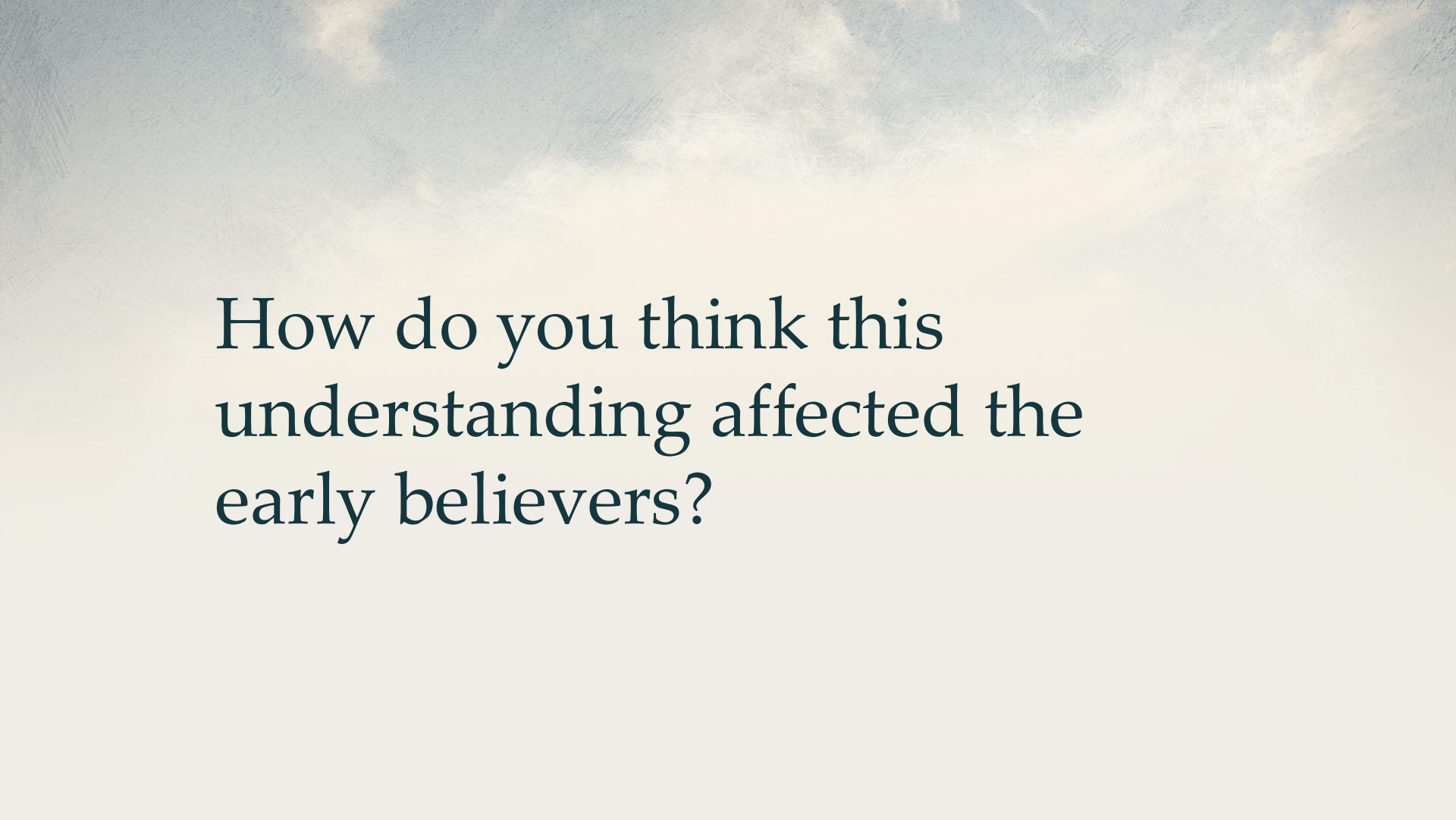
- After quoting Psalm 2:1–2, the believers stated that plotting against God is pointless and vain. What example of a failed plot do they point to in verses 27–28?

The crucifixion of Jesus

Acts 4:23–28

- Despite all the plans against Jesus by His enemies, whose will ultimately triumphed (v. 28)?

God's will



How do you think this
understanding affected the
early believers?



Proclaiming the Sovereign God

Acts 4:31

- What was God's immediate response to this prayer?

The place where the apostles were gathered shook.

Acts 4:31

- What was the ongoing response of the believers?

They spoke God's Word with boldness.

Acts 4:31

- According to the verse, what was the source for this boldness?

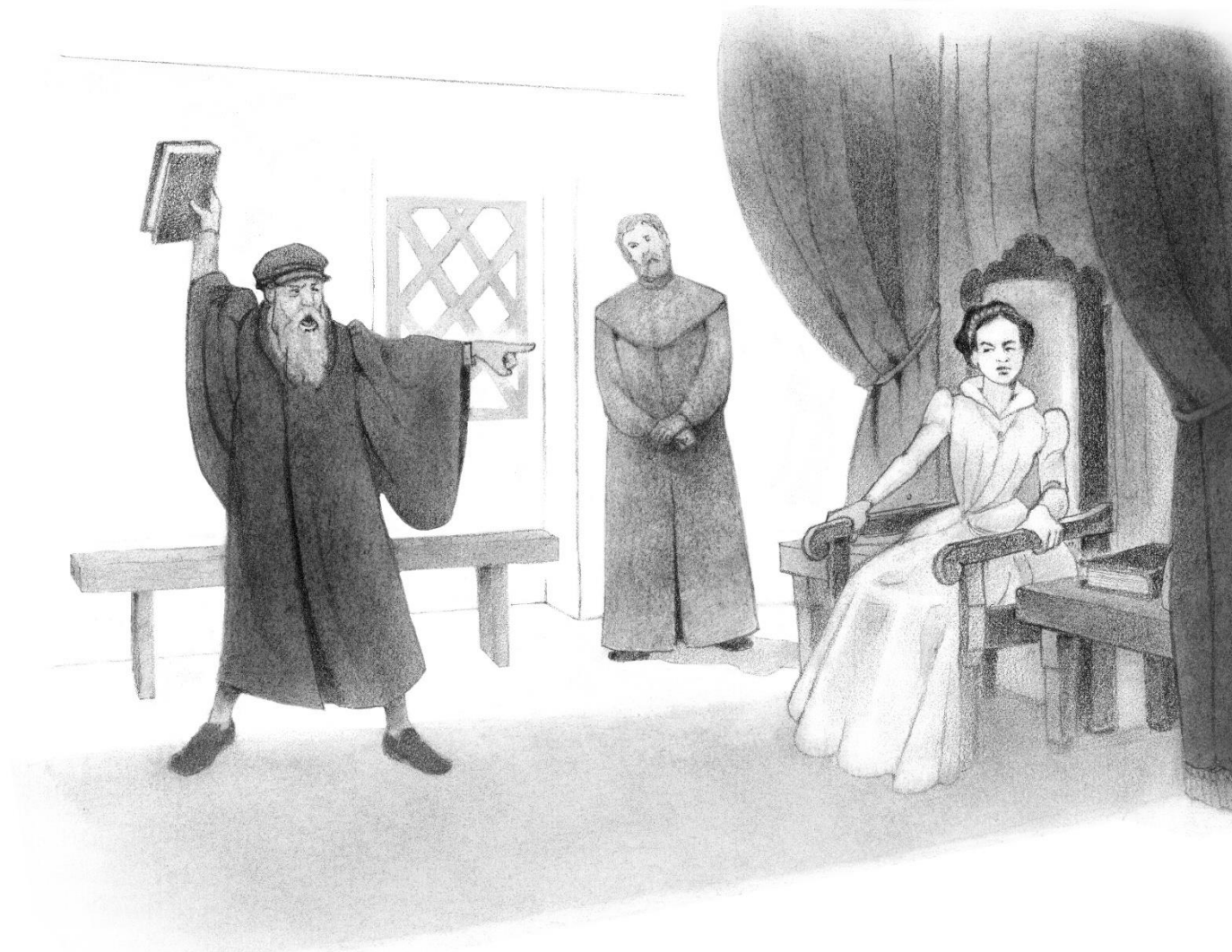
The Holy Spirit

. . . the word of God preached by the mouth of man, is not a vain sound, and words spoken without a purpose; but is the summoning of God himself, forewarning men before the judgment come.

—John Knox,
“A Letter to the People of Edinburgh”

History:

John Knox



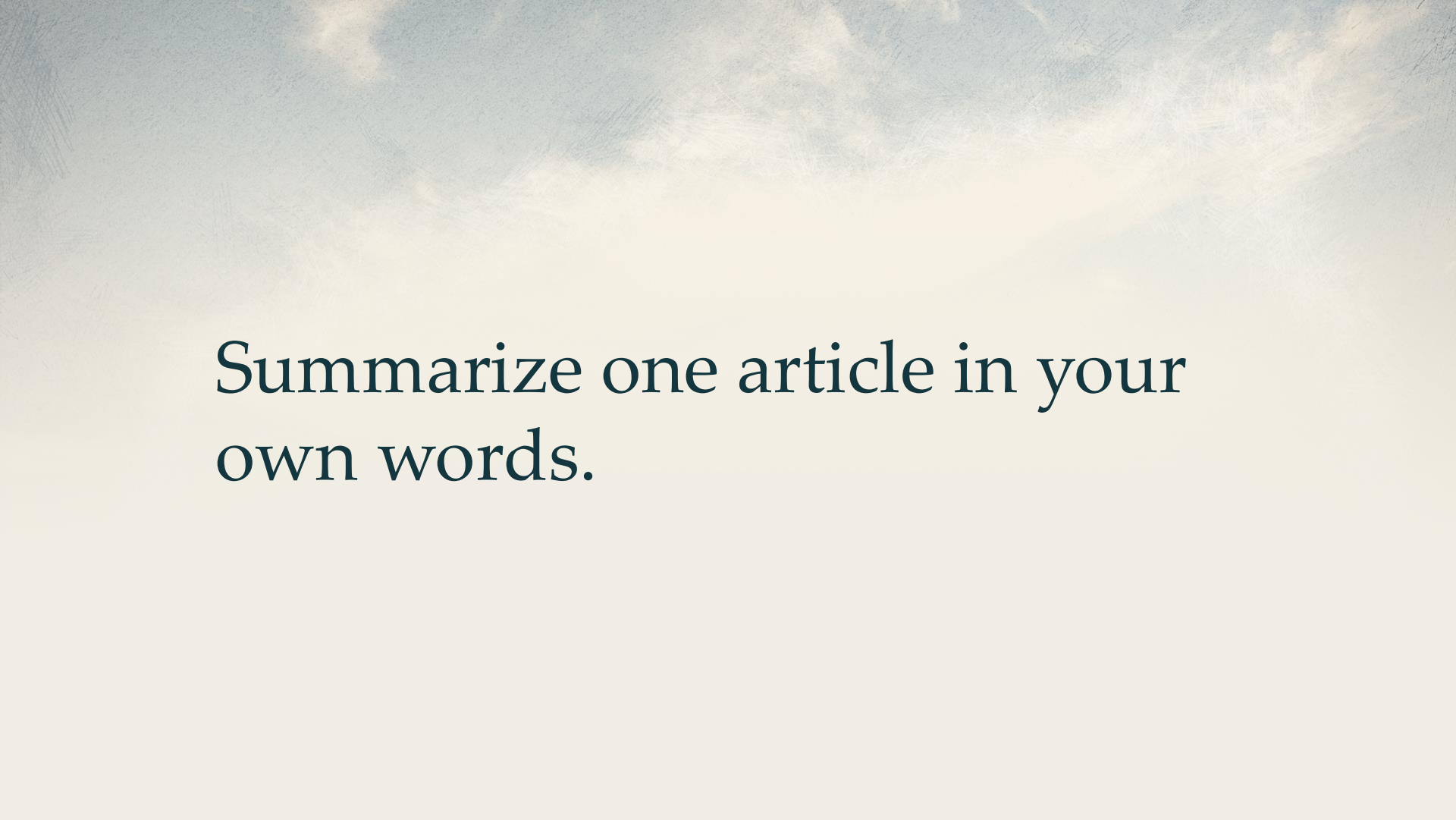
Further Reading:

The Thirty-Nine Articles

The Thirty-Nine Articles

- According to the first article in this list, what contains everything necessary for our salvation?

Holy Scripture



Summarize one article in your own words.

Did you find any of these articles confusing? If so, why?

Do you think people still disagree with these doctrinal points today? What are some examples?

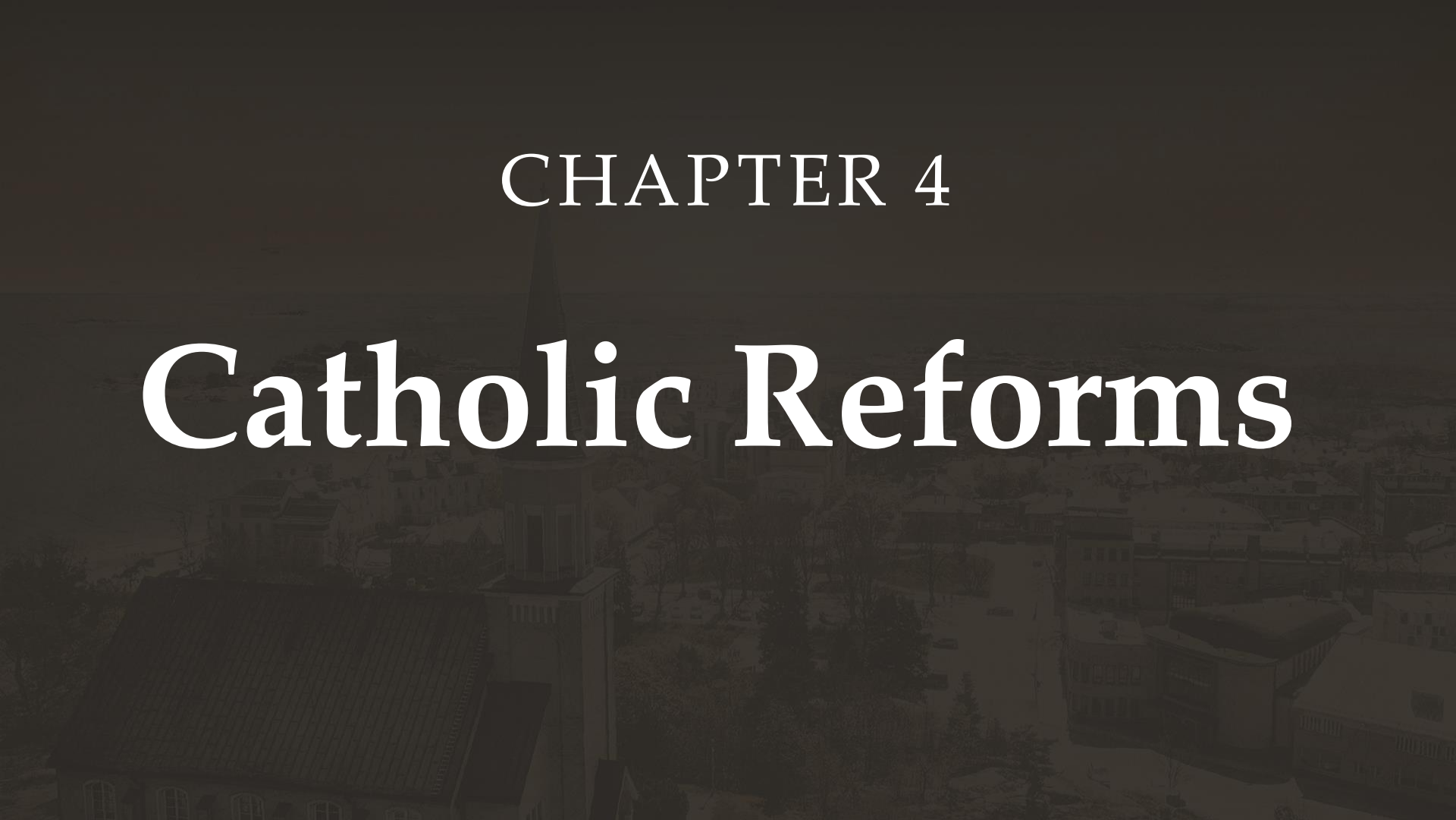


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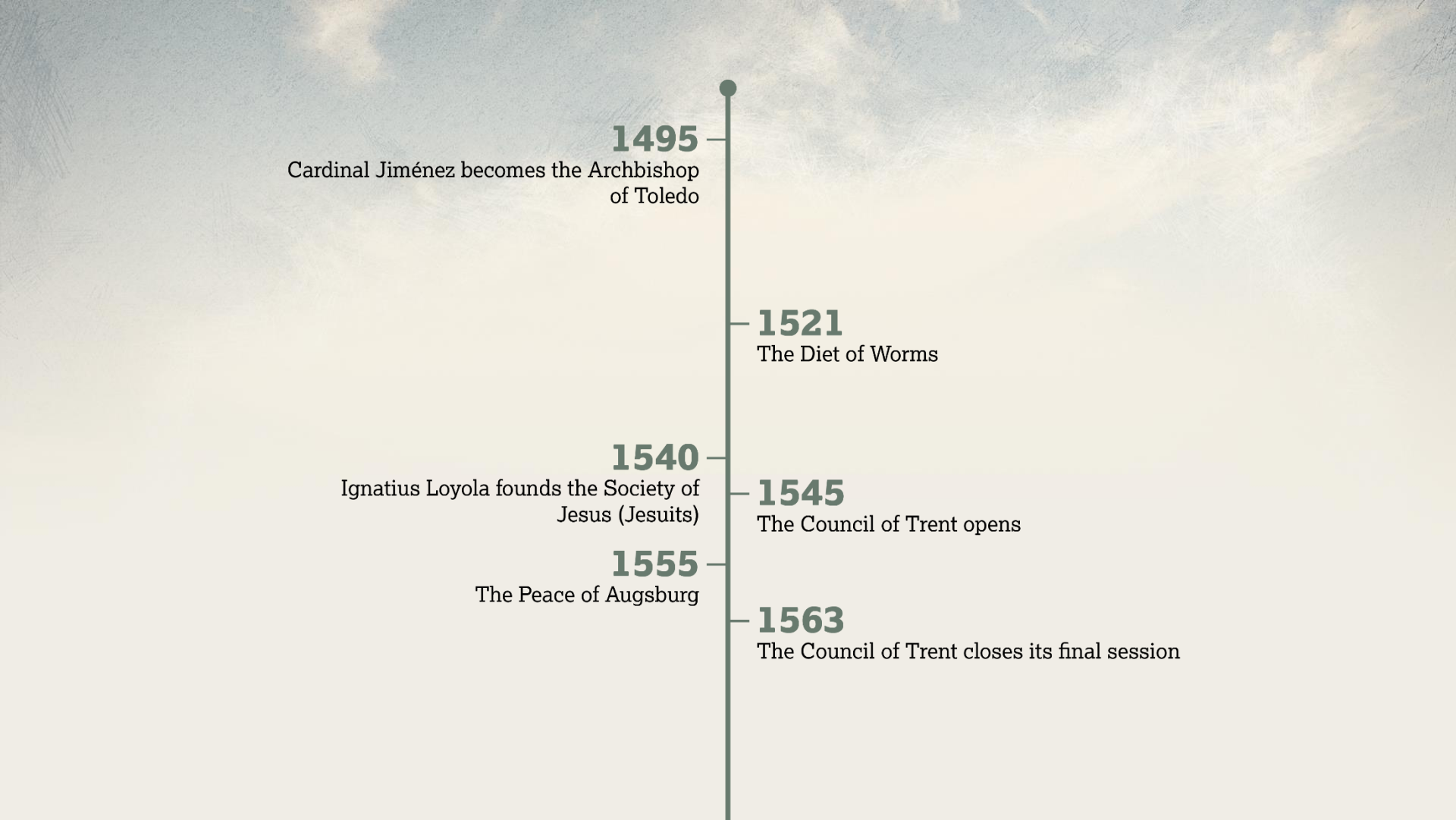
Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present



The background of the slide is a dark, grayscale aerial photograph of a city. A prominent church steeple is visible in the lower-left foreground, rising above the surrounding buildings. The city extends into the distance, with various residential and commercial structures visible. The overall tone is somber and historical.

CHAPTER 4

Catholic Reforms



1495
Cardinal Jiménez becomes the Archbishop
of Toledo

1521
The Diet of Worms

1540
Ignatius Loyola founds the Society of
Jesus (Jesuits)

1545
The Council of Trent opens

1555
The Peace of Augsburg

1563
The Council of Trent closes its final session

Introduction:

Changes in the Roman Catholic Church



Focusing on Externals

Matthew 23:25–28

- What contrasting types of change does Jesus mention four times in these verses?

Inward change vs.
Outward change

Matthew 23:25–28

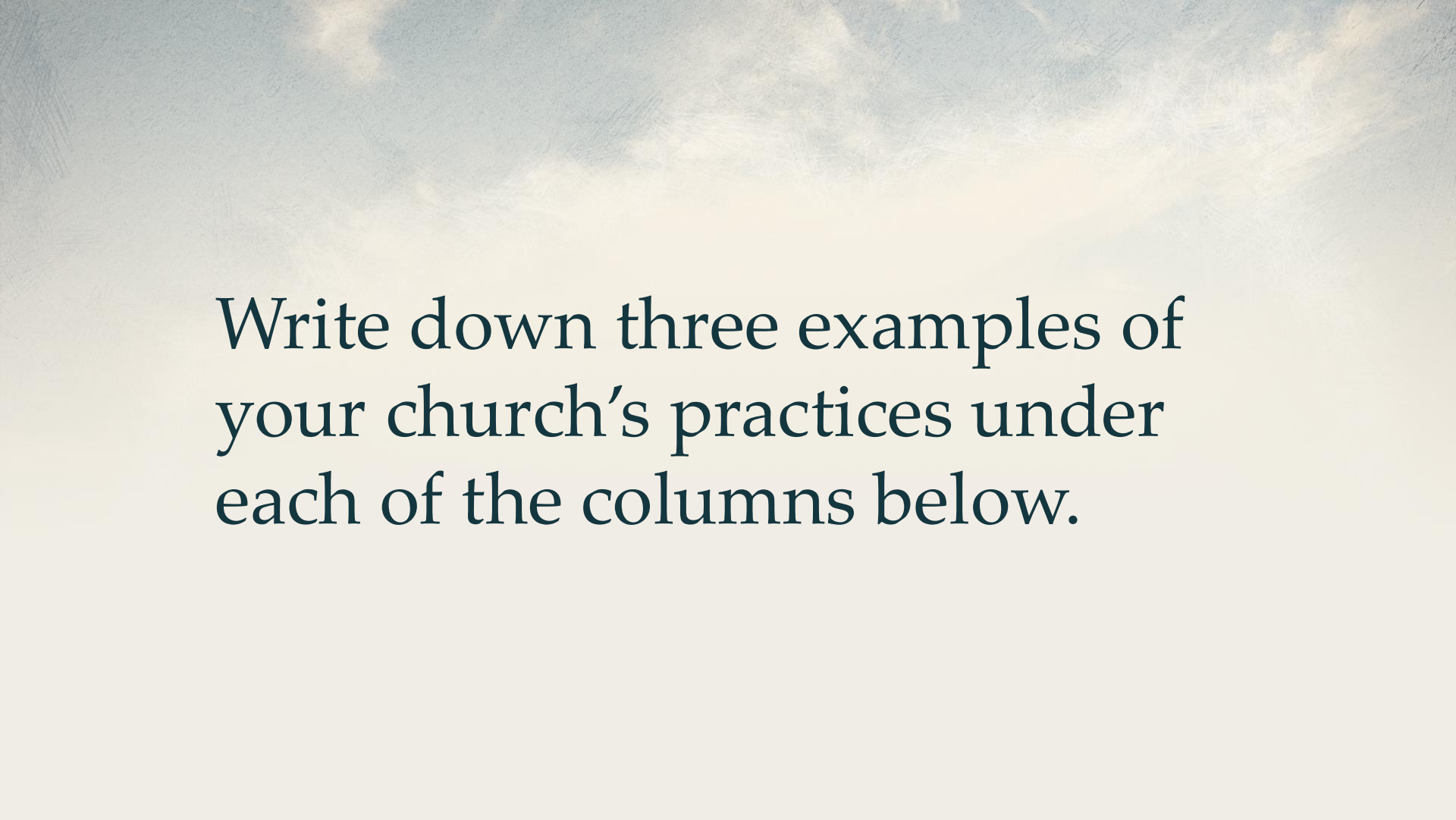
- Which of these changes did the Pharisees emphasize?

Outward change

Matthew 23:25–28

- Jesus says that both types are important, but priority should be given to which type?

Inward change



Write down three examples of
your church's practices under
each of the columns below.

Practices that focus on outward expression	Practices that focus on inward change
<u>Examples:</u> • <i>The clothing we wear to church</i> • <i>The times we meet</i> • <i>The way we decorate the church building</i> • <i>The names we give to leaders in the church</i>	<u>Examples:</u> • <i>The preaching of the Word</i> • <i>Public prayer</i> • <i>Corporate worship</i> • <i>Sharing the gospel</i>

Jesus blessed both inward and outward expressions of righteousness (Matt. 23:27).

How can we maintain a balance between these two aspects?

How can we personally work to keep inward righteousness a priority?



SPAIN

History:

Cardinal Jiménez de Cisneros





Builders of Tombs

Matthew 23:29–31

- How did the scribes and Pharisees honor dead heroes (v. 29)?

They built tombs and decorated monuments.

Matthew 23:29–31

- What evil of the past did the Pharisees claim they would not have participated in (v. 30)?

Killing the prophets

Matthew 23:29–31

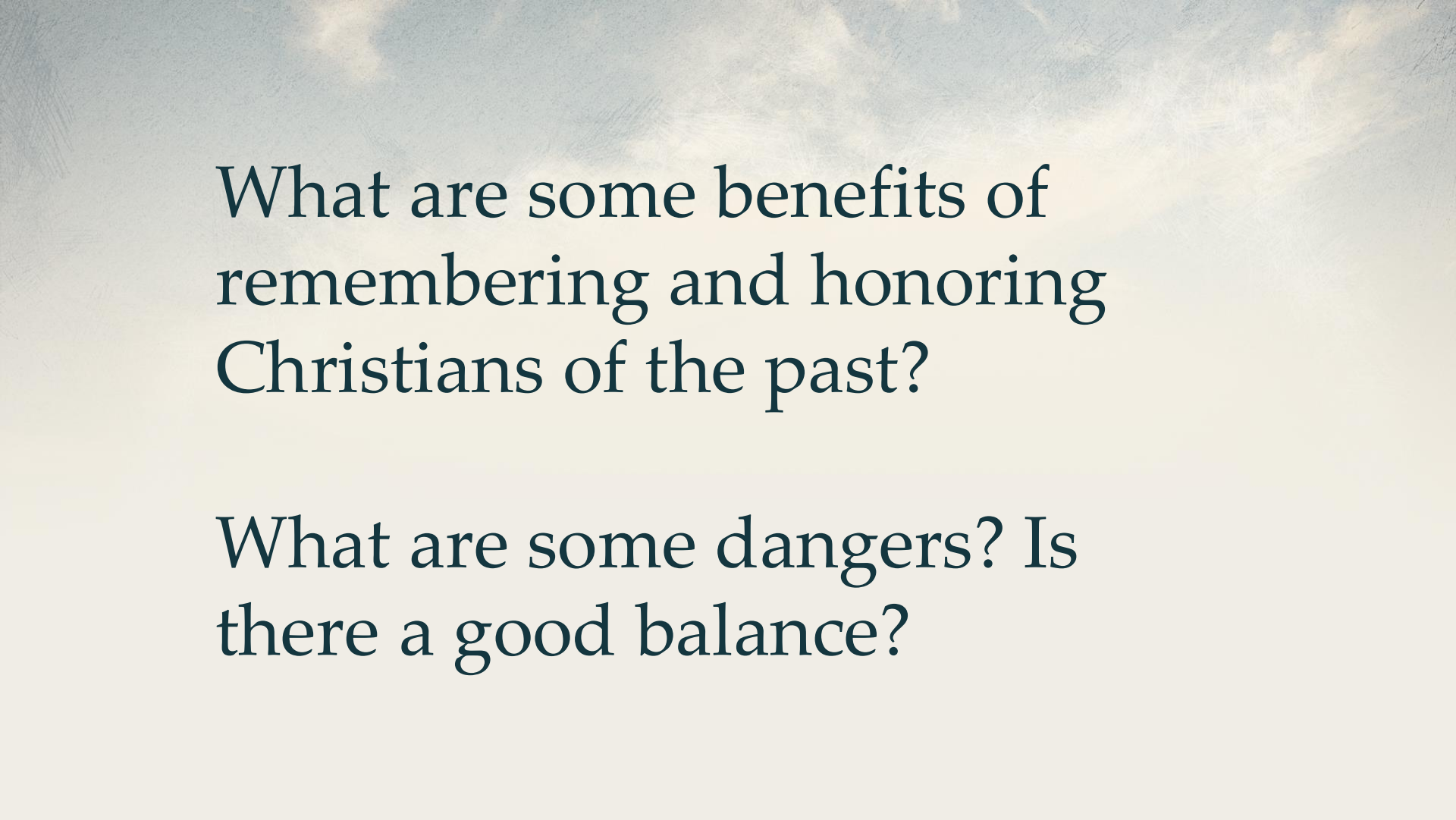
- What irony can you see between the Pharisee's self-righteous claim and their eventual condemnation of Jesus?

They claimed they would not have killed God's prophets, but they encouraged the crucifixion of the Messiah.

Matthew 23:32–36

- Summarize the way Jesus says the Pharisees will respond to God's messengers.

They will kill some and cruelly mistreat others, driving them out of their cities.

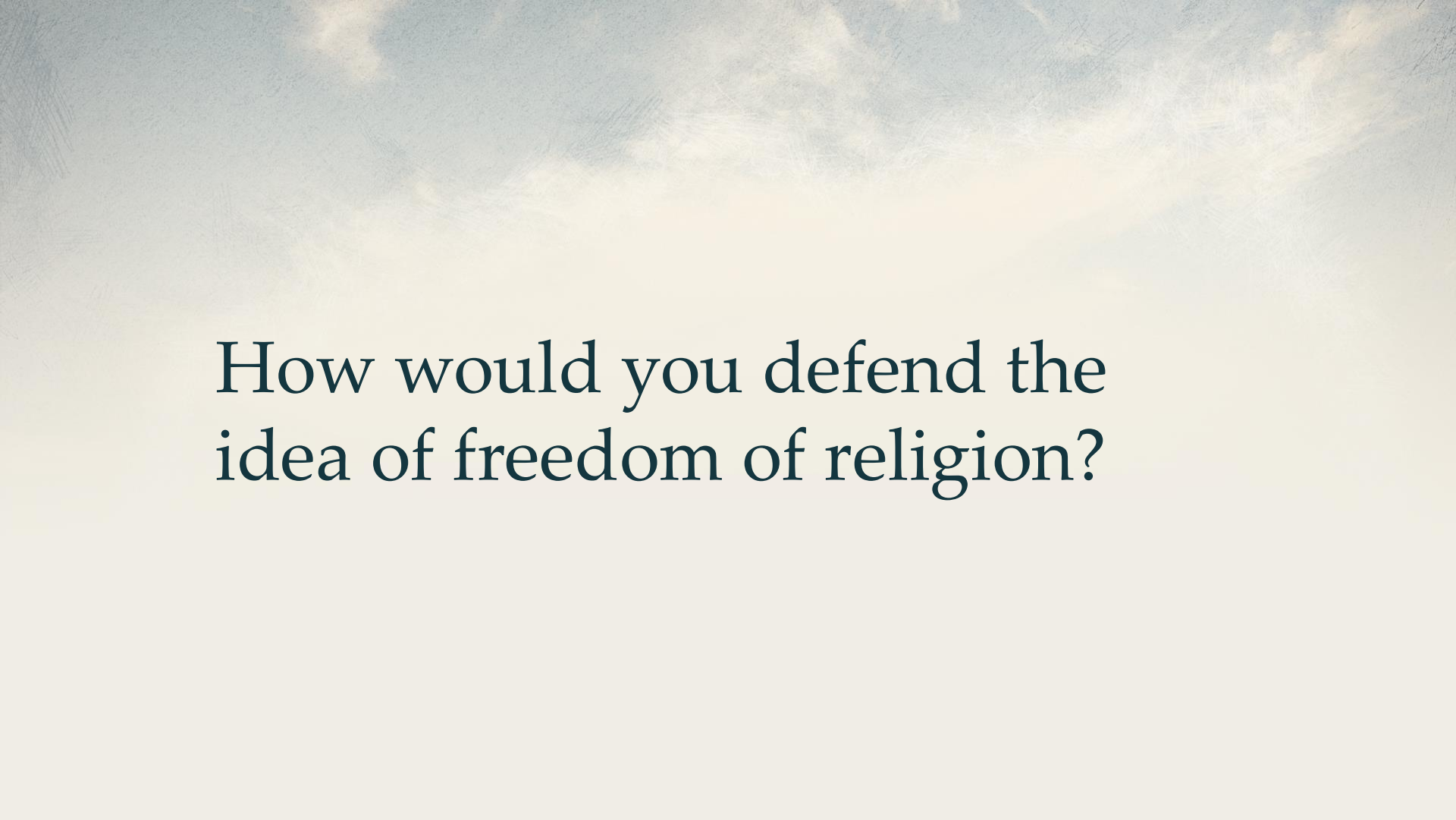
The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of a sky with light, wispy clouds. The colors are muted, with shades of pale blue, grey, and off-white.

What are some benefits of remembering and honoring Christians of the past?

What are some dangers? Is there a good balance?



The Wars of Religion



How would you defend the
idea of freedom of religion?



**No Peace Apart
from Christ**

Matthew 23:37–39

- Who is the only person who offers true peace?

Jesus

Matthew 23:37–39

- What happens to those who refuse Jesus' peace (vv. 38–39)?

They are left desolate and separated from Christ.

Further Reading:

The Council of Trent

The Council of Trent

- What could be a potential danger of accepting noncanonical books for Christian teaching?

Possibilities include the danger of accepting false teaching or requiring practices that God never intended to be normative.

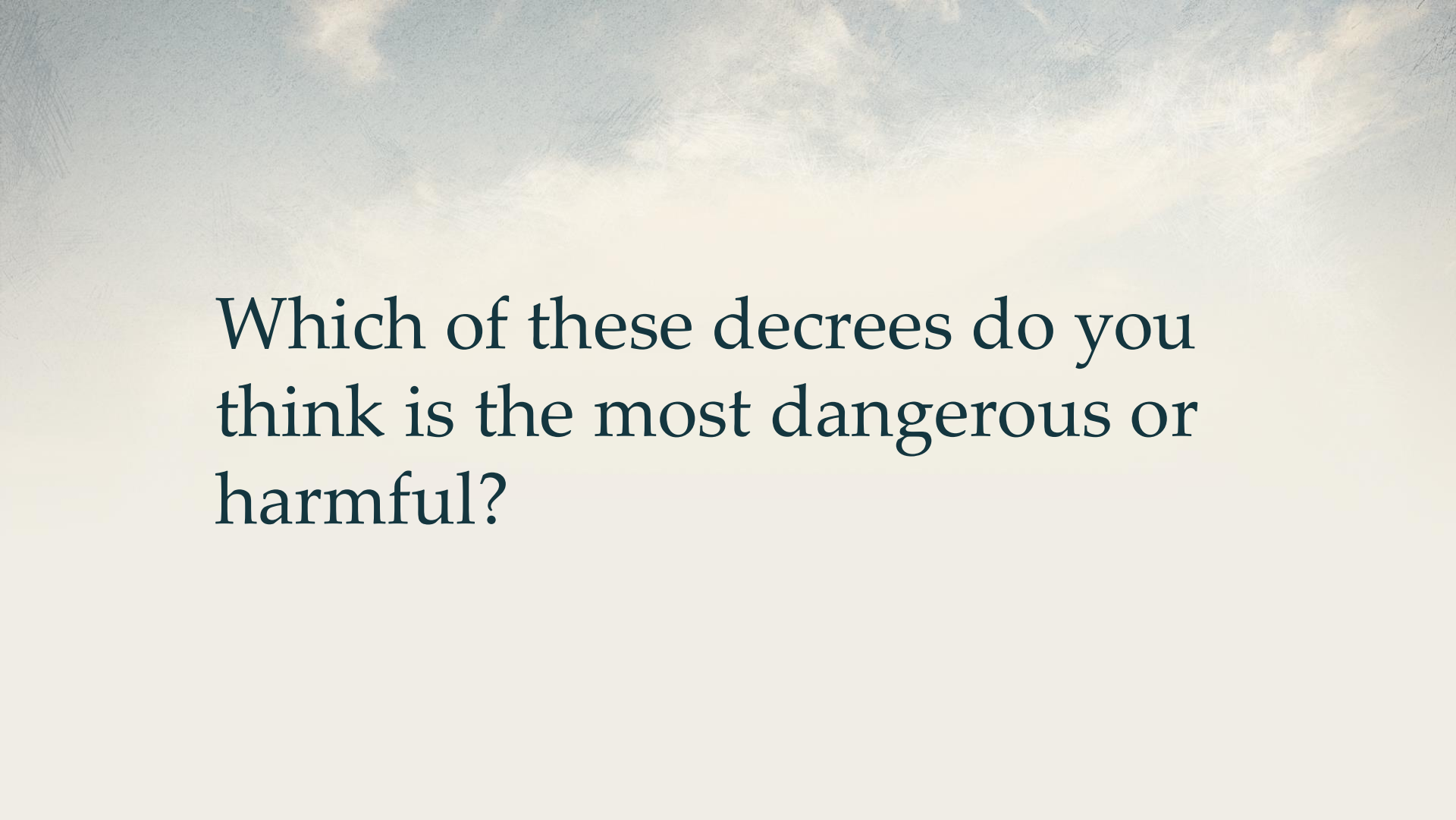
The Council of Trent

- In your own words, how would you contrast salvation that comes through works as opposed to salvation that comes through faith?

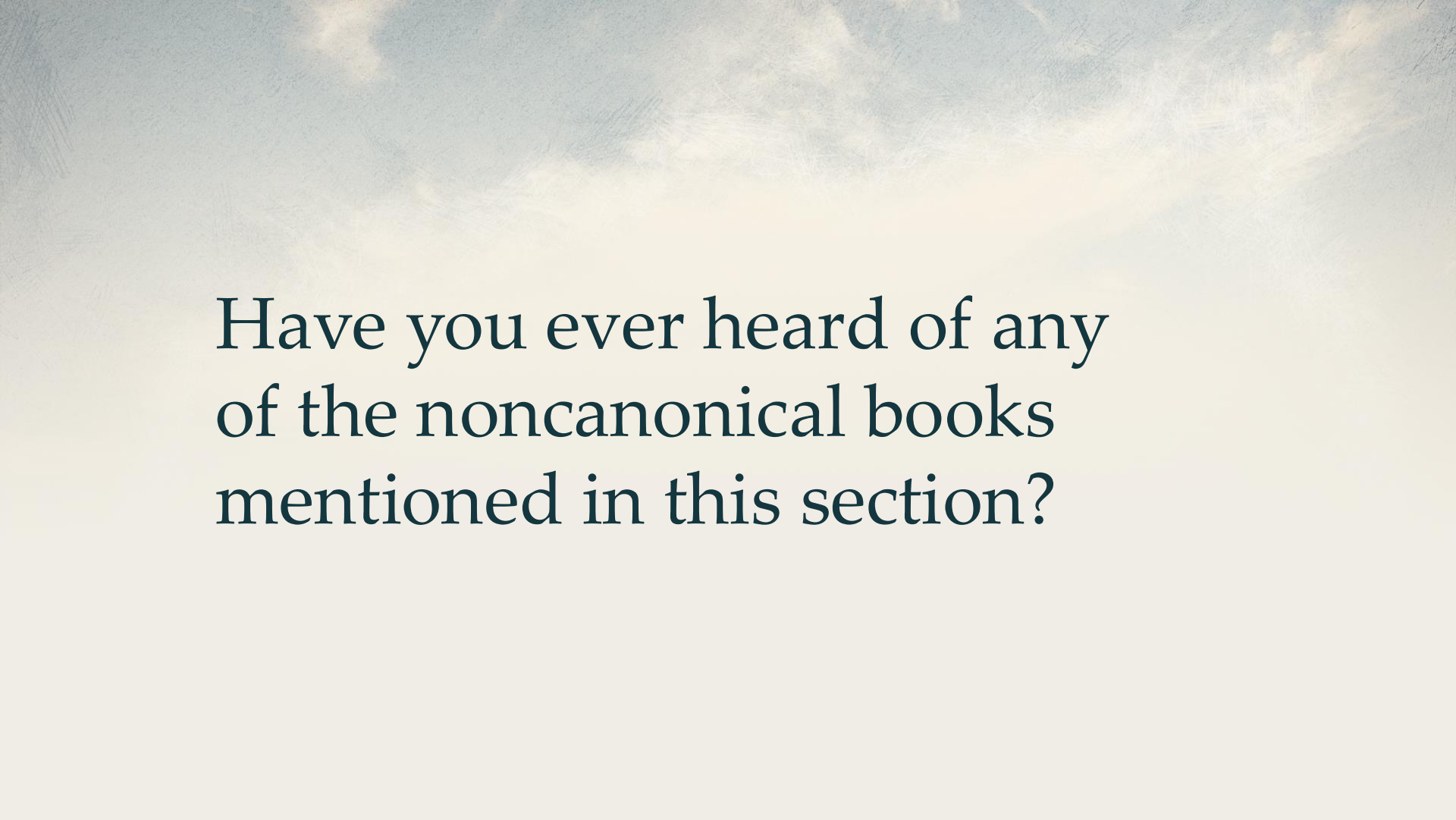
The Council of Trent

- How does Trent's prohibition against drinking the cup contradict Jesus' teaching found in Scripture (1 Cor. 11:23–28)?

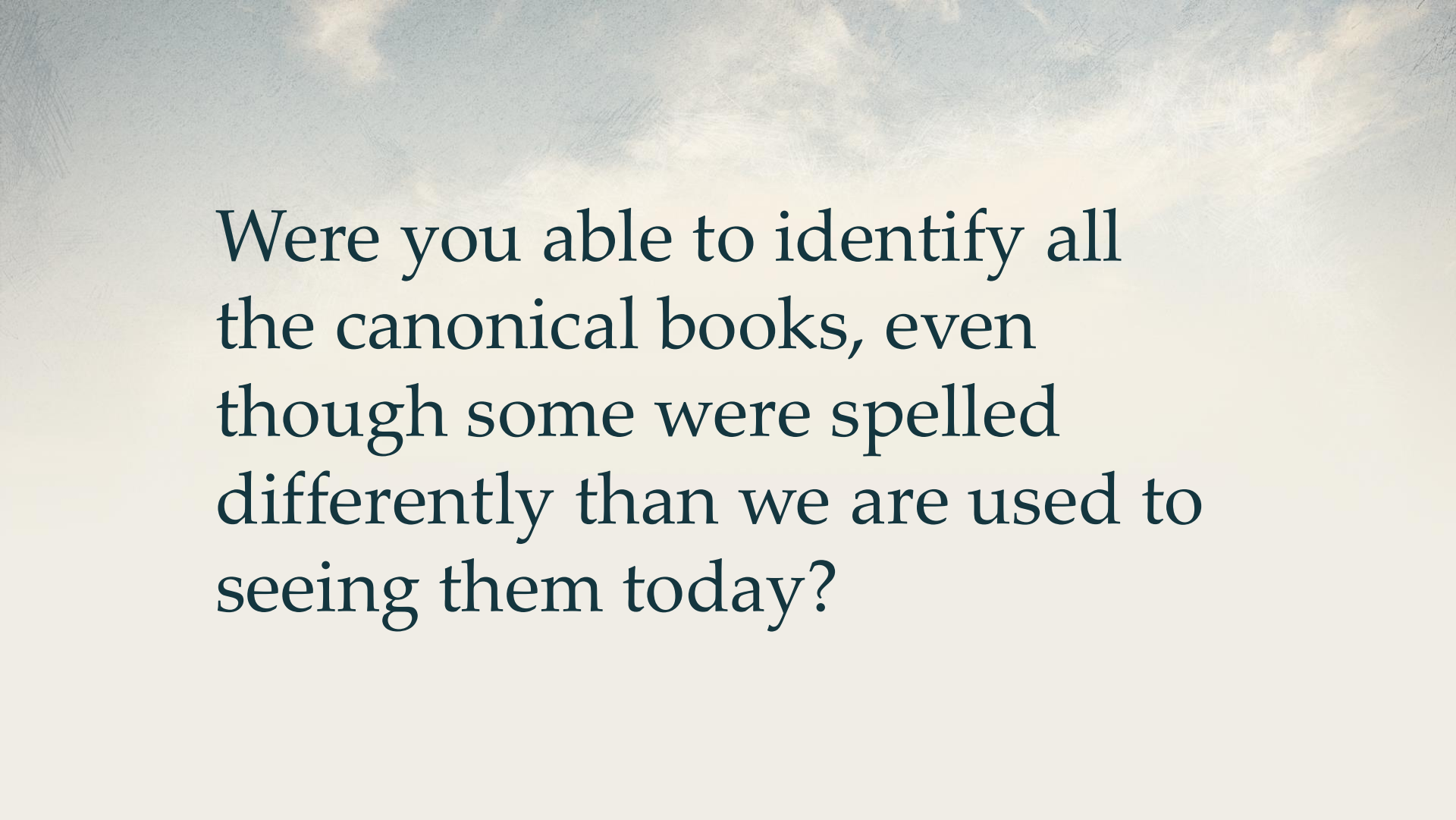
The passage in 1 Corinthians 11 indicates that Jesus was setting a precedent for all believers to follow. That precedent involved both eating the bread and drinking the cup.



Which of these decrees do you think is the most dangerous or harmful?



Have you ever heard of any
of the noncanonical books
mentioned in this section?



Were you able to identify all the canonical books, even though some were spelled differently than we are used to seeing them today?

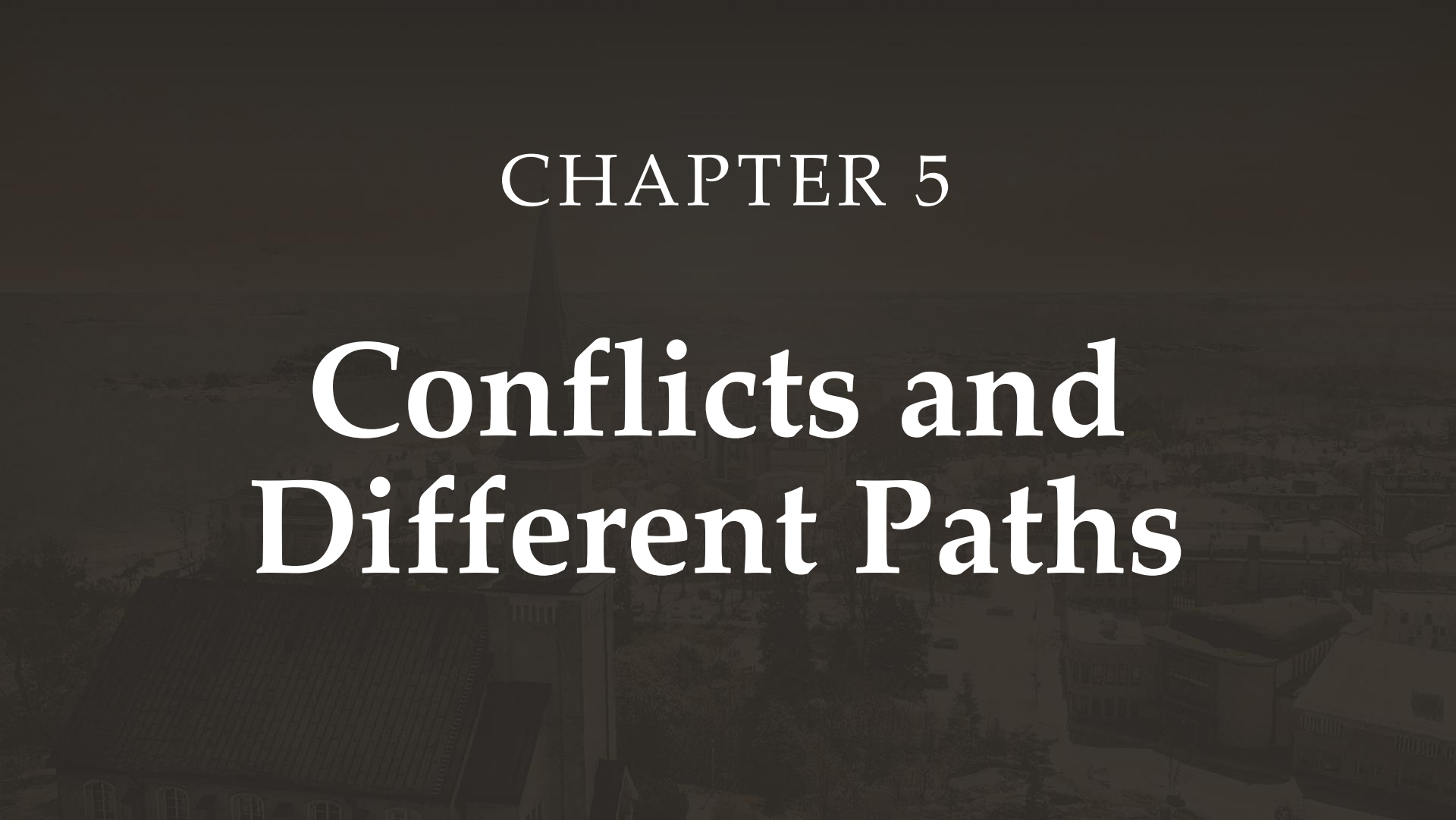


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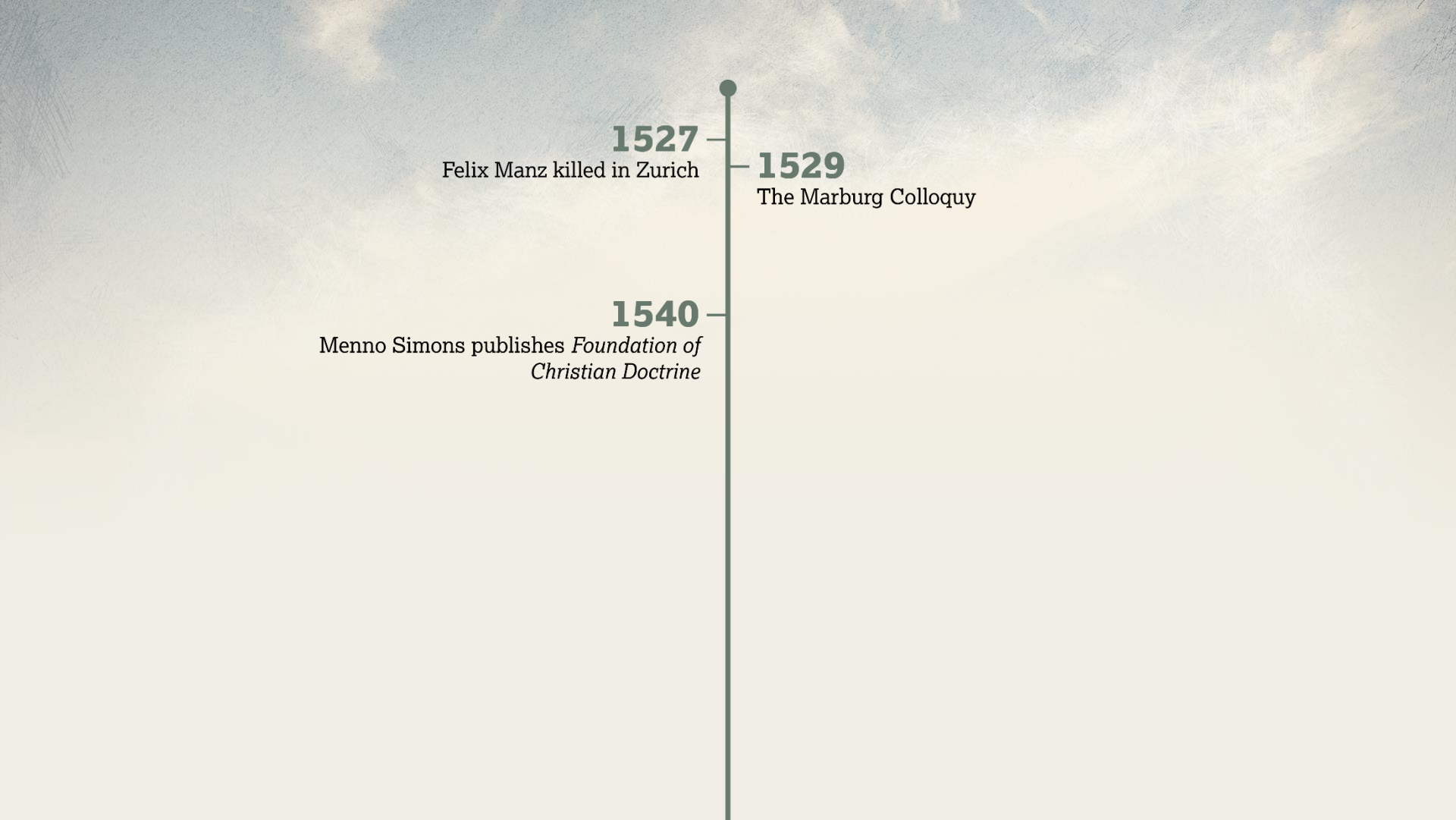
Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 5

Conflicts and Different Paths



1527

Felix Manz killed in Zurich

1529

The Marburg Colloquy

1540

Menno Simons publishes *Foundation of
Christian Doctrine*

Introduction:

Differences and Conflicts

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of a sky filled with white and grey clouds. The clouds are more concentrated at the top and fade into a lighter, clearer area towards the bottom.

Coming to Grips with Christian Diversity

Ephesians 4:11–16

- What two purposes, mentioned in verses 11–12, did God provide the spiritual leaders for?
 - (1) To equip believers to minister and
 - (2) to build up (edify) believers in the body of Christ

Ephesians 4:11–16

- Based on the final phrases of verses 13 and 15, what would you say is the goal of Christian growth?

To live and think like Christ

Ephesians 4:11–16

- Is this growth instantaneous or a process? Support your answer from this passage.

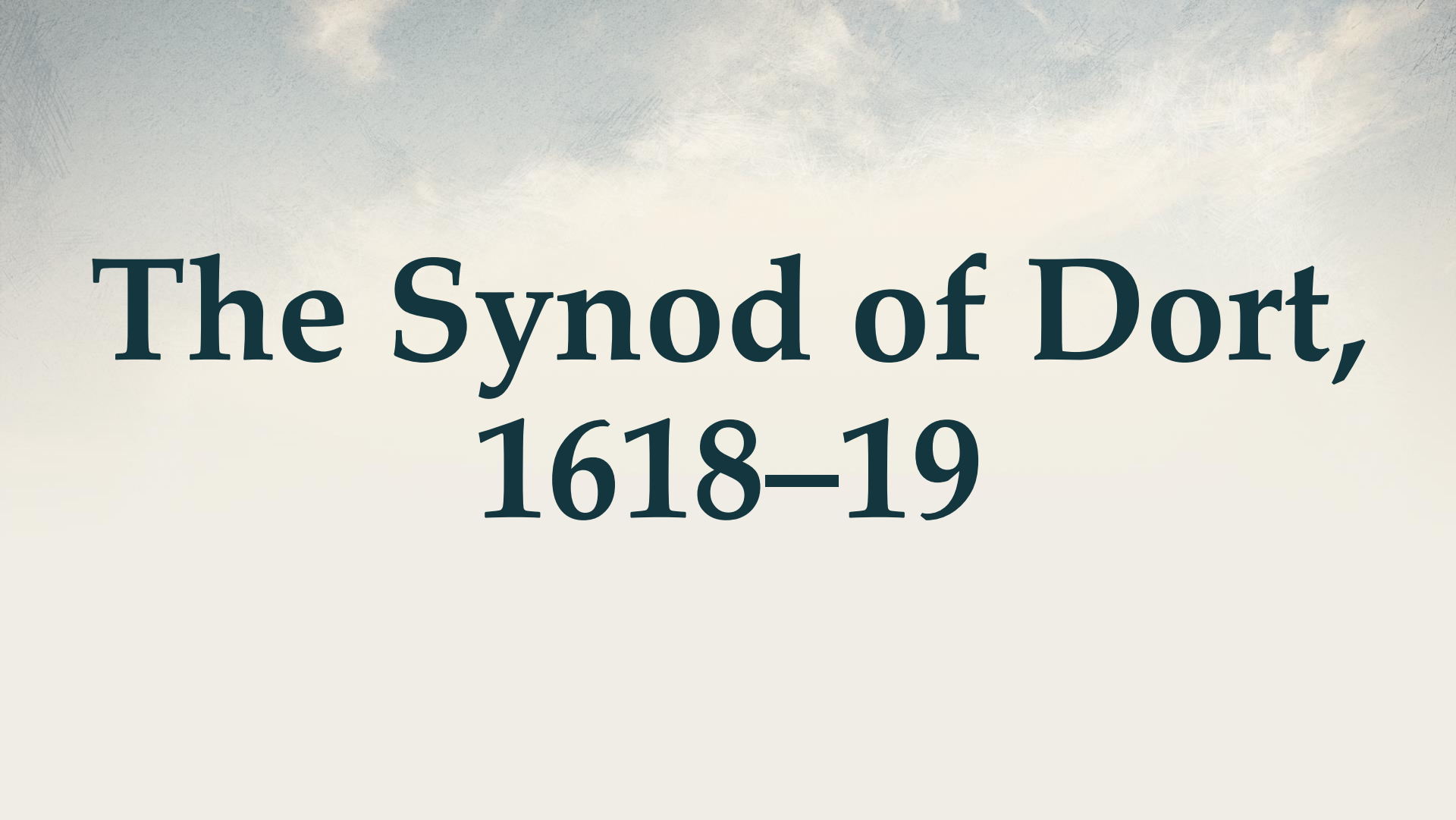
Christian growth is an ongoing process that requires help from spiritual leaders (vv. 11–12). It is a maturing process (vv. 13–14) supported by every member of the body (vv. 15–16).

Ephesians 4:11–16

- What spiritual fruit is essential among believers if this mutual growth is to take place (vv. 15–16)?

Love

	Position	Meaning
Roman Catholics	Transubstantiation	The substance of the bread and wine become Jesus' body and blood, repeating the sacrifice of the cross.
Luther	Consubstantiation	Jesus is present along with the bread and wine, but it is not a sacrifice.
Zwingli	Symbolic	The bread and wine signify Jesus' body and blood, reminding us of His sacrifice.
Calvin	Spiritual Presence	Jesus' body and blood are not really present, but the Holy Spirit makes the elements more than mere symbols when received by faith.



The Synod of Dort, 1618–19



Leiden



Dordrecht



Arminian Points	Canons of Dort
Inclusion in God's elect is conditional upon the belief of the individual.	Those elect by God are those chosen, merely by grace, before the world began.
Christ died for all, making salvation available to anyone who believes.	At Christ's death, all the elect, and they alone, receive atonement for all sin.
The corruption of people by sin is severe but not enough to keep a person from choosing to believe the gospel.	All people are completely corrupted by sin and are neither willing nor able to turn to God for salvation.
People cannot come to God unless He draws them, but a person can choose to resist this drawing by God.	Both the offer of salvation and the person's positive response are a gift from God and cannot be rejected.
God provides all that a believer needs to persevere to eternal life, but that person can willfully reject that grace and turn away from their salvation.	The elect are preserved by God's grace alone and will unfailingly attain eternal life.

The Synod of Dort, 1618–19

- What does your church teach about this area of doctrine?

The Synod of Dort, 1618–19

- Is it possible to disagree respectfully on these points?
If so, how?

The background of the slide is a soft-focus image of a sky with light, wispy clouds in shades of blue and white. The text is centered and reads:

Anabaptists: Reform Without Princes

. . . I have now clearly learned
and know of a surety that
baptism is nothing else than a
dying to the old man and the
putting on of a new . . .

—Conrad Grebel

Baptist Beginnings

Summarize the truth being expressed.

- Mark 9:38–41

We should not stop others from serving just because they are not part of our group.

Summarize the truth being expressed.

- Phil. 1:15–18

We can be thankful that Christ is being proclaimed even if the motives of the proclaimers are not always good.

Further Reading:

Felix Manz

Felix Manz

- In the first paragraph, what does Manz say a person obtains when they come to Christ in genuine repentance?

The heaven of eternal joy

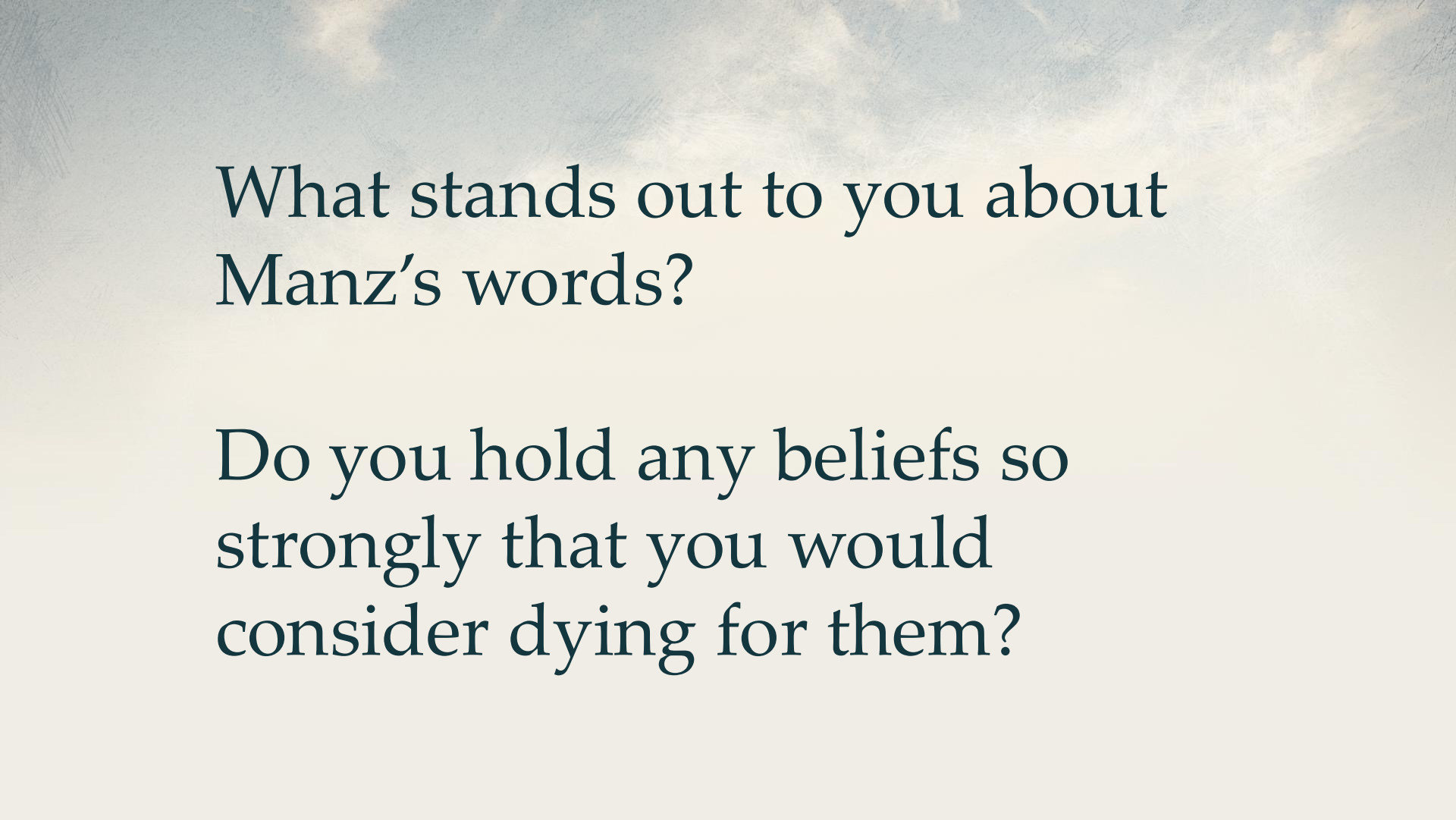
Felix Manz

- Manz contrasts love with boasting, denouncing, and threatening.
Explain how one of these attitudes might prompt a Christian to mistreat other Christians over doctrinal disagreements?

Felix Manz

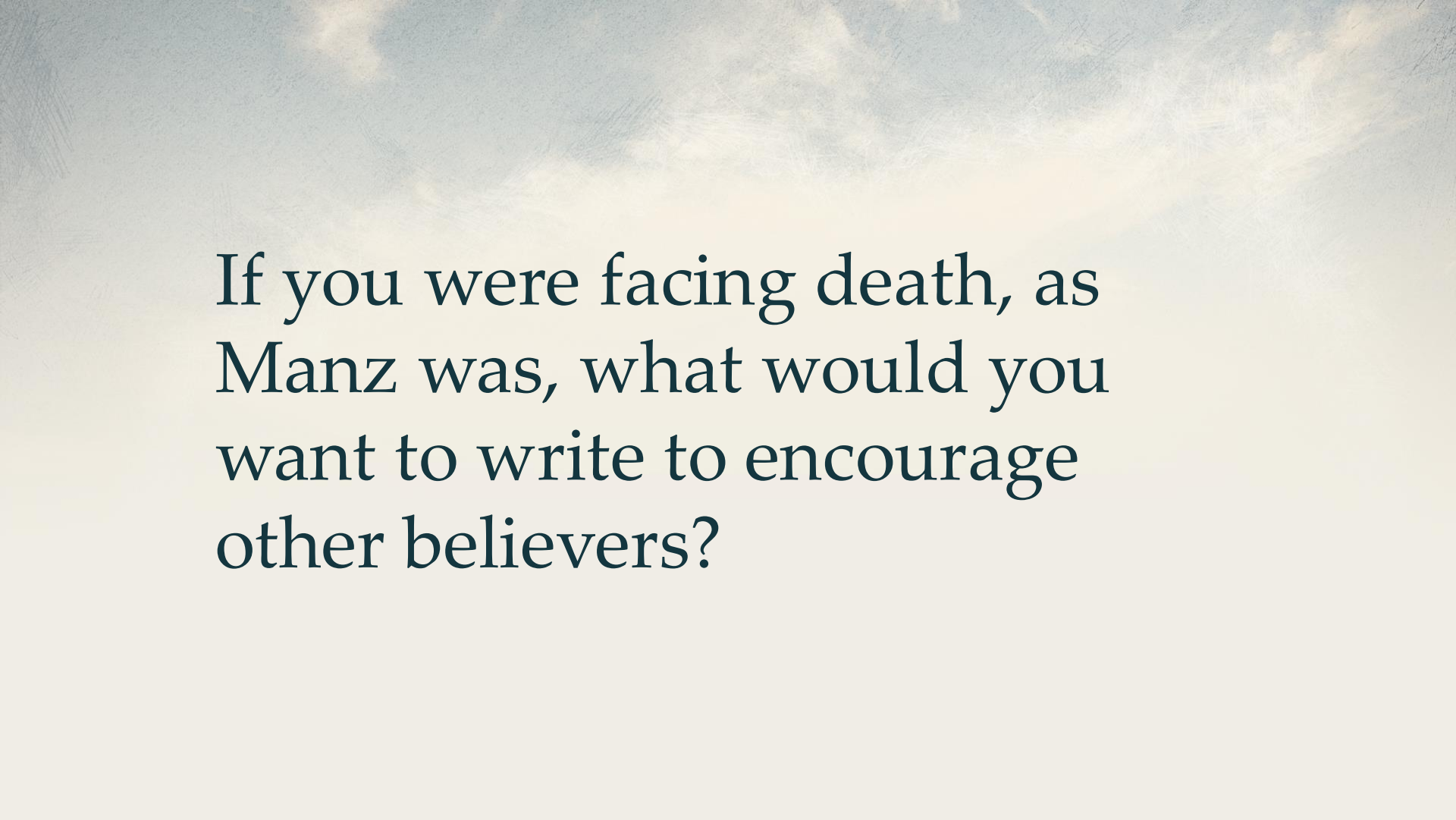
- The final paragraph lists sinful attitudes and actions that should be uncharacteristic of Christians. What attitudes and actions should we show to those we disagree with?

Some possible answers include love, kindness, patience, and humility



What stands out to you about
Manz's words?

Do you hold any beliefs so
strongly that you would
consider dying for them?



If you were facing death, as
Manz was, what would you
want to write to encourage
other believers?

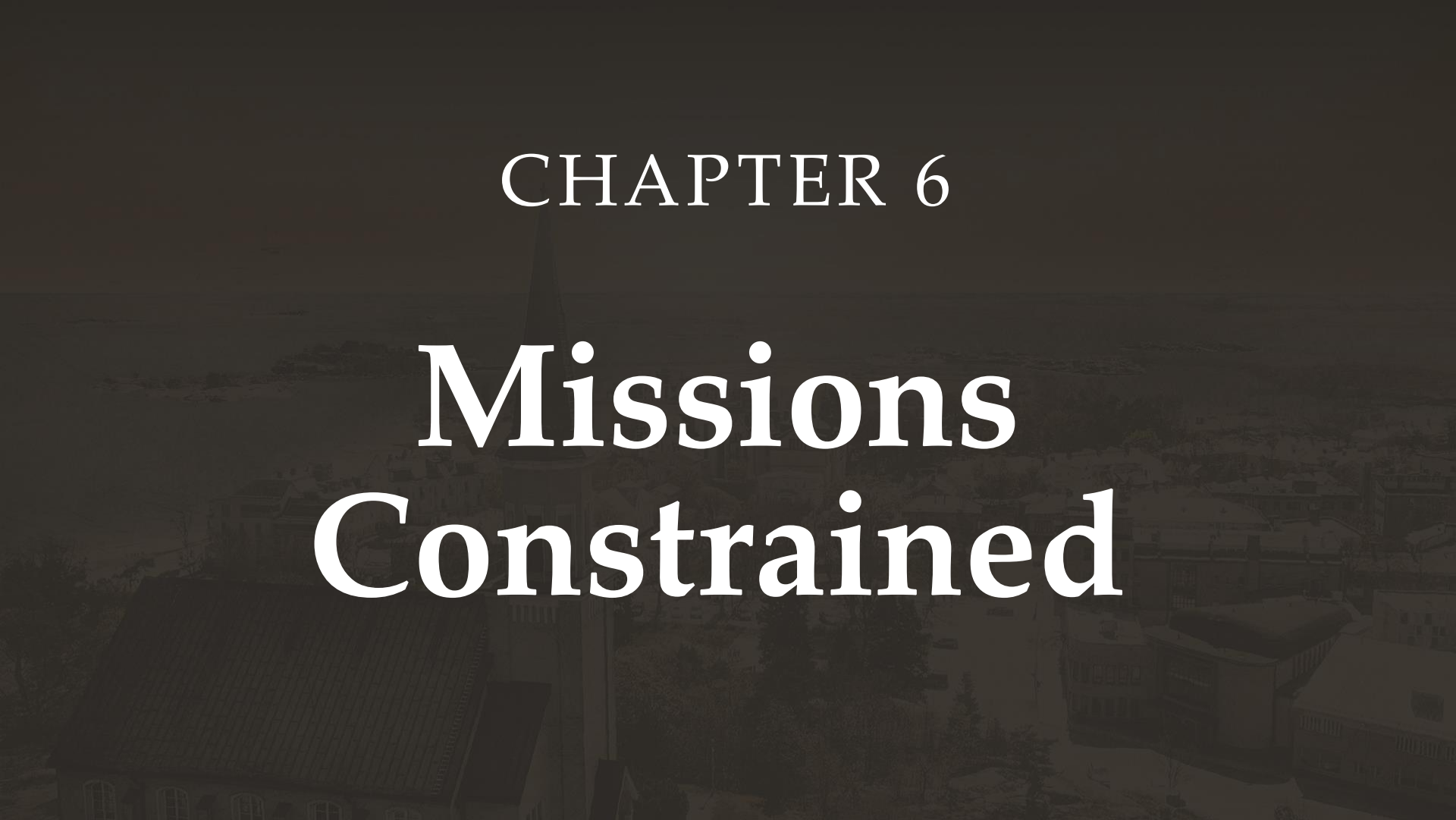


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



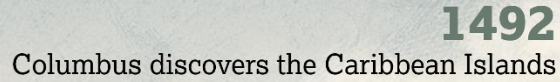
Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 6

Missions Constrained



1492
Columbus discovers the Caribbean Islands

1517
Beginning of the Reformation

1541
Francis Xavier's mission to India

1556
French Protestant mission to Brazil

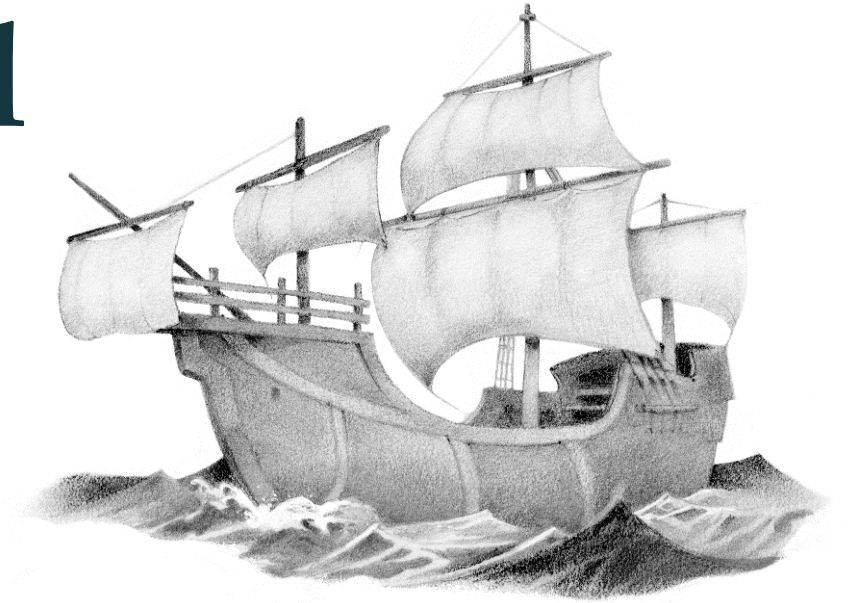
1572
St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre

1590
Adrianus Saravia calls for Protestant world missions

1664
Justinian von Weltz publishes his missionary treatises

Introduction:

International Missions





Why So Few?

Matthew 23:15

- Jesus was likely using some hyperbole to express His opinion of the Pharisees' missionary efforts. How would you summarize His assessment?

The Pharisee missionaries were fruitless and even harmful to their proselytes.

Matthew 23:15

- Would you consider this kind of missionary effort evidence of God's approval on a movement?

No

Matthew 23:15

- If quantity of missionary effort is not the best measurement of God's approval, what qualities would you consider most important?

Possible answers include clear teaching of God's Word, active proclaiming of the gospel, or visible expressions of God's love.

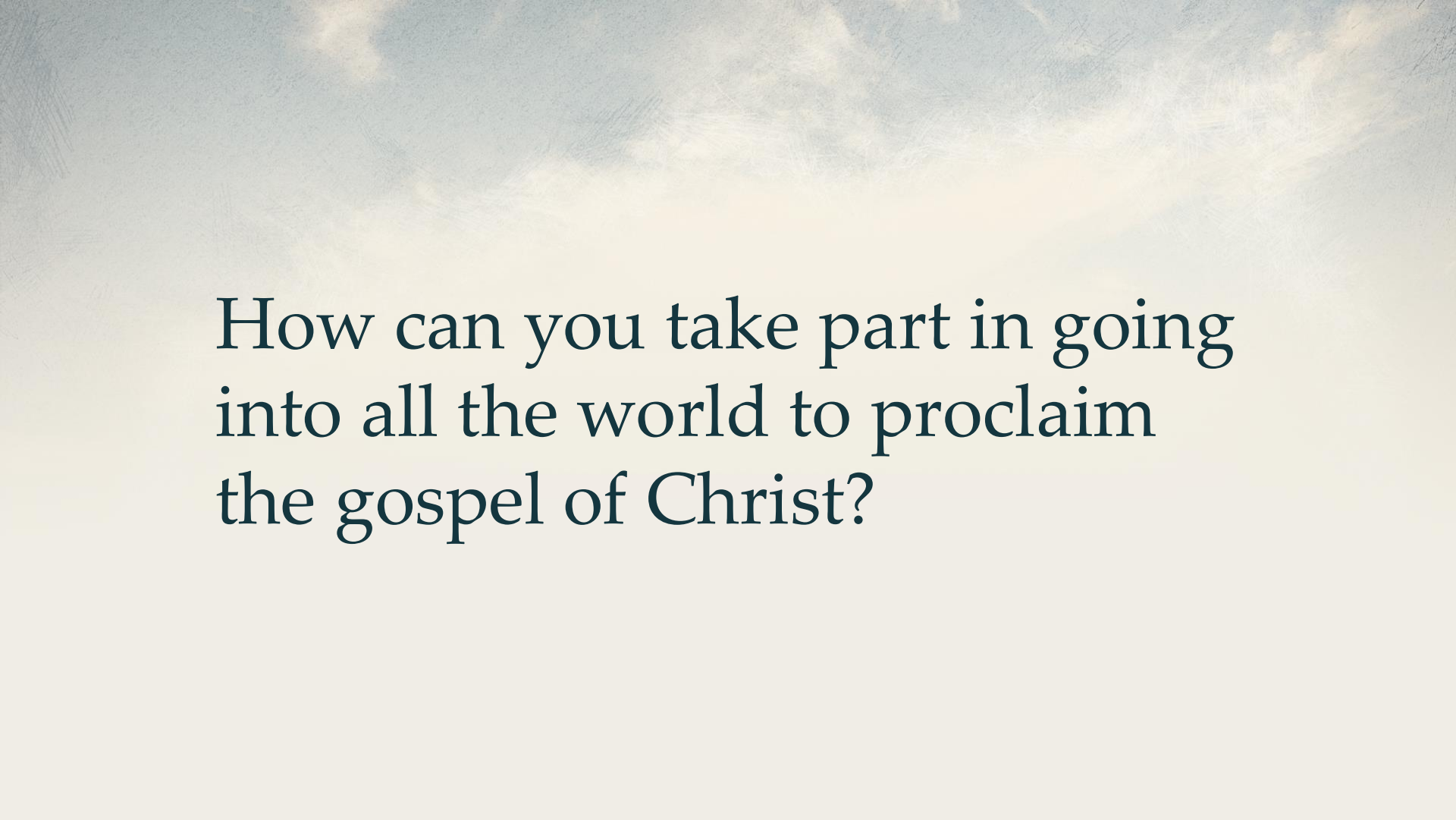
Matthew 28:16–20

- What elements of these verses indicate Jesus meant them to apply to all believers throughout the Church age?

The Great Commission is tied to Jesus' continuing authority and power in verse 18. Also, Jesus promised His presence, explaining the power to fulfill His commission would continue to the “end of the age/world.”



How can every believer be
expected to obey the Great
Commission?



How can you take part in going
into all the world to proclaim
the gospel of Christ?

Acts 1:6–8

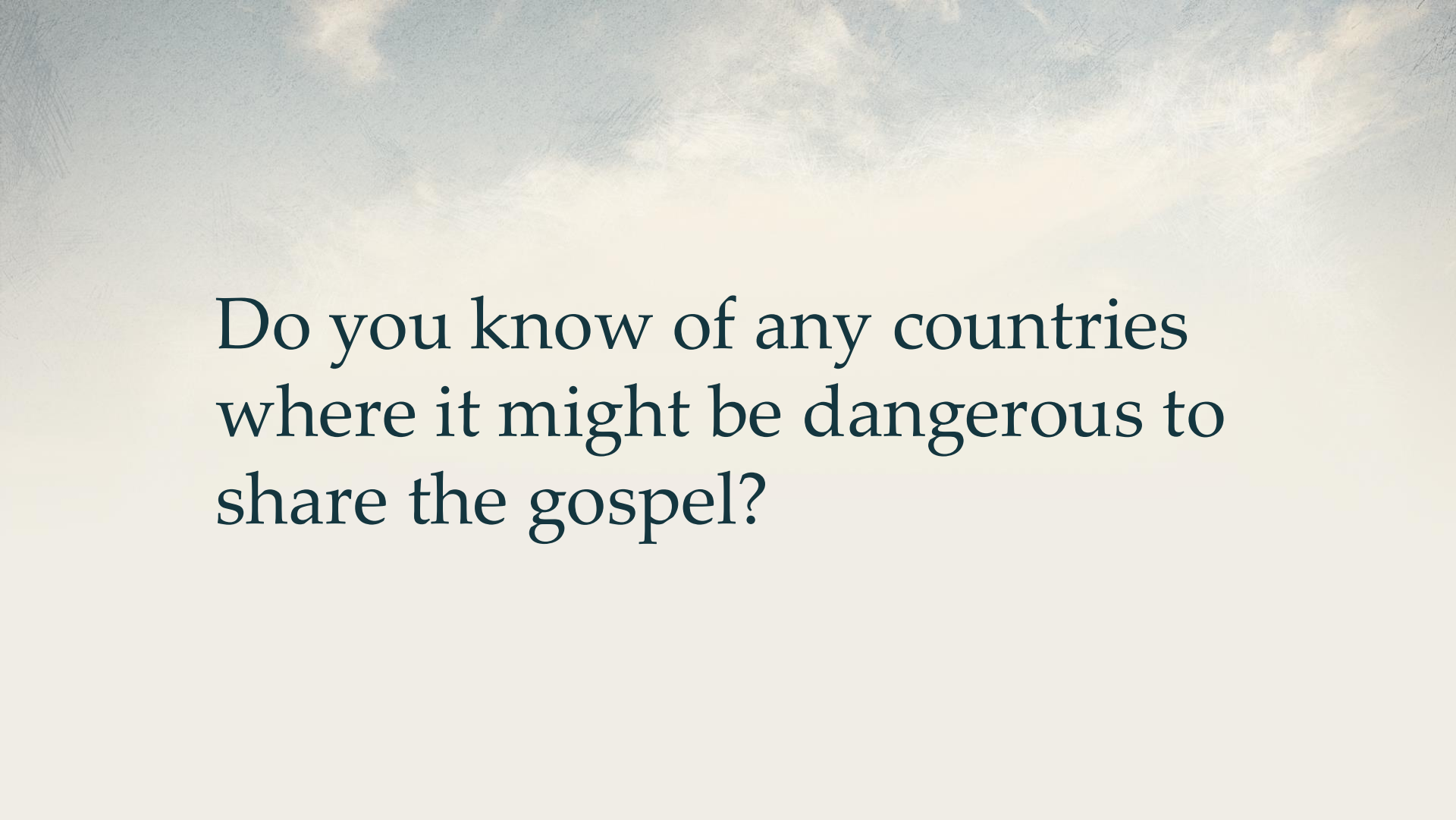
- Does Jesus' response indicate that civil borders should limit the spread of the gospel?

No

Acts 8:1–4

- How did the early Christians respond to opposition from civil leaders in Jerusalem?

They scattered from the city,
preaching the gospel
everywhere they traveled.



Do you know of any countries
where it might be dangerous to
share the gospel?

The background of the image is a soft-focus photograph of a sky. It features a mix of light blue, white, and pale yellow tones, suggesting a bright sun or moon partially obscured by wispy clouds. The overall texture is painterly and ethereal.

Sparks of Missionary Promise



Sparks of Missionary Promise

- What opportunities does your schedule provide for sharing the gospel?



How can God use everyday
activities as opportunities to
testify for Christ?

The injunction to preach the
gospel to all nations of
unbelievers has respect not
only to the age of the Apostles,
but to all ages to come till the
end of the world.

—Adrianus Saravia,
*A Treatise on Different Degrees
of the Christian Priesthood*

1 Corinthians 16:7–9

- Consider internal difficulties (struggles within the heart of the missionary or within the supporting churches and institutions).

Some possible responses would include fear, spiritual struggles, general apathy of the Church, etc.

1 Corinthians 16:7–9

- Consider external difficulties (opposition from outside of the church).

Some possible responses would include government prohibitions, geographic difficulties, the cost of ministering abroad, etc.

Further Reading:

Baron Justinian von Welz

Baron Justinian von Welz

- According to the first point, what is God's will?

It is God's will that everyone would be saved.

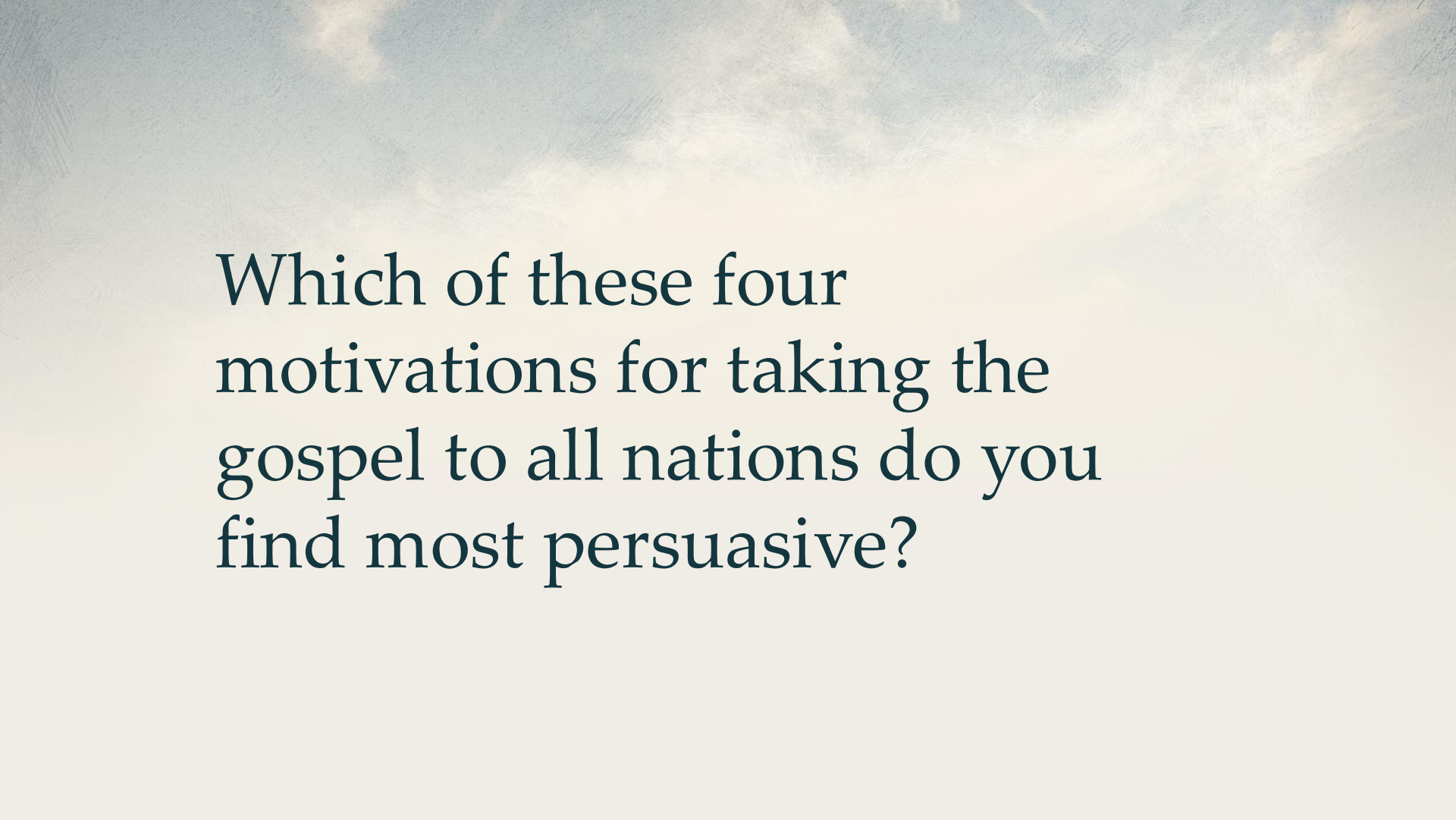
Baron Justinian von Welz

- Can you think of anyone from history who set a “glorious example” to share the gospel? Or perhaps you have met some missionaries that your church supports?

Baron Justinian von Welz

- What argument does Welz make in his third point? Summarize it in your words.

It's contradictory for Christians to pray that God would save lost souls while not somehow contributing toward the cause of missions.



Which of these four
motivations for taking the
gospel to all nations do you
find most persuasive?



Can you think of any other reasons we should want to participate in and support world missions?

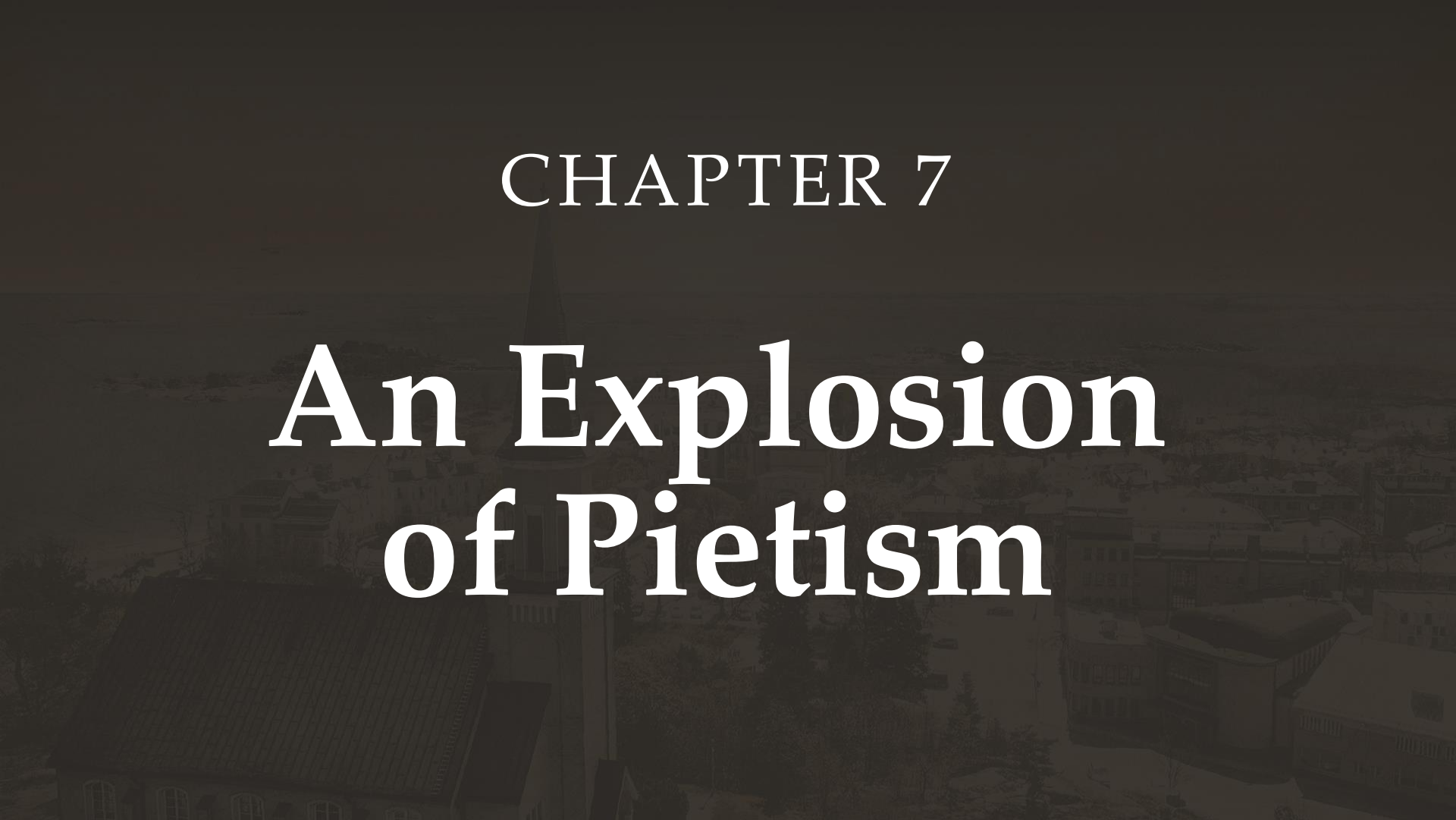


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 7

An Explosion of Pietism



1580

The Book of Concord published

1605

Johann Arndt publishes *True Christianity*

Introduction:

Pietism Defined

Revelation 3:1–6

- What was Sardis's reputation?
Being alive

Revelation 3:1–6

- What did Jesus identify as their true condition?

They were dead.

Revelation 3:1–6

- How would you summarize Jesus' advice to the church in Sardis (vv. 2–3)?

Wake up (watch) and strengthen what remains. Remember the truth of Christ and repent.



Wake Up

I am well aware that not all readers are equipped with the same gifts, nor, so to speak, with the same tools; but, God will be pleased with even the simple [ones] . . .

—Philipp Jakob Spener,
*The Necessary and Useful
Reading of the Holy Scripture*

Hebrews 10:19–25

- In your own words, what great privilege has Jesus provided for believers, according to verses 19–22?

We can draw near to God.

Hebrews 10:19–25

- Given this amazing access to God, what two admonitions does the author of Hebrews give?

Hold fast to the hope promised by God (v. 23)

Consider ways to stir up one another to love and good works (v. 24).

Hebrews 10:19–25

- What are some ways you have been encouraged toward love and good works by meeting with believers (v. 25)?



**Strengthen What
Remains**

But should Christians only deal
with God's Word individually?
No, but they should also deal
with it with others for their
own edification.

—Philipp Jakob Spener,
The Spiritual Priesthood

Acts 2:42–47

- How did the Church function from the very beginning (vv. 42–43)?

The church gathered for teaching, fellowship, and prayer. Their practice of piety testified to the working of God.

Acts 2:42–47

- How did the Church function from the very beginning (vv. 44–45)?

The church, because they were often together, knew of one another's needs and were able to meet those needs as a body.

Acts 2:42–47

- How did the Church function from the very beginning (vv. 46–47)?

The church met in public and in private. These meetings were characterized by joy and praise.

These activities will look different in various cultures, but they are part of the inherent nature of the Church.

How do these characteristics manifest in your church?

Acts 2:42–47

- According to the end of verse 47, what did the Lord do as the church functioned in this way?

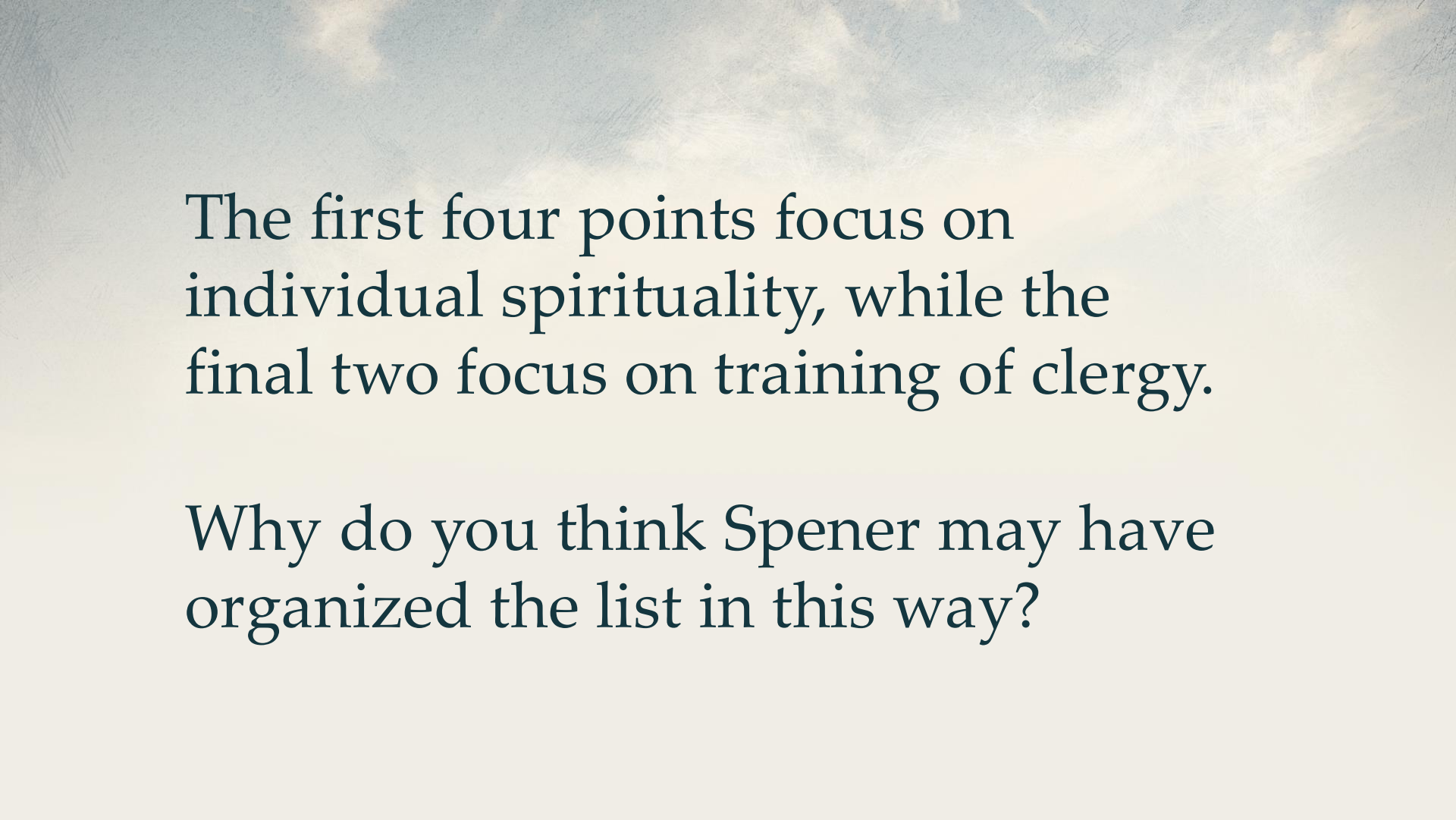
He added to the Church day by day.



Pia Desideria

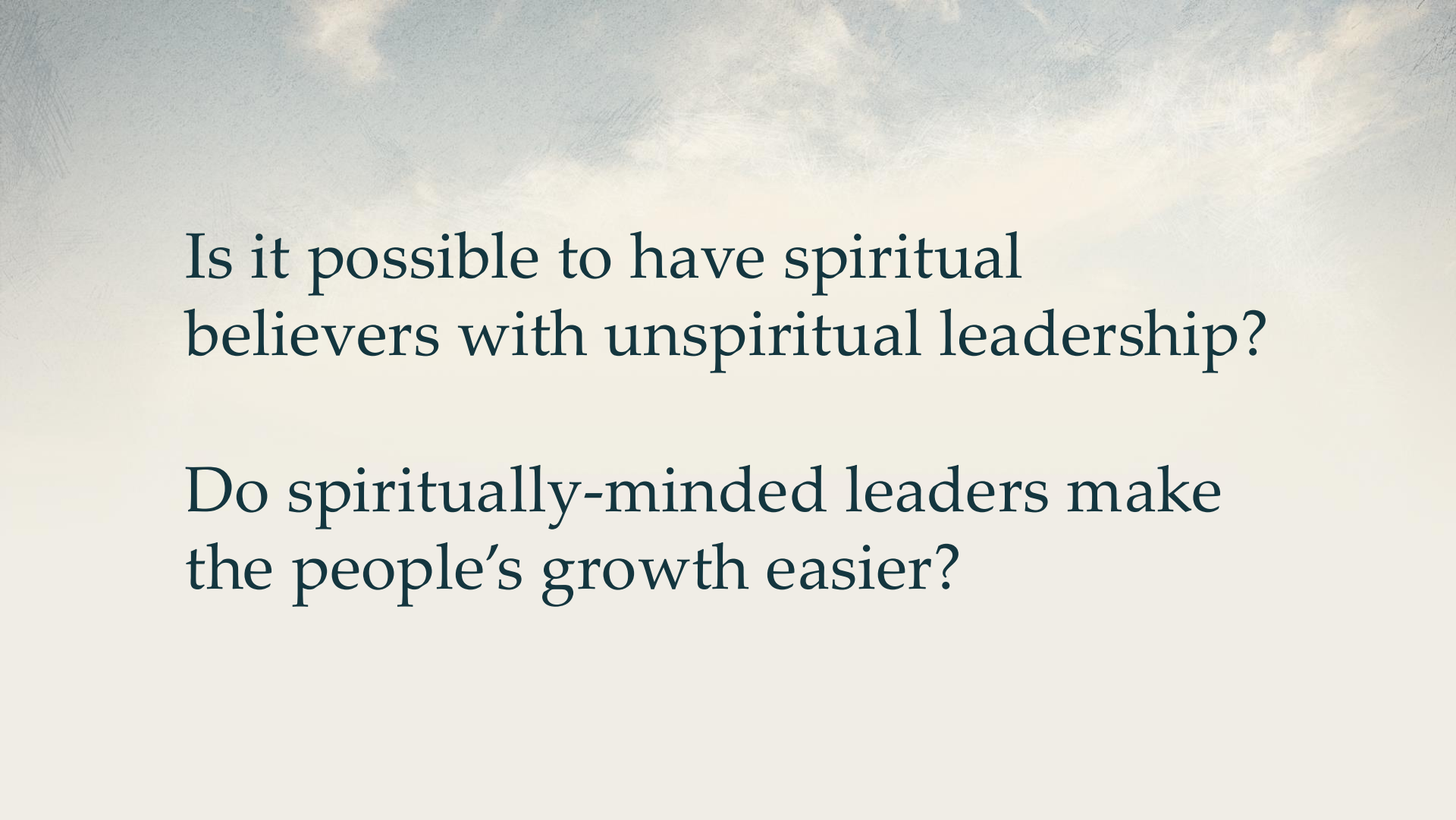
You also hear the divine Word. This is rightly done! But it is not enough that your ears hear it; do you also allow it to penetrate inwardly into your heart and allow such heavenly food to be digested there, so that you receive juice and strength from it, or does it go in one ear and out the other?

—Philipp Jakob Spener,
Pia Desideria



The first four points focus on individual spirituality, while the final two focus on training of clergy.

Why do you think Spener may have organized the list in this way?

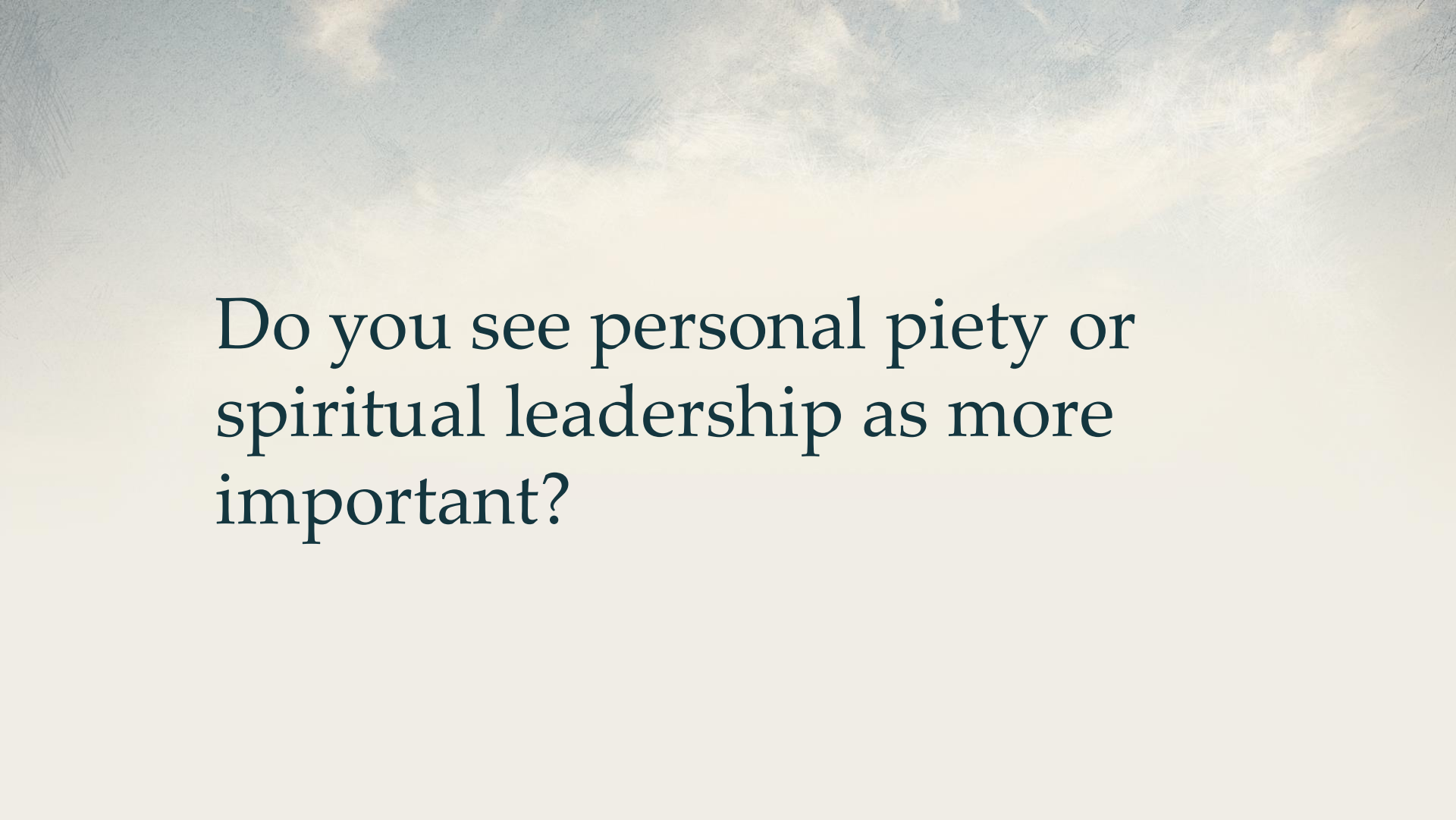


Is it possible to have spiritual
believers with unspiritual leadership?

Do spiritually-minded leaders make
the people's growth easier?

Pia Desideria

- Which of these reforms would you say is still the most urgent today?



Do you see personal piety or
spiritual leadership as more
important?

Revelation 3:1–6

- According to verse 4, what is the implied result of sleep (spiritual apathy)?

It produces sin illustrated by soiled garments.

Revelation 3:1–6

- As we wake up and strengthen ourselves in truth and good works (v. 2), we conquer through the Spirit's power (v. 5). What does Christ promise to those who conquer?

They will be clothed in white garments and have their names written in the Book of Life.

Further Reading:

John Arndt,
True Christianity

John Arndt, *True Christianity*

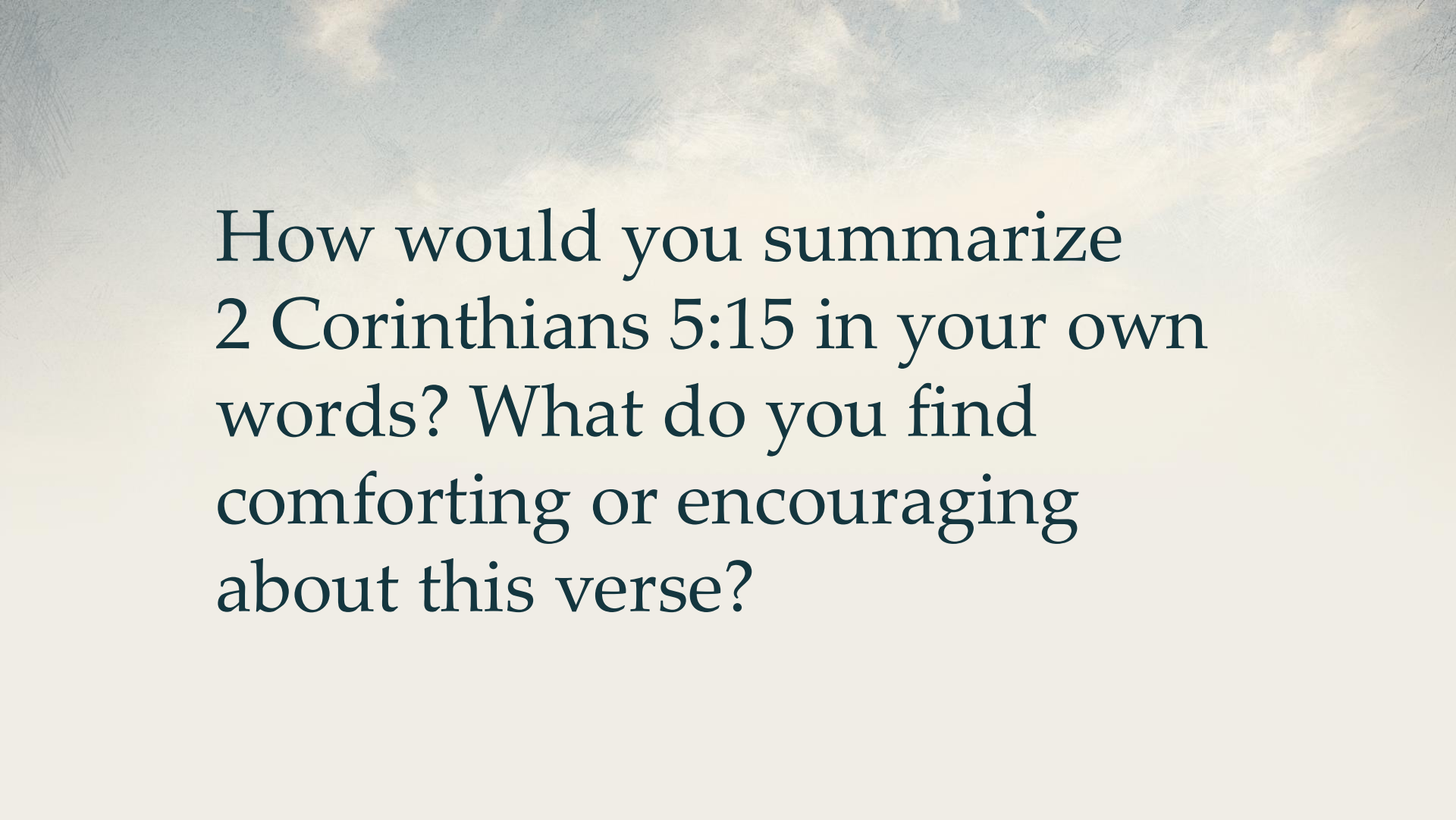
- What elements of Pietism do you see in this passage?

The encouragement to live for Christ and not for this world

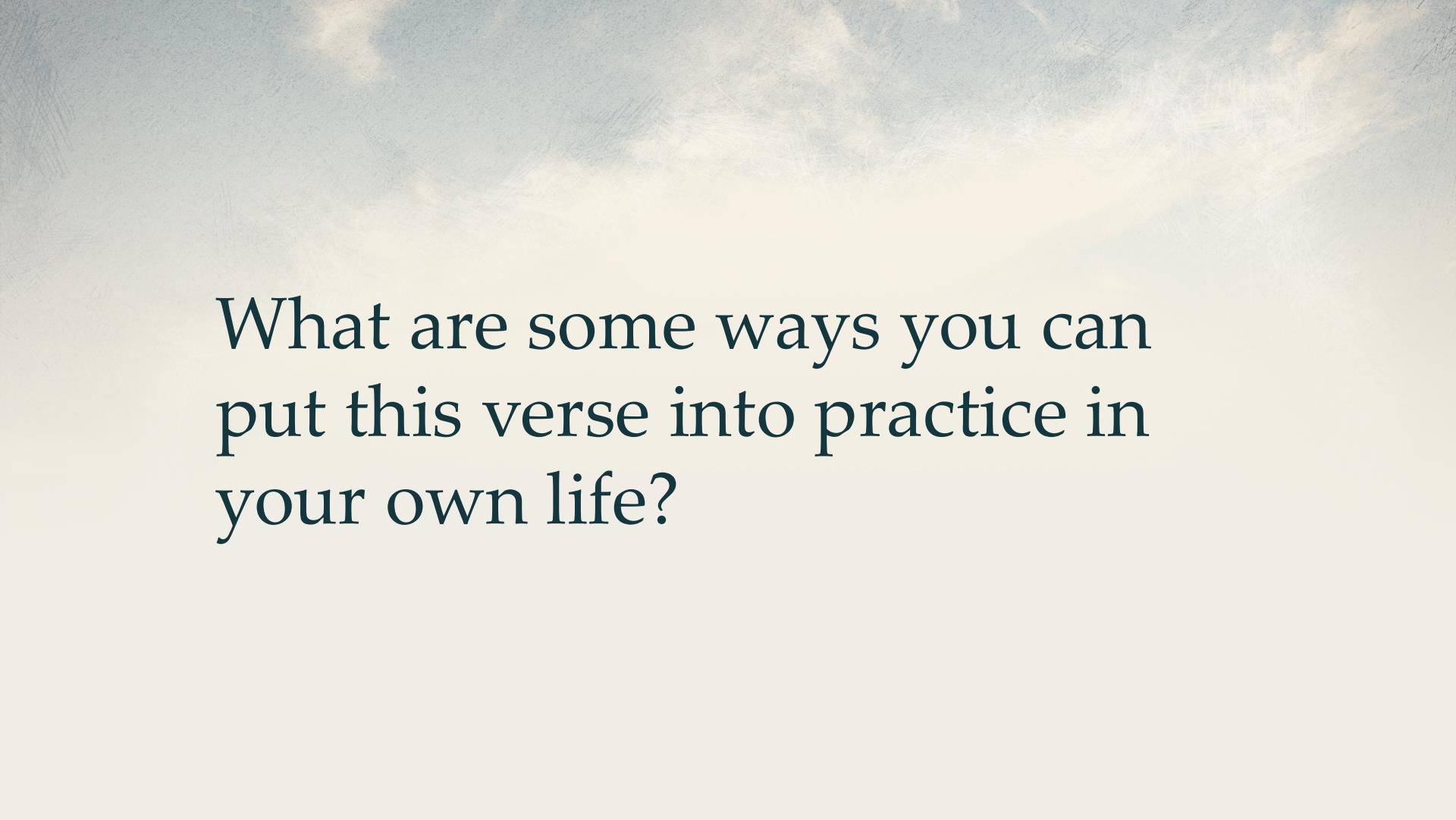
John Arndt, *True Christianity*

- Where is the power to live this way found?

In the Spirit working by faith



How would you summarize
2 Corinthians 5:15 in your own
words? What do you find
comforting or encouraging
about this verse?



What are some ways you can
put this verse into practice in
your own life?

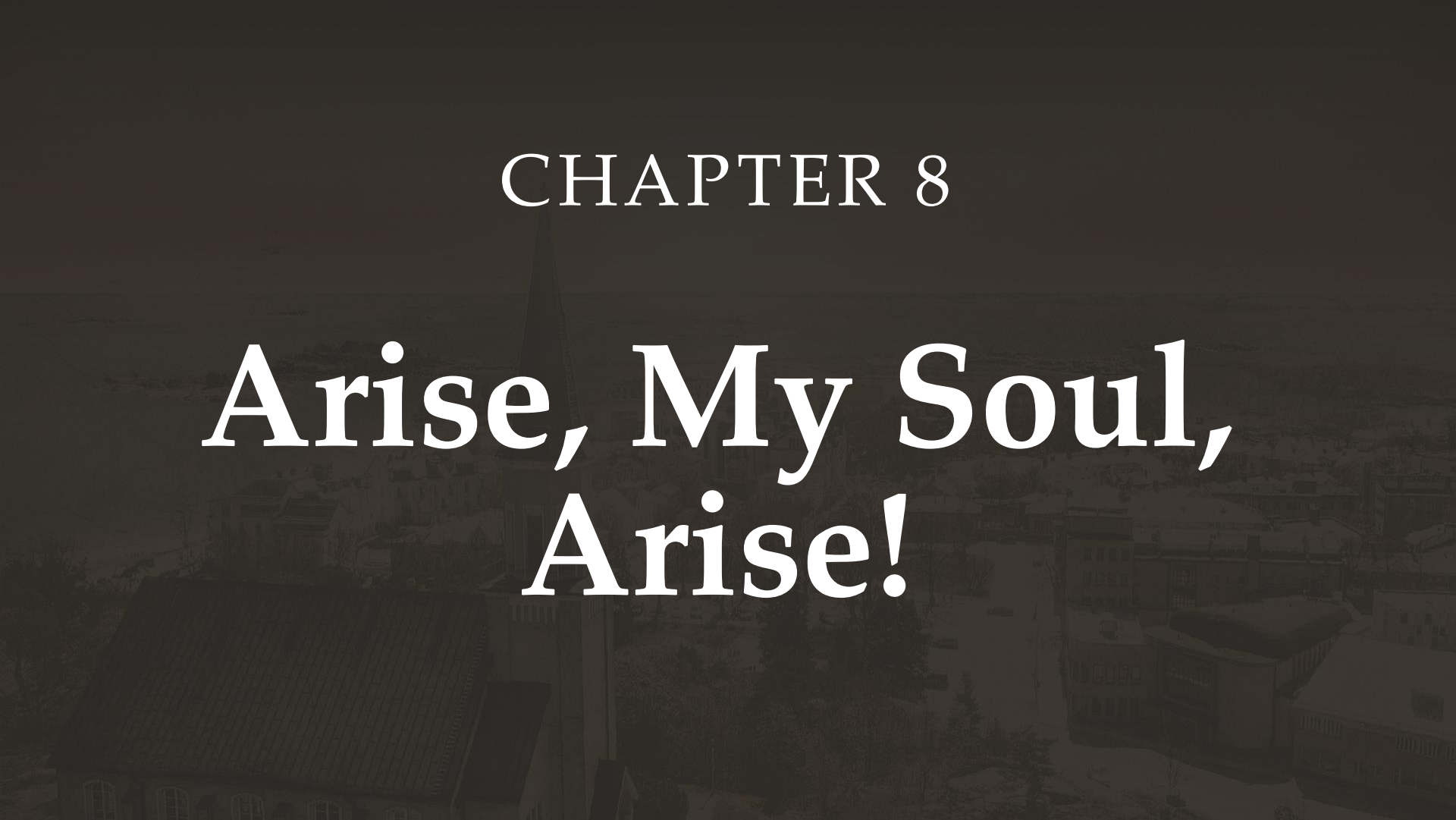


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 8

Arise, My Soul, Arise!

1674

Birth of Isaac Watts

1726

Founding of the Log College

c. 1734

The First Great Awakening begins in
North America

1735

The Welsh Methodist revival begins

1735

George Whitefield converts and begins
evangelizing in England

1737

Jonathan Edwards publishes
A Faithful Narrative

1738

Conversion of John and Charles Wesley

1739

George Whitefield begins first preaching
tour of New England

1740

Introduction:

The Reviving Work of the Spirit



Revival in the Bible

Psalm 85:1–5

- What is God's attitude toward sin and iniquity among His people (vv. 3, 5)?

Wrath, anger

Psalm 85:1–5

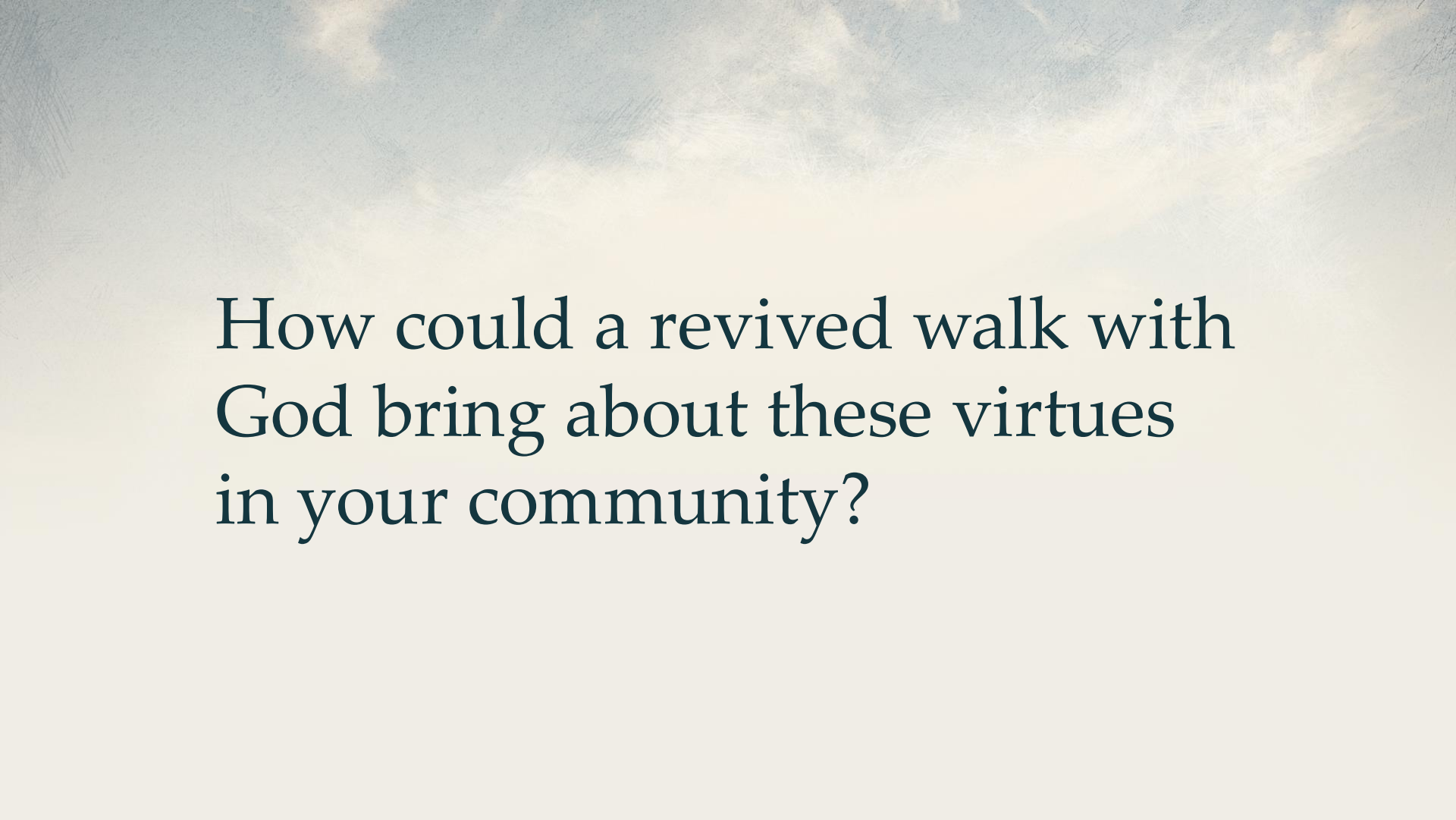
- How does God respond to repentance from His people (vv. 2–3)?

He gives forgiveness
and removes His wrath.

v. 6	Rejoicing in God	Our greatest delights will be found in Him.
v. 7	Salvation	True deliverance from sin and new birth in Christ.
v. 8	Hearing God's Word	We desire to hear preaching and to read God's Word.
v. 9	Glory to God	God receives the glory for the work in His people's salvation.

Psalm 85:10–13

- According to verse 10, what four virtues accompany revival?
 - (1) Love/mercy,
 - (2) faithfulness/truth,
 - (3) righteousness,
 - (4) peace



How could a revived walk with
God bring about these virtues
in your community?

Revival in Britian

. . . a necessity was laid upon me to lift up my voice like a trumpet to all professors to examine their profession, and to make a close search in what the foundation of their religion and faith was seated . . .

—Howell Harris

Romans 10:1–4

- Which verse teaches that a person can have religious zeal without true knowledge of God?

Verse 2

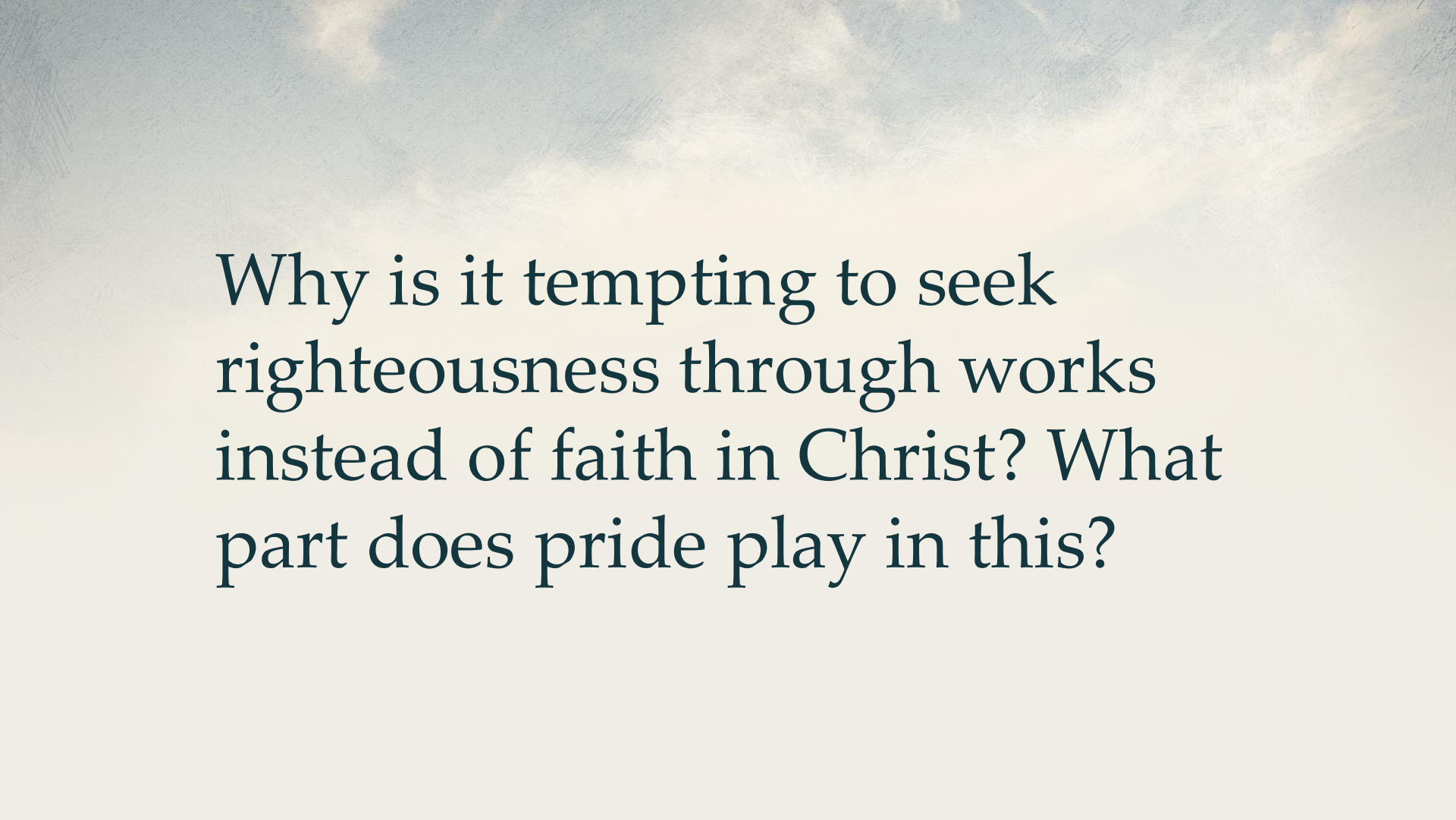
Romans 10:1–4

- The passage describes two places where people seek righteousness. What are those two places?

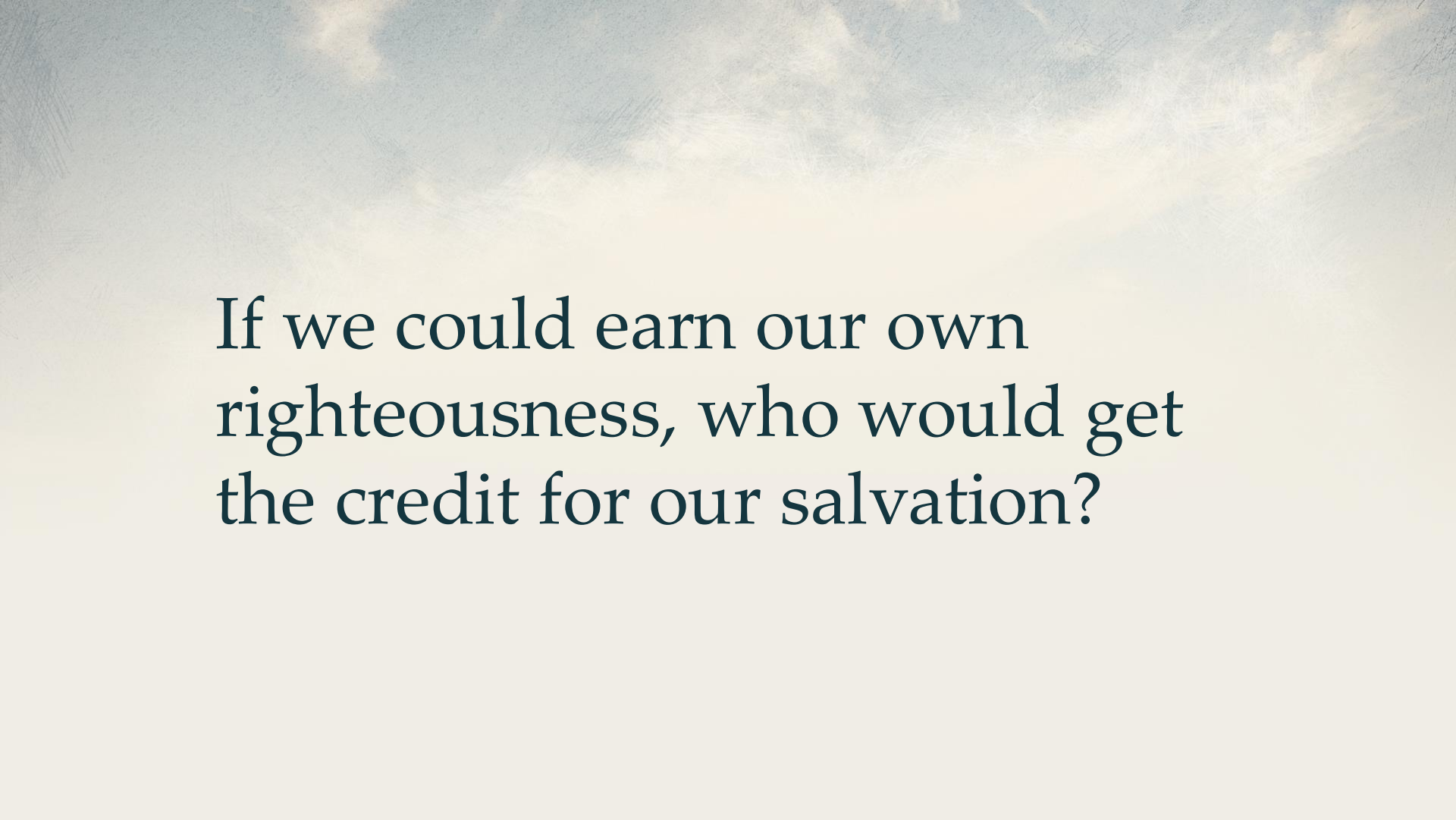
Self (in one's own efforts) or
God (in Christ)

Romans 10:1–4

- Where are you placing your trust in finding righteousness before God?



Why is it tempting to seek
righteousness through works
instead of faith in Christ? What
part does pride play in this?



If we could earn our own
righteousness, who would get
the credit for our salvation?



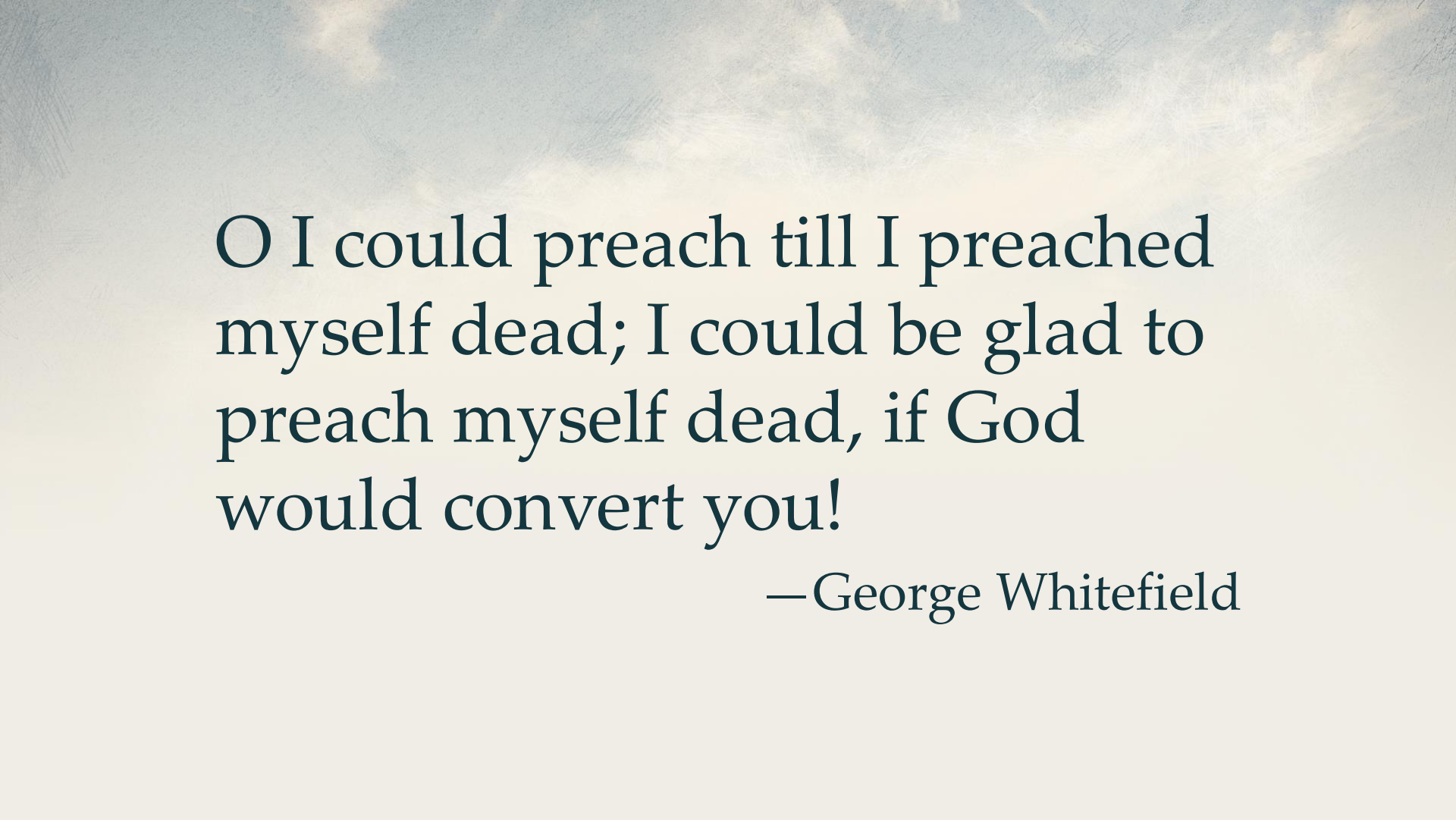
Revival in the American Colonies



c. late 1700s

. . . the assembly in general were,
from time to time, in tears while the
word was preached; some weeping
with sorrow and distress, others
with joy and love, others with pity
and concern for the souls of
their neighbors.

—Jonathan Edwards,
*A Faithful Narrative of the
Surprising Work of God*



O I could preach till I preached
myself dead; I could be glad to
preach myself dead, if God
would convert you!

—George Whitefield

Psalm 85:11–13

- In your own words, how does the psalmist describe the blessings of revival on a land?

The nation affected by revival will experience an increase in righteousness and even material blessing from the Lord.

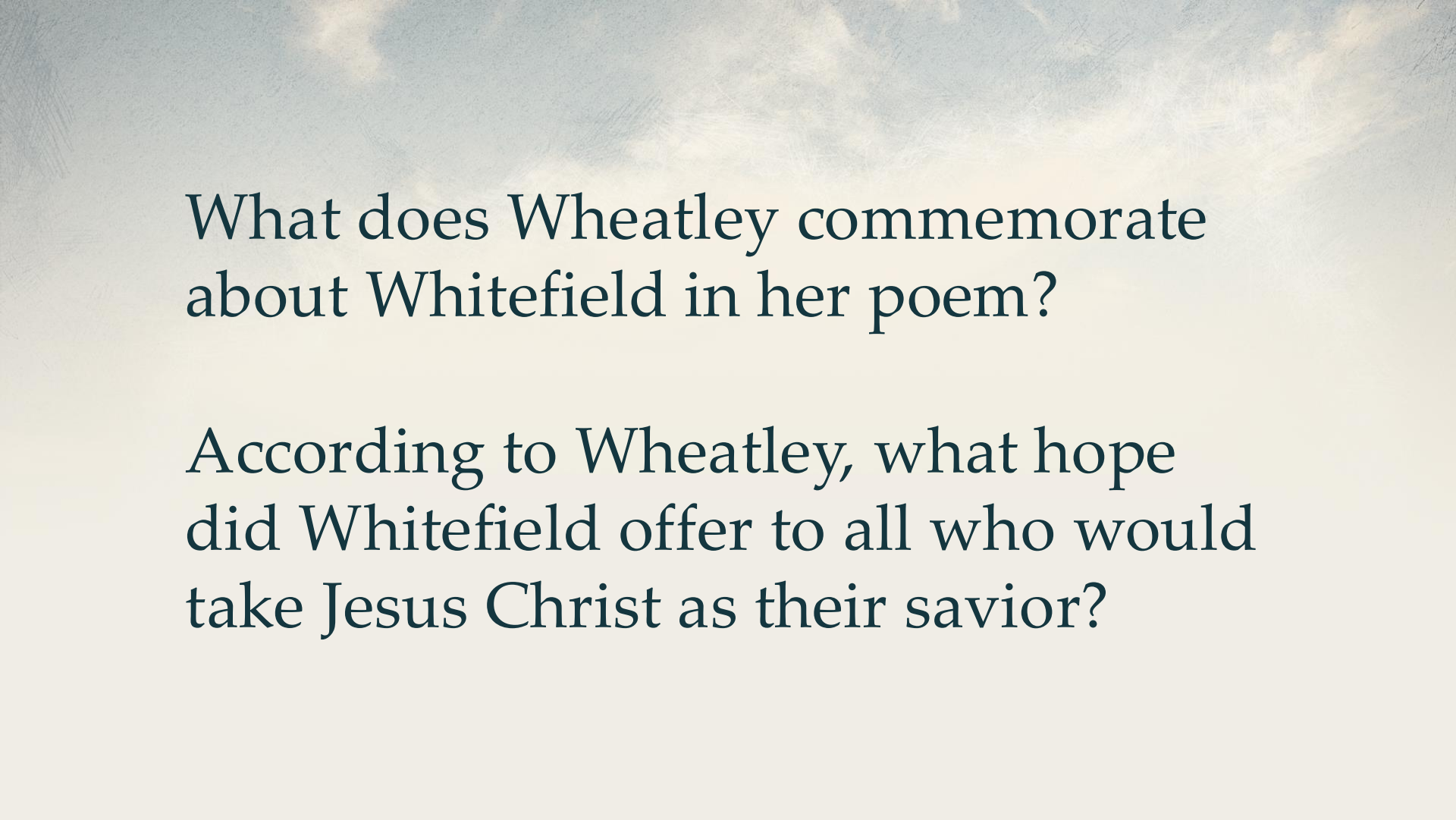
Further Reading:

Philis Wheatley,
*“On the Death of Rev. Mr.
George Whitefield”*

Phillis Wheatley, “On the Death . . .”

- Based on the quotations that Wheatley puts in her poem, what did she perceive as the main thrust of Whitefield’s sermons?

He called people to look to
Christ in faith for salvation.



What does Wheatley commemorate about Whitefield in her poem?

According to Wheatley, what hope did Whitefield offer to all who would take Jesus Christ as their savior?

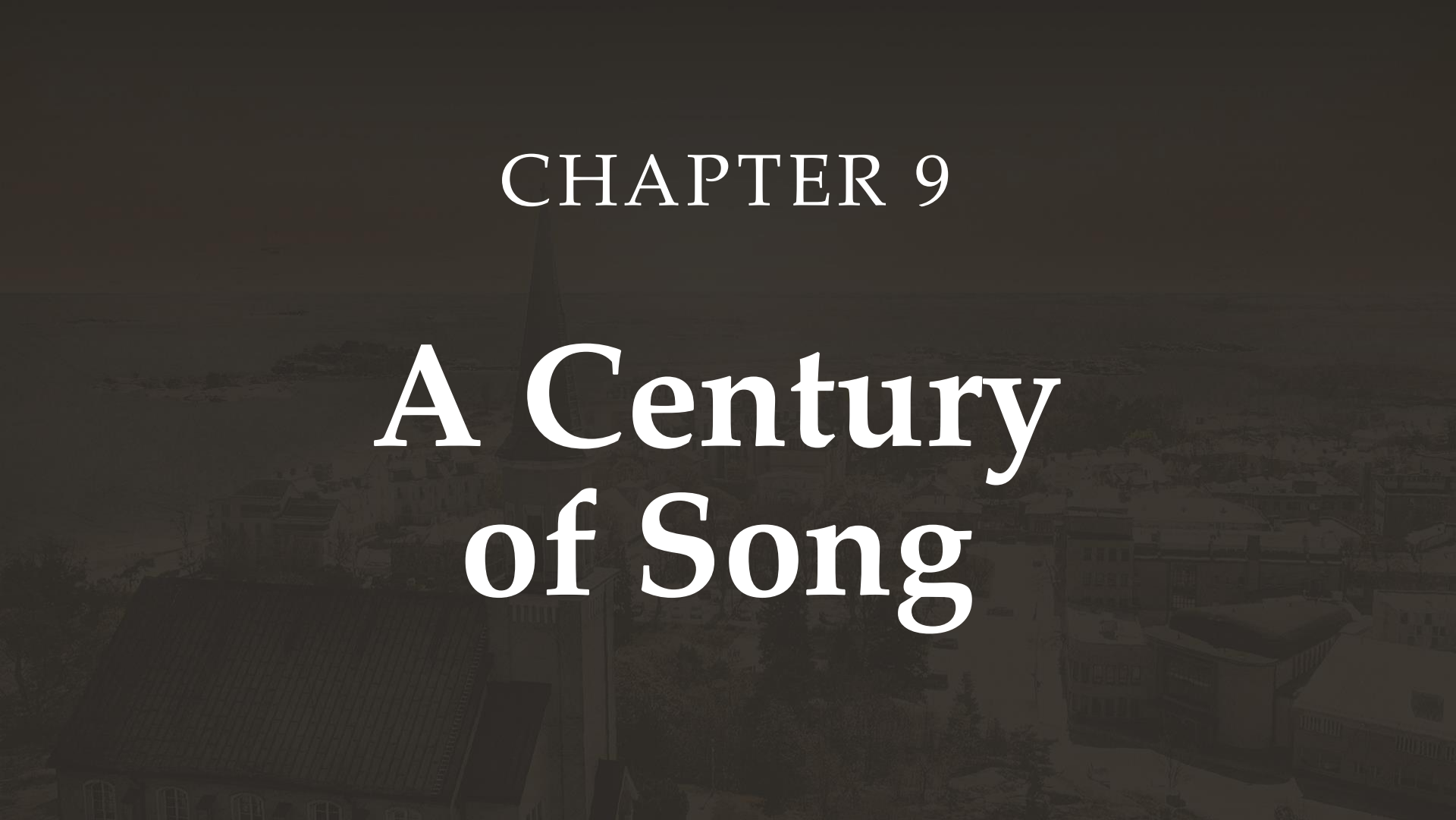


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present



The background of the slide is a dark, grayscale aerial photograph of a city. A prominent church steeple is visible in the center-left of the image. The city is densely packed with buildings, and the overall tone is somber and historical.

CHAPTER 9

A Century of Song



1605

John Arndt begins publishing
True Christianity

1675

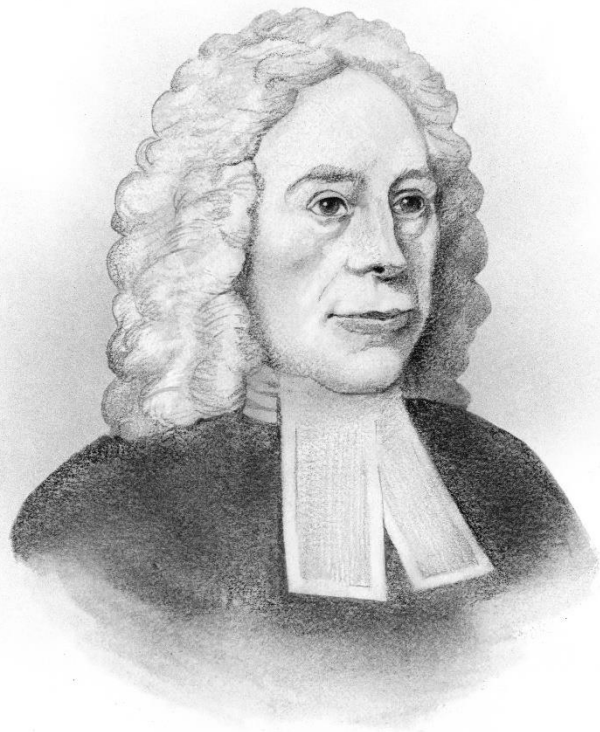
Pia Desideria published by Jakob Spener

1674

Birth of Isaac Watts

Introduction:

Hymn Writers





Singing as Part of Sanctification

Eph. 5:18–21; Col. 3:15–17

- List some of the similarities between these passages.

Both contain instructions to sing. Both reference a variety of types of singing—“psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs.” Both say that our singing should be “in the name of our Lord.” Both end with the giving of thanks.

Singing as Part of Sanctification

- Why may Wesley have wanted people to sing the hymns exactly as they were written?

Wesley may have wanted everyone to learn to sing the songs exactly the same way so that everyone could sing together in unity.

Singing as Part of Sanctification

- What do you think Wesley meant by “songs of Satan”?

The worldly songs people sang before they were saved

Singing as Part of Sanctification

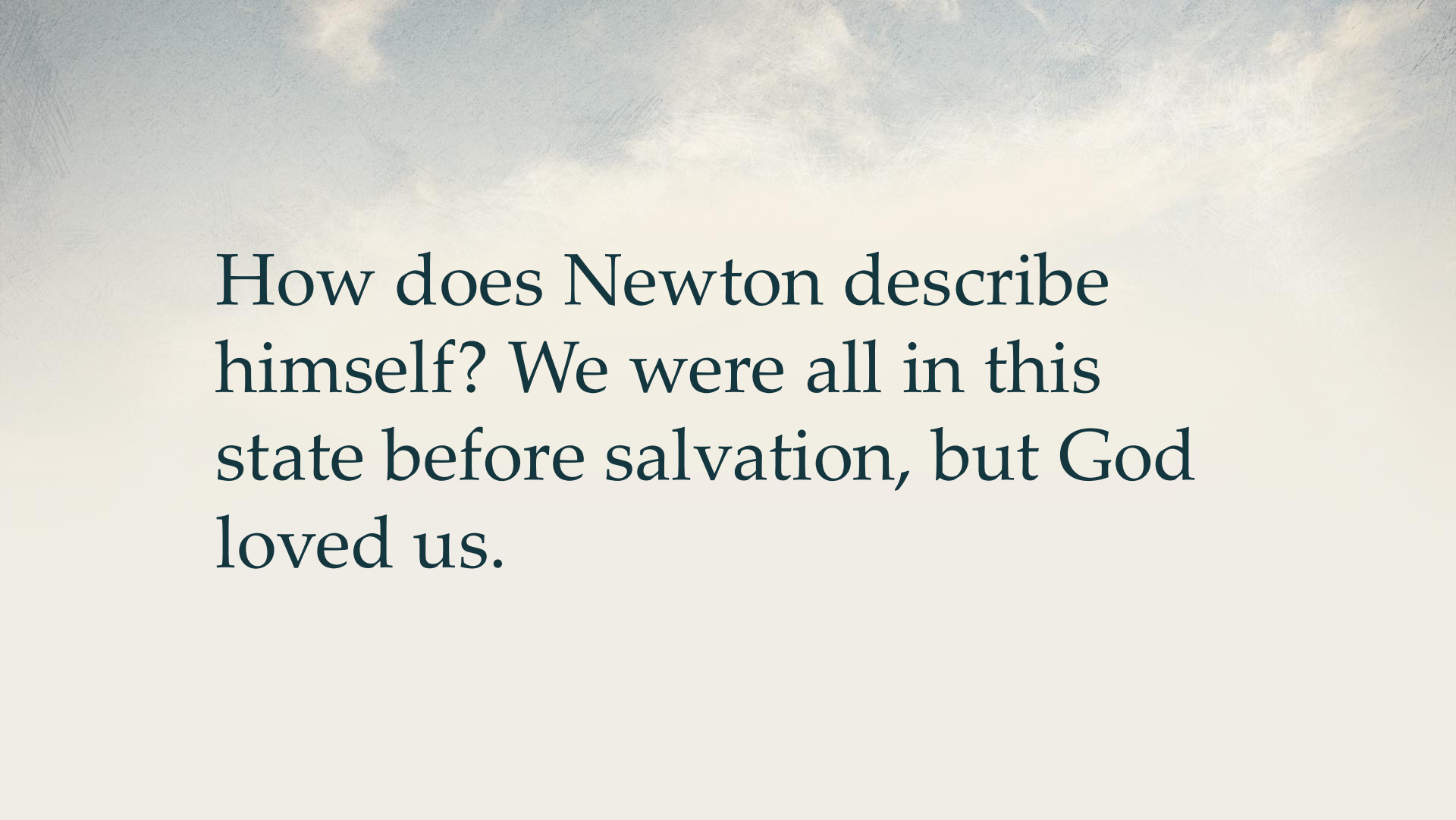
- Out of the fourth, fifth, and sixth directions, which is the most challenging for you personally? Why?



**God's People
Sing Together**

God's People Sing Together

- Think about some of your favorite songs. What truths do they declare about God?



How does Newton describe himself? We were all in this state before salvation, but God loved us.



**God's People
Sing Praise**

Colossians 3:15–17

- How many times is thanksgiving mentioned?

Three times, once in each verse

Colossians 3:15–17

- Where should this thankfulness be directed?

To God



God's People
Sing Truth

“Holiness and Grace”	Titus 2:10–13
O let our lips and lives express The holy gospel we profess; So let our works and virtues shine, To prove the doctrine all divine.	<i>v. 10— We are called to adorn the doctrine of God (lines 3–4).</i>
Thus shall we best proclaim abroad The honors of our Savior God; When the salvation reigns within, And grace subdues the power of sin.	<i>v. 10— God is our Savior (line 2).</i> <i>v. 11— God’s grace brings salvation (lines 3–4).</i>

Our flesh and sense must be denied,
Passion and envy, lust and pride;
While justice, temperance, truth, and love,
Our inward piety approve.

*v. 12— We are to renounce (deny)
ungodliness (lines 1–2).*

*v. 12— We are to live self-
controlled, upright, and godly lives.*

Religion bears our spirits up,
While we expect that blessed hope,
The bright appearance of the Lord,
And faith stands leaning on his word.

*v. 13— We await the blessed hope
and God's glorious appearing
(lines 2–3).*

God's People Sing Truth

- Why is it important for us to measure our songs and hymns by the standard of God's Word?

Human experience and creativity can inadvertently introduce false ideas into songs. God's Word provides the only sure measure of truth.

Further Reading

William Cowper



William Cowper, “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

- How might Cowper’s struggles with depression and personal loss have influenced this hymn?

He experienced the need for faith in dark times.

William Cowper, “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

- Where does this hymn point the believer when he or she needs confidence and comfort?

It points to the sovereign power and goodness of God.

William Cowper, “God Moves in a Mysterious Way”

- What circumstances in your own life appear to be a “frowning providence”?

Which verses in Cowper's hymn
do you find most encouraging?
Why?

What thought expressed in this
hymn could you share with
someone else to encourage them?



GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present



CHAPTER 10

Attempting Great Things for God

1792

William Carey publishes *An Enquiry*

1793

The Carey family travels to India
as missionaries

1792

Formation of the Baptist Missionary Society
in England

1806

The haystack prayer meeting

1812

Adoniram and Ann Judson travel to India
and Burma

Introduction:

The Careys





ASIA

INDIA

Serampore



Sent to Minister

Acts 13:1–3

- How many prophets and teachers are listed in verse 1?

Five

Acts 13:1–3

- How many are set apart for God's mission work in verse 2?

Two

Acts 13:1–3

- What two things did the group do before sending out Paul and Barnabas in verse 3?

They fasted and prayed.

Sent to Minister

- Name some specific ways you could “hold the ropes” of a missionary your church supports.

Sent to Minister

- Are you willing to serve as a missionary if God would clearly lead in that direction?



Sent with Prayer



ASIA

BURMA

Rangoon

Ephesians 6:18–20

- How did Paul ask the Ephesians to pray for him?

Paul asked for the right words to speak and for fearlessness in his ministry.

Ephesians 6:18–20

- What are some ways you could pray for missionaries supported by your church?



Sent Preaching the Word

Acts 13:1–5

- According to verse 5, what was Paul's first activity upon arriving in the city of Salamis?

He proclaimed the Word of God.

Further Reading:

Adoniram Judson



Adoniram Judson

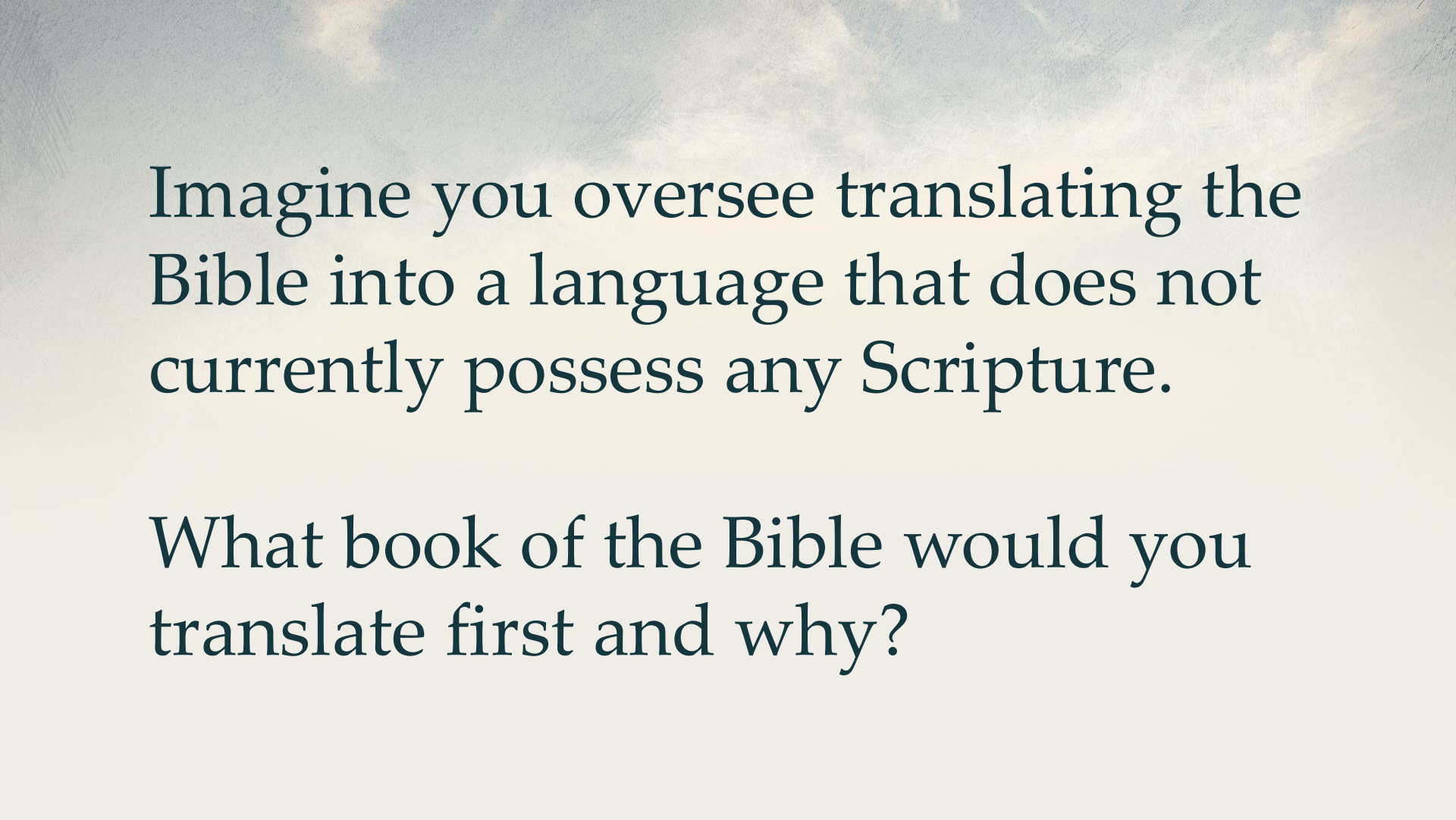
- What was significant about the Burman that Judson met?

He was the first Burman that Judson met who acknowledged the one eternal God.

Adoniram Judson

- What did Judson give to the Burman?

A tract, a catechism, and a partial translation of the Gospel of Matthew



Imagine you oversee translating the Bible into a language that does not currently possess any Scripture.

What book of the Bible would you translate first and why?

Adoniram Judson

- Judson alluded to a limited paper supply. In what ways do you think modern technology has helped Bible translation?

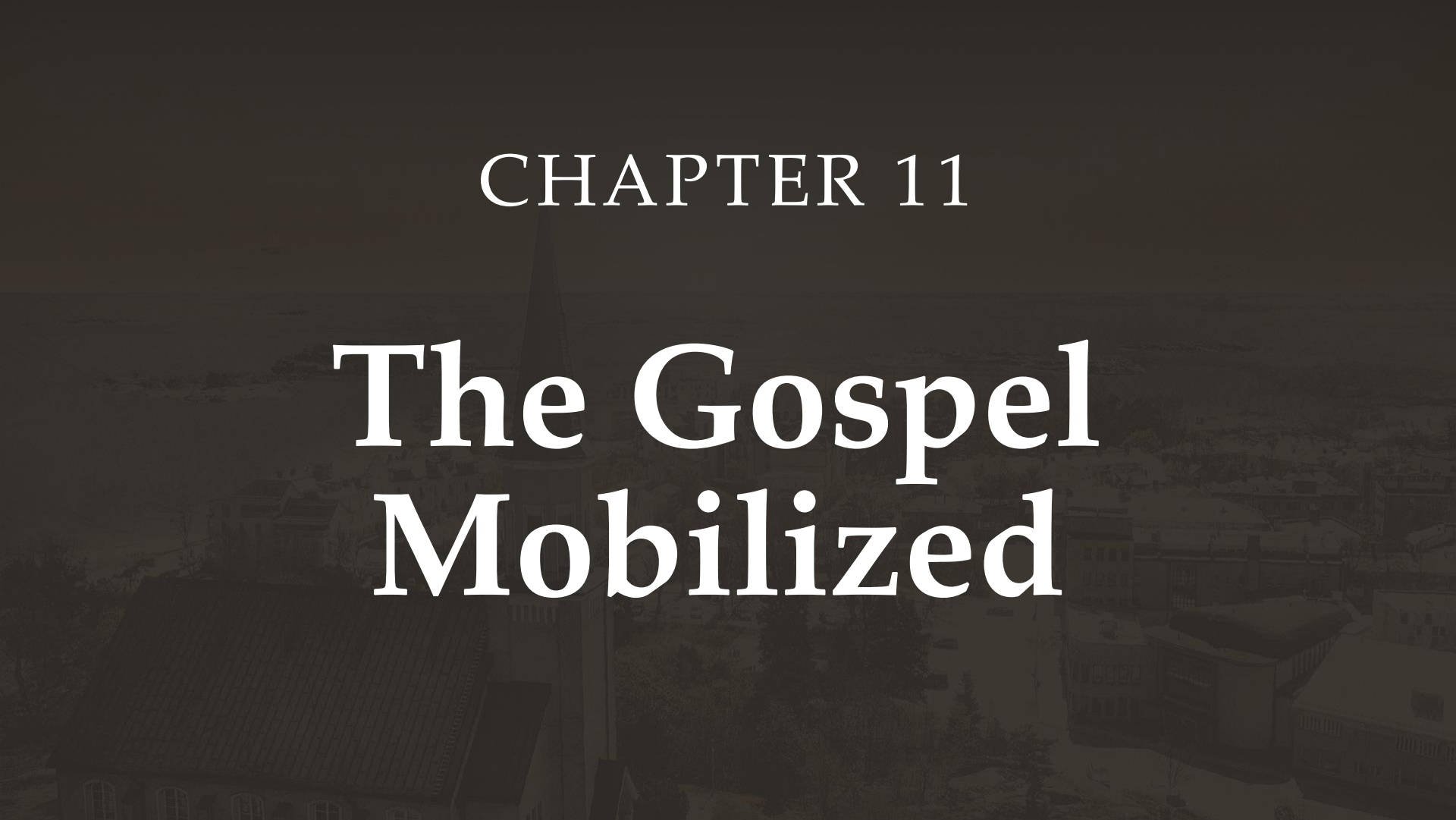


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



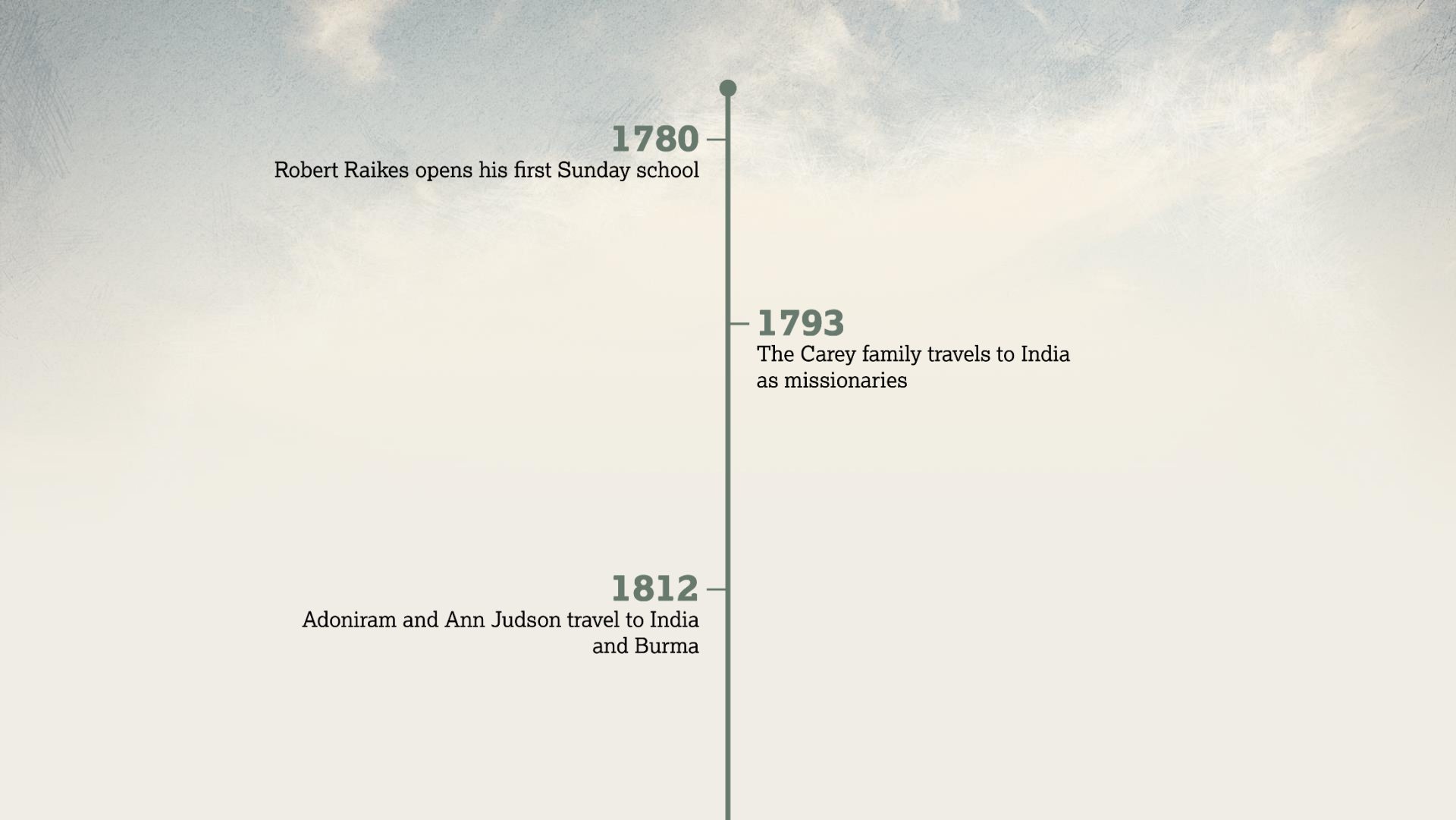
Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 11

The Gospel Mobilized



1780

Robert Raikes opens his first Sunday school

1793

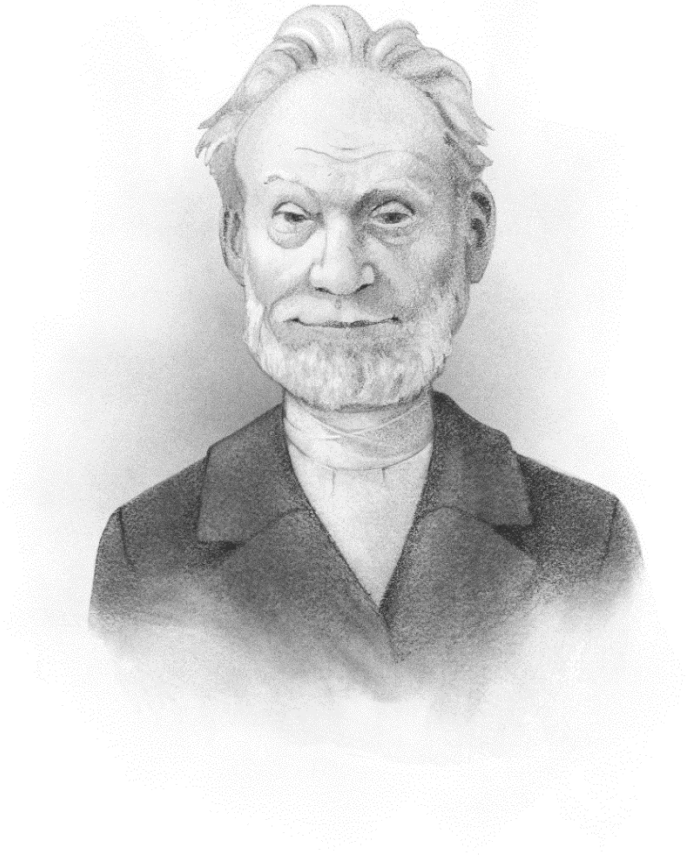
The Carey family travels to India
as missionaries

1812

Adoniram and Ann Judson travel to India
and Burma

Introduction:

Alleviating Human Suffering





The Undeserving
Seeking the
Undeserving

Luke 14:1–6

- How did Jesus show that caring for people is more important than religious tradition?

He healed the man even though it was the Sabbath, a day on which tradition forbade healing.

Luke 14:7–11

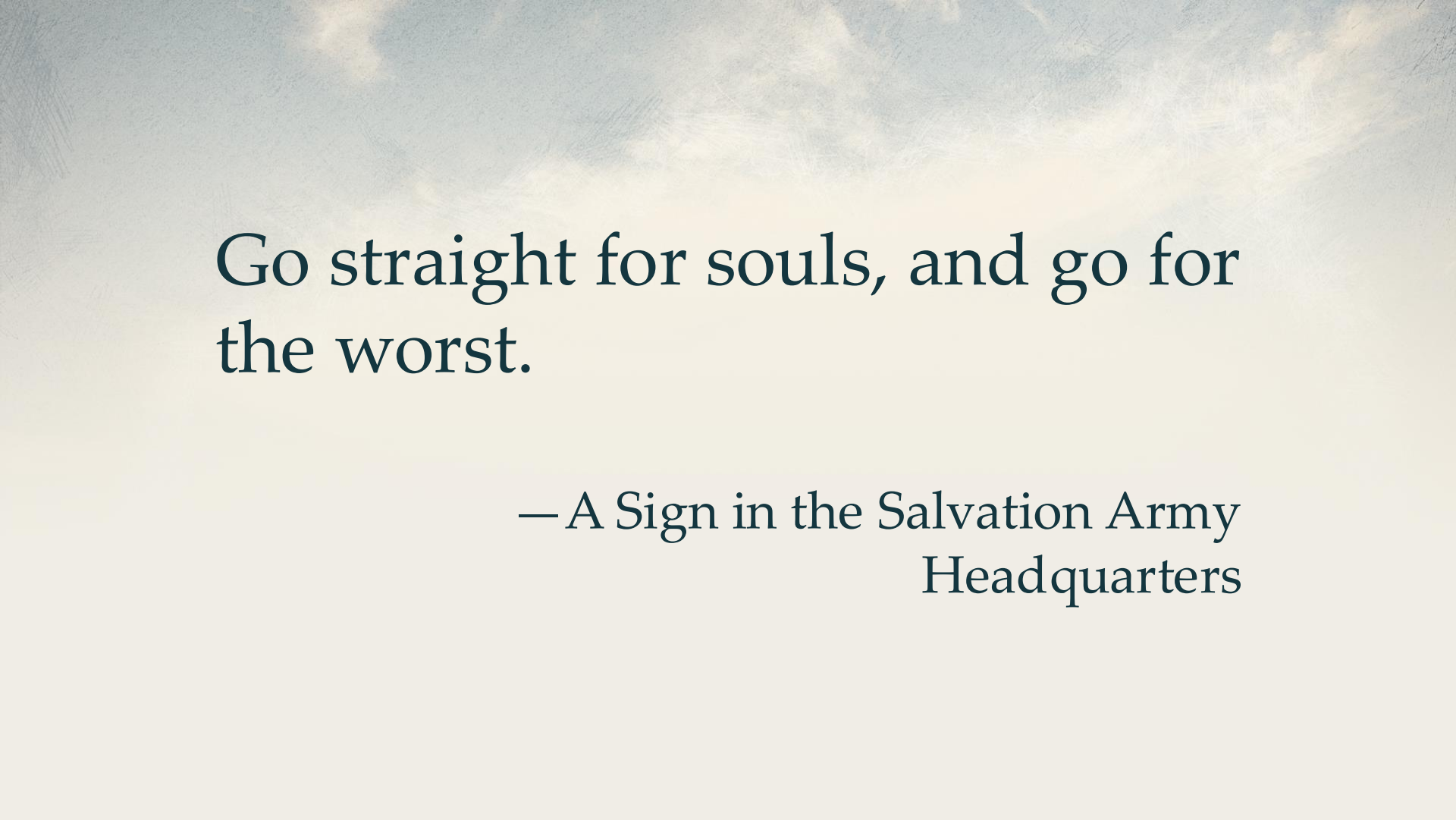
- How were the people exhibiting pride?

The people fought to get the best seats.

Luke 14:7–11

- According to verse 11, what typically happens to people who exalt themselves?

God will humble them.



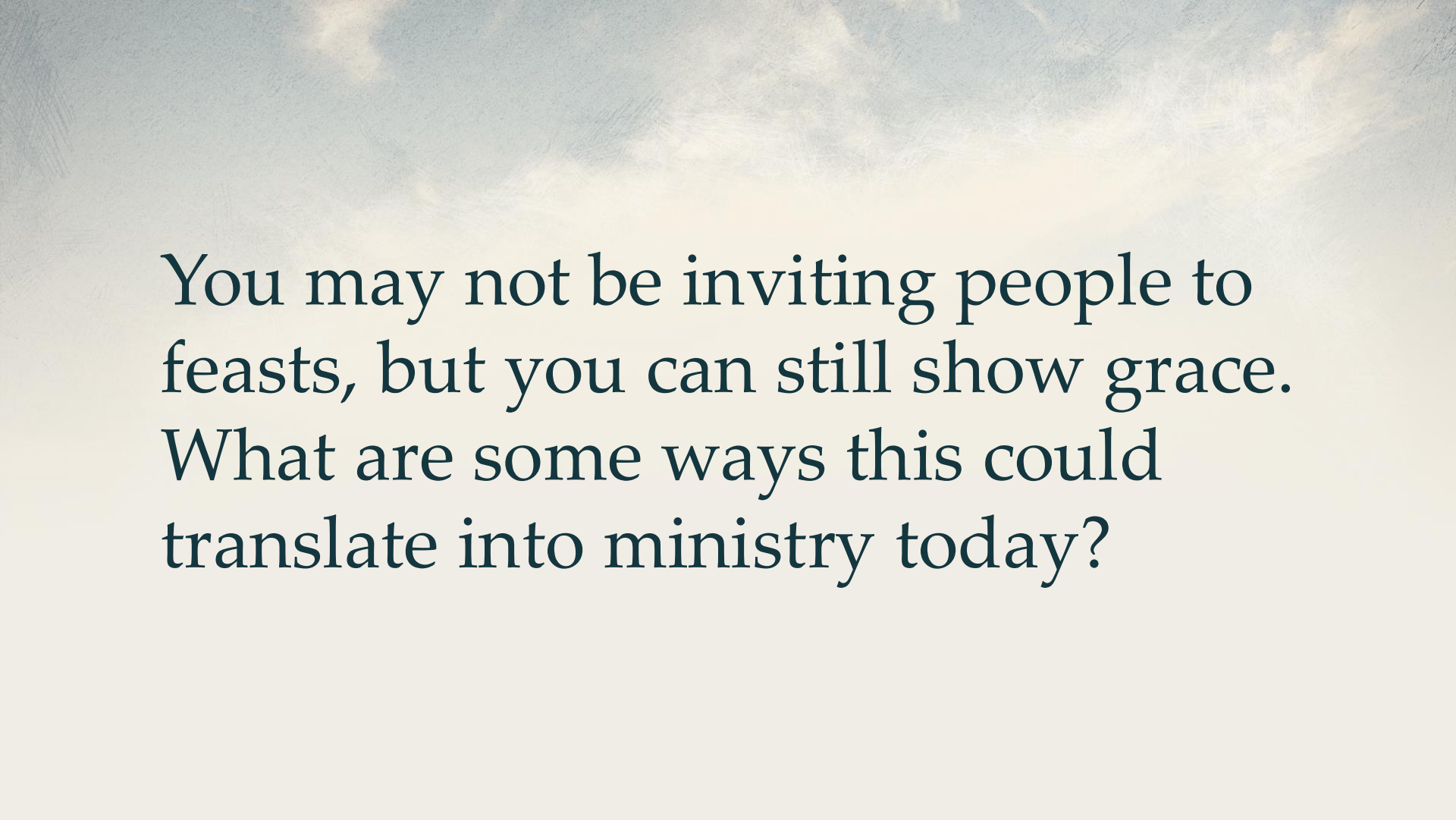
Go straight for souls, and go for
the worst.

— A Sign in the Salvation Army
Headquarters

Luke 14:12–14

- What practical way did Jesus suggest that the host could reflect the grace of God?

He could invite people to his banquet who couldn't pay him back.



You may not be inviting people to feasts, but you can still show grace. What are some ways this could translate into ministry today?

The Evangelists



Luke 14:15–17

- Was this a small banquet?

No

Luke 14:15–17

- What message did God give the servant to announce?

Come, for everything is
now ready.

Luke 14:18–20

- Beside each category of distraction, list the specific example Jesus gave. Then, list some modern-day examples in each category that may distract people from the gospel today.

Property: a field—a car, house, or device

Luke 14:18–20

- Beside each category of distraction, list the specific example Jesus gave. Then, list some modern-day examples in each category that may distract people from the gospel today.

Possessions/Wealth: oxen — money, entertainment, hobbies

Luke 14:18–20

- Beside each category of distraction, list the specific example Jesus gave. Then, list some modern-day examples in each category that may distract people from the gospel today.

Relationships: a wife — friends,
classmates, coworkers

Luke 14:21–24

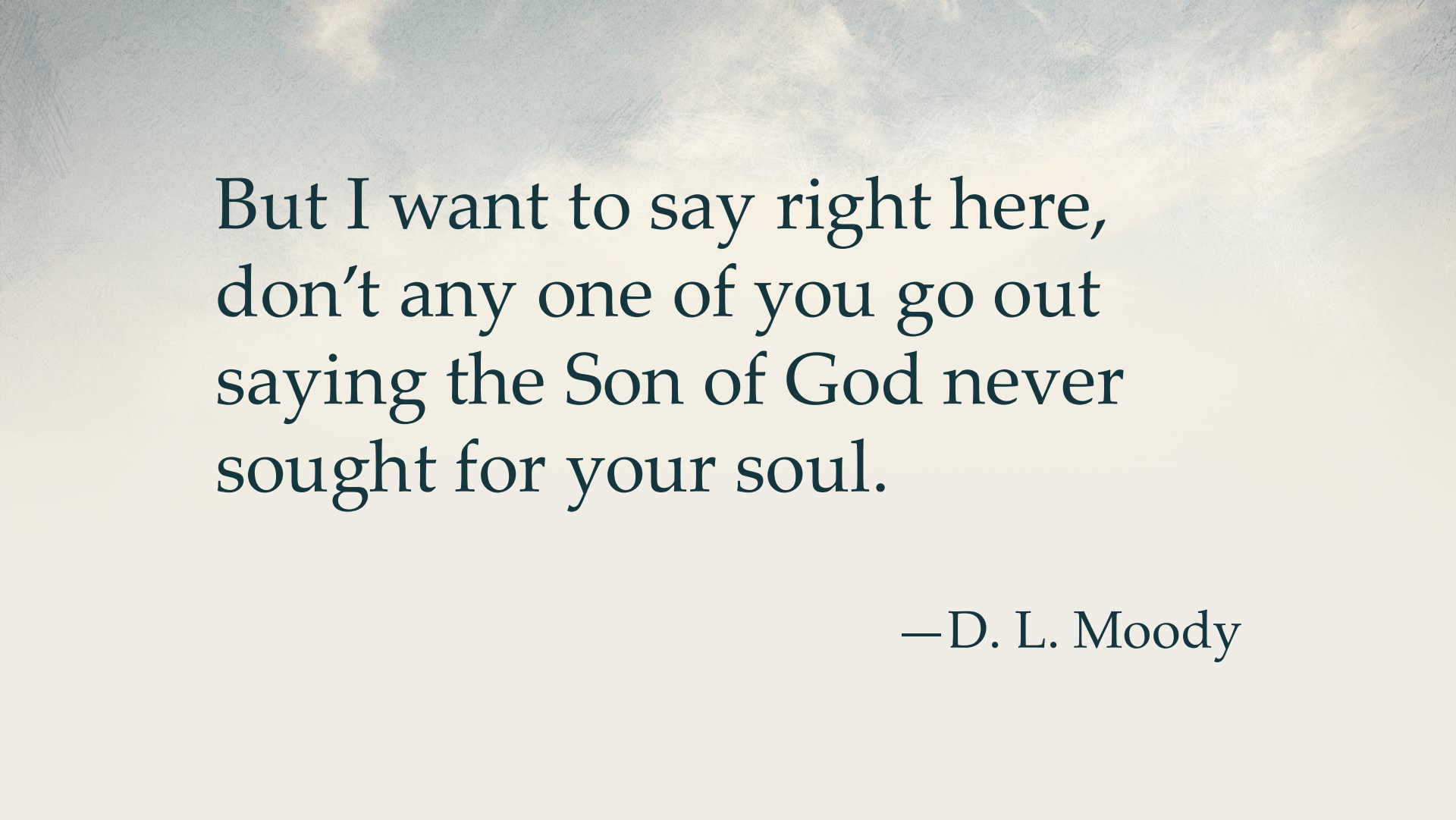
- In your own words, describe the kinds of guests who finally filled the banquet hall.

They were the poor and weak, people often overlooked and ignored by society.

Luke 14:21–24

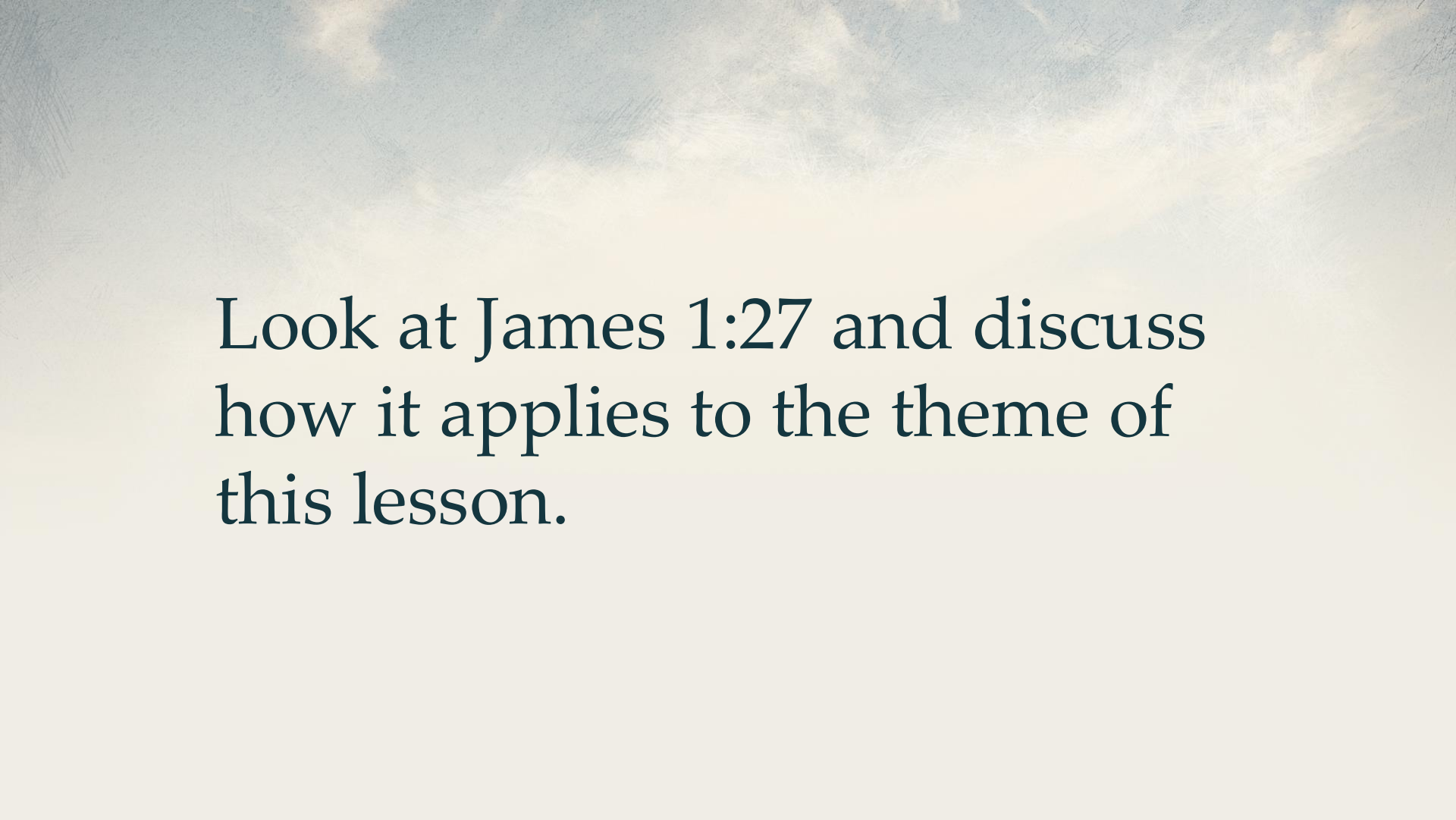
- How should this parable influence the way you share the gospel—God's invitation?

It should remind us that we need to be giving the gospel to everyone. We shouldn't prescreen someone before telling them about Jesus.



But I want to say right here,
don't any one of you go out
saying the Son of God never
sought for your soul.

—D. L. Moody



Look at James 1:27 and discuss
how it applies to the theme of
this lesson.

Further Reading:

Angelina Grimke,
*“An Appeal to the
Christian Women
of the South”*

Angelina Grimke, “An Appeal to the Christian Women . . .”

- In your own words, summarize the case that the Grimke sisters make from Scripture to protest the practice of slavery.

Nowhere does Scripture say that God gave humans supreme dominion over other humans.

Angelina Grimke, “An Appeal to the Christian Women . . .”

- What “ultimate appeal” in the excerpt above should be the guiding standard for every action we undertake?

The Bible

What is one injustice or need in society that you think Christians should do more to address?

What arguments could you make from Scripture to protest and critique this issue?

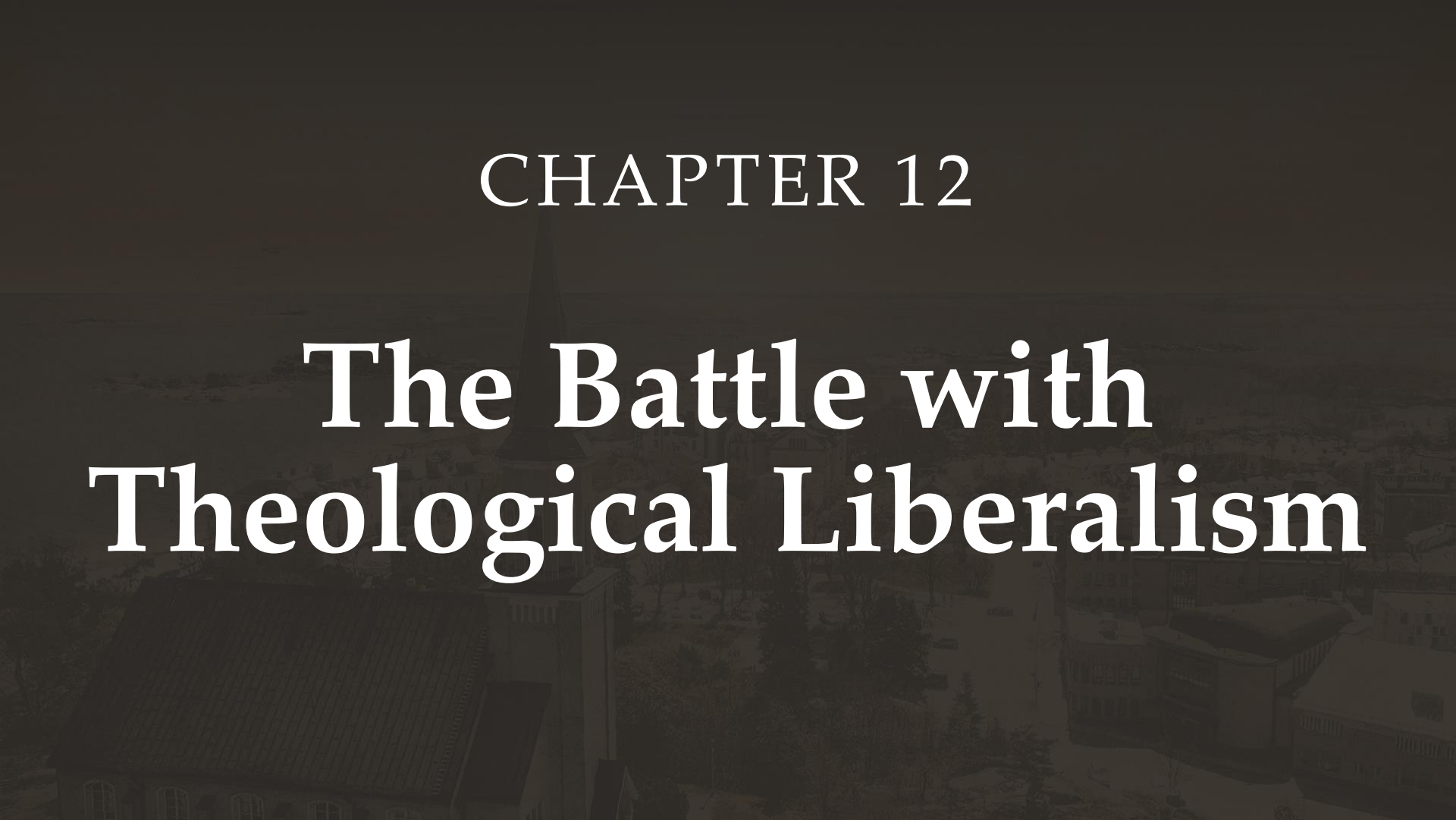


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



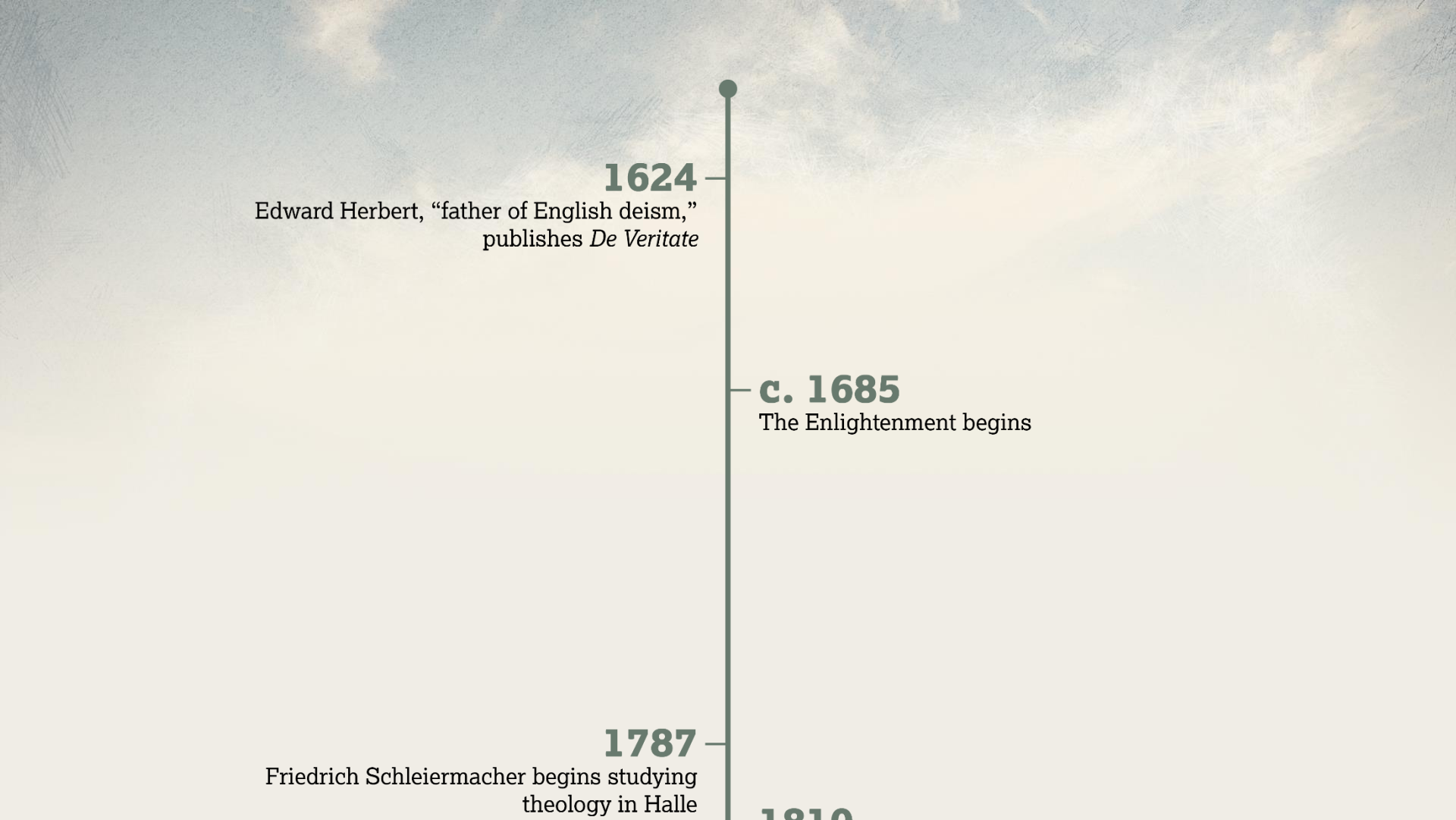
Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 12

The Battle with Theological Liberalism



1624

Edward Herbert, “father of English deism,”
publishes *De Veritate*

c. 1685

The Enlightenment begins

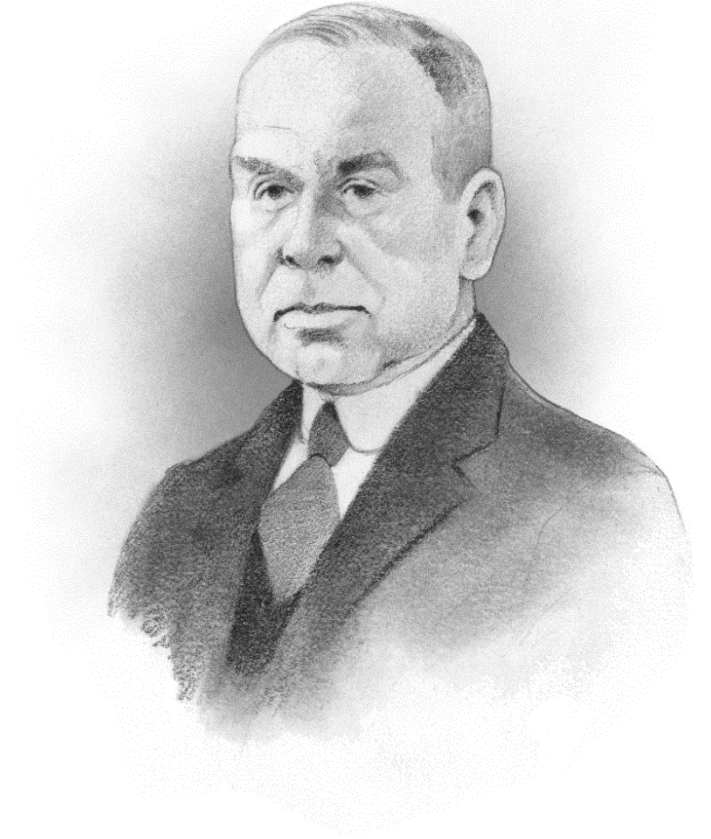
1787

Friedrich Schleiermacher begins studying
theology in Halle

1810

Introduction:

Opposing False Teaching





The Foundation of Truth

Jude 1–3

- How does Jude describe Christians in verse 1?

They are described as loved, preserved/kept, and sanctified by God.

Jude 1–3

- How did the church receive the message of faith (v. 3)?

It was delivered or entrusted to us.

Jude 1–3

- How often was the Christian faith delivered (v. 3)?

Once for all

Jude 1–3

- If God delivered it only once, how should Christian doctrine in the twenty-first century compare to Christian doctrine in the first century?

They should be the same.



How Error Creeps In

Jude 4

- What are some ways that forcing our own interpretation on Scripture could undermine Jesus as our Lord?

We may reject His commands and replace them with our own preferences.

Jude 16

- Summarize how Jude describes ungodly false teachers in this verse.
They are complainers consumed with their own desires.

Too many ministers are toying
with the deadly cobra of
“another gospel,” in the form
of “modern thought.”

—C. H. Spurgeon,
“Another Word Concerning
the Downgrade”



Responding to False Teaching

Jude 5–7

- What three groups experienced God's judgment?

Verse 5: The Israelites who didn't trust God in the wilderness

Verse 6: The angels who joined Satan's rebellion

Verse 7: Sodom and Gomorrah

Jude 10–12

- Look up the following passages and write the name of the person who engaged in false worship.

Gen. 4:3–12: Cain

Num. 16:1–11, 25–34: Korah

Num. 31:16, 25:1–3; 31:8: Balaam

Jude 17–19

- Who warned that false teachers would arise?

The apostles

Jude 17–19

- How can God's foreknowledge encourage us?

If God knows all the falsehood that will arise, He in wisdom and love also provides us with the means of overcoming that falsehood with truth.

Build yourself up in your faith in God (v. 20a)	<i>Study the Bible; listen to sermons.</i>
Pray in the Spirit (v. 20b)	<i>Keep a prayer list; set aside a time each day for prayer.</i>
Rest in God's love and mercy (v. 21)	<i>Share some ways I am thankful for God's goodness; share my fears and worries with God in prayer.</i>
Reflect God's love and mercy to others (vv. 22–23)	<i>Share the gospel; reach out to those who are hurting.</i>

Further Reading

Charles H. Spurgeon



Charles H. Spurgeon

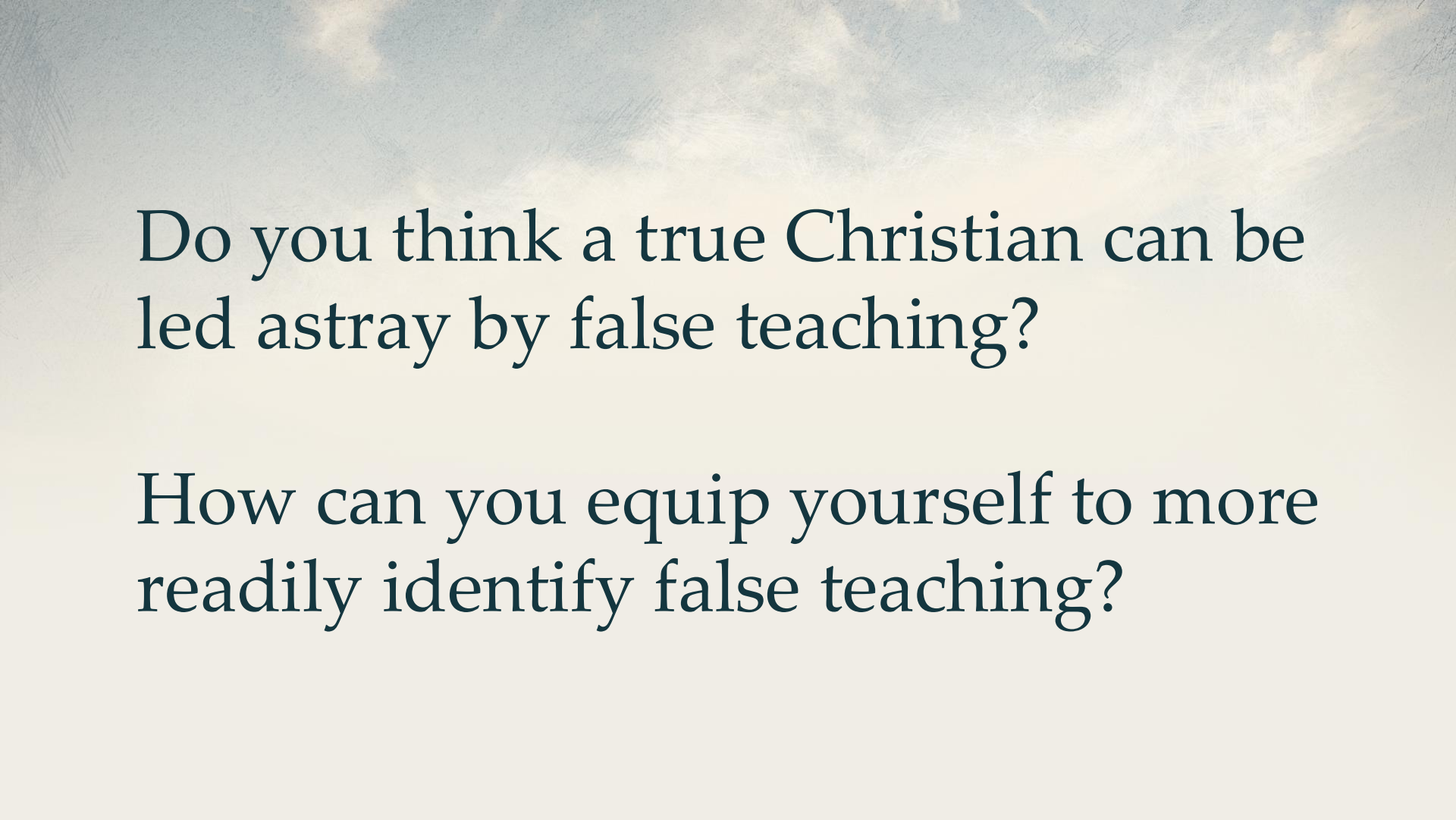
- Did Spurgeon perceive that doctrinal purity in churches was on the rise or decline?

The decline

Charles H. Spurgeon

- What doctrines were being denied?

The atonement, the inspiration of Scripture, the personhood of the Holy Spirit, punishment of sin, the resurrection



Do you think a true Christian can be led astray by false teaching?

How can you equip yourself to more readily identify false teaching?

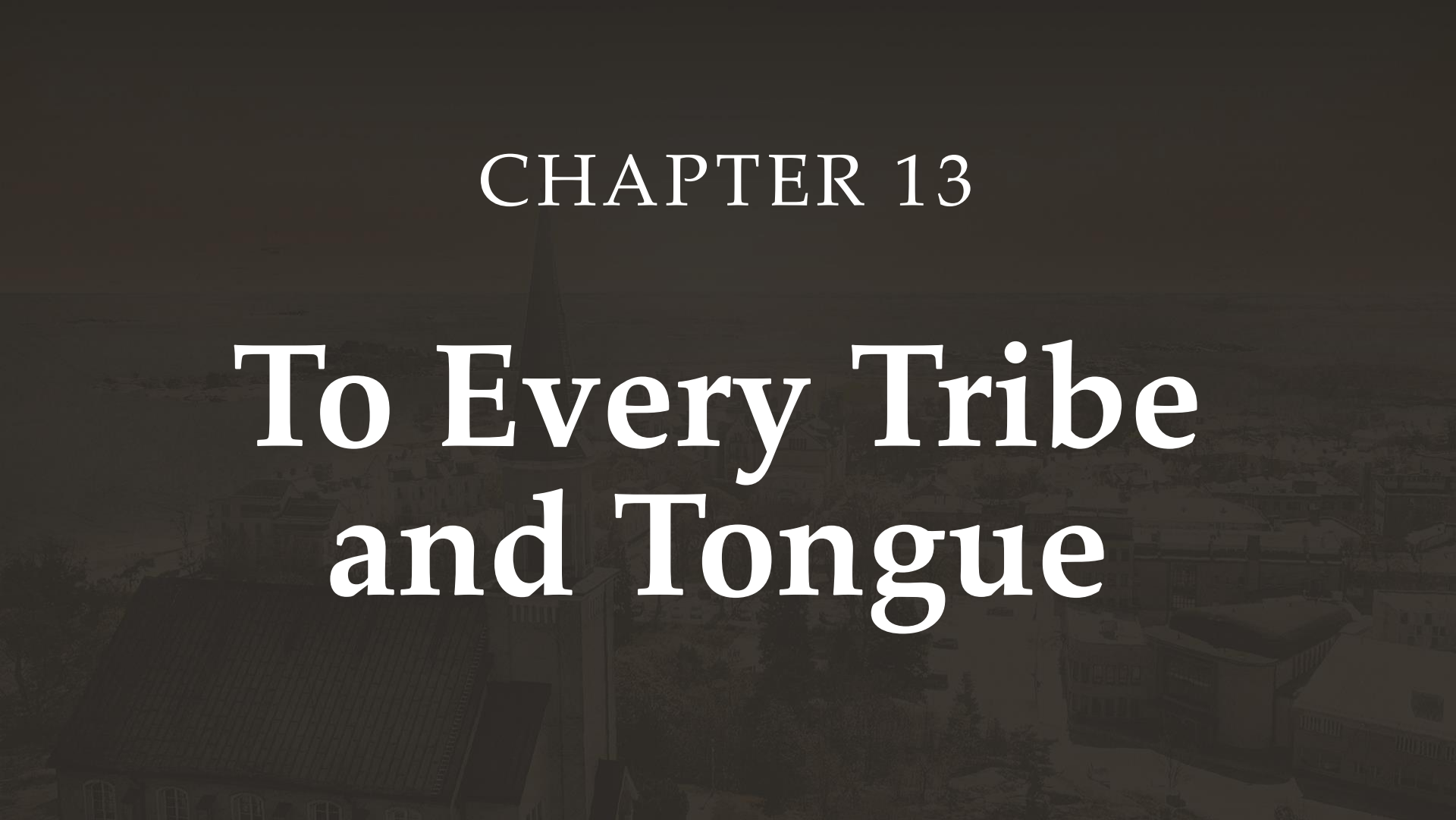


GOD'S PREVAILING WORK



Themes in Church History, AD 1517 to Present





CHAPTER 13

To Every Tribe and Tongue



1886

The Student Volunteer Movement begins

1900

The Boxer Rebellion

1910

World Missionary Conference in
Edinburgh, Scotland

Introduction:

1910 World Missionary Conference



The Grand Vision

Revelation 7:9

- How many Gentiles were before the throne of God?

Too many to number

Revelation 7:9

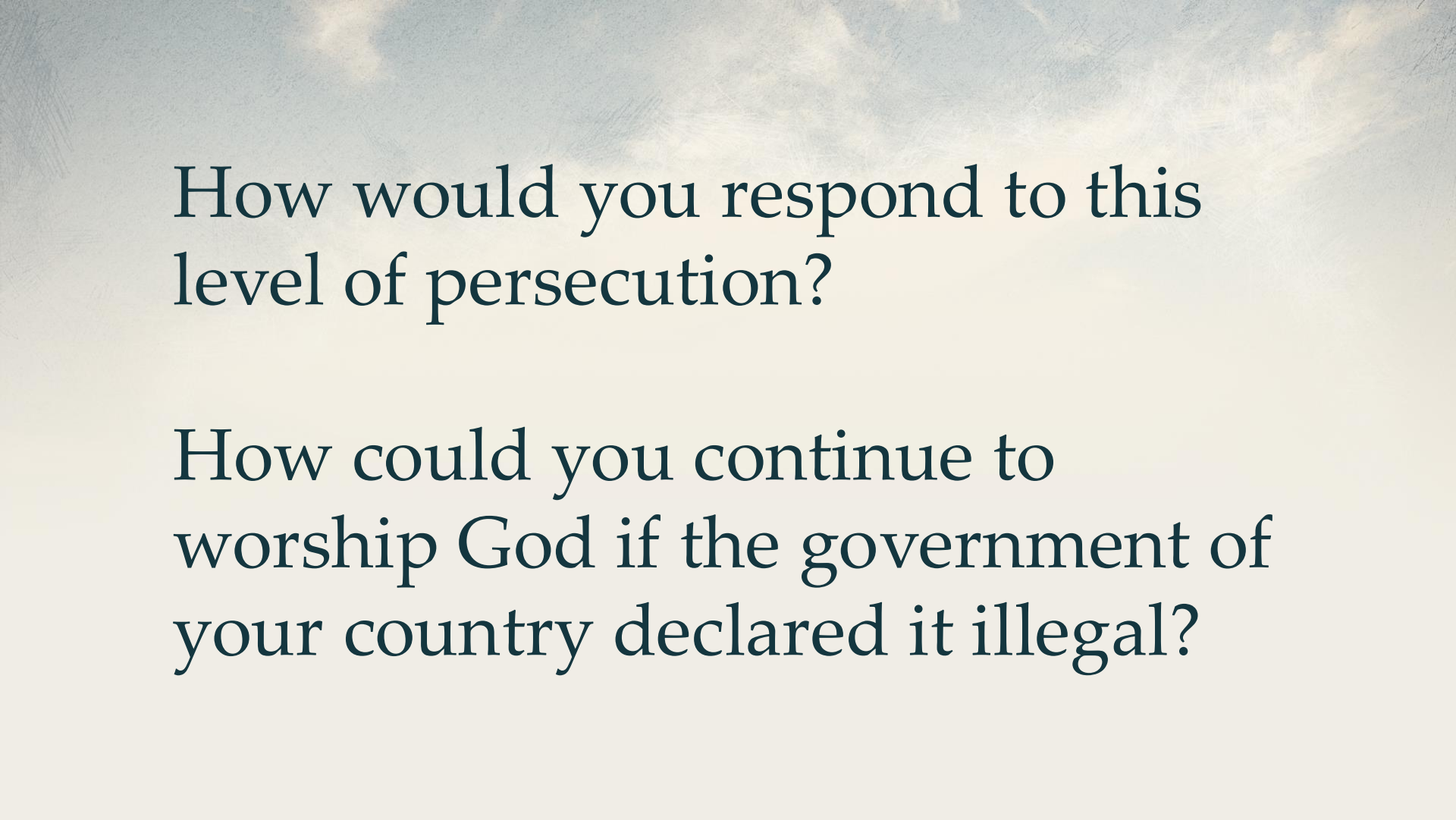
- Where were they from?

Everywhere; every nation and
tribe on the earth

ASIA

CHINA





How would you respond to this level of persecution?

How could you continue to worship God if the government of your country declared it illegal?



**Praising God
in Every
Language**

Revelation 7:10–14

- According to verses 10 and 14, what are the people praising God for?

Their salvation

Revelation 7:10–14

- Look again at the angels' words in verses 11–12. What do their words tell us about God?

God deserves all praise and glory because no one else can compare to His power and might. His reign is eternal and indomitable.

Praising God in Every Language

- What are two ways you could learn more about believers in other countries this week?



**Together Forever
with Christ**

Revelation 7:15

- What will believers do in eternity?
Serve God continually

Revelation 7:15

- What will God do for believers?
Shelter them

Revelation 7:17

- How does God picture the end of suffering and the eternal joy awaiting us?

He wipes away every tear.

Population of Christians Around the World

	1910	2010
Europe	66.3%	25.9%
Americas	27.1%	36.8%
Asia-Pacific	4.5%	13.1%
Sub-Saharan Africa	1.4%	23.6%
Middle East and North Africa	0.7%	0.6%

Further Reading

Dora Yü



Dora Yü

- How would you summarize what Dora Yü was thankful for? What did she consider a blessing?

She was thankful for her trip and her fellowship with other Christians. She was blessed to see believers committing themselves to growing in their faith.

Dora Yü

- What enemy did she consider at war with the Church? Why?

Higher criticism. By removing Christ from the gospel, it removes the believer's hope of salvation.

Dora Yü

- What type of people does she pray that God will provide to oppose this enemy?

True witnesses who are willing to stand true to God and fearlessly share His Word, exposing false teaching.

If a Christian from another country were to visit you in your country, how do you think the visitor would characterize the spiritual climate where you live?

What might that foreign believer see as positive? What might he or she see as negative?

