









John 3:16



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I'm Feeling Lucky

"Honestly, my first thought was, 'How do 94 million people not know John 3:16?"

- Tim Tebow



1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. 2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him."

3 Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God."

4 Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?"

5 Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows where it wishes, and you

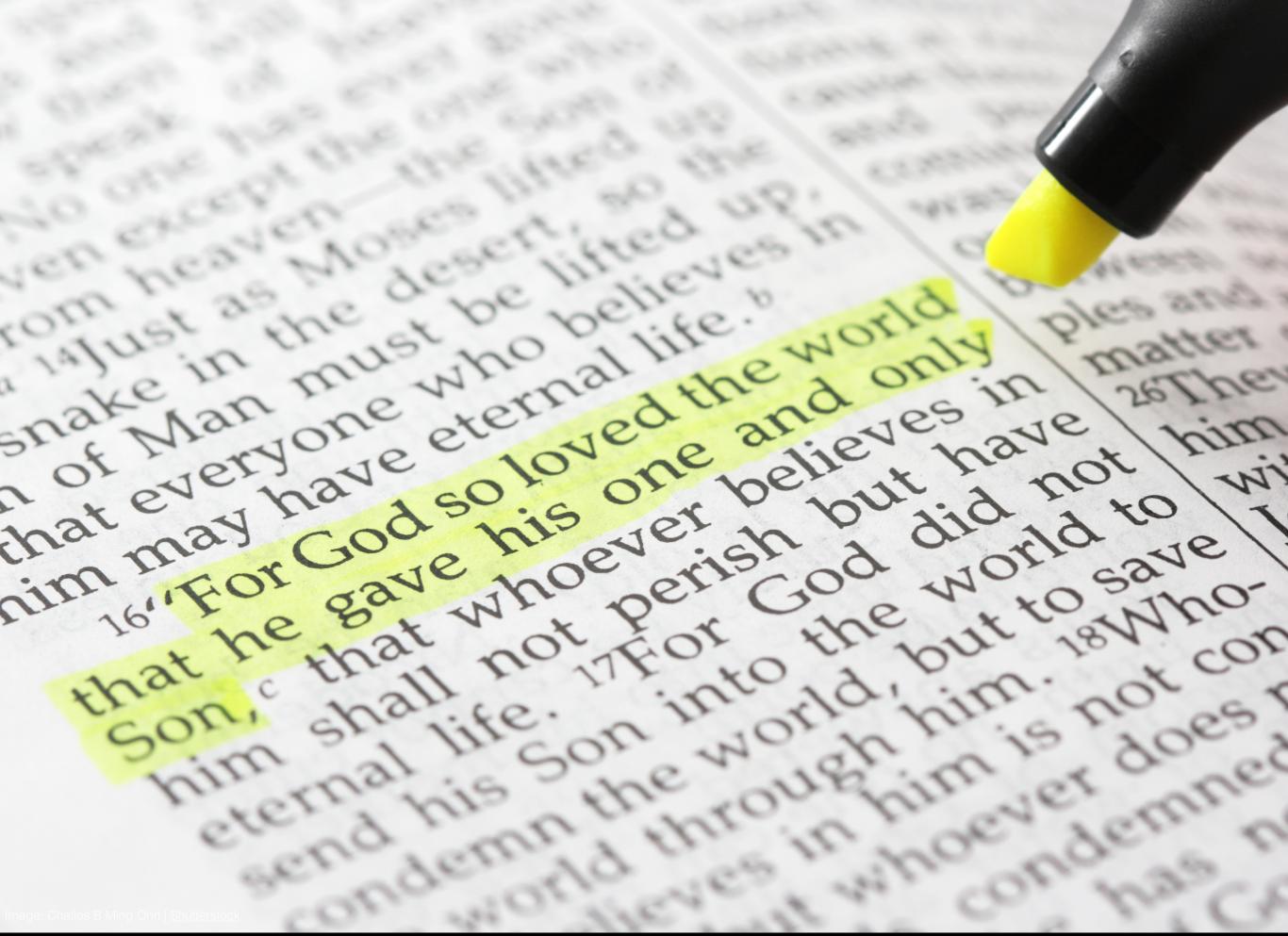
"do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."

9 Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things?

11 Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from

heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life....

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.



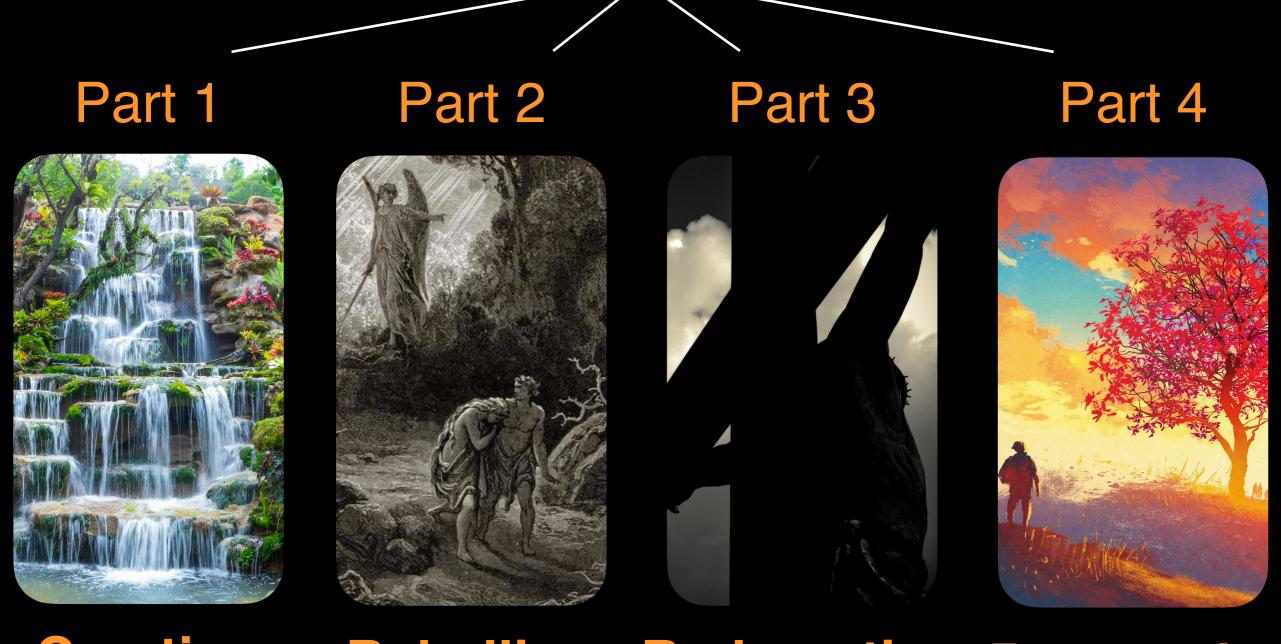
Flannery O'Connor 1925-1964



— The Four Part Story of the World —

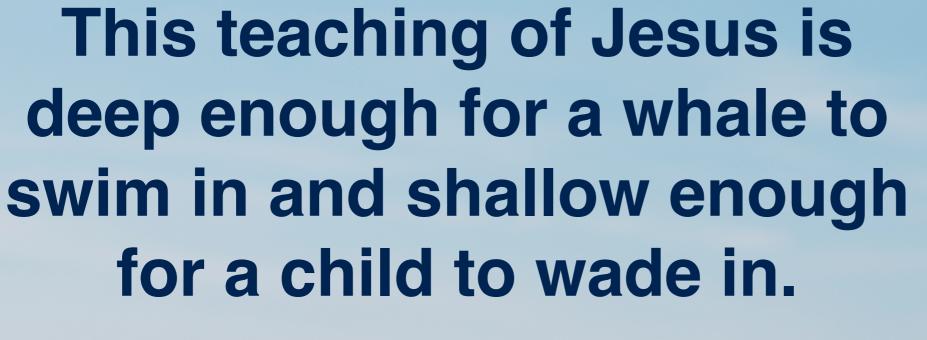


The Four Part Story of the World —



Creation Rebellion Redemption Restoration

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

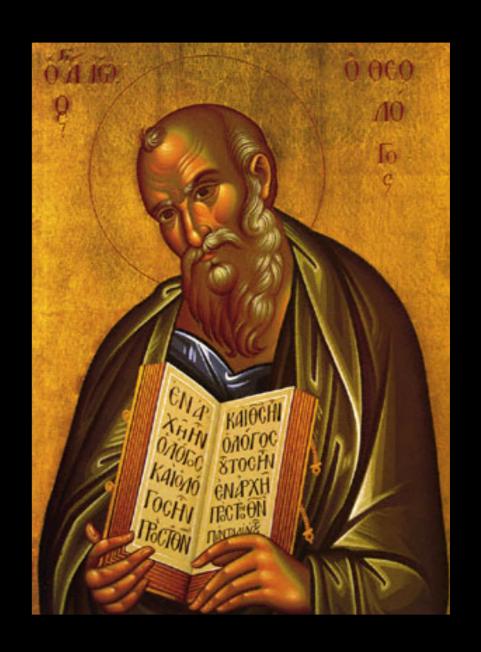




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God is love.

The Apostle John
— 1 John 3:16 —



God is an infinite and incomprehensible fountain of love.

Jonathan Edwards



Could we with ink the oceans fill And were the skies with parchment made Were every stalk on earth a quill And every man a scribe by trade

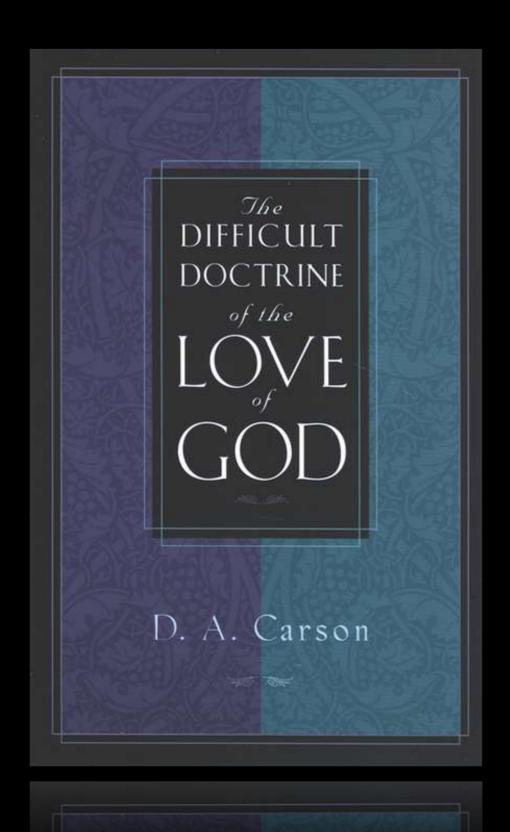


To write the love of God above **Would drain** the ocean dry Nor could the scroll contain the whole Though stretched from sky to sky

FH Leman



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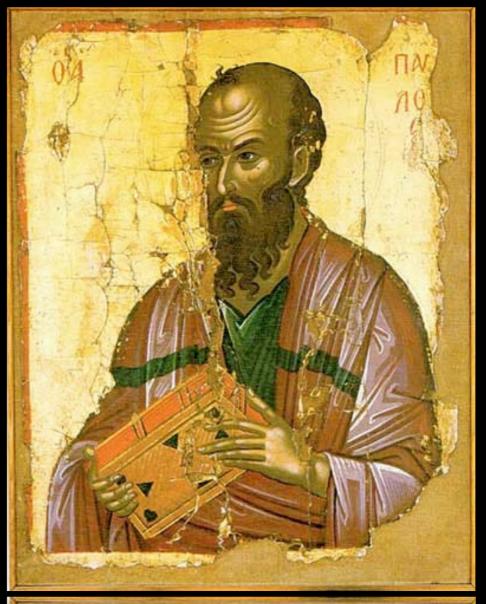
If people believe in God at all today, the overwhelming majority hold that this God however he, she, or it may be understood is a loving being. But that is what makes the task of the Christian witness so daunting.

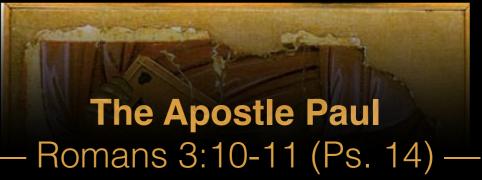
Of course God loves me. Why wouldn't he? I'm a very lovable person!

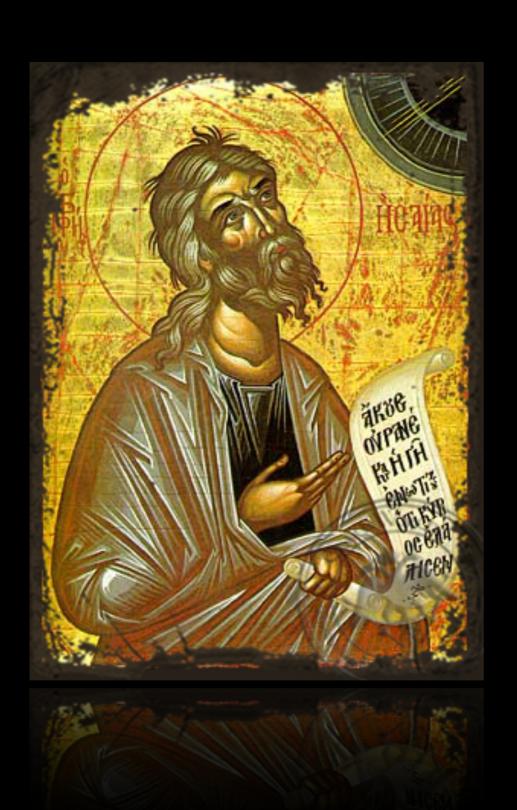


To say that God so loved the world is to describe the object of God's love, that is, a world that is in rebellion against Him.

There is none righteous, not even one; there is none who understands, there is none who seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have become useless; there is none who does good, there is not even one.







All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way....

— Isaiah 53:6 —

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Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.



Stop! How is this not divine child abuse?

It is crucial at this point to remember that the Christian faith has always understood that Jesus is God. God did not then, inflict pain on someone else, but rather on the Cross absorbed the pain, violence, and evil of the world into himself. Therefore, the God of the Bible is not like some primitive deities who demanded our blood for their wrath to be appeased.

Rather, this is a God who becomes human and offers his own lifeblood in order to honor moral justice and merciful love so that someday he can destroy evil without destroying us.

Tim Keller, Pastor & Author

— Redeemer NYC —

For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life for the sheep that I may take it up again. No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father.

— Jesus of Nazareth in The Gospel of John 10:17-18 —

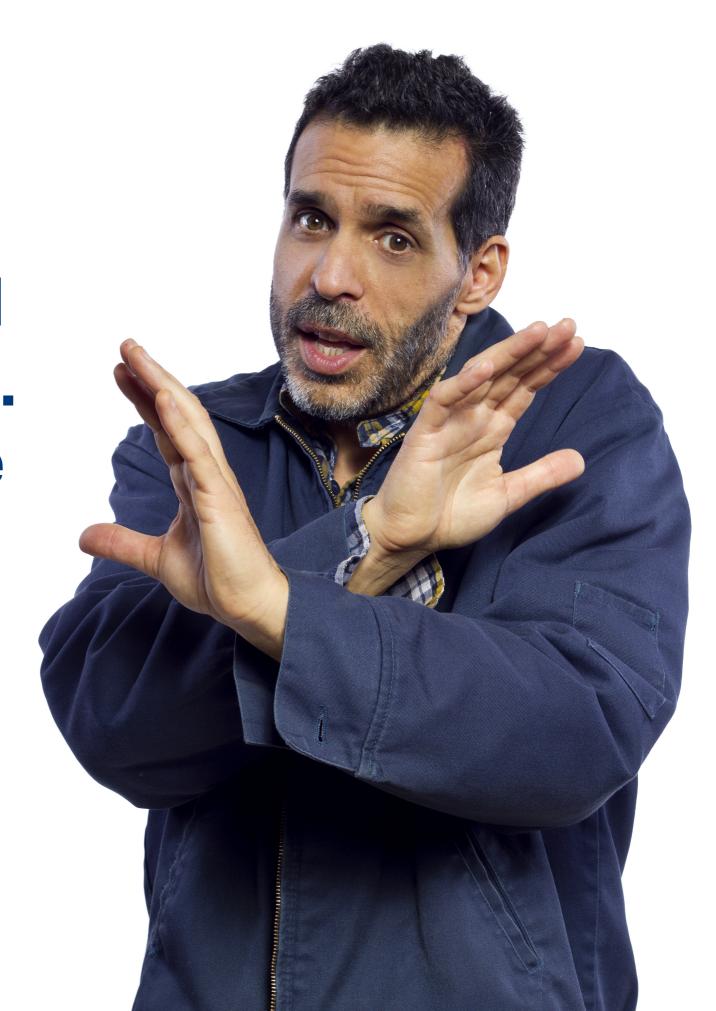


For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God.

— The Apostle Peter in 1 Peter 3:18 —

16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. 17 For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

See, this is why I can't buy into Christianity. Y'all are too exclusive. Y'all think you're the only ones who are going to make it to heaven.



I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. NO ONE COMES TO THE FATHER EXCEPT THROUGH ME.

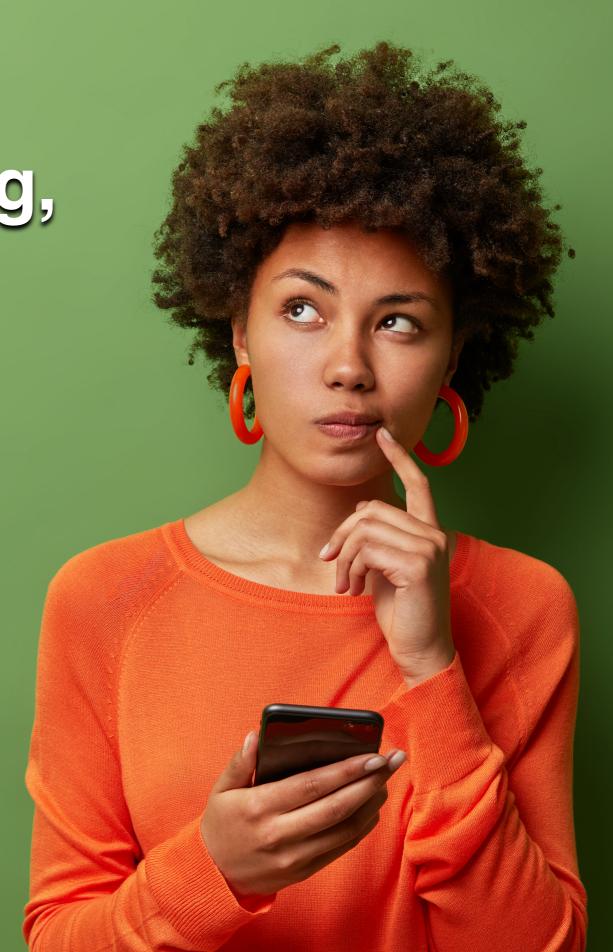
JESUS OF NAZARETH

— The Gospel of John, 14:6 —



Is Jesus crazy?
Is he lying?
Or is He telling
the truth?

If Jesus is wrong, what is the alternative?







I believe all good people will make it to heaven no matter what they believe.

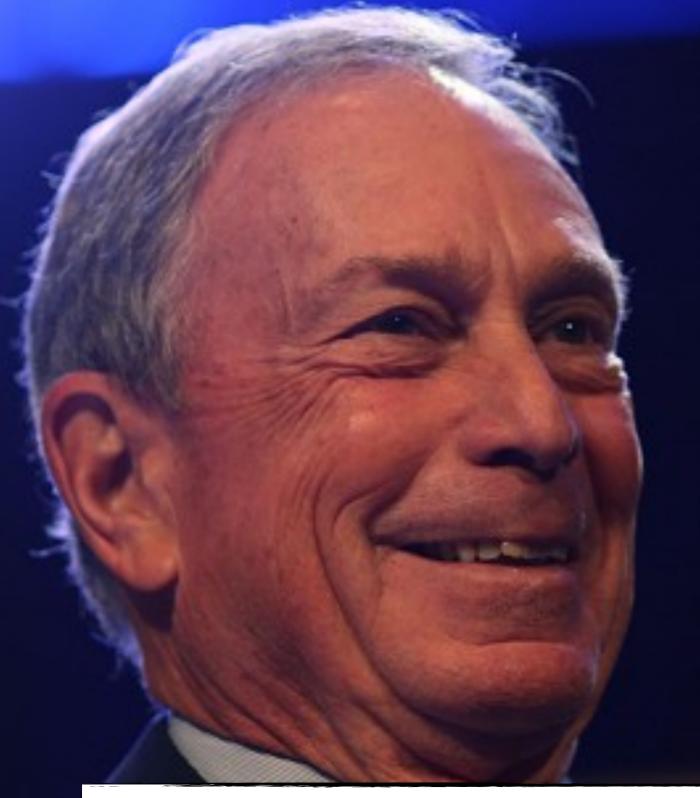


POLITICS

Michael Bloomberg: 'I Have Earned My Place in Heaven'

The former New York City mayor is confident that his latest \$50 million gun-control initiative has secured him a happy afterlife.

MATT VASILOGAMBROS AND NATIONAL JOURNAL APRIL 16, 2014



I am telling you, if there is a God, when I get to heaven I'm not stopping to be interviewed. I am heading straight in. I have earned my place in heaven. It's not even close.

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But what about people like me? I've done some really bad things that I'm ashamed of. I know I'm not good enough to earn my place in heaven.

It sounds very open-minded to say, "I believe that any good person can find God, not just Christians."

But what is the premise?
That the good can find
God and the bad do not.
That's very "exclusive."
Very.

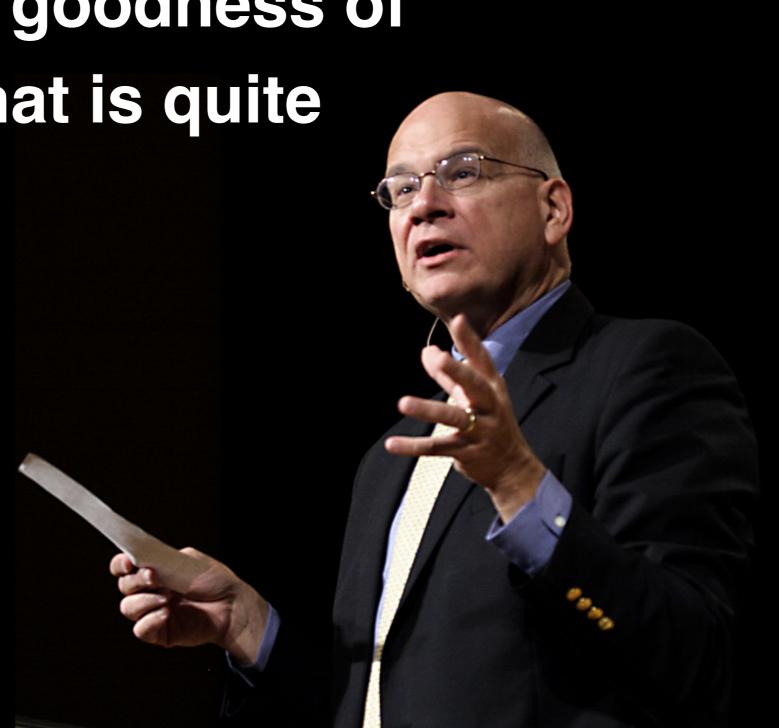


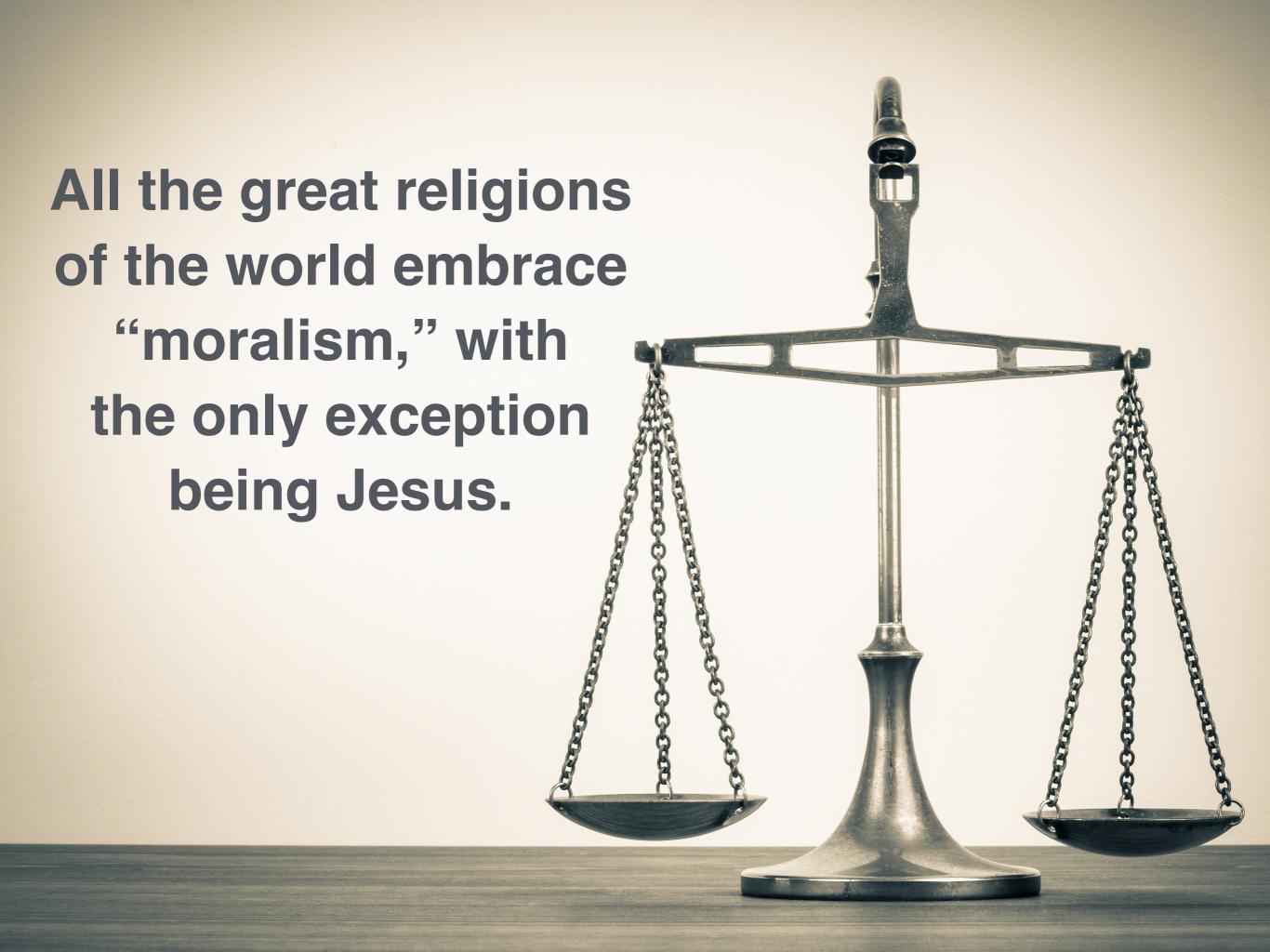
If you don't have to believe in Jesus to find God, then good works are enough. And if good works are enough, then God accepts people through performance.



Everyone knows that somewhere there is a "cut-off" point for moral performance, or goodness of heart, etc. But that is quite exclusive.

Tim Keller





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THE GOSPEL IS "GOOD NEWS!"

IT'S BREAKING NEWS
THAT WHOSOEVER
BELIEVES IN JESUS,
MAY HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.



Q. DOES THE
"WHOEVER"
INCLUDE ME?

A. YES!



"WHOEVER COMES TO ME I WILL NEVER CAST OUT."

JESUS OF NAZARETH THE GOSPEL OF JOHN 6:37







Come all you unfaithful Come weak and unstable Come know you are not alone....

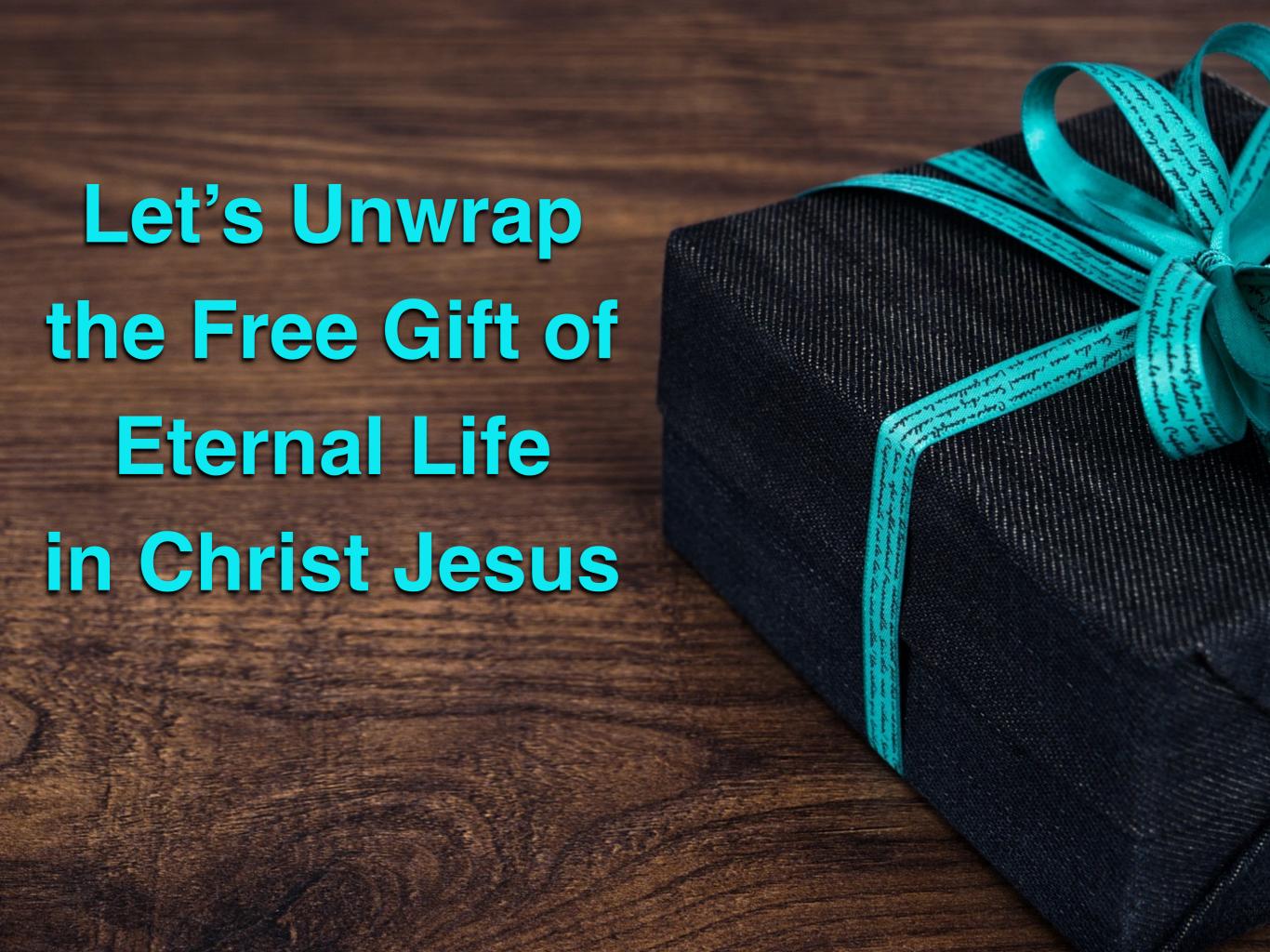
O come guilty and hiding ones
There is no need to run
See what your God has done

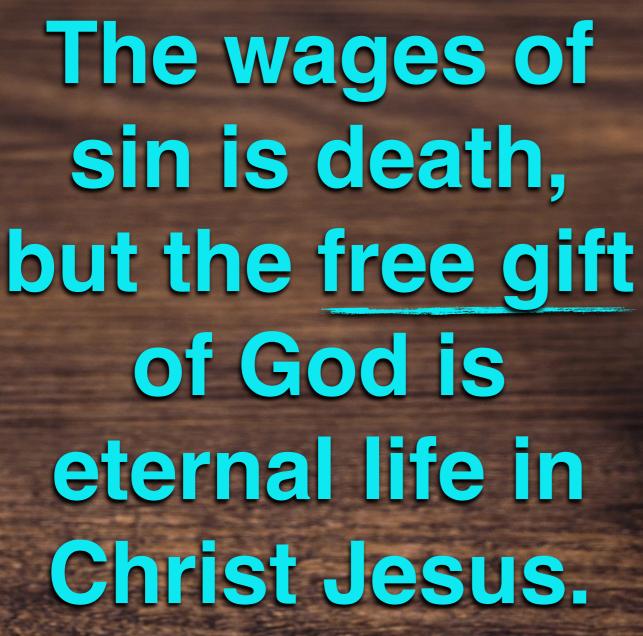


Christ is born Christ is born Christ is born Christ is born for you

— "Come All You Unfaithful" —

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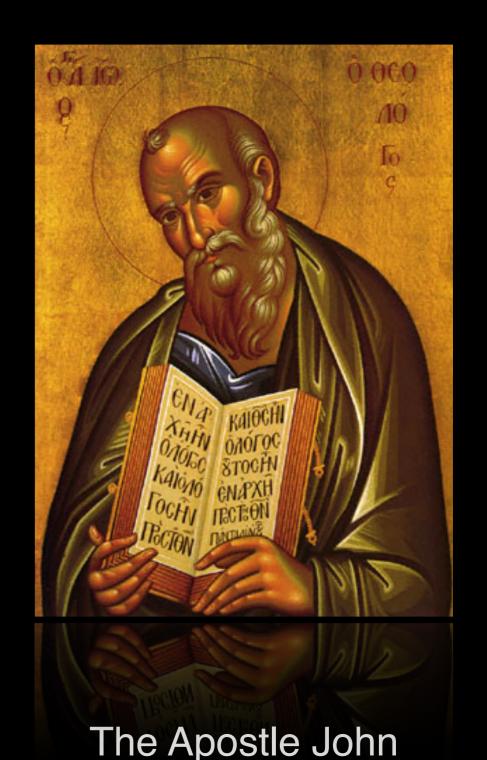




The Apostle Paul
— Romans 6:23 —



In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to make atonement for our sins.... And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent His Son to be the Savior of the world.



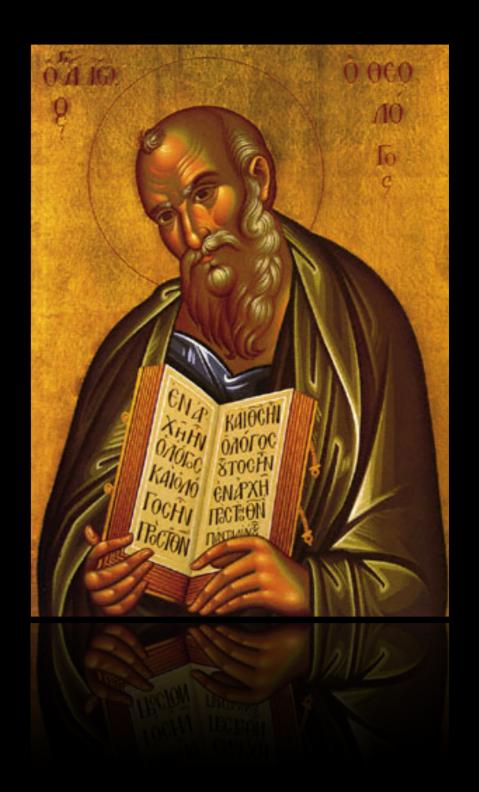
in 1 John 4:10, 14

Let's bask in the beams of God's love.



See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called the children of God, and so we are.

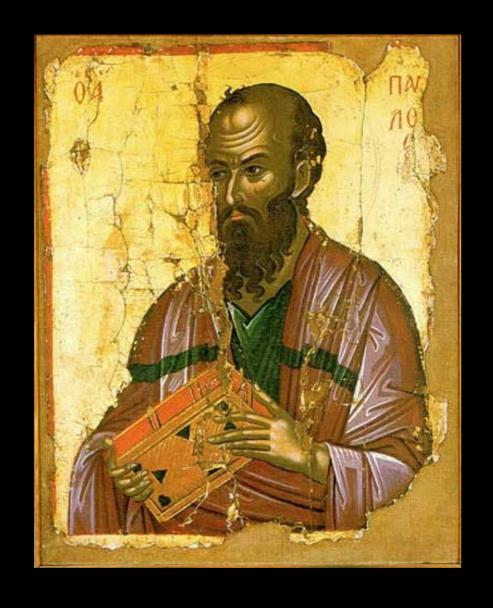
The Apostle John in 1 John 3:1



Define yourself radically as one beloved by God.
This is your true self.
Every other identity is illusion.

- Brennan Manning -

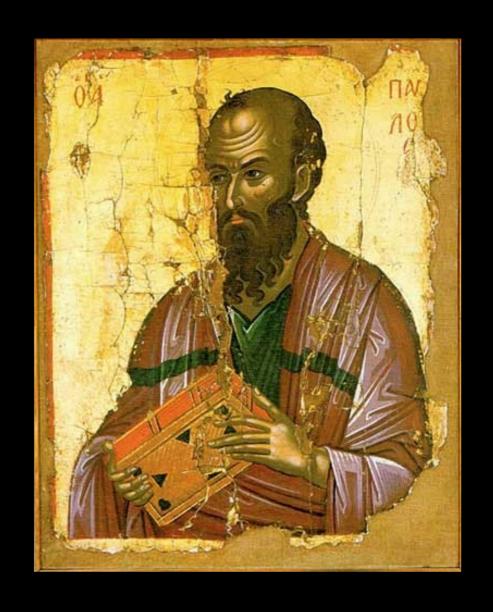
For this reason, I kneel before the Father... so that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith. I pray that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have power together with all the Lord's holy people



The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 3:14-19

to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge

-that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.



The Apostle Paul in Ephesians 3:14-19

The One who knows me best loves me most.

— Kyle Idleman —



God created us to know and experience His infinite and incomprehensible love.



