

THE GOSPELOF LUKE GOOD NEWS OF GREAT JOY FOR ALL PEOPLE

If you could witness anything from the life of Jesus, what would it be



I would choose to travel the gospel road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, walking with two disciples on an Easter afternoon and listening to Jesus explain how everything in the whole Bible is all about him.

Phillip Ryken —President of Wheaton College













Why do you seek the living among the dead?

The Angel at the Tomb

— The Gospel of Luke 24:5 —





The women "told these things to the apostles, but these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them."

Luke the Evangelist
The Gospel of Luke 24:10-11

13 That very day two of them were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, 14 and they were talking with each other about all the things that had happened.

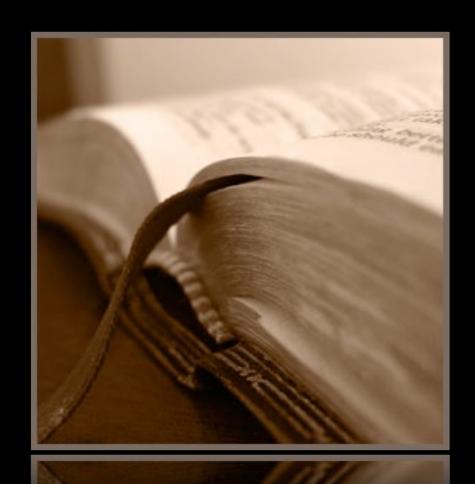
15 While they were talking and discussing together, Jesus himself drew near and went with them. 16 But their eyes were kept from recognizing him.

17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad.

18 Then one of them, named Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only visitor to Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" 19 And he said to them, "What things?"

And they said to him, "Concerning Jesus of Nazareth, a man who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, 20 and how our chief priests and rulers delivered him up to be condemned to death, and crucified him.

21 But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things have happened.



Jesus of Nazareth
The Gospel of Luke 9:22

The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and ON THE THIRD DAY be raised.

"...everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished. For he will be delivered over to the Gentiles and will be mocked and shamefully treated and spit upon. And after flogging him, they will kill him, and ON THE THIRD DAY he will rise."

— Jesus of Nazareth in the Gospel of Luke 18:31-33 —



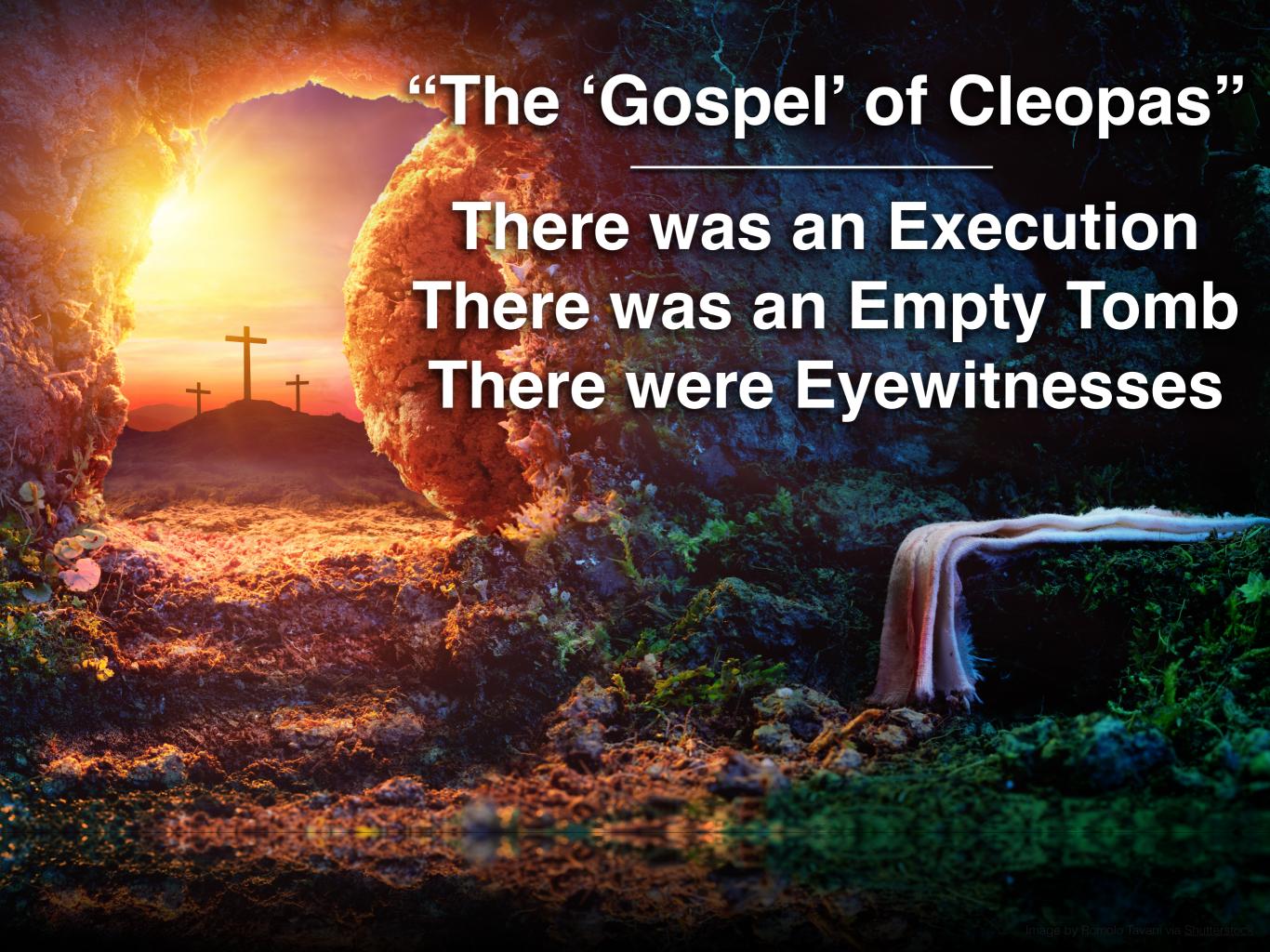
Why do you look for the living among the dead. He is not here, he has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men and be crucified and on THE THIRD DAY rise.

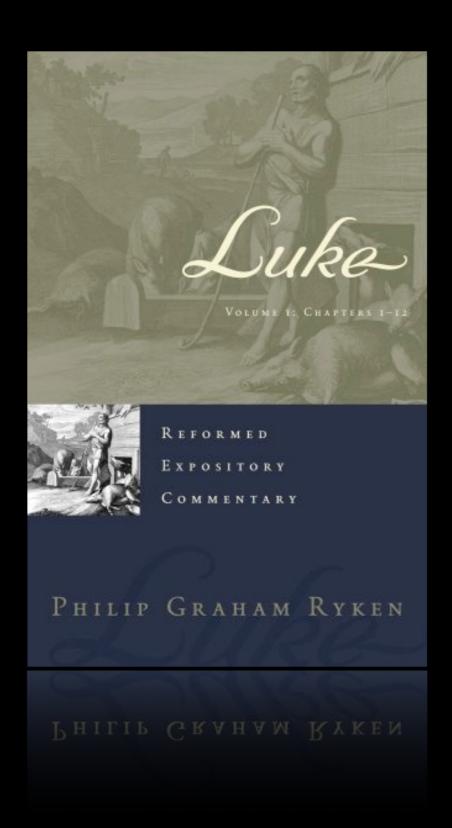
The Angels at the Tomb in The Gospel of Luke 24:6-7



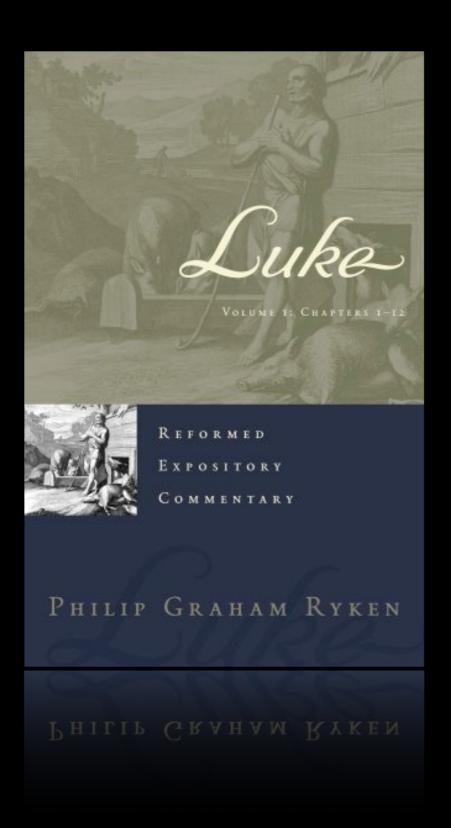
22 Moreover, some women of our company amazed us. They were at the tomb early in the morning, 23 and when they did not find his body, they came back saying that they had even seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive.

24 Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but him they did not see.





They had basically all the facts they needed about the cross and empty tomb, including the witness of the apostles, but in their confusion it did not yet add up to a gospel. It was like hearing the punch line without getting the joke...



So the Gospel according to Cleopas was not really a gospel after all. The word 'gospel' means 'good news,' but there is no good news unless Jesus has risen from the dead.

25 And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken...."

The Gospel of Luke 24:13-35

26 "Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer and enter into his glory?"

27 And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.



28 So they drew near to the village to which they were going. He acted as if he were going farther, 29 but they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, for it is toward evening and the day is now far spent." So he went in to stay with them.

30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them.

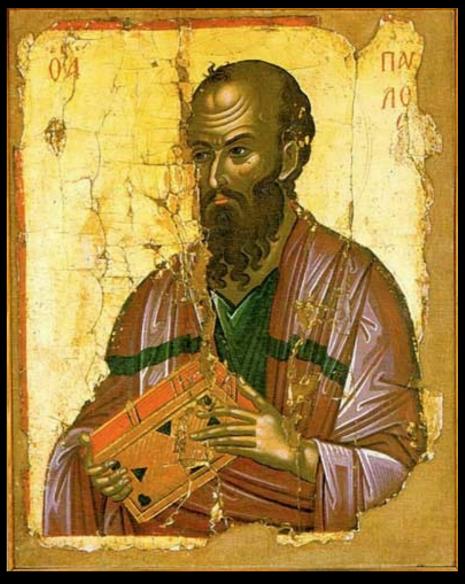


Wait a minute!
That sounds a lot like Communion.

Luke 22:19 (The Last Supper)	Luke 24:30 (The First Supper)
at table	at table
He took bread and	He took the bread
when he had given thanks	and blessed
he broke it	and broke it
and gave it to them	and gave it to them

30 When he was at table with them, he took the bread and blessed and broke it and gave it to them. 31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him.

I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened....



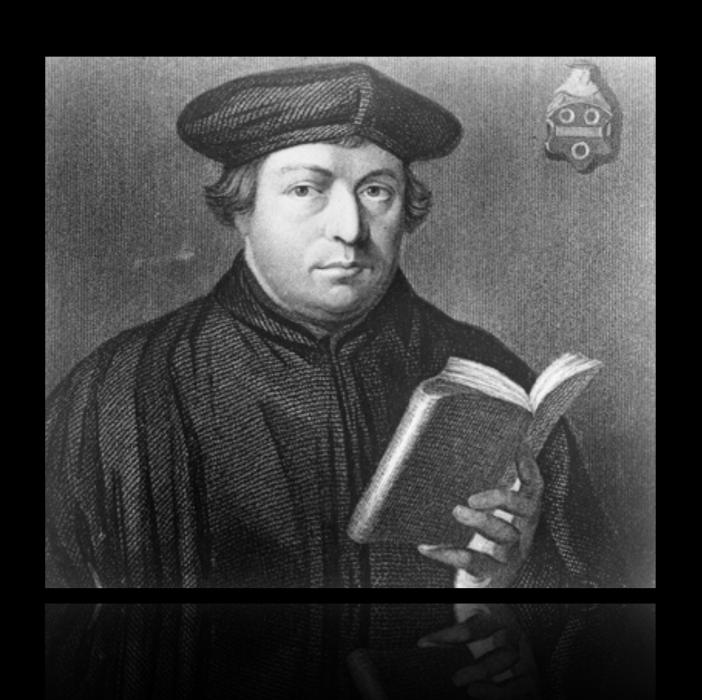


31 And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

32 Then they said to each other, "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened the Scriptures to us?"

The Bible is alive, it speaks to me; it has feet, it runs after me; it has hands, it lays hold of me.

Martin Luther (1483-1546)



33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem.

33 And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them together, 34 saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

35 Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

Important Question

Why does Luke record this account in his historical biography of Jesus?

The Gospel is the Good News about the Crucifixion AND Resurrection of Christ the King.

The eyes of our hearts must be enlightened to not only see Him, but to embrace Him as our risen King.



You are no longer faced with an argument which demands your assent, but with a Person who demands your confidence.

— CS Lews On Obstinacy in Belief

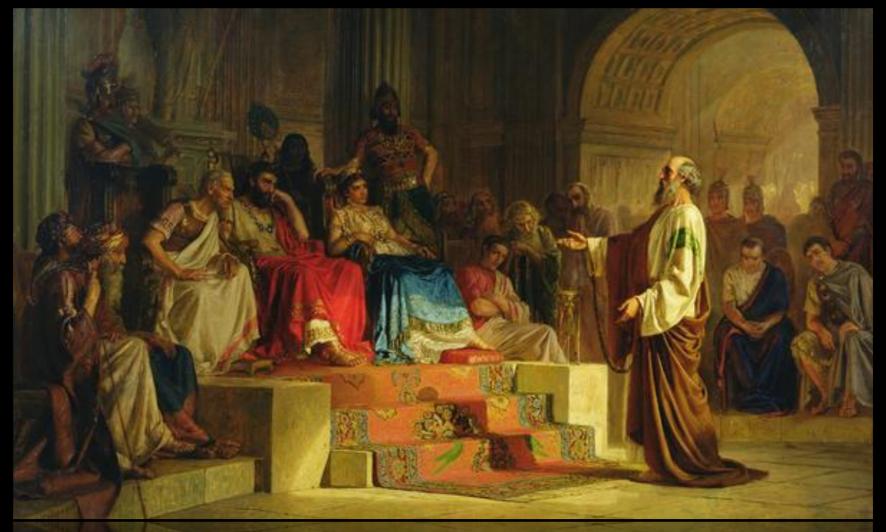




The Gospel is "Good News!"

It's "Breaking News"
about the person of Jesus—
His crucifixion AND
resurrection, and this
Good News calls for a
response from each of us.





And now I stand here on trial because of my hope in the promise made by God to our fathers, to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly worship night and day.



And for this hope I am accused by Jews, O king! Why is it thought incredible by any of you that God raises the dead?



...I stand here today testifying to both small and great, saying...that nothing but what Moses said would come to pass:



...that the Christ must suffer and that, by being the first to rise from the dead, he would proclaim light both to our people and to the nations.



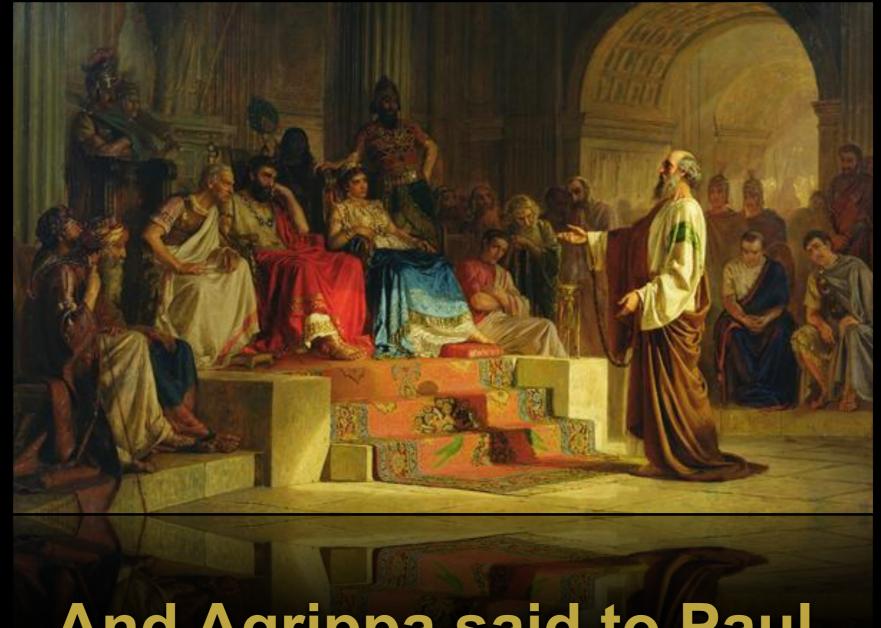
I am not out of my mind...I am speaking true and rational words. The king knows about these things, and to him I speak boldly.



For I am persuaded that none of these things has escaped his notice, for this has not been done in a corner.



King Agrippa, do you believe the prophets? I know that you believe them.



And Agrippa said to Paul, "Do you think in such a short time you can persuade me to be a Christian?"

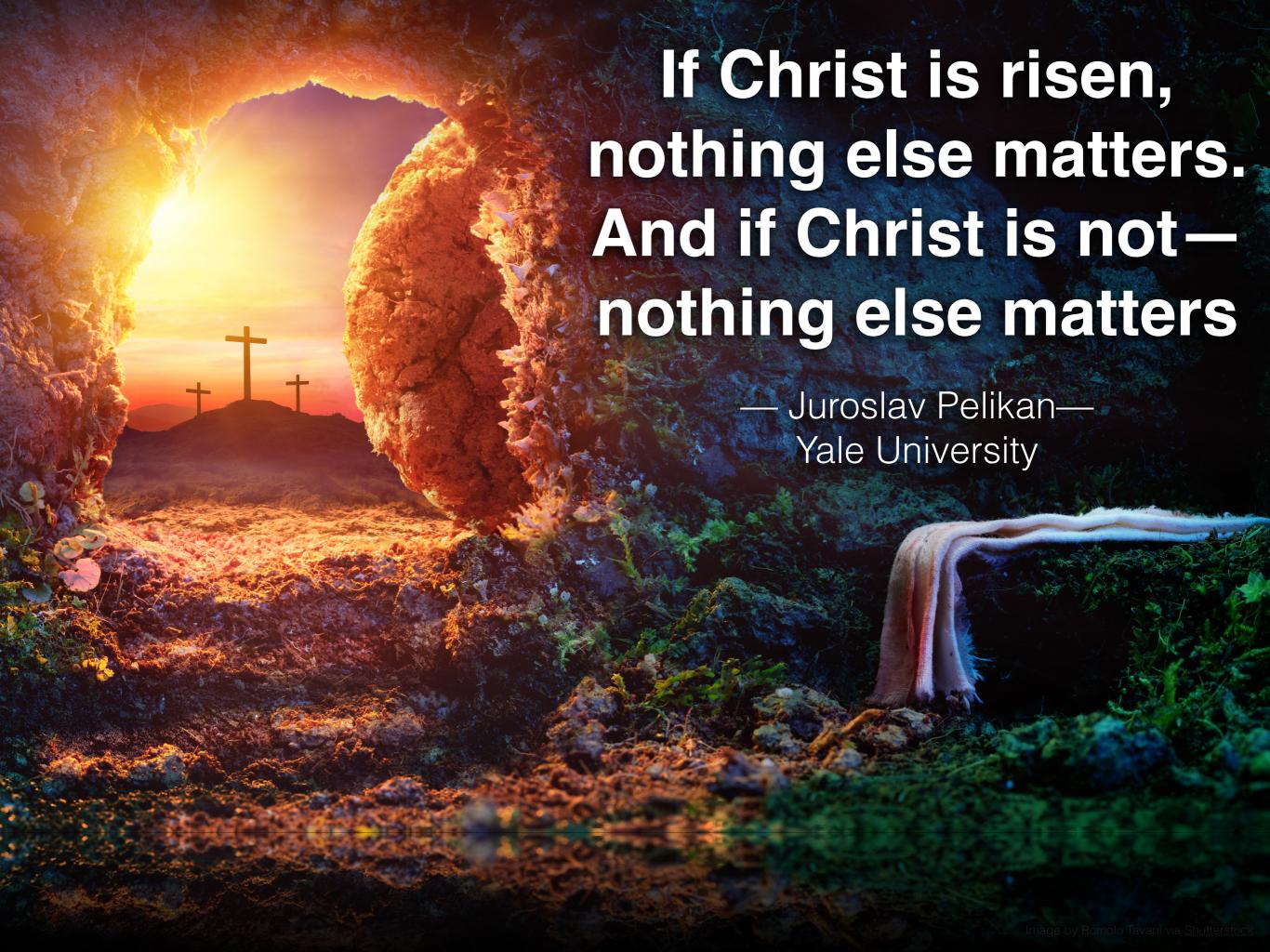


And Paul said, "Whether short or long, I would to God that not only you but all who hear me this day might become as I am—except for these chains."



de·con·struc·tion

the process of reevaluating and even challenging your worldview and beliefs





From every town, village, and little hamlet in England, wherever it may be, there is a road to London.... And so from every text in Scripture there is a road to the metropolis of the Scriptures, that is Christ.



Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

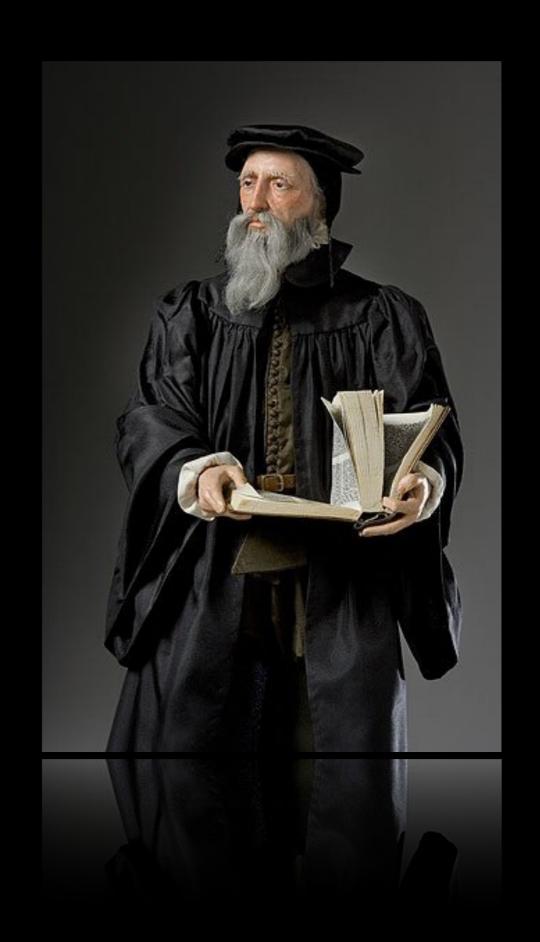
Your business is, when you get to a text, to say, 'Now, what is the road to Christ...?' Run along the road towards the great metropolis— Christ.



Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892)

This is what we should seek...through the whole of Scripture: to know Jesus Christ truly, and the infinite riches which are included in him and offered to us by God the Father.

— John Calvin (1509-1564) —



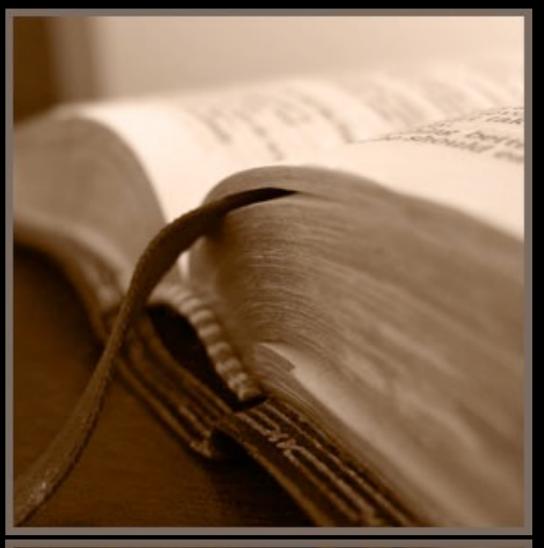
How is your appetite for the Scriptures



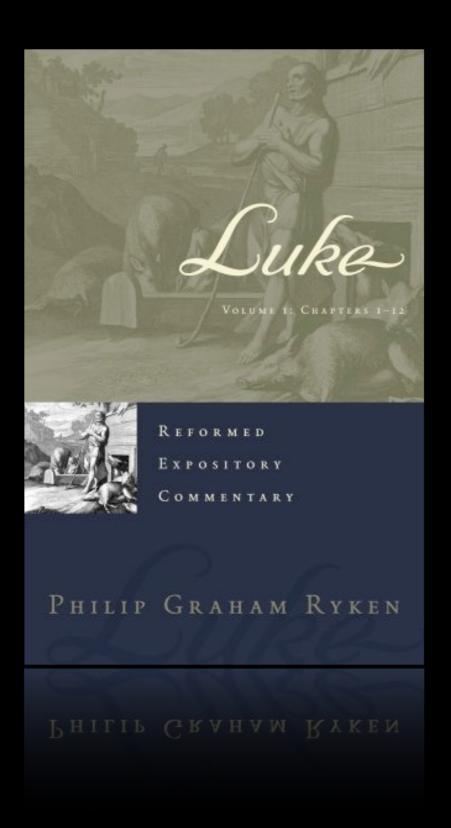


Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he was known to them in the breaking of the bread.

— The Gospel of Luke 24:35 —







The sacrament does not offer us a grace that is any different from the grace we receive by believing what the Bible says about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What the sacrament does is to give us the same grace in a different way—a way that helps us to see Jesus.



