

A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light trails. The overall mood is celebratory and joyful.

Living a Life Worthy of the Gospel

— Philippians 1:27-30 —

A hand holding a lit sparkler against a dark background. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The hand is wearing a dark, textured glove. The background is dark and out of focus.

Finding Joy

PHILIPPIANS

Right Where You Are





**"What? Am I not allowed
to have my own beliefs?"**

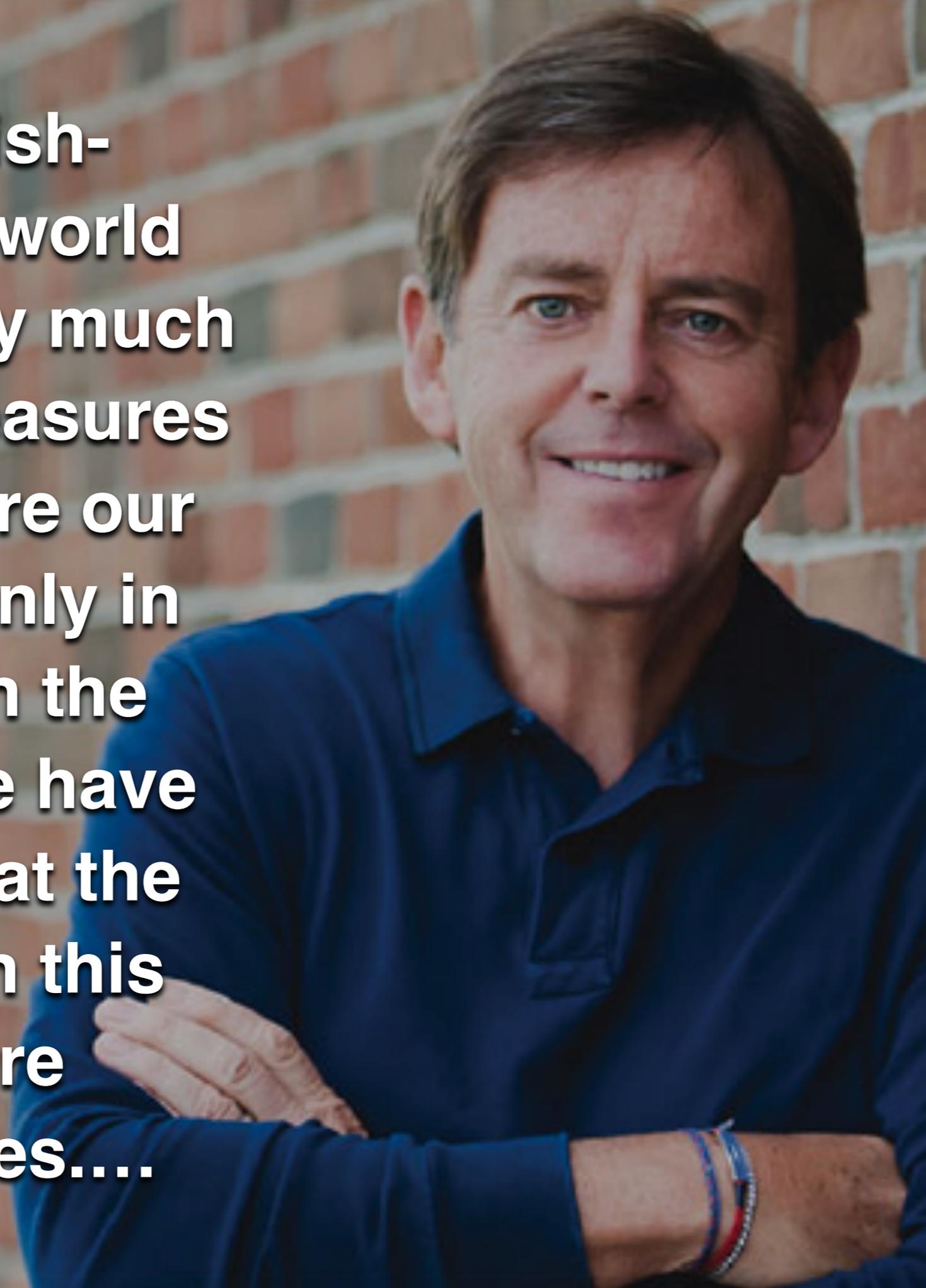
— Shelby —



“Not those ones.”

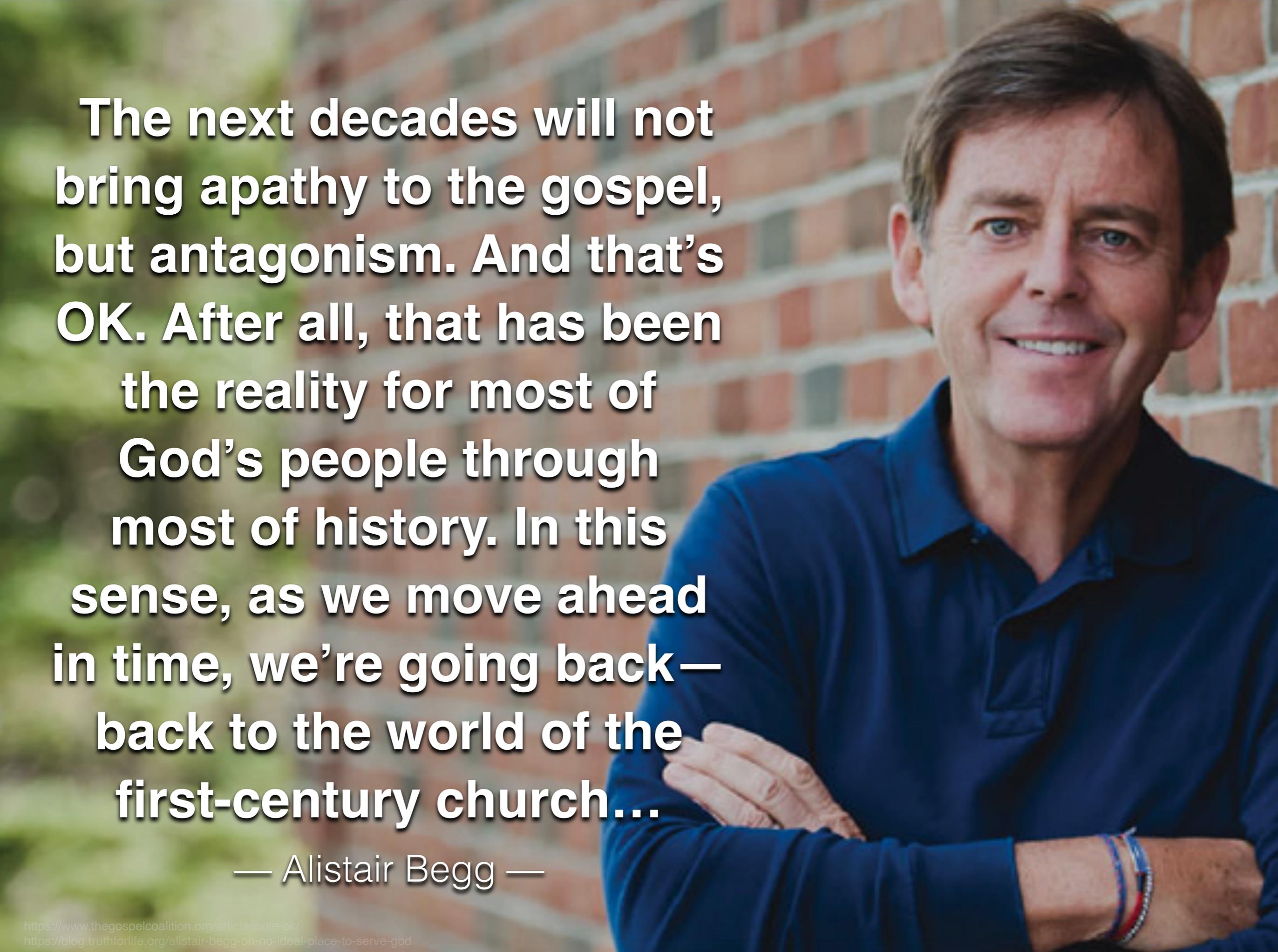
— Dot —

For us in the English-speaking West, this world has tended to feel very much like home, and our treasures have been right before our eyes. Perhaps it is only in the last few years in the United States that we have finally faced that what the Bible says is true: in this world we really are sojourners and exiles....



A man with short brown hair and a slight smile, wearing a blue polo shirt, stands in front of a brick wall. He has his arms crossed and is wearing a red, white, and blue beaded bracelet on his left wrist. The background is a blurred brick wall with some greenery on the left side.

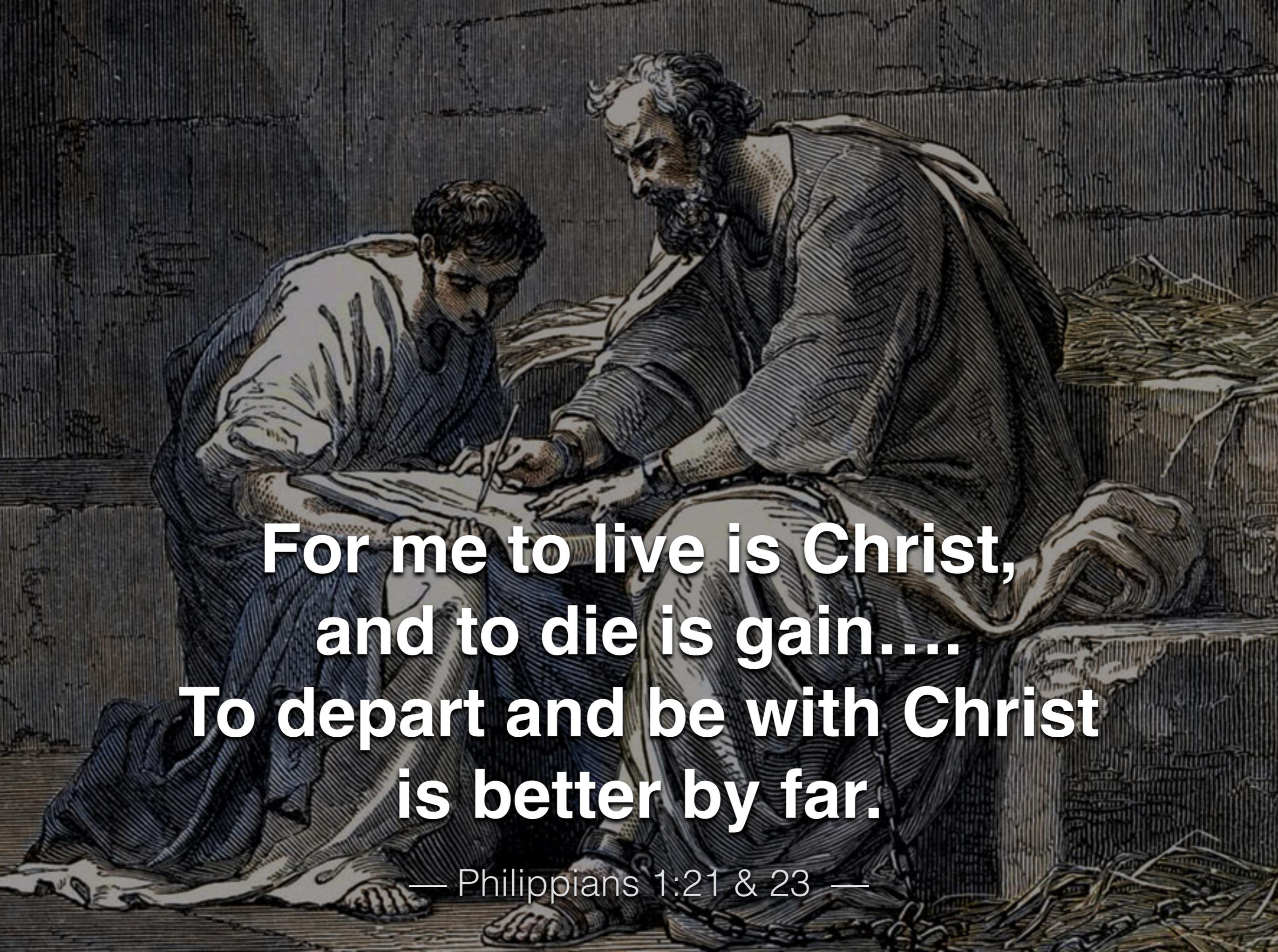
That reality has been clouded and obscured by the size and legal protection of the church in most of the Western world. But this world is not actually our home... Christians are increasingly going to be seen as different, and not in a good way. We are increasingly going to have to choose between obedience and comfort.



The next decades will not bring apathy to the gospel, but antagonism. And that's OK. After all, that has been the reality for most of God's people through most of history. In this sense, as we move ahead in time, we're going back—back to the world of the first-century church...

— Alistair Begg —





**For me to live is Christ,
and to die is gain....
To depart and be with Christ
is better by far.**

— Philippians 1:21 & 23 —

**What if what
I believe about
Jesus costs
me everything**



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is bright and glowing, with many sparks flying out. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some faint light trails. The overall mood is celebratory and joyful.

Living a Life Worthy of the Gospel

— Philippians 1:27-30 —

Philippians 1

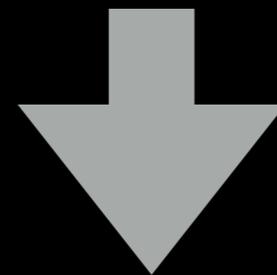
**27 Only let your manner of life be worthy
of the gospel of Christ....**

- Ephesians 4:1, “I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to **walk** in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called.”
- Colossians 1:10, “...**walk** in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him: bearing fruit in every good work.”
- 1 Thessalonians 2:11-12, “...we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to **walk** in a manner worthy of God.”

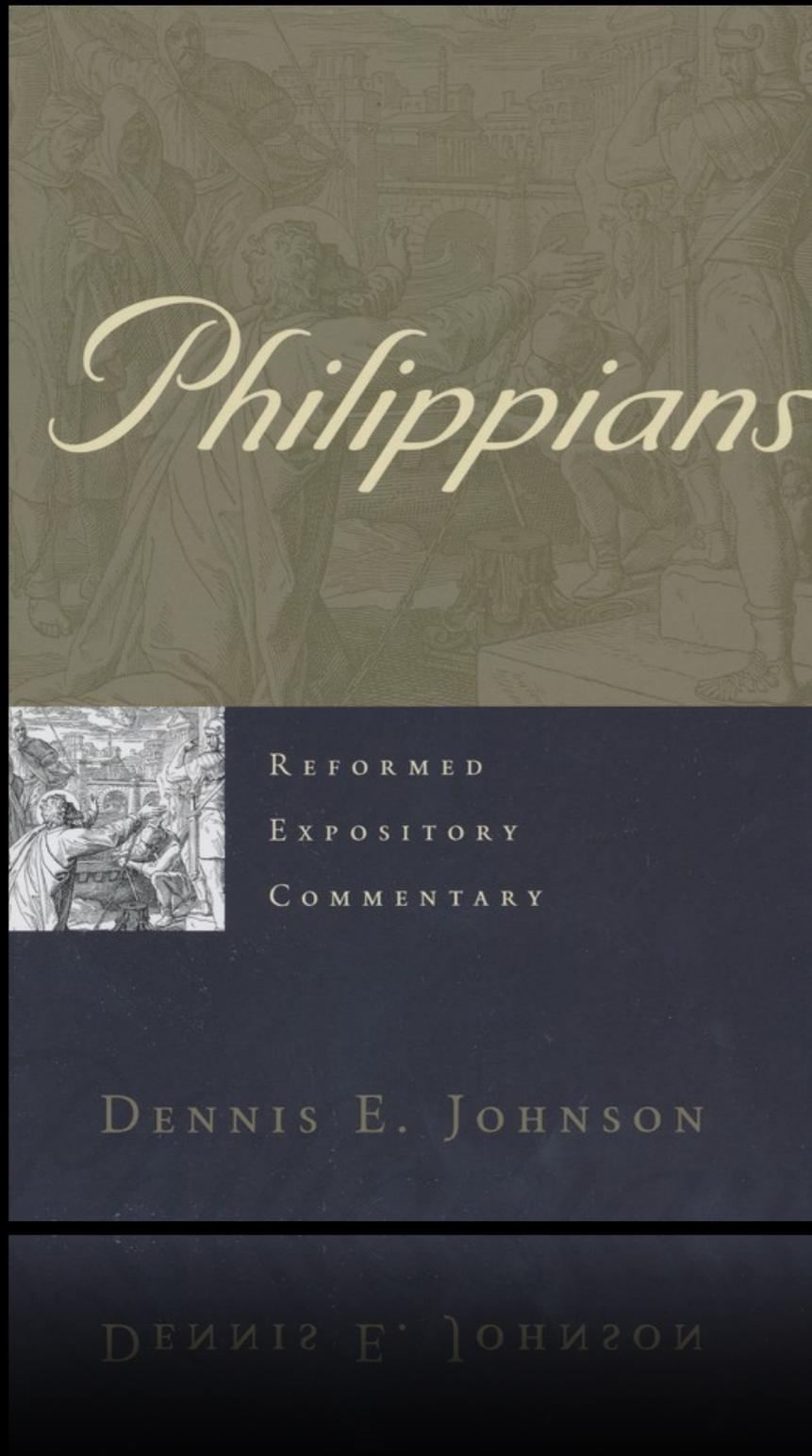
Philippians 1

27 Only **let your manner of life** be worthy
of the gospel of Christ....

The verb has ***citizen*** in its core

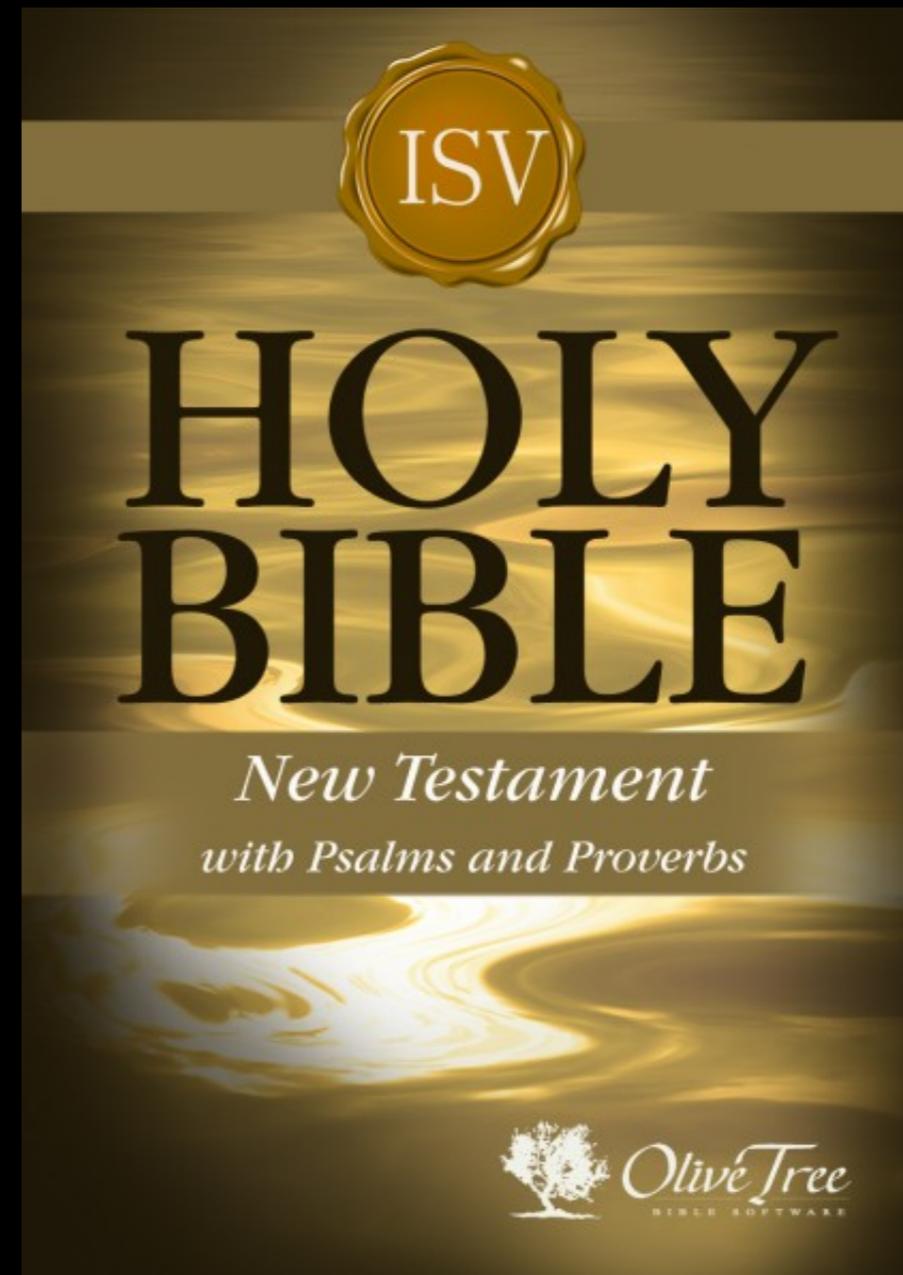


“let your public life as a citizen”



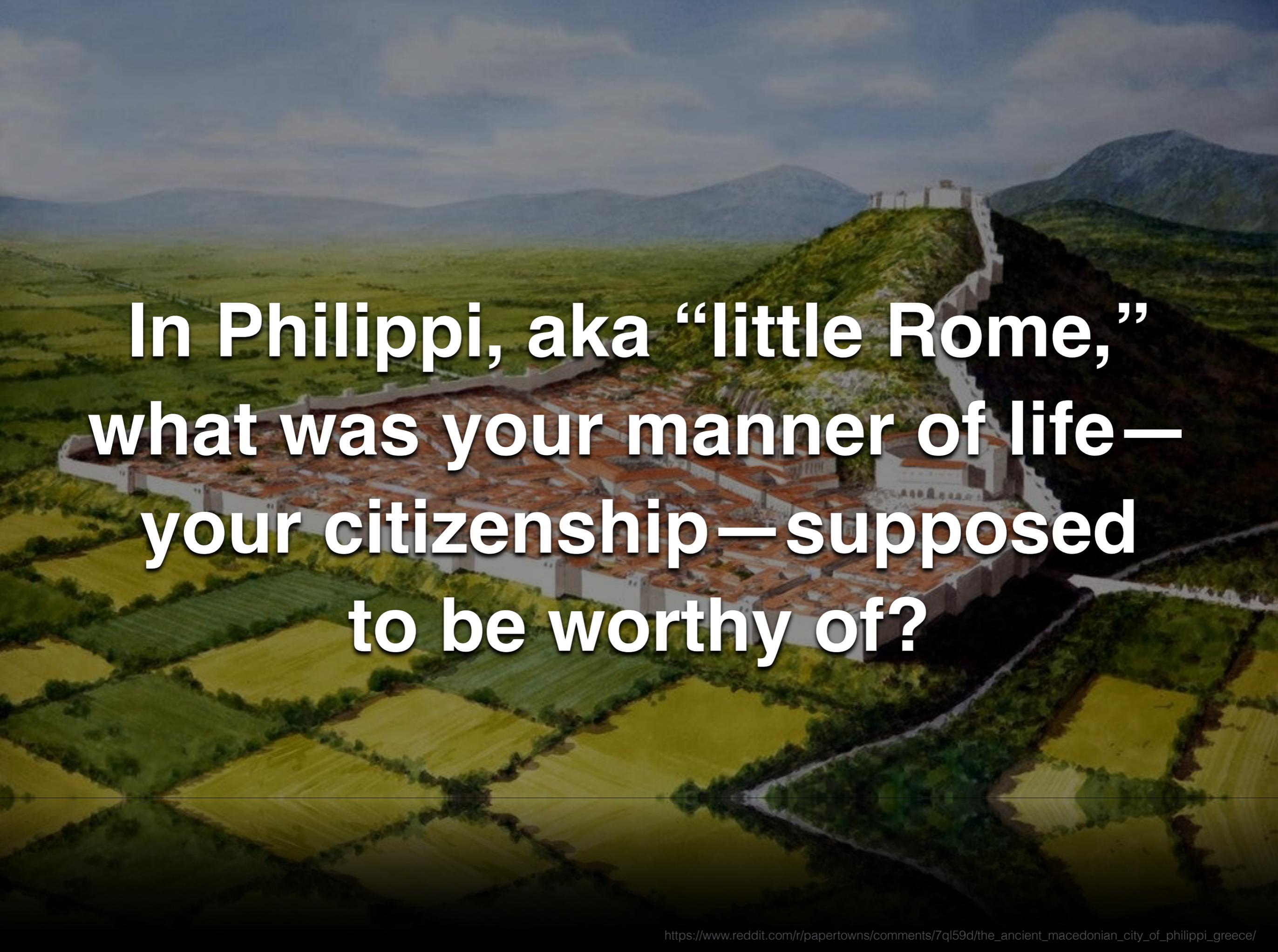
Paul bypasses the *walking* metaphor that he uses so often to portray the pattern of behavior that befits our faith, replacing *walk* with the citizen-laden verb... [which means] to maintain a standard of conduct befitting a citizen, to behave in a way that enhances the reputation of one's city.

The only thing that matters is that you continue to live as good citizens in a manner worthy of the gospel of the Messiah.

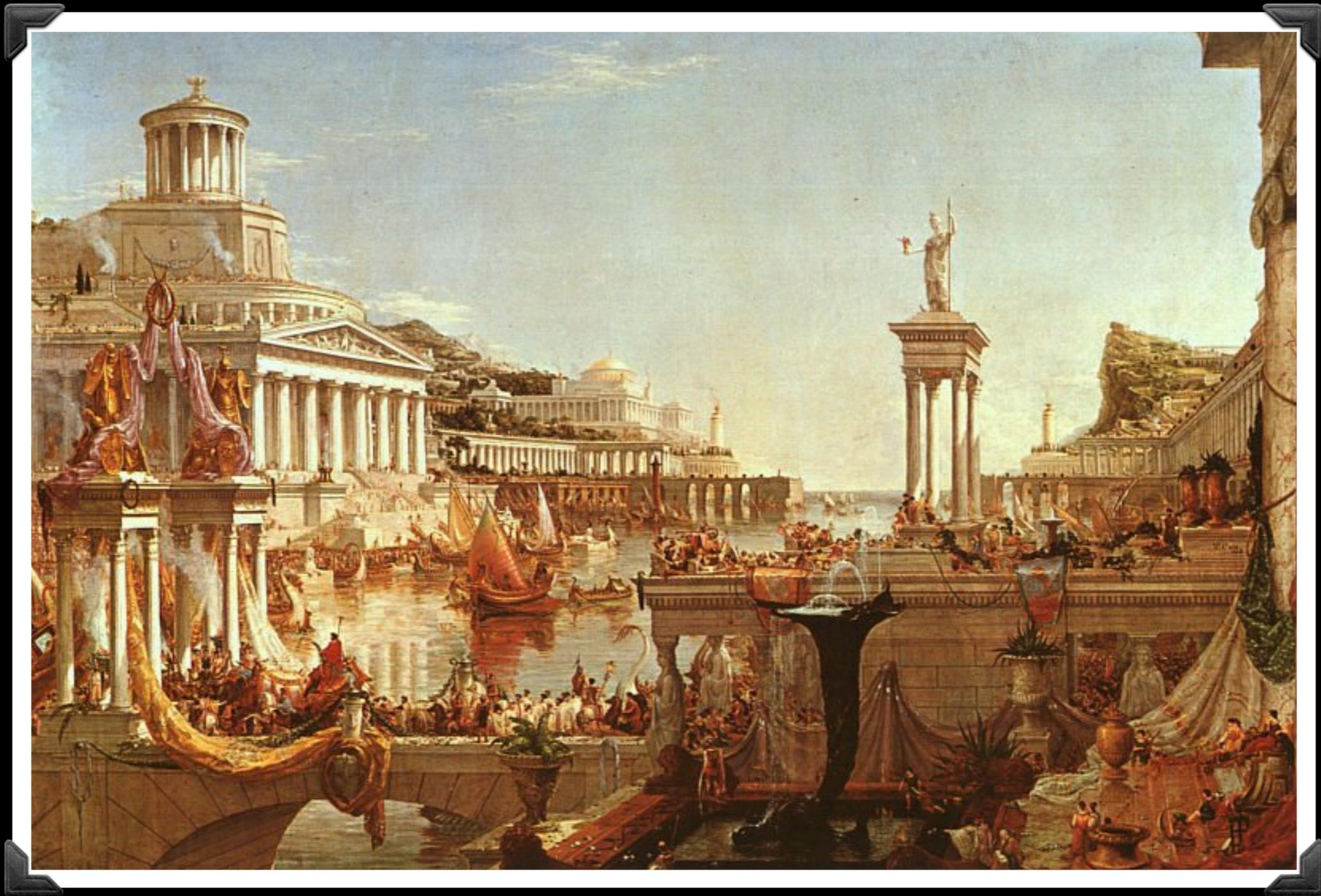




Philippi was a Roman colony, a “little Rome,” and as such it was a hotbed of patriotism and rife with worship of the Empire and Emperor.

An aerial photograph of the ancient city of Philippi, Greece. The city is built on a hillside, with a prominent white wall and a red-tiled roof. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green fields and hills, with mountains visible in the distance under a cloudy sky.

**In Philippi, aka “little Rome,”
what was your manner of life—
your citizenship—supposed
to be worthy of?**



Residents of the Roman colony of Philippi were to live out their citizenship in a manner worthy of “the eternal city” of Rome.

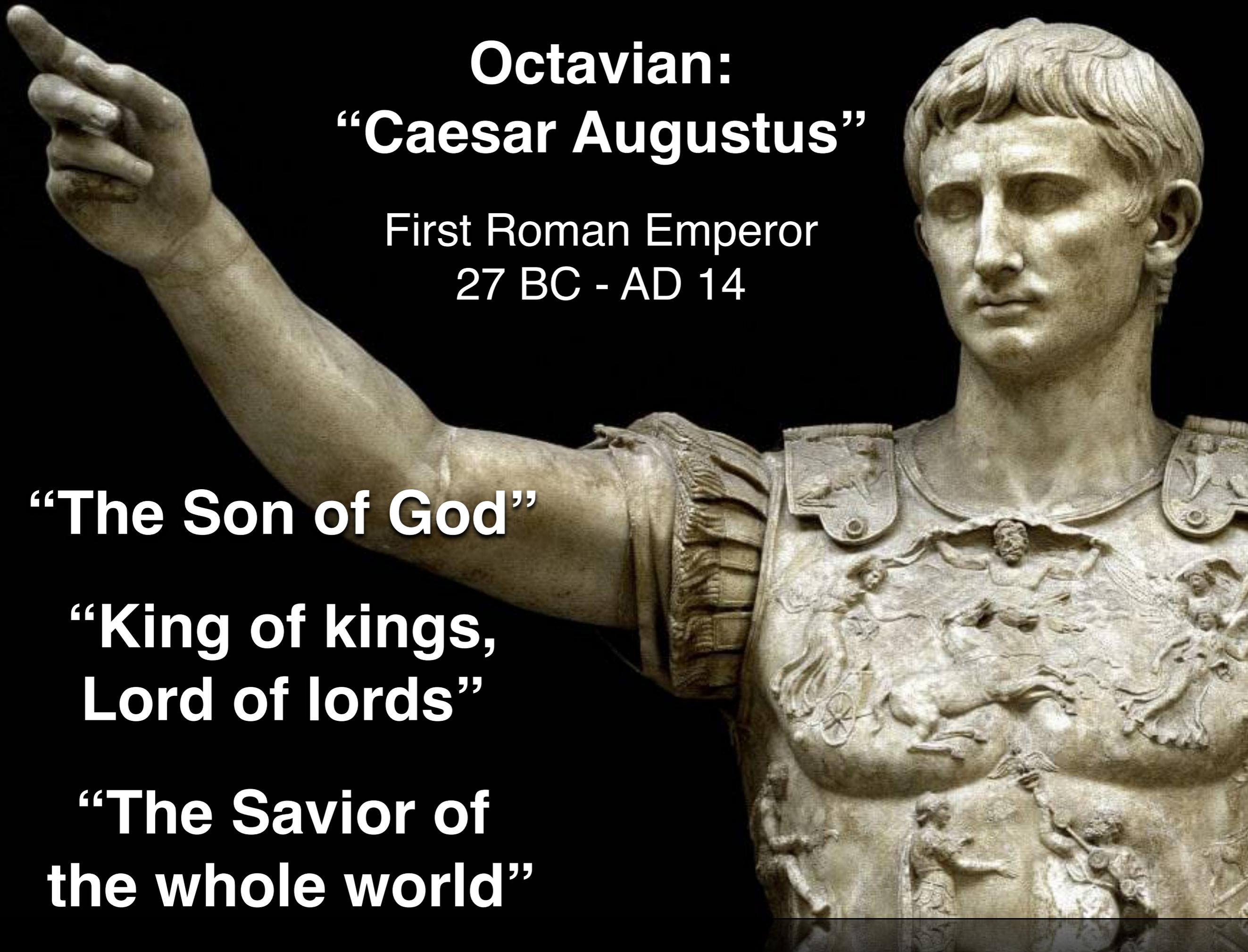
**Octavian:
“Caesar Augustus”**

First Roman Emperor
27 BC - AD 14

“The Son of God”

**“King of kings,
Lord of lords”**

**“The Savior of
the whole world”**

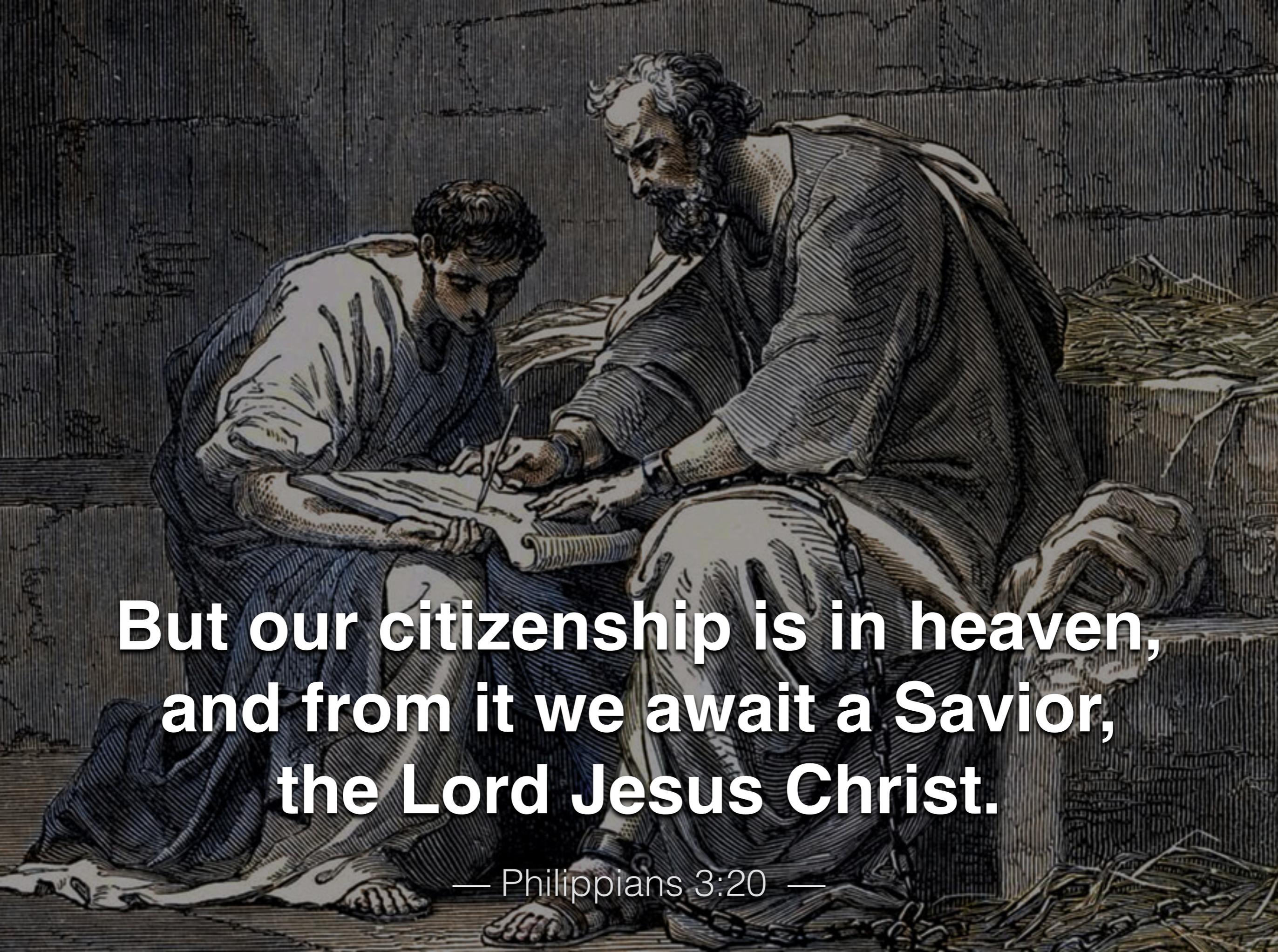


Philippians 1

27 Only **let your manner of life** be worthy
of the gospel of Christ....



“let your public life as a citizen”



**But our citizenship is in heaven,
and from it we await a Savior,
the Lord Jesus Christ.**

— Philippians 3:20 —

Philippians 1

**27 Only let your manner of life be worthy
of the gospel of Christ....**

**Hey, I'm already
aware of how much
my life falls short
in this area.**

**How can I ever
live a life worthy
of the gospel?**



Important Point

**The same grace of Jesus
that forgives us is also
the same grace of Jesus
that empowers us
to live for Him.**

Key Thought

Religion is very good at helping you create carefully edited versions of yourself to show the world, but Jesus has come to change us from the inside out.

Key Thought #1

**Work as though the Lord Jesus
is your Ultimate Boss**

“Work...as for the Lord and not men...”

“It is the Lord you are serving.”

Implication #2

**Because of the Gospel,
futility does not have
the final word.**

Three responses to Jesus

1. Outright Rejection

In his hometown & from the Samaritans

2. Conditional Acceptance

“I will follow, but first...”

3. All in with Jesus

“...they left everything and followed him”

The
KINGDOM
NEW TESTAMENT



A CONTEMPORARY TRANSLATION



N. T. WRIGHT

AUTHOR OF *SIMPLY CHRISTIAN*

**The one thing
I would stress is this:
your public life must
match up to the
gospel of the King.**

Philippians 1

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel...,



Since Philippi was home to many active and retired military personnel, the precise phrases “standing firm” and “striving side by side” would have signified courage and unity.

HT: Dennis Johnson

Philippians 1

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear that **you are standing firm in one spirit,** with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel....,

...holding the line in the power of the Spirit..

Philippians 1

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear that you are standing firm in one spirit, **with one mind striving side by side** for the faith of the gospel....,

*“Striving” is from a root word for “athletics.”
Ancient “athletics” developed out of military training.*

Philippians 1

27 Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear that you are **standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel....**

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.

— Jude 1:3 —



Philippians 1

27 ... **striving side by side for the faith of the gospel,** 28 and **not frightened in anything by your opponents.**

Philippians 1

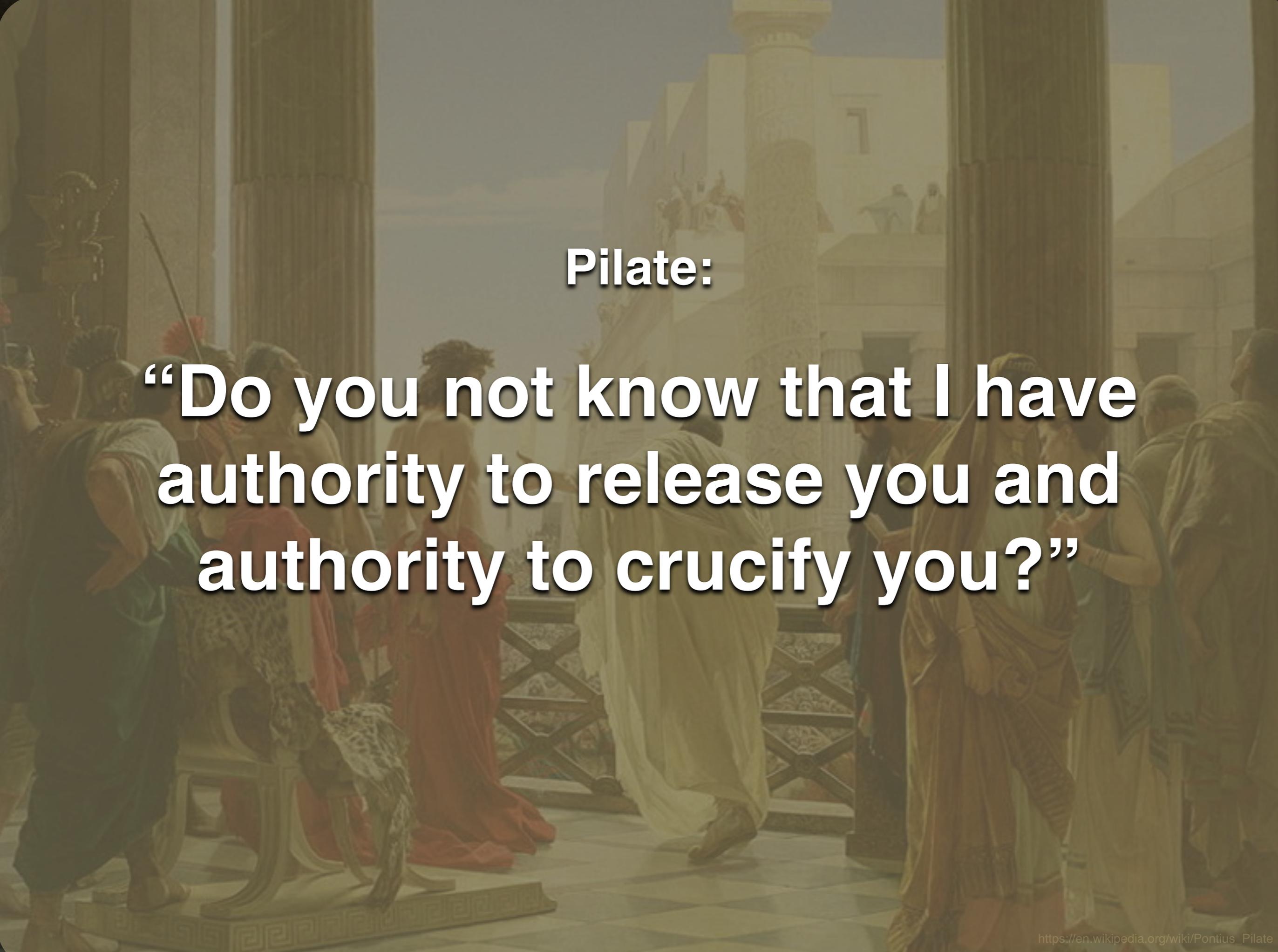
27 ... striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and **not frightened** in anything by your opponents.

Paul uses a word that was commonly used to describe a herd of frightened horses stampeding in a panic.

Philippians 1

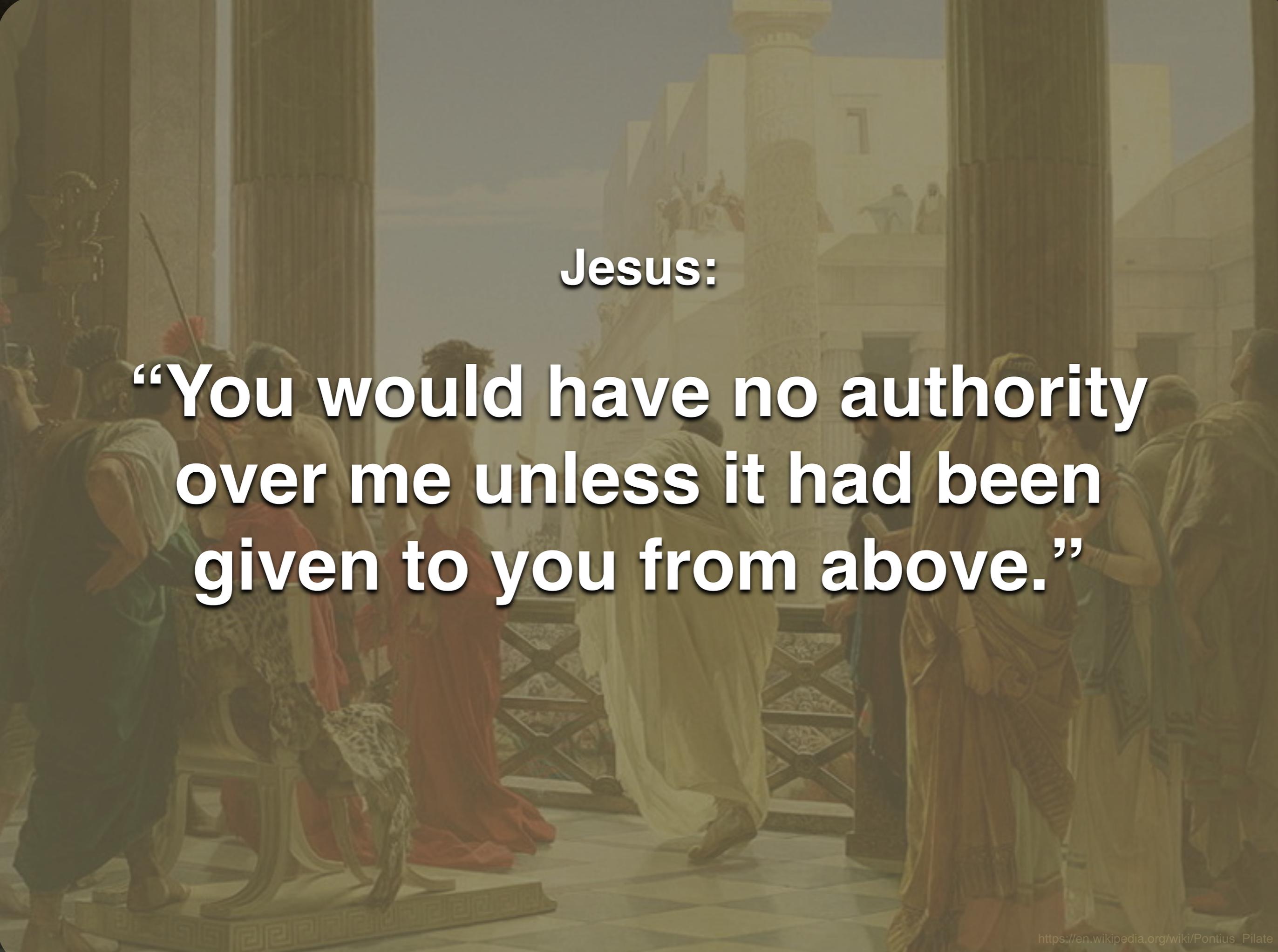
27 ... striving side by side for the faith of the gospel, 28 and **not frightened** in anything by your opponents. **This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.**





Pilate:

“Do you not know that I have authority to release you and authority to crucify you?”



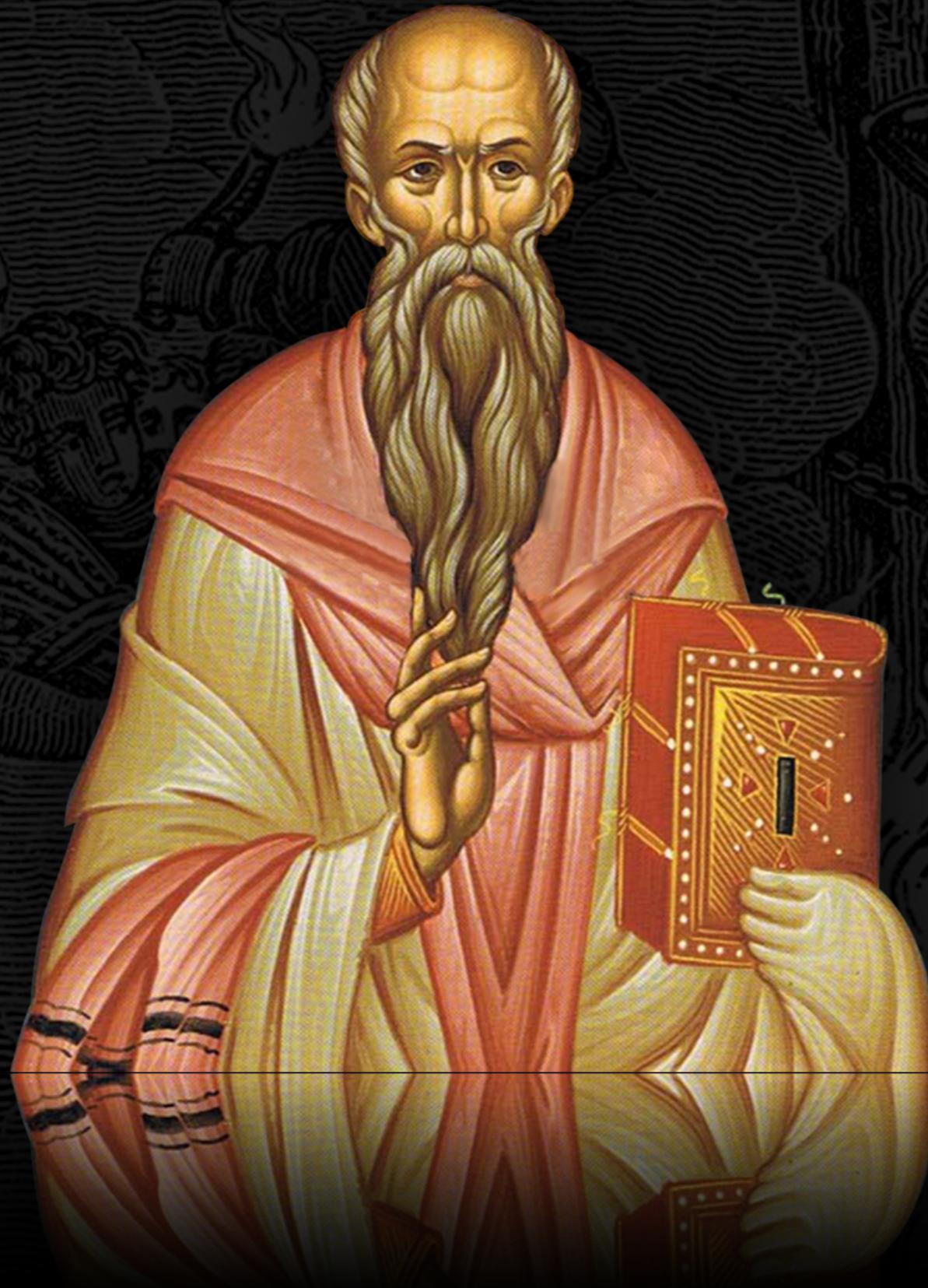
Jesus:

“You would have no authority over me unless it had been given to you from above.”

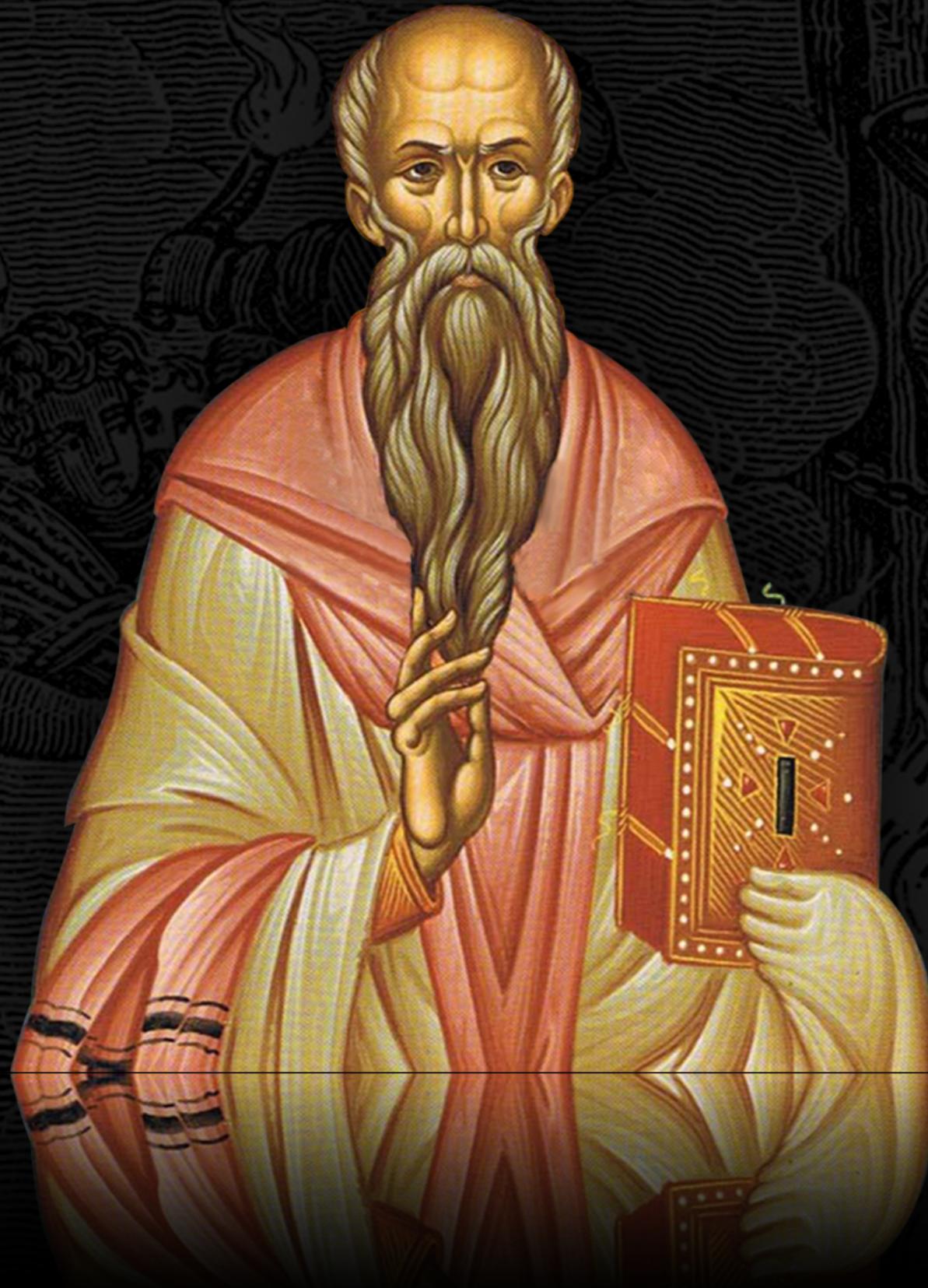


Polycarpus

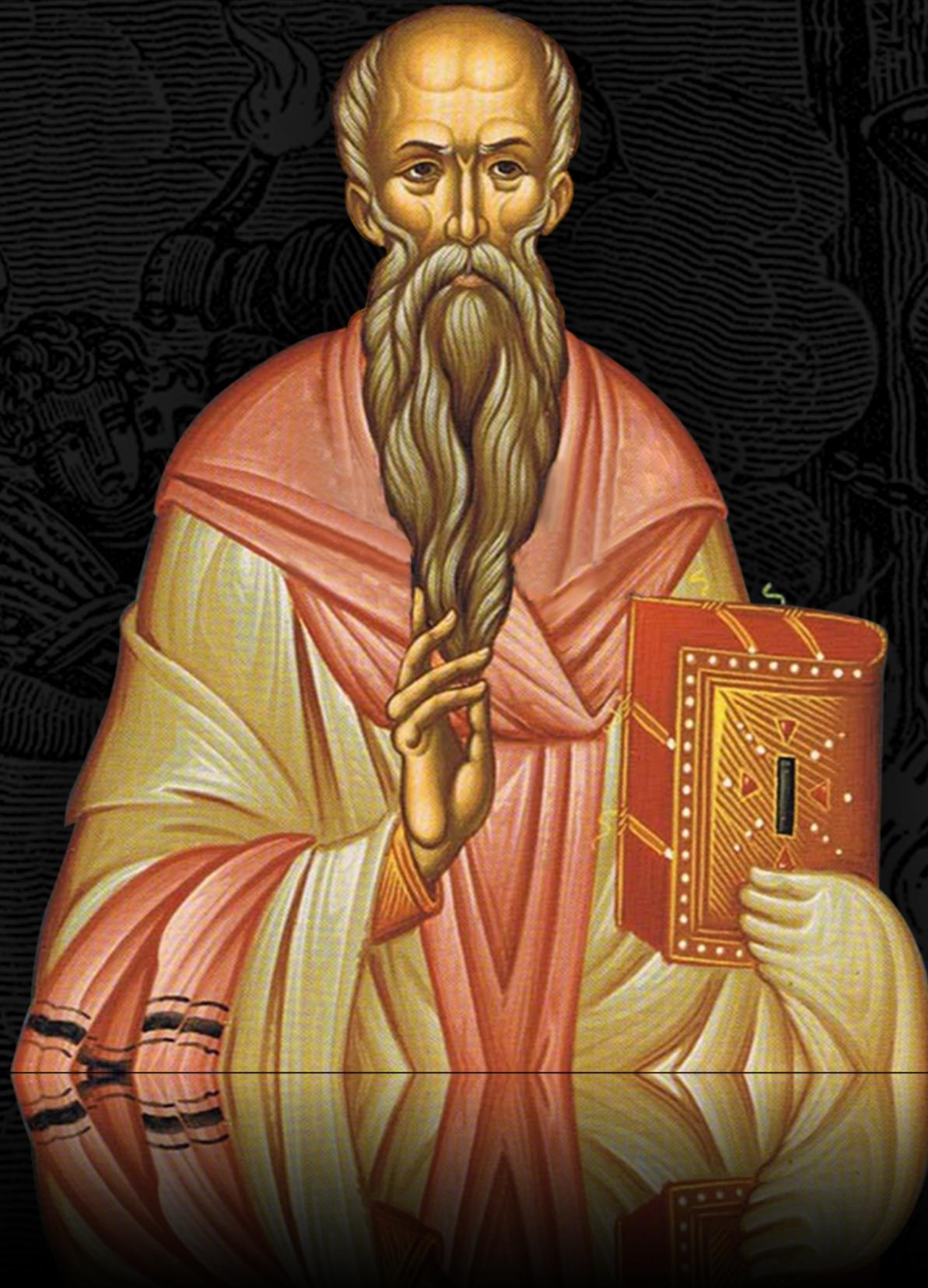
AD 69-155



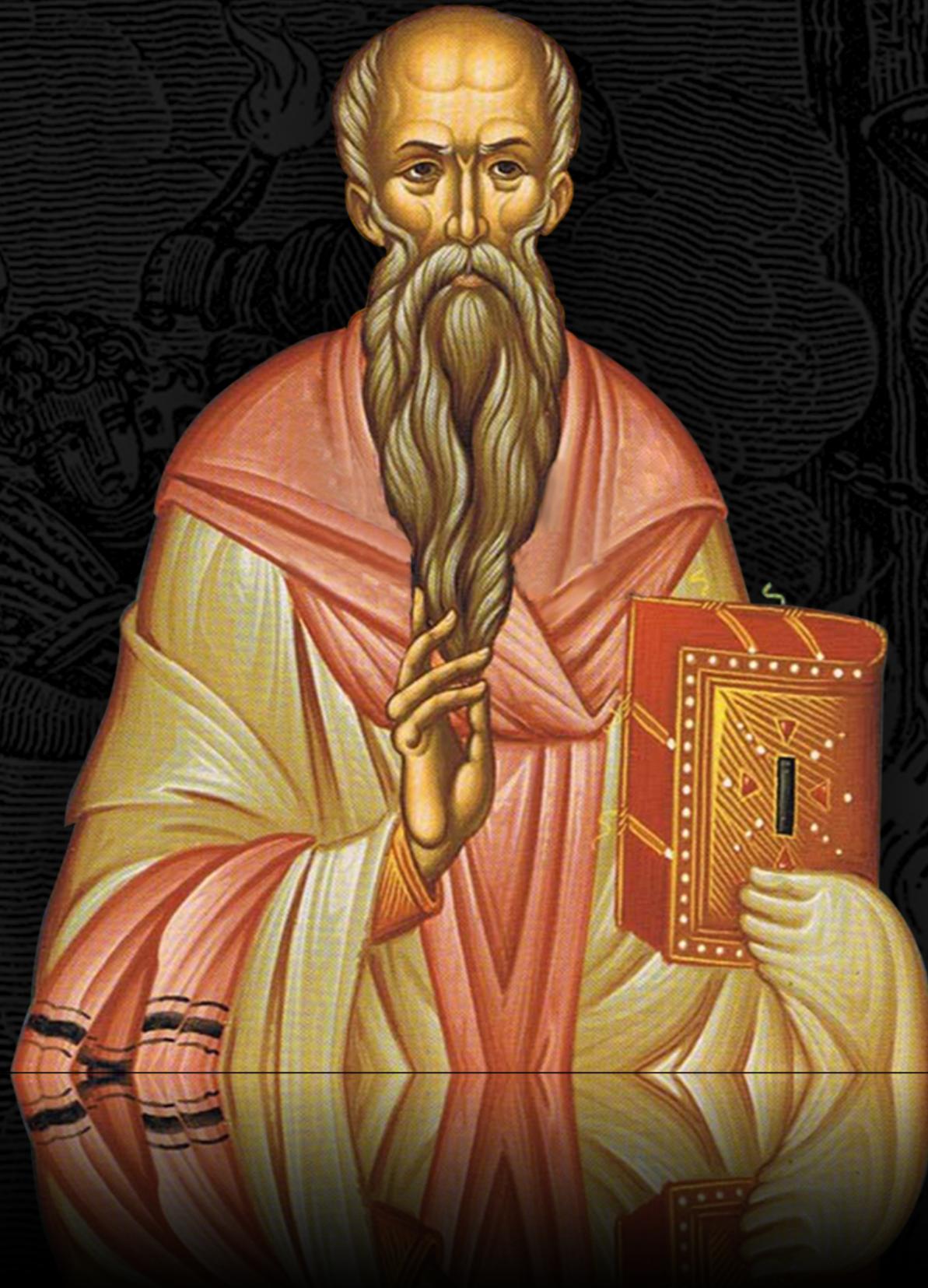
**The governor
said to Polycarp,
“Take the oath. I will
let you go. Just
revile Christ.”**



**Fourscore and six
years have I served
him, and he has
never done me
harm; how then can
I now blaspheme
my King and
Savior?**

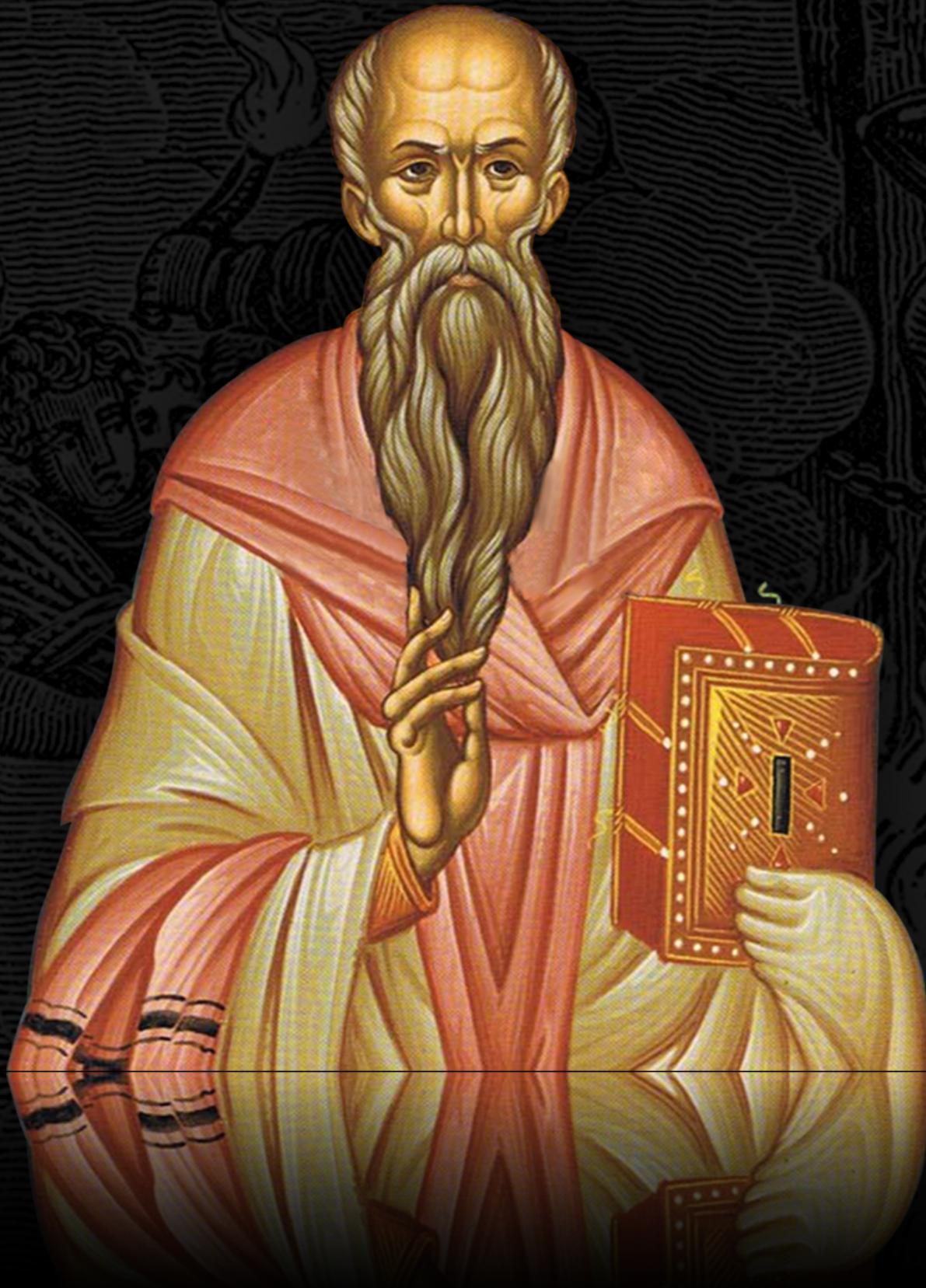


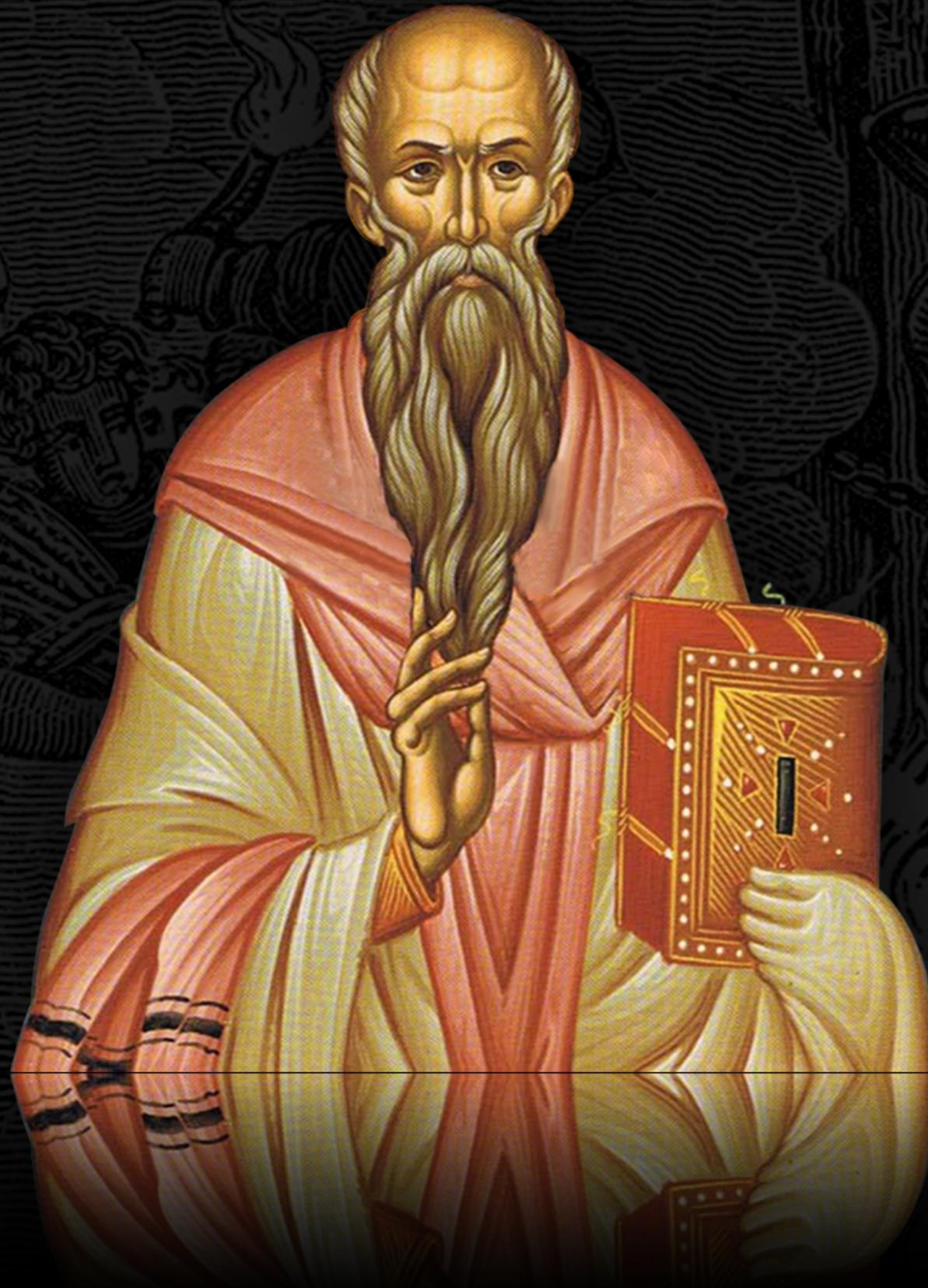
**O Lord God Almighty,
the Father of your
beloved and blessed
Son Jesus Christ,
by whom we have
received the know-
ledge of You, the God
of angels, powers,
and every creature,
and of all the
righteous who live
before You,**



**I give You thanks that
You count me worthy
to be numbered
among Your martyrs,
sharing the cup of
Christ and the resur-
rection to eternal life,
both of soul and
body, through the
immortality of
the Holy Spirit.**

**May I be received this
day as an acceptable
sacrifice, as You,
the true God, have
predestined, revealed
to me, and now
fulfilled.**





**I praise You for all
these things, I bless
you and glorify You,
along with the
everlasting Jesus
Christ, Your beloved
Son. To You, with him,
through the Holy
Spirit, be glory both
now and forever.
Amen.**





**I tell you, my friends, do not
fear those who kill the body,
and after that have nothing
more that they can do.**

Jesus of Nazareth
The Gospel of Luke 12:4

Philippians 1

28 ...and **not frightened in anything by your opponents.** This is a clear sign to them of their destruction, but of your salvation, and that from God.

“Don’t let your opponents intimidate you.”

Philippians 1

29 For it has been granted to you....



**Yes please!
I love gifts!**

Philippians 1

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him....



**Yes! That's
amazing!!!**

Philippians 1

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake....



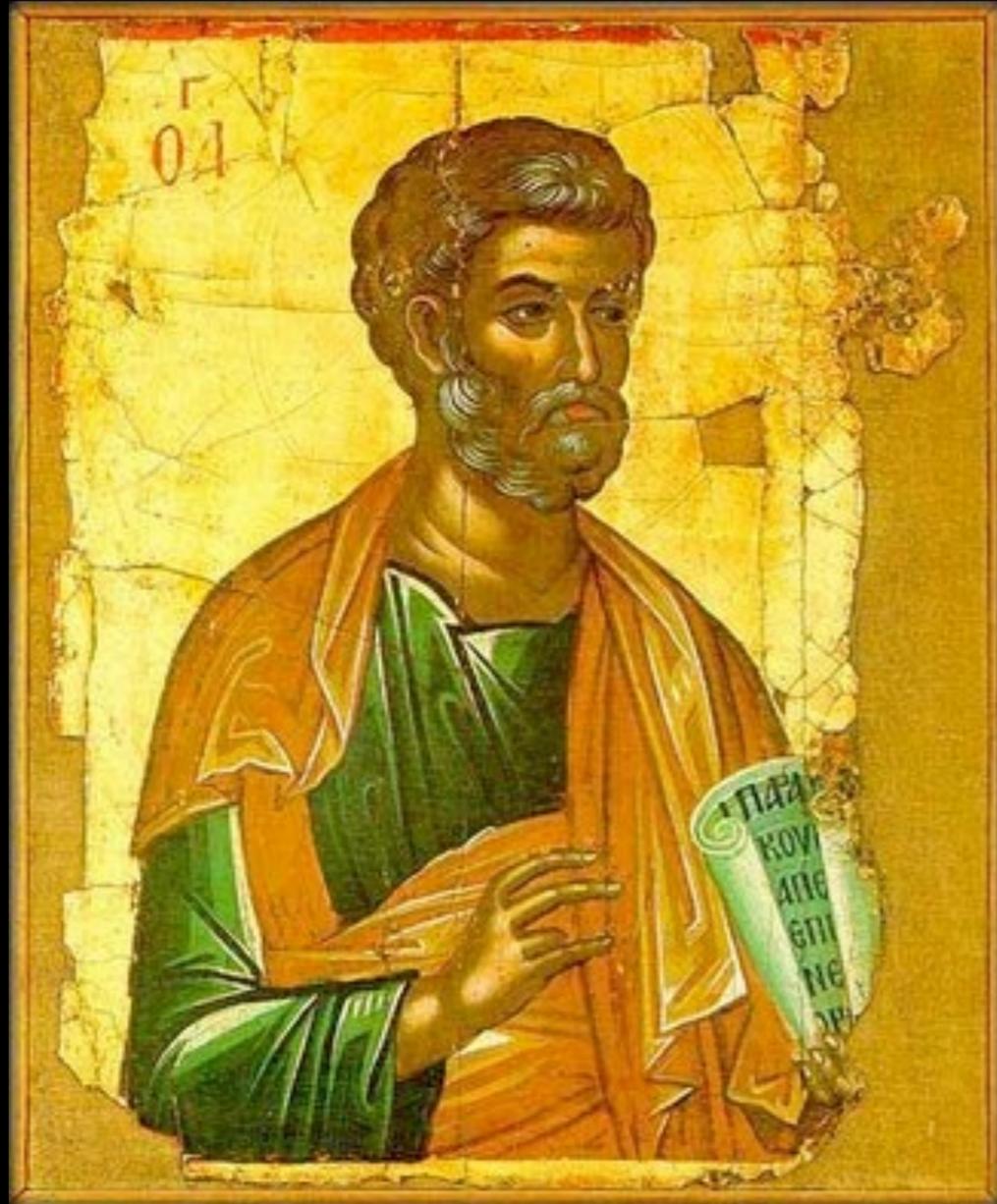
**Wait...what?
What did he
just say?**

Philippians 1

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake....

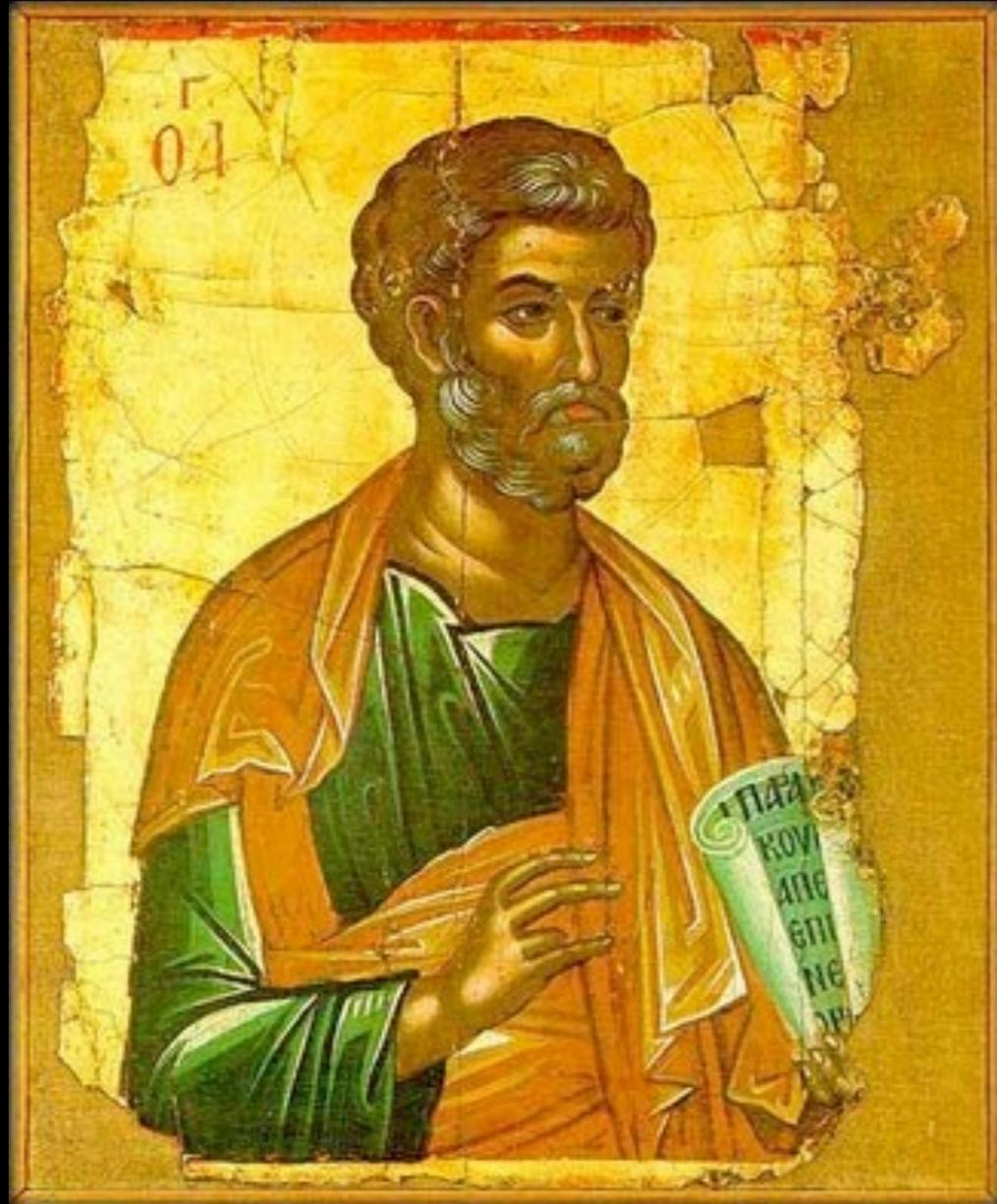


**That's what
I thought
he said.**



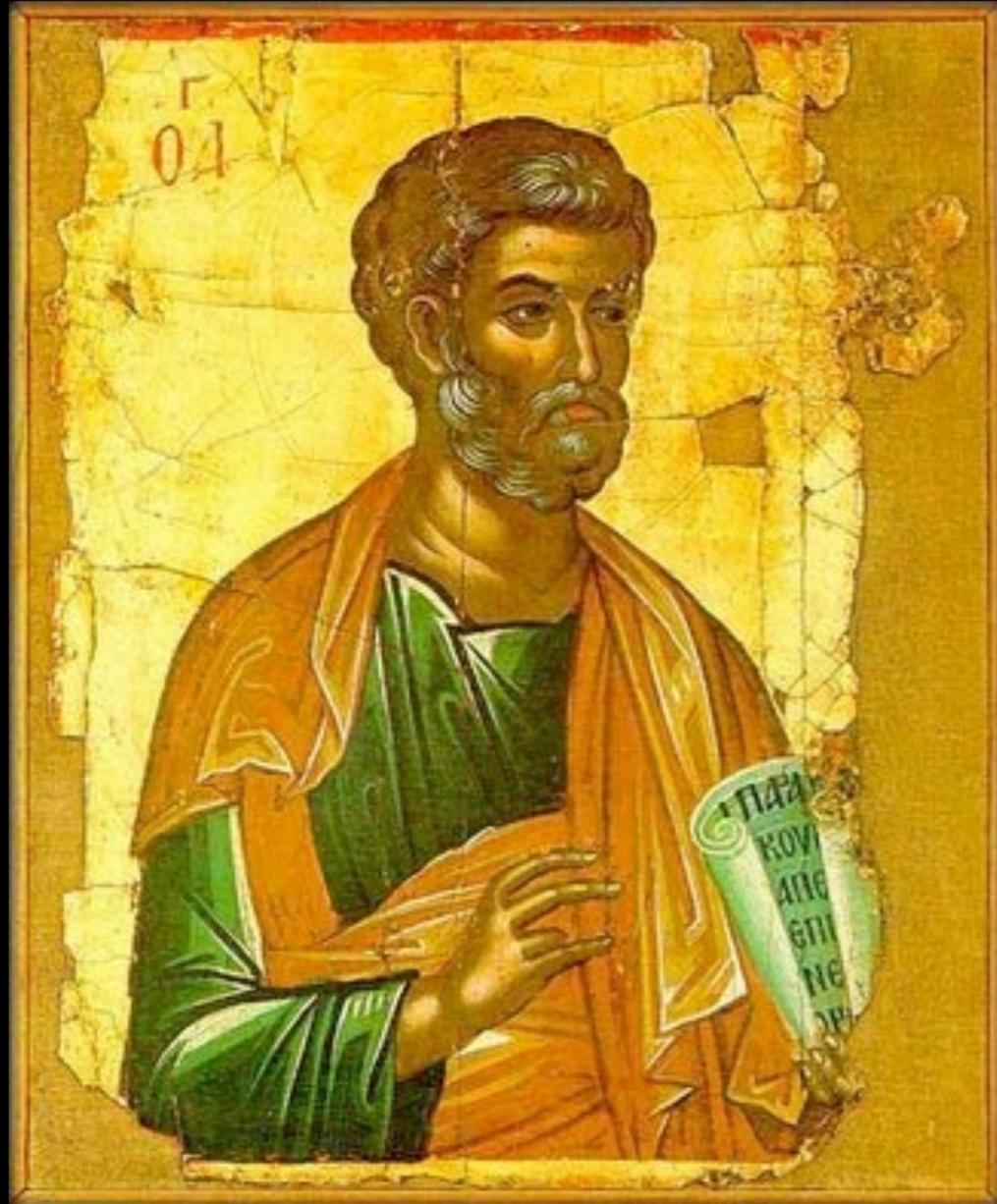
**If you are insulted for
the name of Christ,
you are blessed,
because the Spirit of
glory and of God
rests upon you.**

The Apostle Peter
— 1 Peter 4:14 —



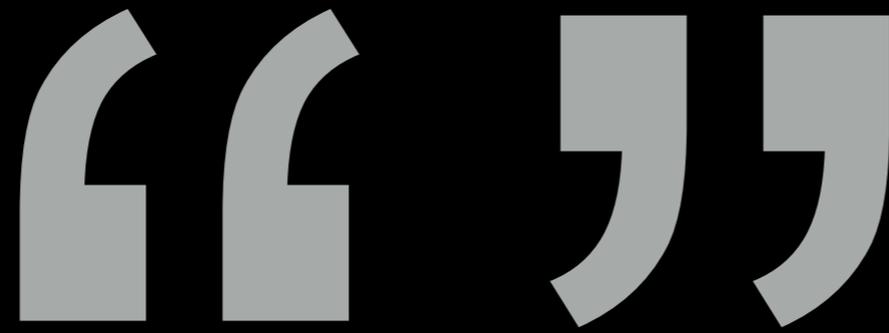
**But let none of you
suffer as a murderer
or a thief or an
evildoer or as
a meddler.**

The Apostle Peter
— 1 Peter 4:15 —



**Yet if anyone suffers
as a Christian, let him
not be ashamed, but
let him glorify God in
that name.**

The Apostle Peter
— 1 Peter 4:16 —



Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

— Jesus of Nazareth —
The Gospel of Matthew 5:11-12



**So if I am insulted
or thought less of
because I'm a
follower of Jesus,
I am actually
blessed and will
be rewarded
by my Savior
Jesus?**

Philippians 1

29 For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him, but also to suffer for his sake, 30 engaged in the same conflict you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

**JESUS' ROYALTY
DESERVES
OUR LOYALTY
NO MATTER WHAT**



**The Son of God
loved me and
gave Himself
for me.**

— Galatians 2:20 —

Assignment

**In your hearts, set apart
Christ as Lord.**

— 1 Peter 3:15 —



ALLIEGANCE



TO KING JESUS

**Let's count it our greatest honor
to live for and suffer for Jesus.
And if necessary, to die for Jesus.**



And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, “Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God, and the authority of his Messiah. For the accuser of our brothers and sisters, who accuses them before our God day and night, has been hurled down.



**They triumphed over him
by the blood of the Lamb
and by the word of their
testimony; they did not love
their lives so much
as to shrink from death.**

— Revelation 12:11 —

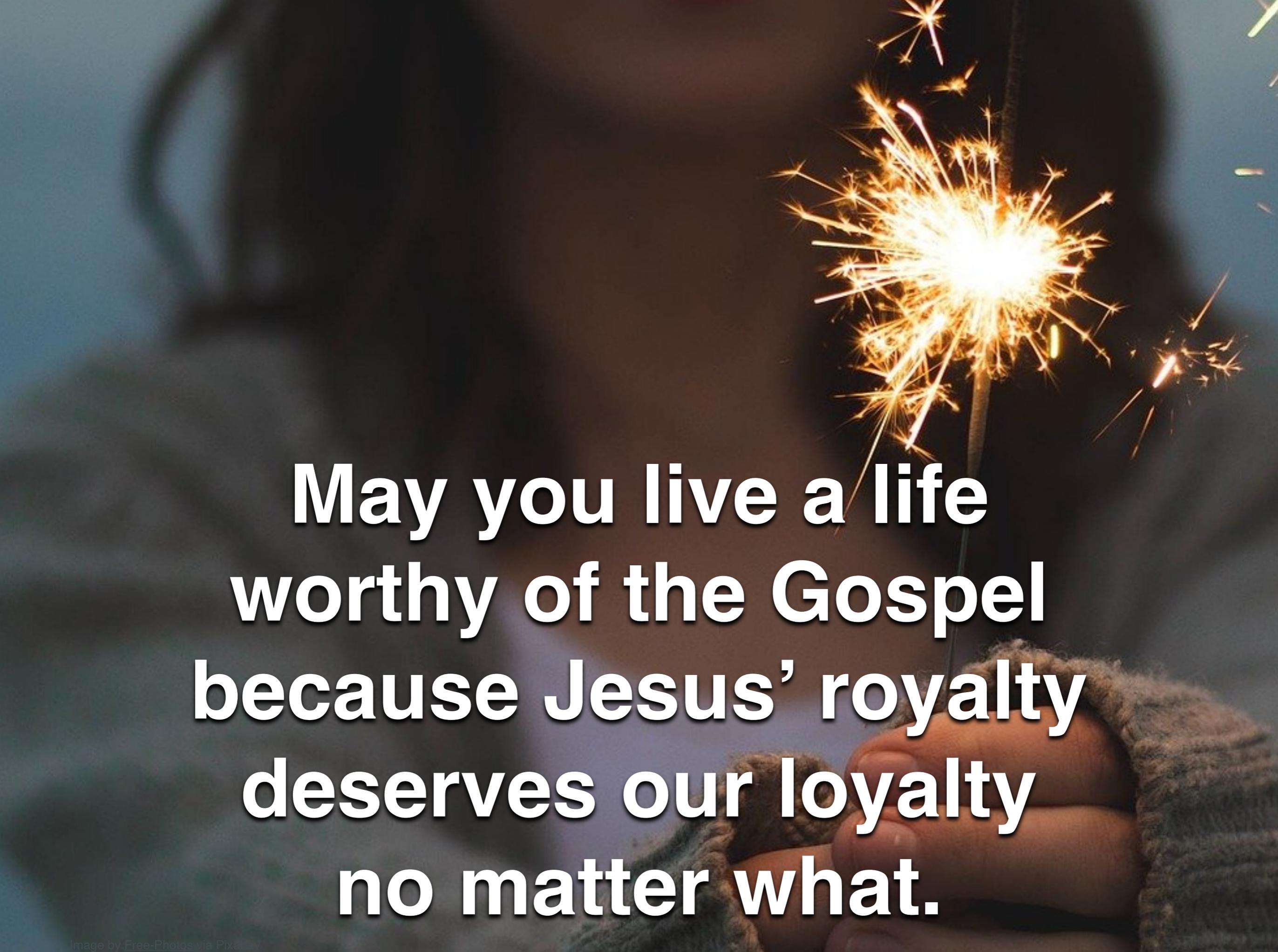


Key Thought

**When we surrender our lives to Christ,
we may be given the privilege of
surrendering our lives for Christ.**

**Part of finding joy
right where you are
is living a life worthy
of the gospel of Jesus
right where you are.**



A close-up photograph of a hand holding a lit sparkler. The sparkler is in full bloom, emitting a bright, golden-yellow light with many small sparks radiating outwards. The background is a dark, deep blue night sky. The hand holding the sparkler is in the lower right foreground, with some of the fingers visible. The overall mood is celebratory and festive.

**May you live a life
worthy of the Gospel
because Jesus' royalty
deserves our loyalty
no matter what.**