



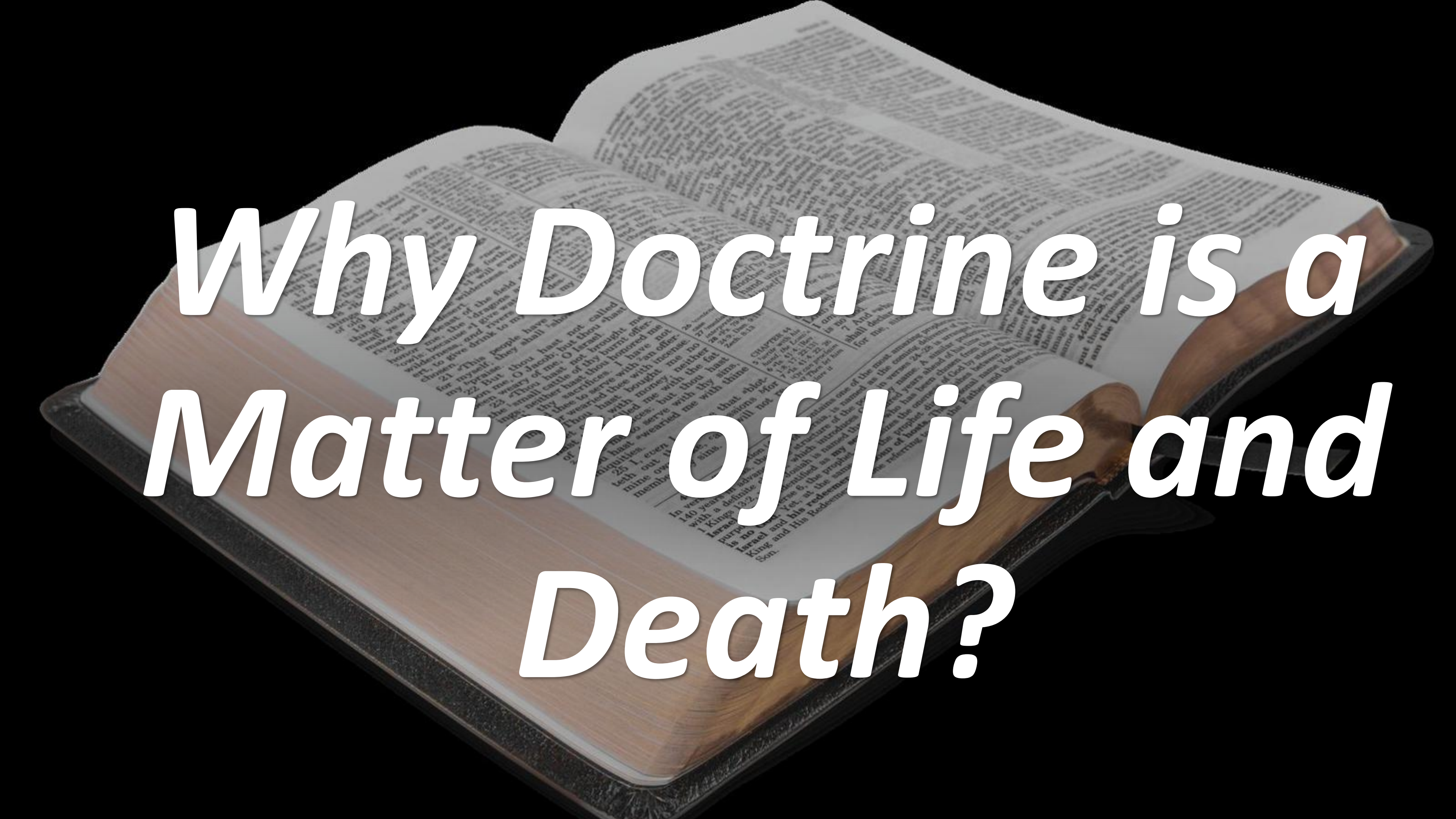
The Danger of False Teaching

1 Timothy

1:3–4

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia—remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith.



An open Bible is shown from a high angle, slightly tilted. The pages are filled with dense, small text, likely a standard Bible translation. The text is in black ink on off-white paper. The Bible is open to a section that appears to be the Book of Isaiah, with chapter numbers visible. The text is overlaid with a large, white, bold, italicized font that reads: "Why Doctrine is a Matter of Life and Death?". The text is centered across the open pages, with the words "Why Doctrine" on the left page and "is a Matter of Life and Death?" on the right page. The font is a serif typeface, possibly a classic or traditional style. The overall image has a dark, moody background, with the Bible being the central focus. The lighting is soft, highlighting the texture of the paper and the binding of the book. The text overlay is prominent and clear, making it the primary message of the image.

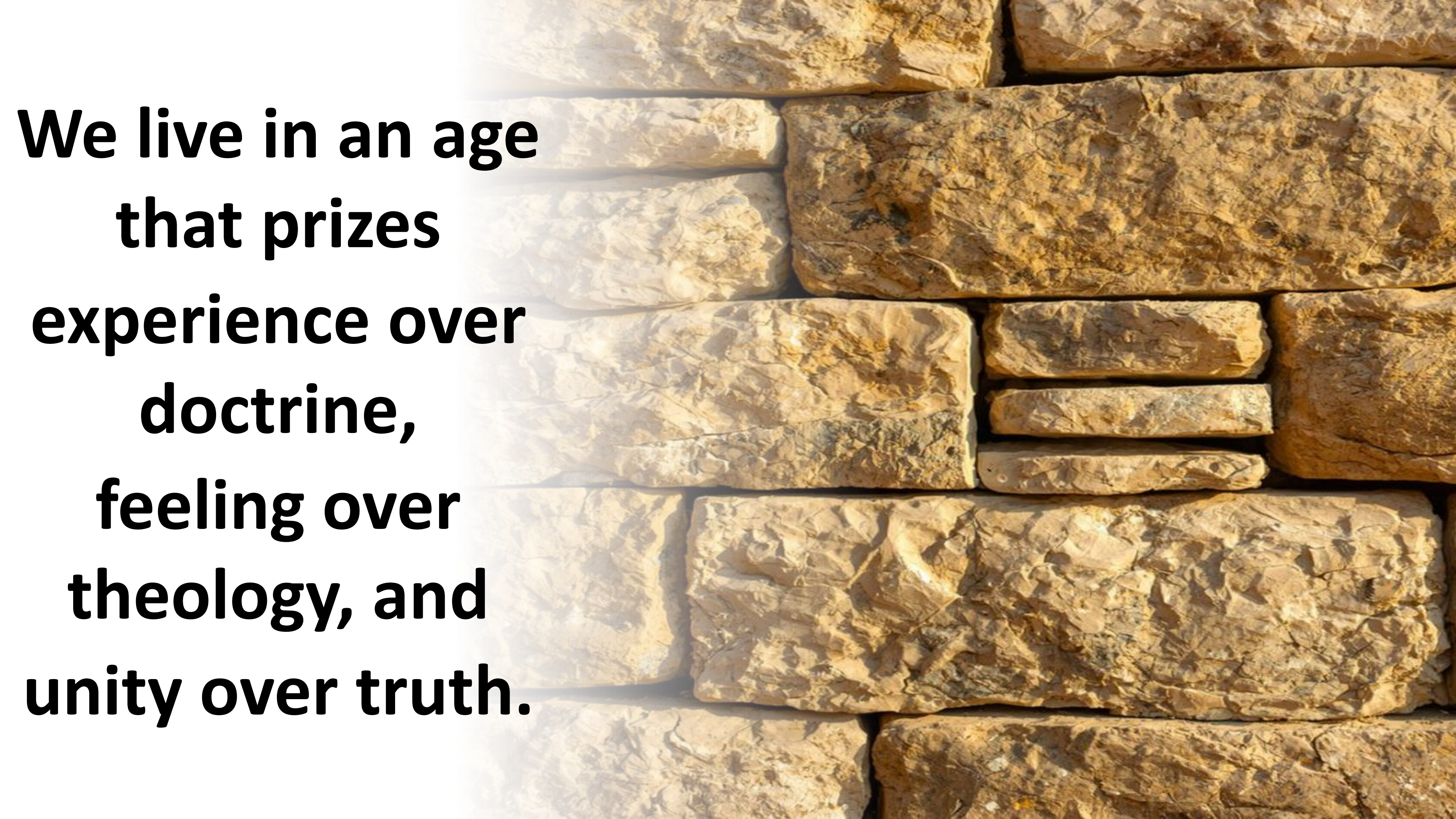
*Why Doctrine is a
Matter of Life and
Death?*

**The church
must be
protected
from the
poison of false
teaching.**



**Wrong
doctrine
produces
wrong living**





**We live in an age
that prizes
experience over
doctrine,
feeling over
theology, and
unity over truth.**



**This is the
first item
on the
pastoral
agenda.**

Acts 28:1–6, 30–31

After we were brought safely through, we then learned that the island was called Malta. The native people showed us unusual kindness, for they kindled a fire and welcomed us all, because it had begun to rain and was cold... He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.



**Sails toward
Ephesus, visiting
Colossae on the
way fulfilling his
promise in
Philemon 22**

1 - Paul, under
rest for 2 years
writes to the
Colossae
(by to Philemon),
and Philippi

LYRICUM

MACEDONIA

5 ■ Philippi

BITHYNIA GALATIA

MYSIA

GALATIA

ACHAIA

ASIA

4 Ephesus ■
& the surrounding
churches of Asia

■ Colossae **2**
3 Personal
letter to
Philemon

CRETE

CYPRUS

250miles

400km

CYRENAICA

JE



Meets Timothy at Ephesus (Timothy coming from Philippi) together they deal with Hymenaeus and Alexander and survey the situation.

A painting depicting two men, likely Paul and Timothy, in a moment of prayer or contemplation. The man on the right, with a dark beard and hair, is wearing a light-colored, draped garment and has his hands clasped in prayer. The man on the left, with a grey beard and balding head, is wearing a dark, draped garment and is looking down at the other man's hands. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a blue sky and a body of water.

**Paul departs
for Philippi
(Philippians
2:24), leaving
Timothy
behind.**

**not long after, he
writes this letter
to strengthen
Timothy's
courage and
authority before
the people who
would hear it
read.**



Philemon 1:22

And one thing more:
Prepare a guest room
for me, because I
hope to be restored
to you in answer to
your prayers.



Philippians 2:24

And I am confident
in the Lord that I
myself will come
soon.



**Home to the Temple
of Artemis (one of the
Seven Wonders of the
Ancient World),**



Acts 19:19

A number who had practiced sorcery brought their scrolls together and burned them publicly. When they calculated the value of the scrolls, the total came to fifty thousand drachmas.



I. The Situation in Ephesus

Paul's Relationship
with the Ephesian
Church





**Paul founded the
Ephesian church and
spent over three years
there (Acts 19–20).**

ACTS 20:31

"Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears."



Acts 19:10

This continued for two years, so that all the residents of Asia heard the word of the Lord, both Jews and Greeks.



Acts 19:20

In this way the word of the Lord spread widely and grew in power.



ACTS 20:29-31

29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 And from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.



**Note the two
fronts: wolves
from outside, and
perverse men from
within. What Paul
feared was already
happening by the
time he wrote 1
Timothy.**



Acts 20:32

I commend you to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.



Kapēlos

κάπηλος — “to
peddle” or “to
corrupt for profit”



2 Corinthians 2:17

For we are not like so many, peddling the word of God; but as of sincerity, but as from God, we speak in Christ in the sight of God.

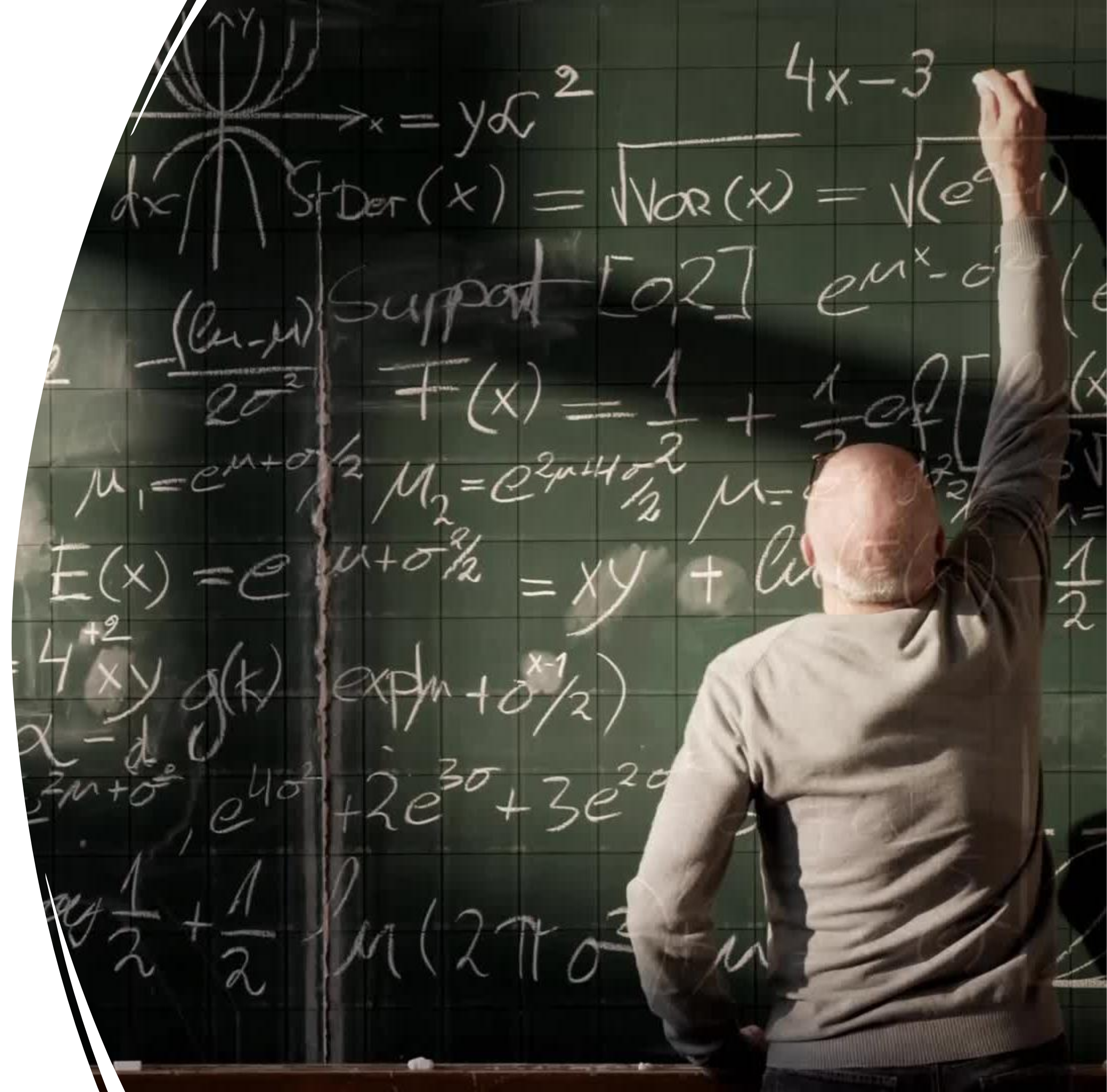


2 Corinthians 4:2

Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God. On the contrary, by setting forth the truth plainly we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.

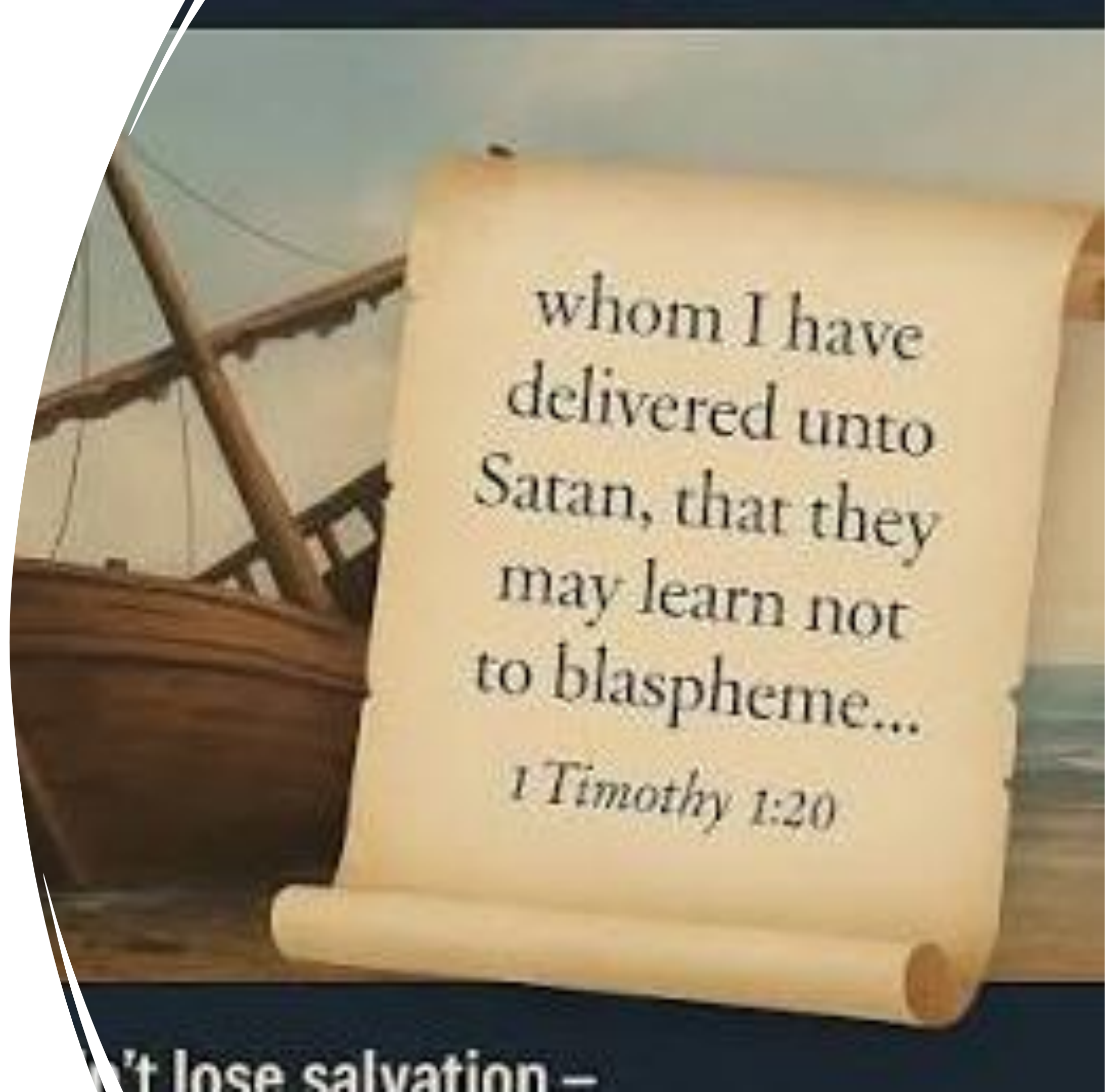


Who were the False Teachers?



1 Timothy 1:20

Among them are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan to be taught not to blaspheme.



Matthew 7:15

Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves.



II. The Command: Remain & Charge



**Faithful
leadership
does not flee
difficult
situations.**



**Timothy was
about 35 years
old and had
been with Paul
roughly 20
years.**



Acts 19:29–30

So the whole city was filled with confusion, and rushed into the theatre with one accord, having seized Gaius and Aristarchus, Macedonians, Paul's travel companions. And when Paul wanted to go in to the people, the disciples would not allow him.





Charge

Parangello

Greek: παραγγέλλω
— To command,
charge, or give
strict orders with
full authority.



III. The Problem: Heterodidaskaleo

[illegible][illegible]

Heteros

ἕτερος — "another
of a different kind"



Allos

Greek: ἄλλος
— "Another of
the same kind"



Galatians 1:6–

9

"I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel." — Galatians 1:6 (NKJV)

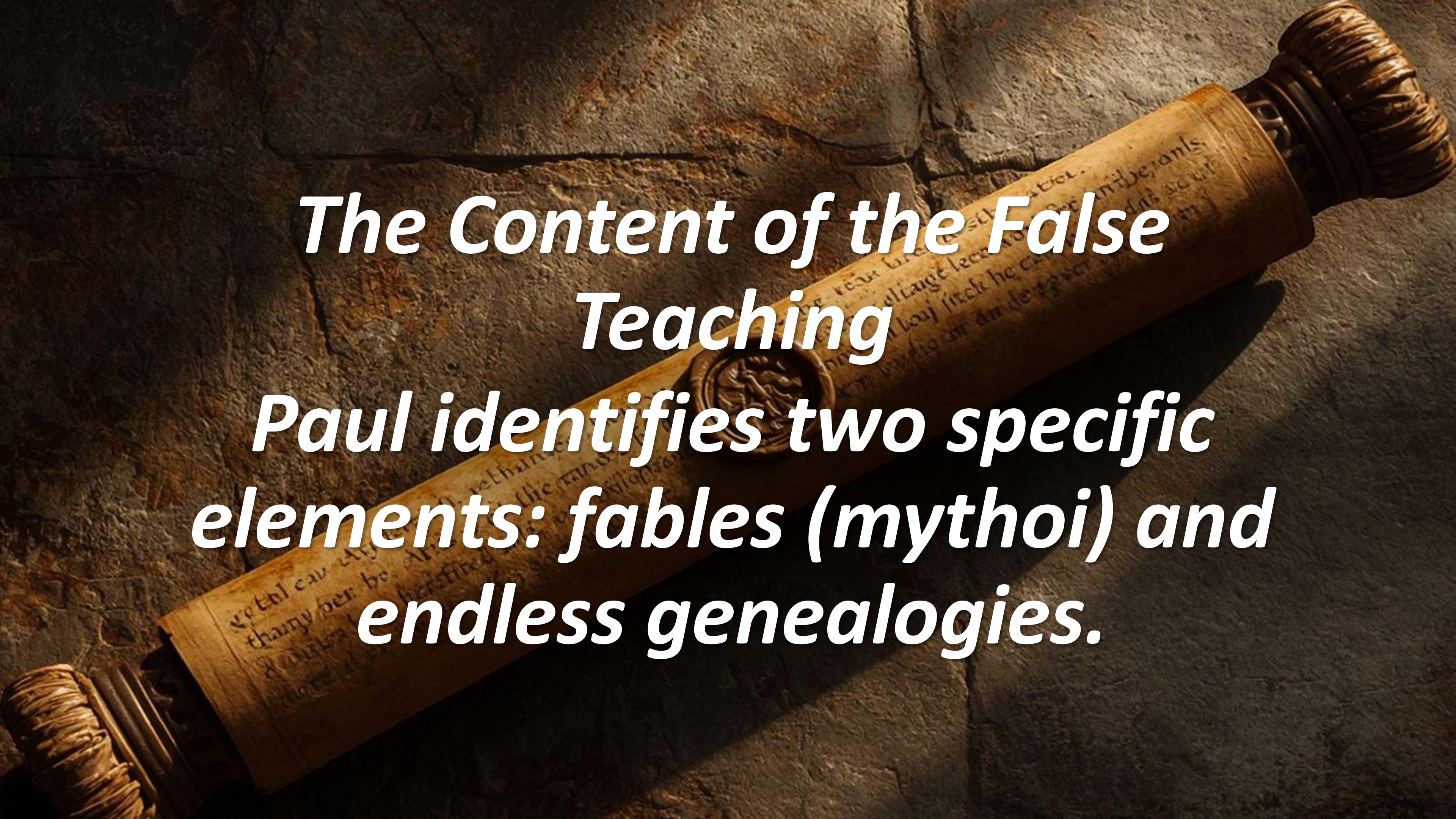
"But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed." — Galatians 1:8 (NKJV)





Anathema

Greek: ἀνάθεμα —
“accursed, devoted to
destruction”

A rolled-up ancient scroll with a wax seal, resting on a stone surface. The scroll is partially unrolled, showing text in an ancient script. The background is a rough, textured stone wall.

The Content of the False Teaching

Paul identifies two specific elements: fables (mythoi) and endless genealogies.

Mythoi

μῦθοι — Myths, fables,
and invented stories
passed off as spiritual
truth.



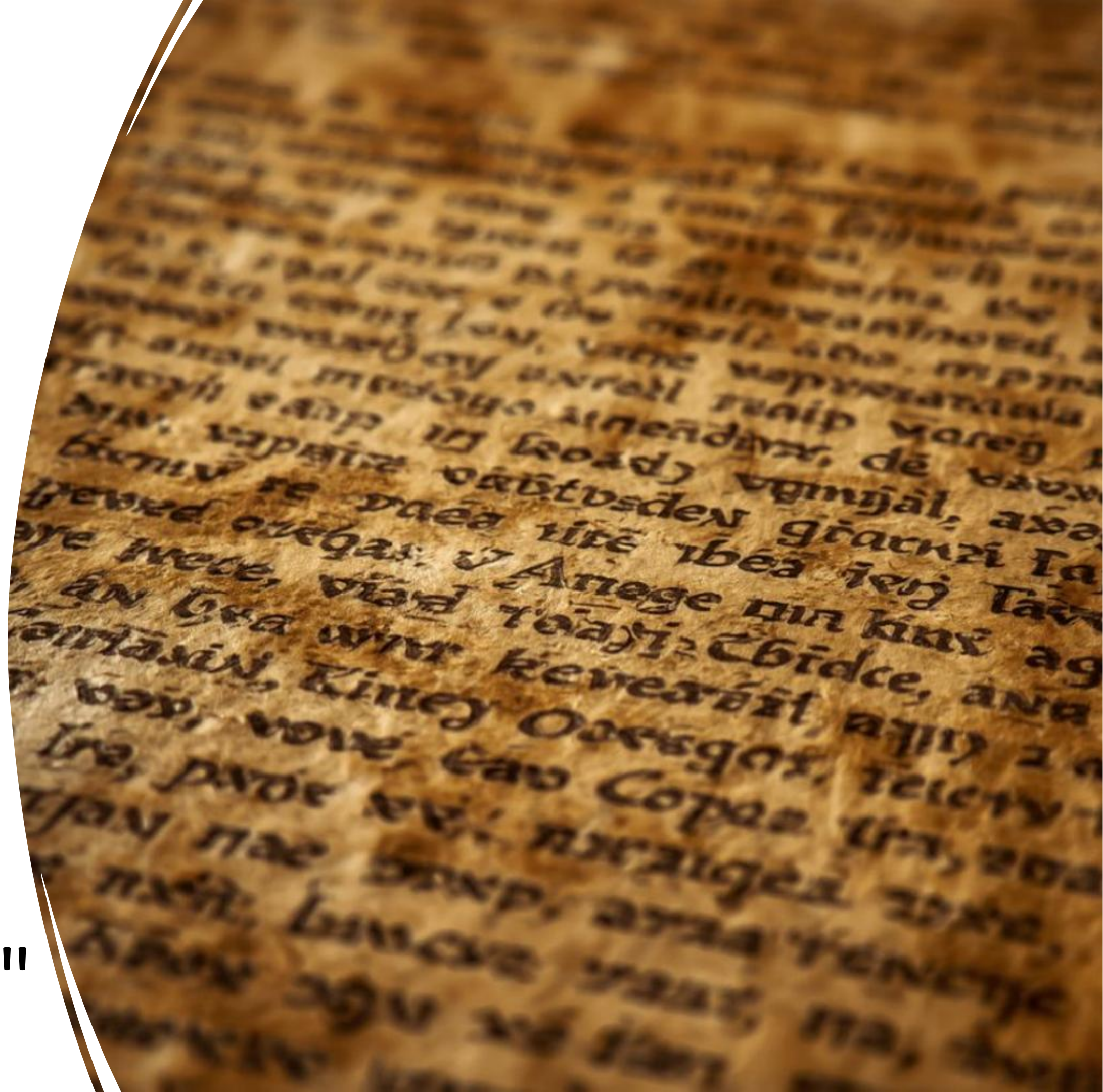
The Effect:

Disputes rather than Edification



Ekzeteseis

ἐκζητήσεις —
"Speculations" or
"Useless Controversies"



1 Timothy 1:5

"Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a good conscience, and from sincere faith."

— 1 Timothy 1:5 (NKJV)

The goal of sound doctrine is not mere intellectual correctness — it is love. Paul reminds Timothy that all teaching must produce a transformed heart, a clear conscience, and genuine faith.



1 Timothy

4:7–8

Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.



1 Timothy 6:6

But godliness with
contentment is great
gain.

— 1 Timothy 6:6 (NKJV)



2 Timothy 2:25

Gently instructing those who oppose him, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.

— 2 Timothy 2:25 (NIV)



Titus 2:2

Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.

— Titus 2:2 (ESV)



The Simplifying Formula:
Two Religions
The religion
of divine
accomplishment.
The religion of human
achievement.





The Same Pattern Today

Mormonism — “yes, we believe the Bible,” but the Bible must be strained through their own documents. Christian Science — “yes, I believe the Bible, but I cannot understand it without Key to the Scriptures.” Any system where people cannot grasp the simplicity of the Word unless their particular teacher reinterprets it.



GALATIANS 1:8

"Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed"



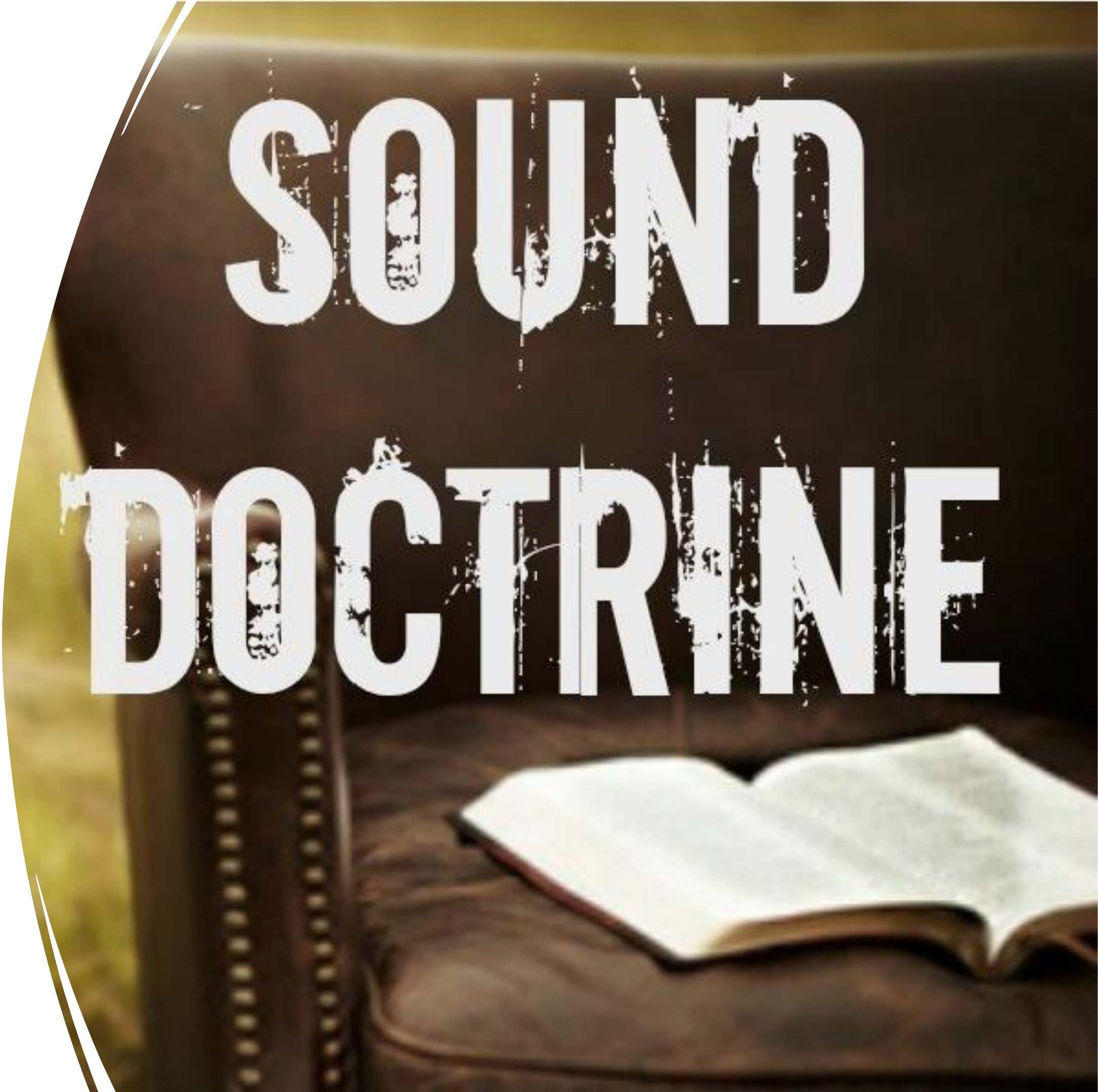
IV. Sound Doctrine — The --- Positive Standard



**The phrase sound
doctrine in Greek**

**Didaskaleo
appears 15 times
in the Pastoral
Epistles**

**SOUND
DOCTRINE**

The background of the right side of the image features a dark, textured wooden chair. An open book with white pages is placed on the seat of the chair. Overlaid on this background is the text 'SOUND DOCTRINE' in a large, bold, white font with a distressed, grunge-like texture. The word 'SOUND' is positioned above 'DOCTRINE'. The overall lighting is warm and slightly dim, creating a scholarly or historical atmosphere.

Hygiainouse

ὕγιαίνουσα —
"Sound, Healthy,
Wholesome"





The --- Apostolic Deposit



2 Thessalonians 2:15

Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.



2 Timothy 1:13

Hold on to the pattern of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.



Jude 1:3

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints."



2 Timothy 2:15

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

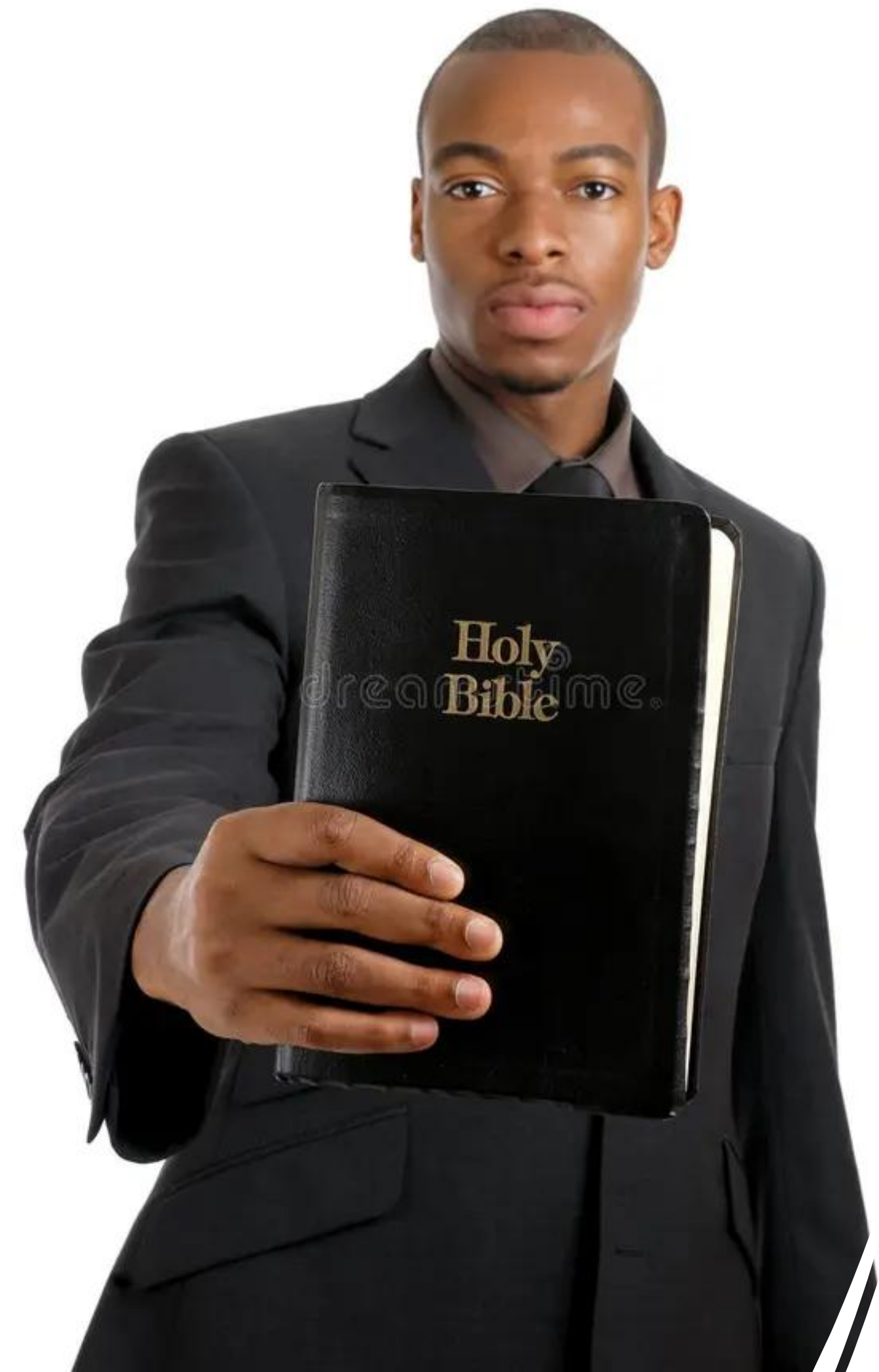
Steward, Not Source

The church does not create doctrine. The church receives and guards doctrine. This is the genius of the Reformation slogan: **semper reformanda secundum verbum Dei** — always being reformed according to the Word of God. The church's authority is entirely derivative, dependent on its faithful transmission of the apostolic message.



***The church
is not the
source of
truth, but
the
steward of
truth.***





The Cost of Guarding the Truth



Brethren, if you must err, err on the side of too much doctrine rather than too little. The congregation that has never heard sound theology is a congregation that is easily led astray. The congregation that has been faithfully taught will recognise the false shepherd when he comes, and they will not follow him.

— Charles Spurgeon

V. The Ephesian Context and Its Modern Parallels





The Temple of Artemis stood as one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World — a dominant spiritual force in Ephesus. The church did not exist in a vacuum, but in direct competition with a deeply entrenched pagan religious system that shaped every aspect of civic and spiritual life.

The Modern Equivalent

Today's spiritual marketplace mirrors ancient Ephesus — competing voices, blended beliefs, and doctrines shaped by culture rather than Scripture.

V. The Ephesian Context and Its Modern Parallels



The Pressures of a Pluralistic Culture
The exclusive claims of the Gospel
(Jesus is the only way) are reframed
as narrow or intolerant. The Bible's
teaching on human nature, sexuality,
and ethics is treated as a cultural
artifact to be updated. The doctrines
of sin, judgment, and hell are quietly
dropped from preaching because
they produce conflict.



John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”



Revelation

3:16

I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth.



VI. The Fruit of False Teaching



**Speculative
controversy
produces
endless
debates**



1 Corinthians

8:1

**Now concerning things
offered to idols: We
know that we all have
knowledge. Knowledge
puffs up, but love
edifies.**



Oikodome

οἰκοδομή —
"Building Up" or
"Edification"



1 Corinthians

14:3

**But he who
prophesies speaks
edification and
exhortation and
comfort to men.**



Ephesians 4:12

**For the equipping of
the saints for the
work of ministry, for
the edifying of the
body of Christ.**



Romans 15:2

**Let each of us please
his neighbour for his
good, leading to
edification.**



VII. The Ephesian Church

Past, Present & Future



Revelation 2:1–7

“To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: These are the words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands. I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. Whoever has ears, let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to eat from the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.”



Revelation 2:2-4

"I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars."



Ephesians 4:14–15

That we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head — Christ.



VIII. The Responsibility of the Congregation



Acts 17:11

Now the Berean Jews were of more noble character than those in Thessalonica, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.



2 Timothy

4:3–4

"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers."



In 1880, a well-educated young minister named Charles Augustus Briggs was appointed to Union Theological Seminary in New York.

The Trial

What followed was one of the most revealing church trials in American history. The Presbyterian Church tried Briggs for heresy and, despite the support of many colleagues, suspended him from ministry. Union Theological Seminary, rather than back down, severed its formal connection with the Presbyterian Church to protect its professor.

1. Know What You Believe

**This week, read your
church's statement of
faith or doctrinal
position. Could you
explain it to another
person? If not, make it
your study goal for this
month.**

**2. Practise Being a
Noble Berean**

**For the next four
Sundays, take your
Bible to church and
follow along with every
Scripture reference.
Does what you hear
align with what the text
actually says?**



3. Test What You've Heard

**Identify one teaching
you have heard in
Christian media or
social media in the past
six months that seemed
off. Look it up in
Scripture. What does
the Bible actually say?**



4. Pray for Your Pastor

Pray for your pastor or

leader this week —

specifically for the

courage to guard

sound doctrine even

when it is unpopular.

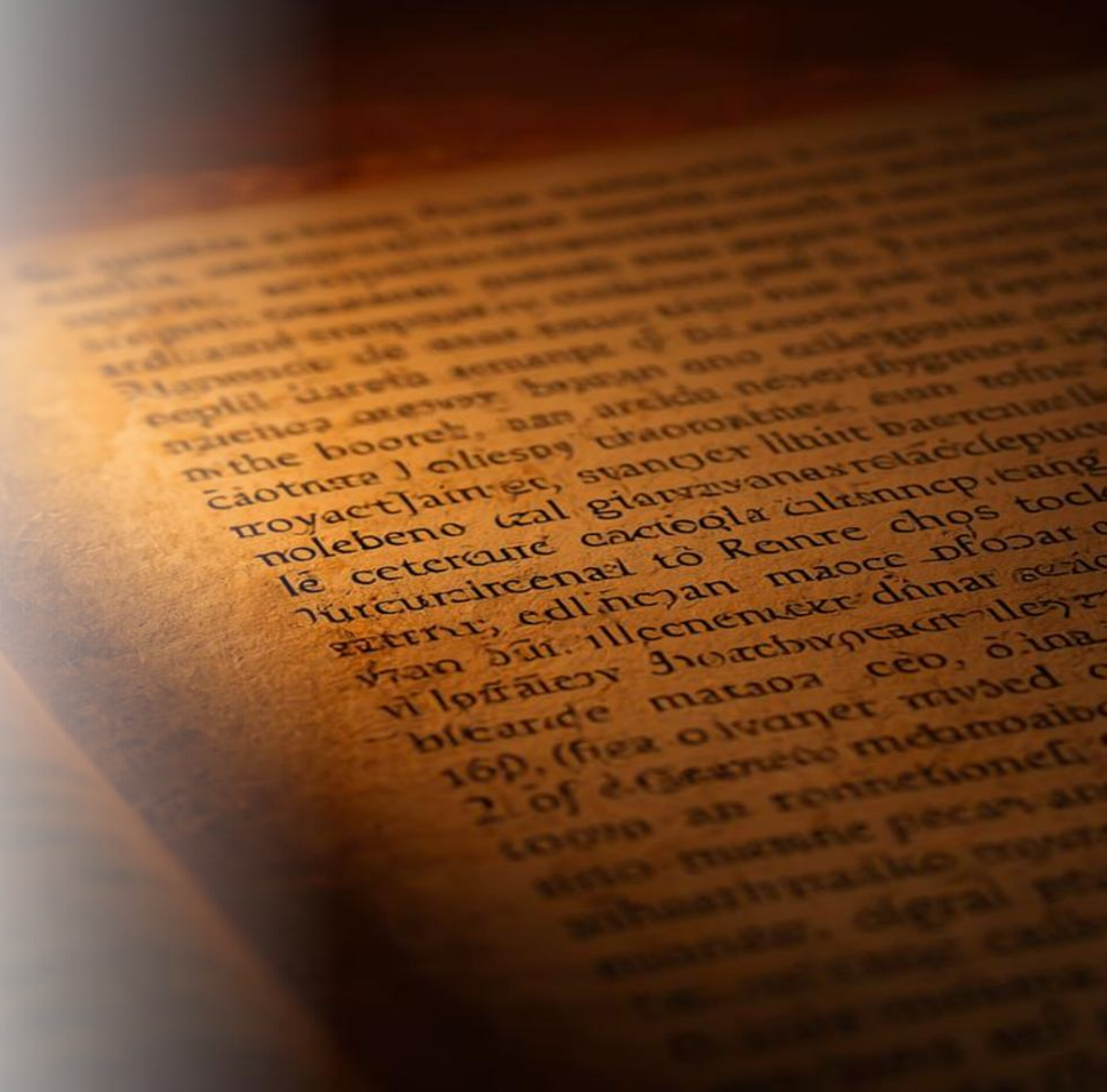
Thank God for his

willingness to preach

the truth.



5. Contend for the Faith
Jude 3 calls believers to
contend earnestly for the
faith. In what one area of
your daily life are you
called to stand for biblical
truth against cultural
pressure? Commit to it in
prayer.



6. Paul's Final Charge
Read 2 Timothy 4:1–8
and note Paul's final
charge to Timothy
about preaching the
Word. What does it
mean in your context
to preach the word in
season and out of
season?



2 Timothy

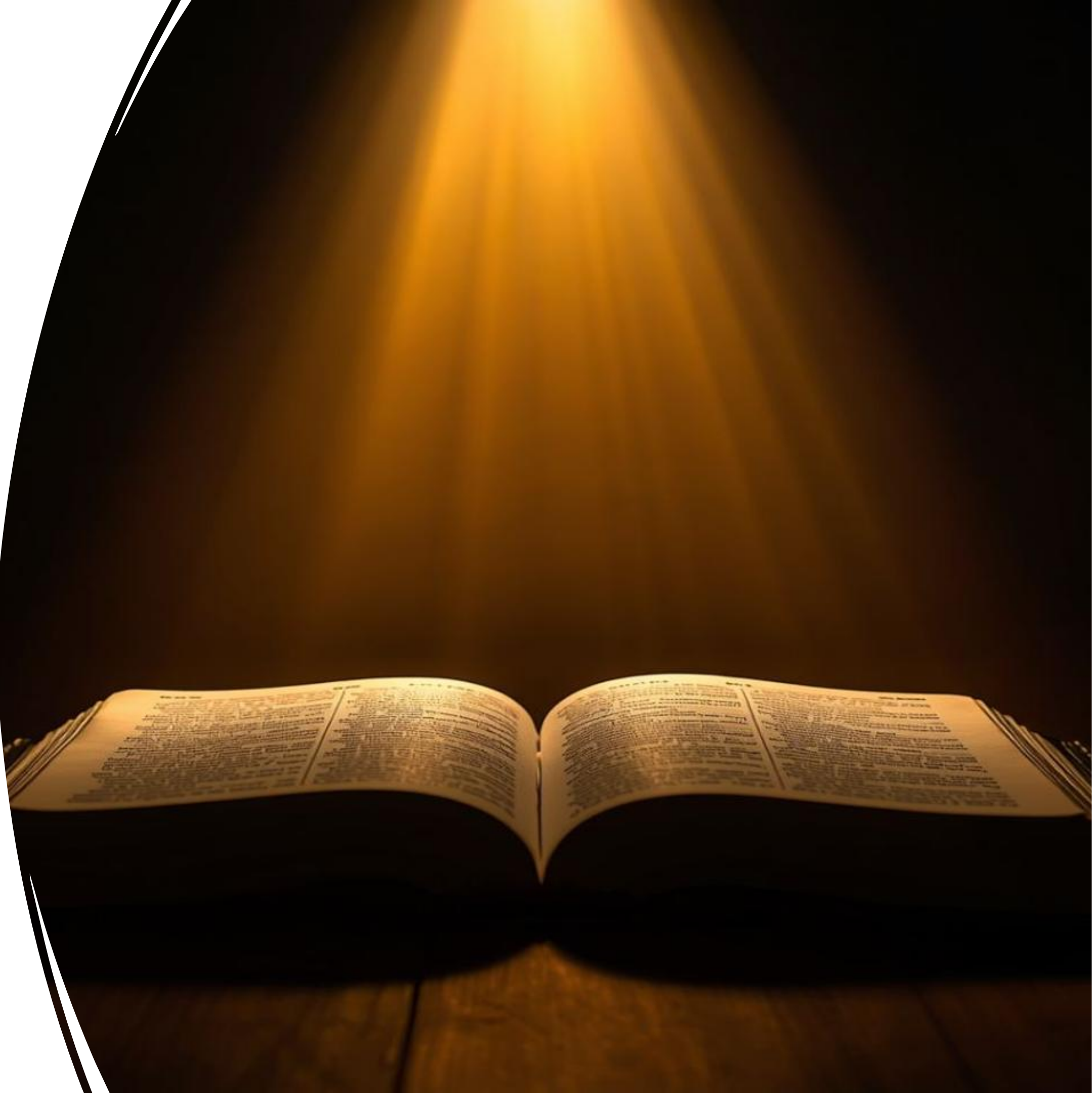
4:1–8

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when people will not put up with sound doctrine... But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day — and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.



7. A Family Devotion

Consider a family devotion this week on Psalm 119:9–16. How does immersion in God's Word protect against the drift toward false teaching?



Psalm 119:9– 16

How can a young person stay on the path of purity? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. Praise be to you, Lord; teach me your decrees. With my lips I recount all the laws that come from your mouth. I rejoice in following your statutes as one rejoices in great riches. I meditate on your precepts and consider your ways. I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.



Guard your heart and mind daily. Test every teaching against Scripture, hold fast to sound doctrine, seek godly community, and let the truth of God's Word shape how you live, speak, and love.

