



“Grasping and Sharing the Great News” \*

The most important question, for all eternity:

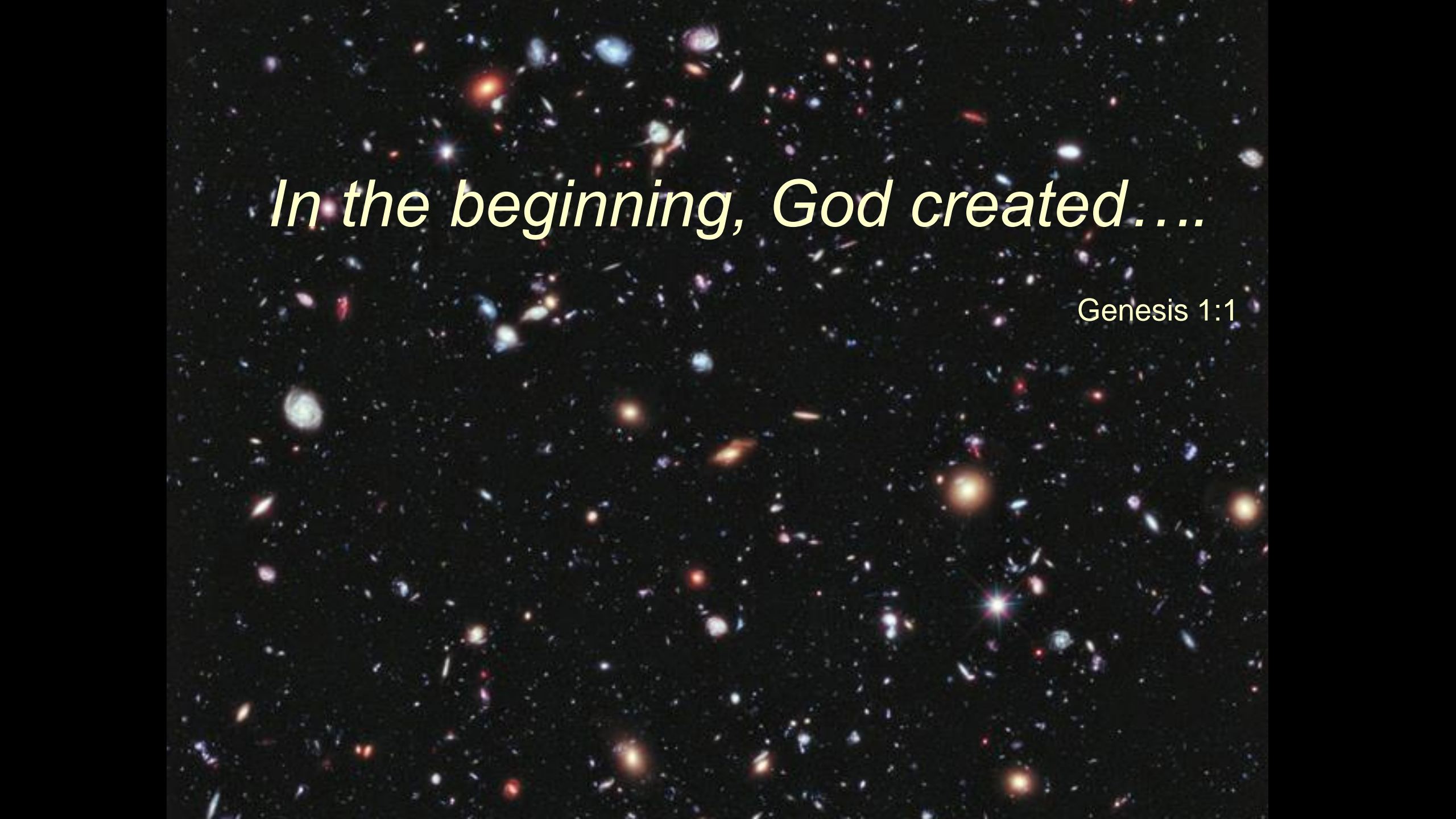
**WHAT IS THE “GOSPEL”?**

**The Greatest News for Sinners!**

\*Some graphics and concepts in this presentation are adapted from C. John Miller, “Have You Ever Wanted a New Life?” now published by Reformed Evangelistic Fellowship, P.O. Box 847 Bristol, TN 37621 USA

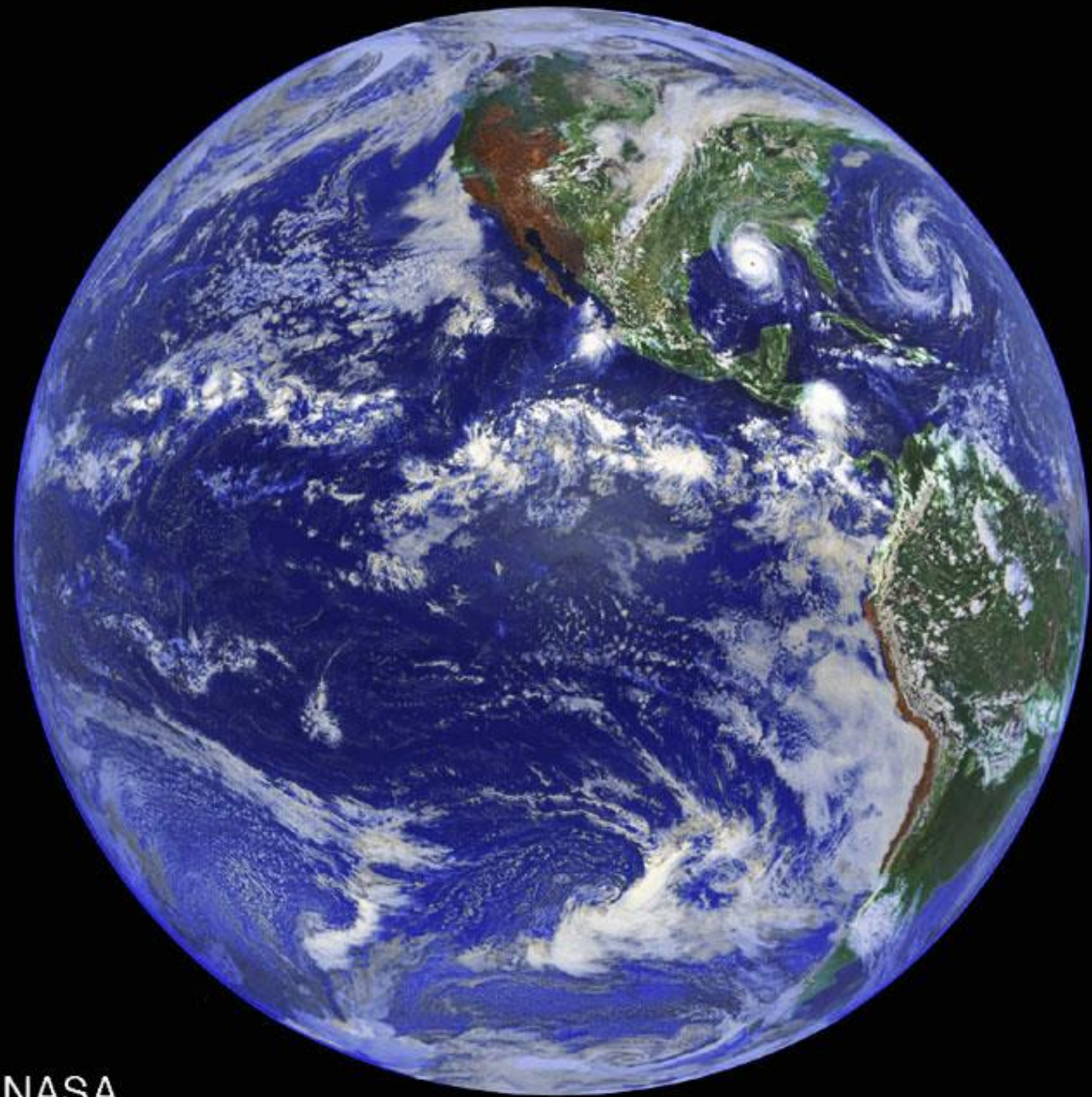
Foundational truths for the gospel:

→ **GOD CREATED EVERYTHING**



*In the beginning, God created....*

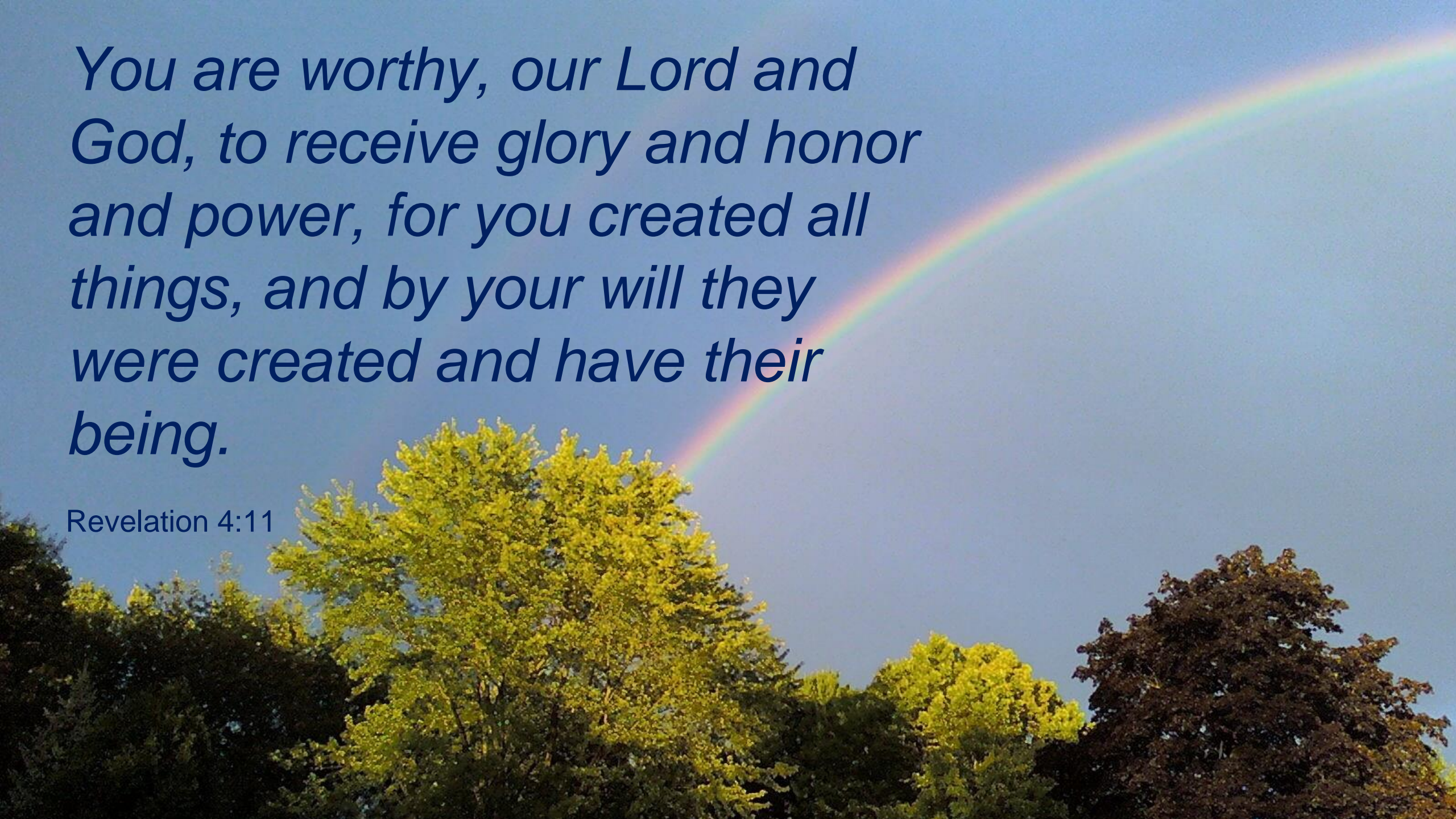
Genesis 1:1



NASA

*You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.*

Revelation 4:11



Foundational truths for the gospel:

**GOD CREATED EVERYTHING**

**→ GOD CREATED YOU.**



*So God created mankind in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.*

Genesis 1:27

*...So that they would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from any one of us. “For in him we live and move and have our being.”*

Acts 17:27-28

“All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights  
(United Nations, Article One)



“...The ‘specialness’ we attach to human beings and human life is not an illusion.”

Tony Payne, *The Christian Gospel: A Short Account of the Momentous News About Jesus Christ* (Sydney: Matthias Media, 2023), p. 17.

Jesus: “*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.*”

Luke 10:27

What kind of life does the gospel offer to you?  
Jesus proclaimed about those he loves:

*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*

John 10:10

What does that abundant life look like? It's a new life of joyous transformation by God's inner work—life within a loving community.

*...The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control....*

Galatians 5:22-23

**That's Good News!**

*And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.*

Hebrews 10:24-25

**But there's BAD NEWS: We have a problem.**

We are self-centered rather than God-centered. By nature, every human acts as though our Creator doesn't exist, even though we live in his world and breathe his air. We're completely dependent upon him. Yet we rebel against him.

# The Total Lie: Selfish Independence

*For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.*

Romans 1:21

# The Total Disaster: Self-Destruction

*And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice...envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness.... Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die....*

Romans 1:28-32

Every human is hard-wired for justice. We demand it! Multiply this God-given human attribute by infinity, and you understand something of God's just judgment on sin.

*The wages of sin is death...* Romans 6:23

*...Whoever does not obey the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him.*

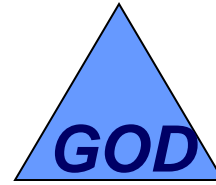
John 3:36; see also Matthew 8:12; Mark 9:48; Luke 16:19-31

## SIN MEANS...

- We run our lives our own way, and reject God as our Ruler.
- We cut ourselves off from the source of life, harming ourselves, others, and the creation.
- Separation from God, emotional anguish, physical death, and eternal judgment to come.



→ Sin separates people from a Holy God.



→ Sin is like three massive concrete barriers we cannot break through.

Every evil thing you have ever done, or said, or even thought—God knows all. →

**BAD RECORD**

***All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.***

Romans 3:23

In ourselves we are unable to change, and don't even want to change. →

**BAD HEART**

***For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery....***

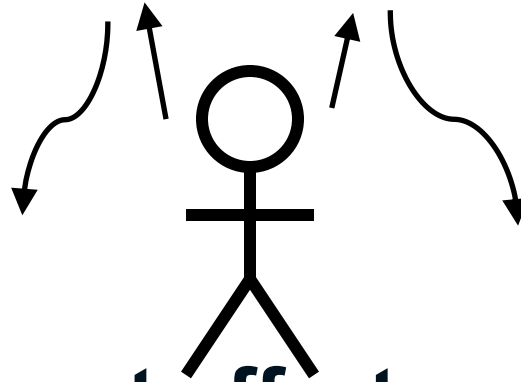
Matthew 15:19

People think they are free. But that's the devil's lie. Sinners are slaves. Only God can set us free. →

**BAD MASTER**

***Everyone who practices sin is a slave to sin.***

John 8:34



**All your best efforts won't help!**

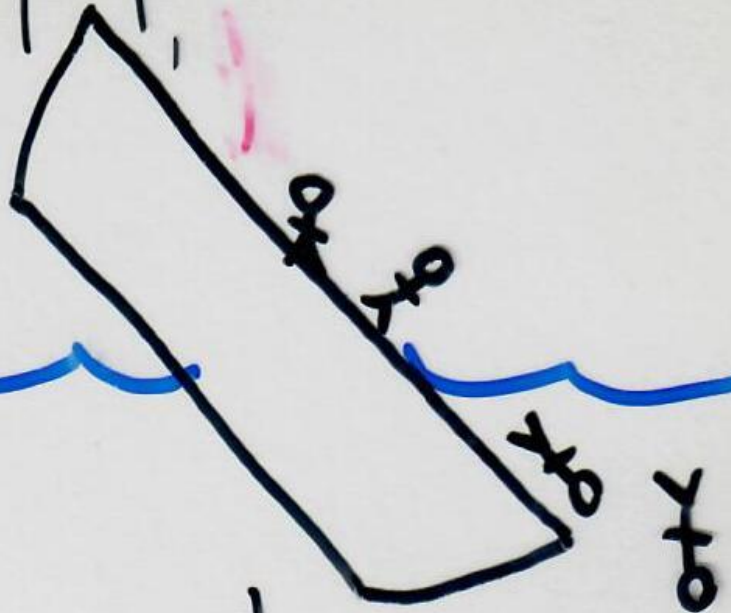
*THE GREAT NEWS: God provided his Son as our “champion.” Jesus Christ is fully human so he can represent us, and fully God so he could rescue us.*

*For just as through the disobedience of the one man [Adam] the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man [Christ] the many will be made righteous.*

Romans 5:18-19

Christ's Ship  
(Rom. 5:15-17)

Adam's Ship  
(Rom. 5:12-14)



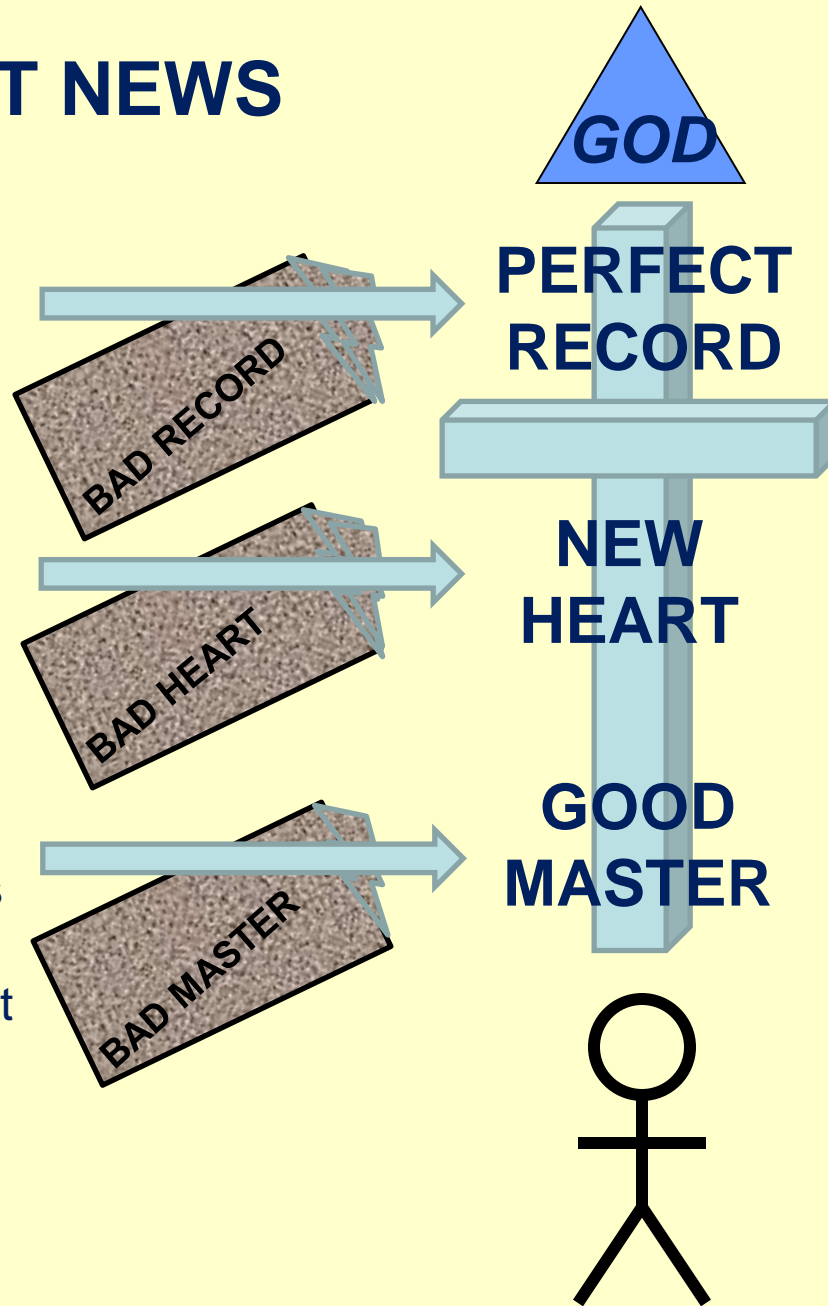
**You're not alone!  
A new Captain!  
A New Humanity!**

# THE GREAT NEWS

Christ provides a perfect record, to replace your bad record.

God gives you a new heart that trusts and loves him, to replace your bad heart.

Christ becomes your new Master who loves you, replacing the wicked master, sin, that destroys you.



→ Christ Jesus broke the barriers!

*...so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*  
2 Corinthians 5:21

*...I will give you a new heart...I will remove the heart of stone....*  
Ezekiel 36:26

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls....*  
Matthew 11:29

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 6:23

*...God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 5:8

*...The blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

1 John 1:7

# The Logic of Christ's Death

- As sinners, we rebel against God and deserve death and condemnation.
- As a human, Jesus never rebelled, but lived a perfect life as our representative.
- As a human, Jesus willingly died, not for his rebellion but for ours, in our place. He bore God's just wrath as our representative.

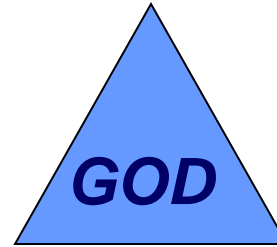
*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us,  
so that in him we might become the  
righteousness of God.*

2 Corinthians 5:21

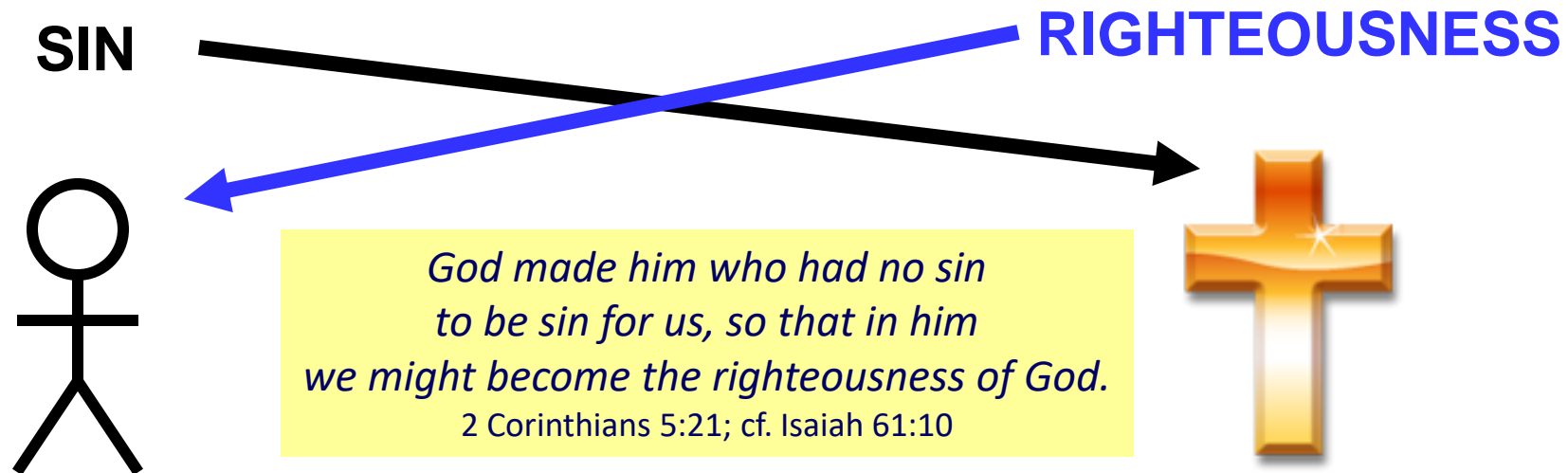
*...He has clothed me with garments of salvation  
and arrayed me in a robe of his righteousness....*

Isaiah 61:10

# THE GREAT EXCHANGE



God the Father credits the perfect record of Jesus Christ to our “account” and our sin to Christ’s “account.” His righteousness is the ground (the legal basis) for our justification—God declaring us righteous in his sight. It is the exact opposite of condemnation. It happens now.

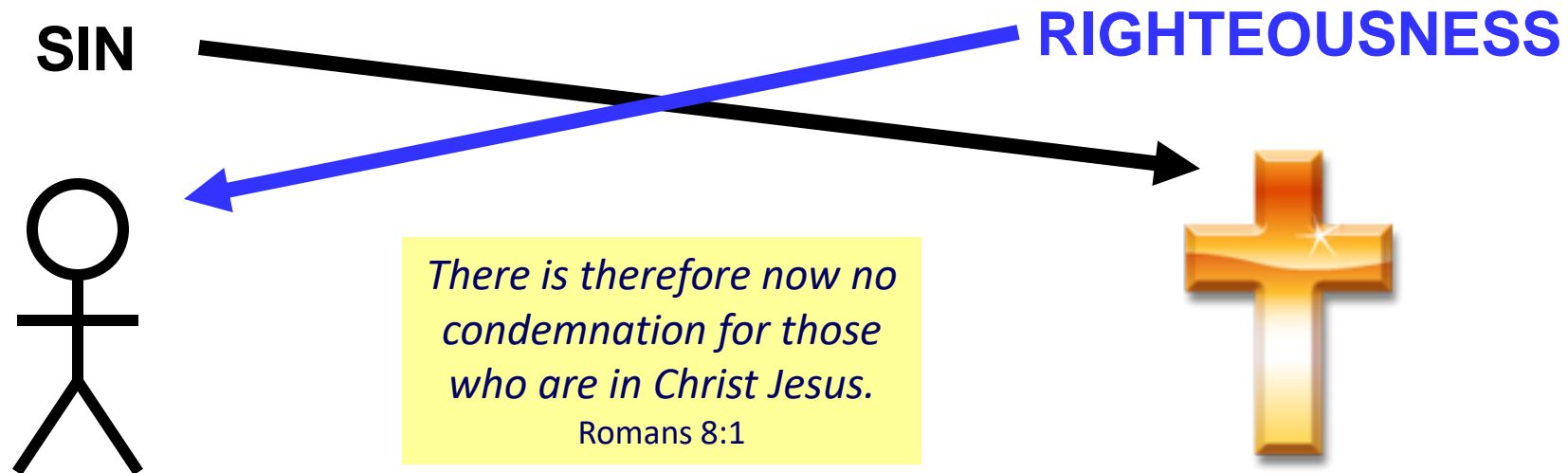




# THE GREAT EXCHANGE

Received by **FAITH ALONE IN CHRIST ALONE!**  
**FAITH** = the empty hands that receive a free gift.

“Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.” Westminster Shorter Catechism 86



*...Now he commands all people everywhere to repent. For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead."*

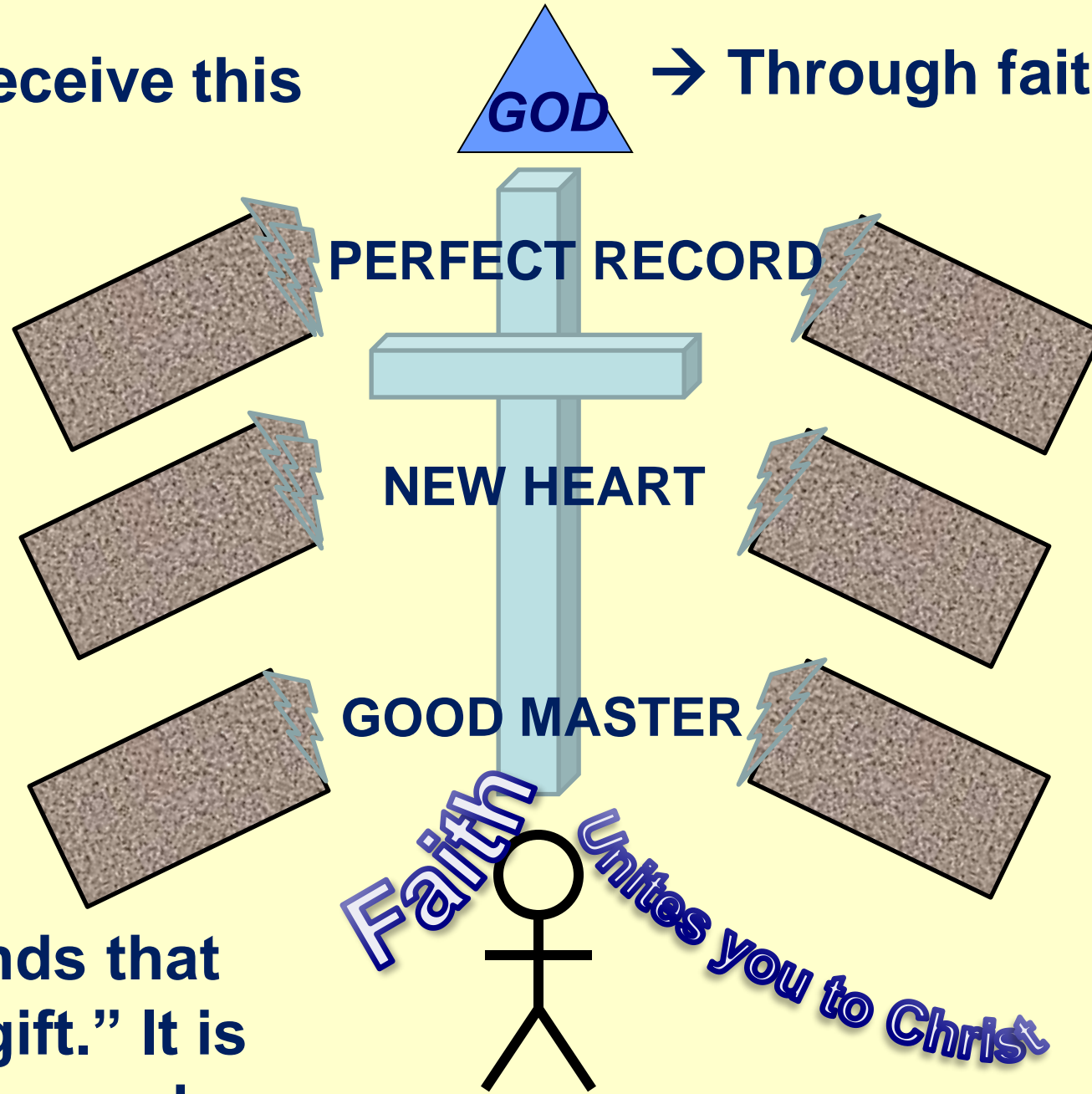
Acts 17:31 (NIV)

# **The Logic of Christ's Resurrection**

- God the Father raised his Son, “the Lord Jesus Christ,” from the dead as Ruler over all things.
- The Father and the Son sent the Holy Spirit into the world to give new life to those who trust in him. He empowers and comforts them now.
- Jesus Christ will return again in glory to bring perfect justice and judgment and usher in a glorious New Creation.

How do you receive this free gift?

→ Through faith in Christ alone!



Faith =  
“the empty hands that receive a free gift.” It is not a work that you do.

*Seek the LORD while he may be found;  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake his way,  
and the unrighteous man his thoughts;  
let him return to the LORD,  
that he may have compassion on him,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.*

Isaiah 55:6-7

*Godly sorrow brings repentance that  
leads to salvation and leaves no regret....*

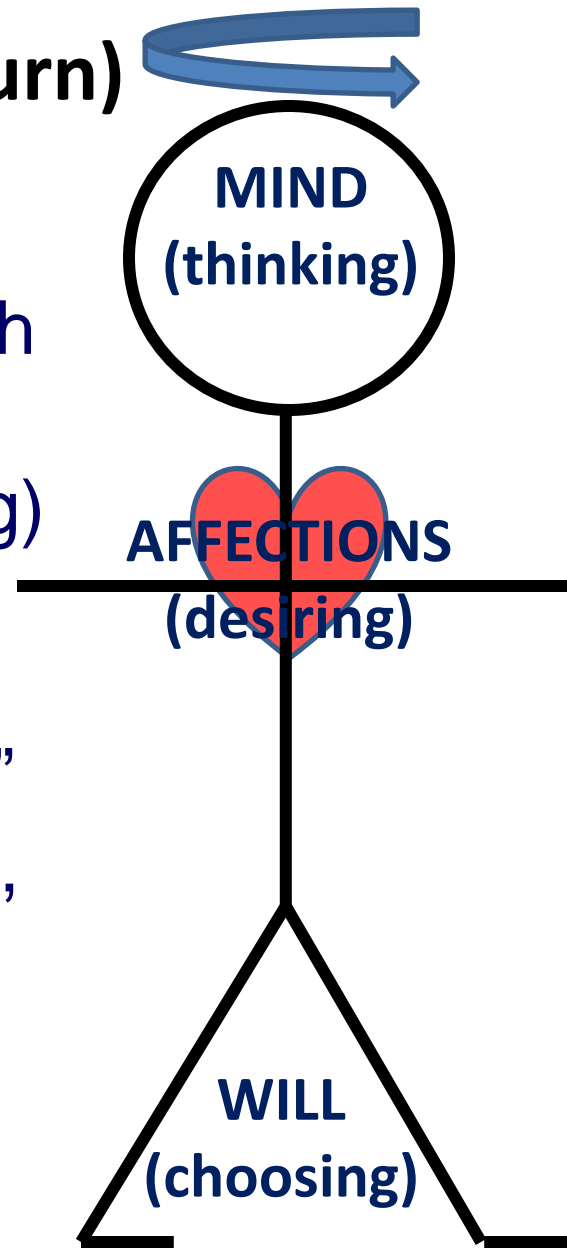
2 Corinthians 7:10

*...You turned to God from idols to serve  
the living and true God, and to wait for his  
Son from heaven, whom he raised from  
the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the  
wrath to come.*

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

## REPENTANCE (Turn)

What does this saving faith look like? Repentance (turning) and faith (trusting) are two sides of the same coin. You turn away from serving all the false “gods” that used to drive your life, and you trust in Christ as your Savior and Lord.



## FAITH (Trust)

Faith and repentance happen in the MIND, the AFFECTIONS, and the WILL.

(These are not three “parts” of the person, but looking at the same event from different angles.)

*If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.*

Romans 10:9

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.”*

Acts 16:31



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

*...I lay down my life for the sheep.*

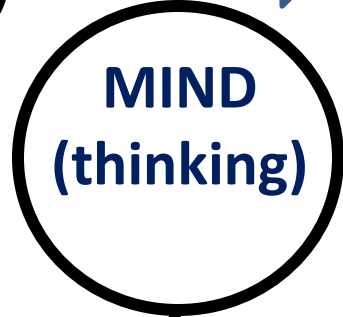
John 3:16; 10:15

# REPENTANCE (Turn)



# FAITH (Trust)

Know your desperate need—your sinful condition



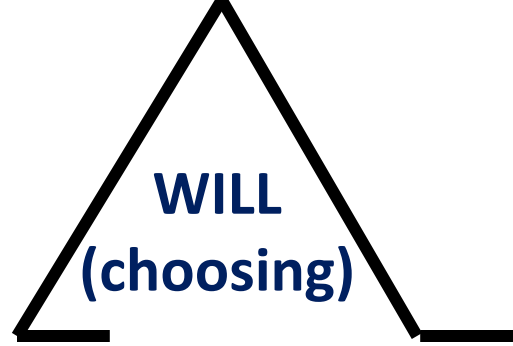
Know God's Provision—Christ who lived & died & rose again

Agree with God about your need



Agree with God about Christ

Turn from sin, from the heart



Rely wholly upon Christ alone

*For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

John 3:16 (KJV)

Will you surrender your life to the Lord Jesus Christ today, by turning from your self-oriented life and trusting in him alone?

Here is a suggested prayer that you can make your own:

“Dear God, I have lived for myself and wanted my own way, not yours. I have been envious, proud, and bitter, and have often failed to love you and others. I have not listened to your Word, the Bible. But now I turn from sin and trust in Jesus Christ who lived the perfect life that I could not live, and died a sinner’s death in my place. I deserved the judgment that he bore. Please forgive me for all my sins, and receive me because of Jesus. Come into my heart now, by your Holy Spirit, and be my Savior and my King.”