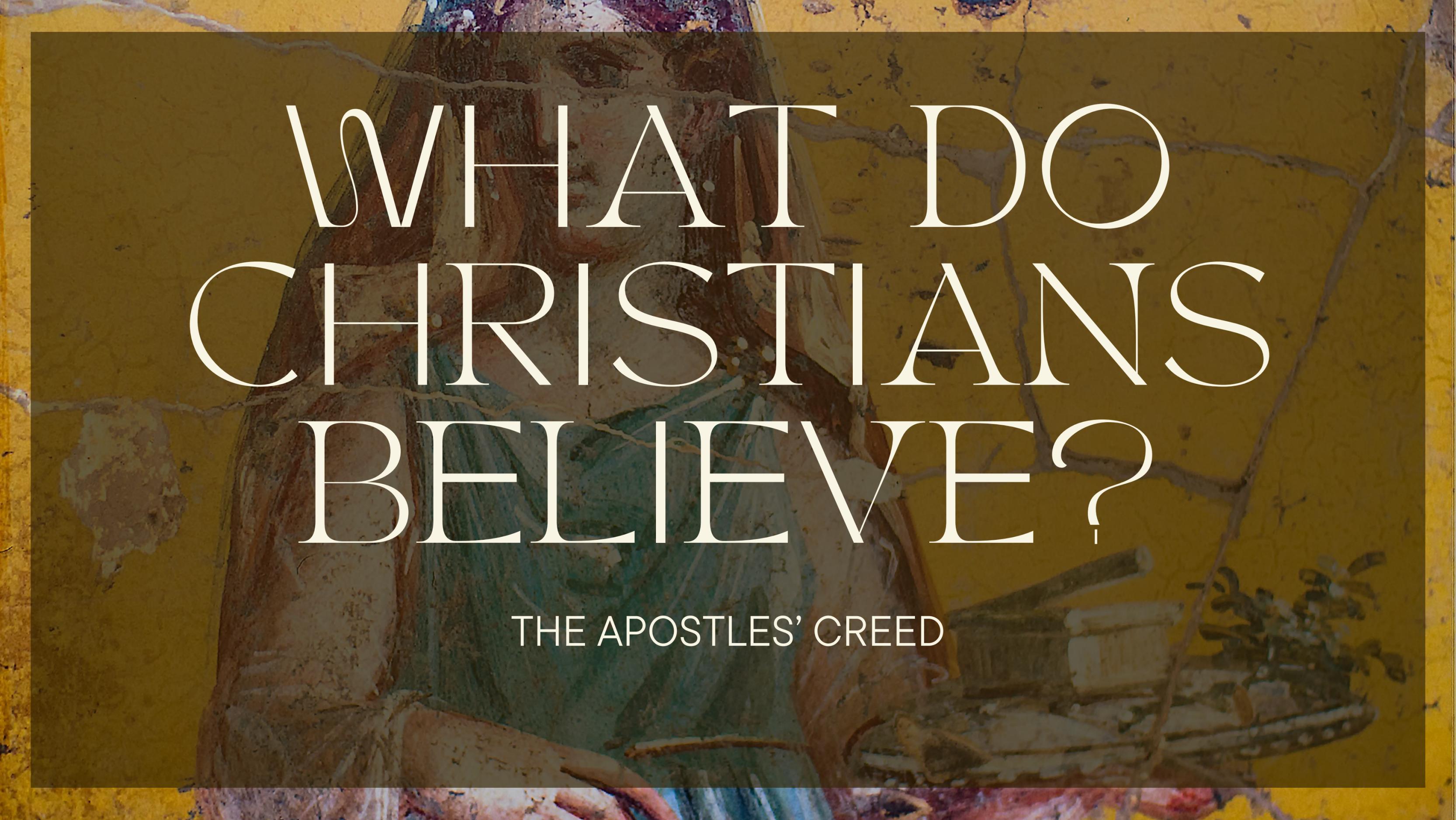


*Where can I go
from your spirit?*

*** even here**

*Where can I flee
from your presence?*

experiencing God in the Psalms * challenge conference 2026



WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?

THE APOSTLES' CREED

The Apostles' Creed is a
summary of the core beliefs of
the Christian faith

My hope for this series...

1. You would gain confidence in **WHAT** you believe as a Christian
2. You would know **WHY** it matters
3. You would be **EQUIPPED** to detect false teaching

THE TRINITY

God eternally exists as one essence and three distinct persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Each person is fully God, yet there is ONE God.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

1. The Father INITIATES salvation
2. The Son ACCOMPLISHES salvation
3. The Spirit APPLIES salvation

If you believe...

- Jesus attained godhood through his earthly life, but does not share ONE ESSENCE with the Father and Spirit, then you believe what Mormons believe.
- Jesus was a *perfect man* who will reign over God's Kingdom, but is not worthy of our worship because He is not the same as Almighty God, then you believe what Jehovah's Witnesses believe.

If you believe...

- Jesus was simply a *mighty prophet*, but not God, then you believe what Muslims believe.
- Jesus is just a *good moral teacher*, then you believe what most non-believers in our culture believe.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and Earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried;
He descended into hell;
The third day he rose again from the dead;

THE APOSTLES' CREED

He ascended into heaven,
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;
From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic* church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*catholic = *universal*

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in Jesus Christ his only son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary;

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Part 3: God the Son, Incarnation

OUTLINE

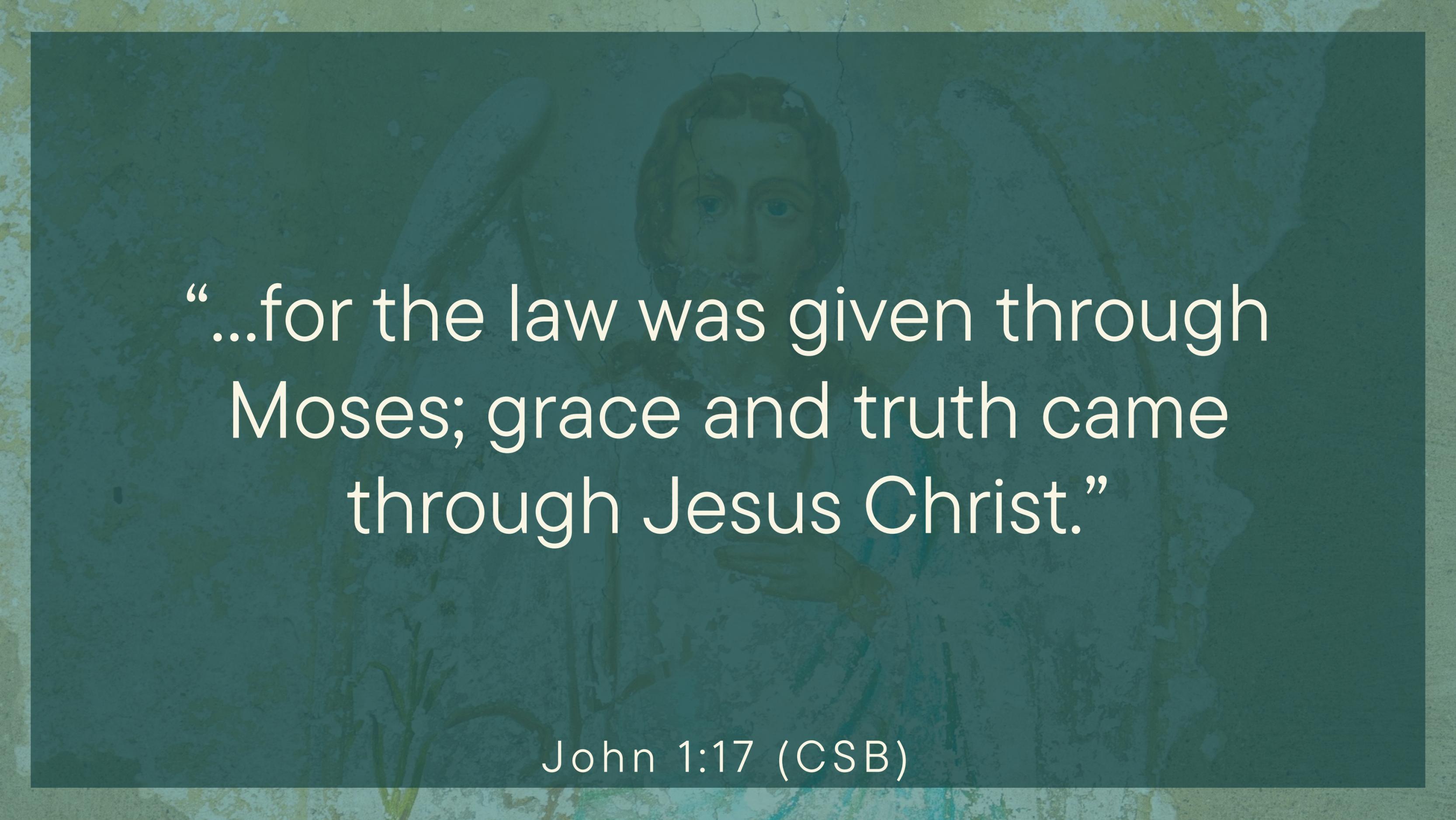
1. BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS
 - a. John 1:1-4, 14, 17
 - b. Luke 1:26-38
2. WHY IT MATTERS

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was with God in the beginning. ³All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created. ⁴In him was life, and that life was the light of men.

John 1:1-4 (CSB)

¹⁴The Word became flesh and dwelt among us. We observed his glory, the glory as the one and only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth

John 1:14 (CSB)



“...for the law was given through
Moses; grace and truth came
through Jesus Christ.”

John 1:17 (CSB)

Jesus Christ has TWO natures
– a full human nature, and a
full divine nature

Incar...what?

- Incarnation – God becoming a man
- “Incarnation” just means “in flesh”

³¹Now listen: You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you will name him Jesus. ³²He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David. ³³He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and his kingdom will have no end...³⁵The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. Therefore, the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God."

Luke 1:31-33, 35 (CSB)

Why Does It Matter if Jesus was fully God?

1. Because other groups will try to convince you otherwise...

And the Word was...what?

JW
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Jehovah's Witnesses

English

Log

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Bible Teachings > Bible Verses Explained > John 1:1—"In the Beginning Was the Word"

BIBLE VERSES EXPLAINED

John 1:1—"In the Beginning Was the Word"

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was a god."—John 1:1, New World Translation.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."—John 1:1, *New International Version.* *

No article?

Article



1 *Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος.



No article

Does verse 6 have the article in front of "God"?

- No!
- But it is still translated as "of God" instead of "of a god." Why?

6 There came a man who was sent as a representative of God;

Does verse 13 have the article in front of "God"?

- No!
- But it is still translated as "from God" instead of "from a god." Why?

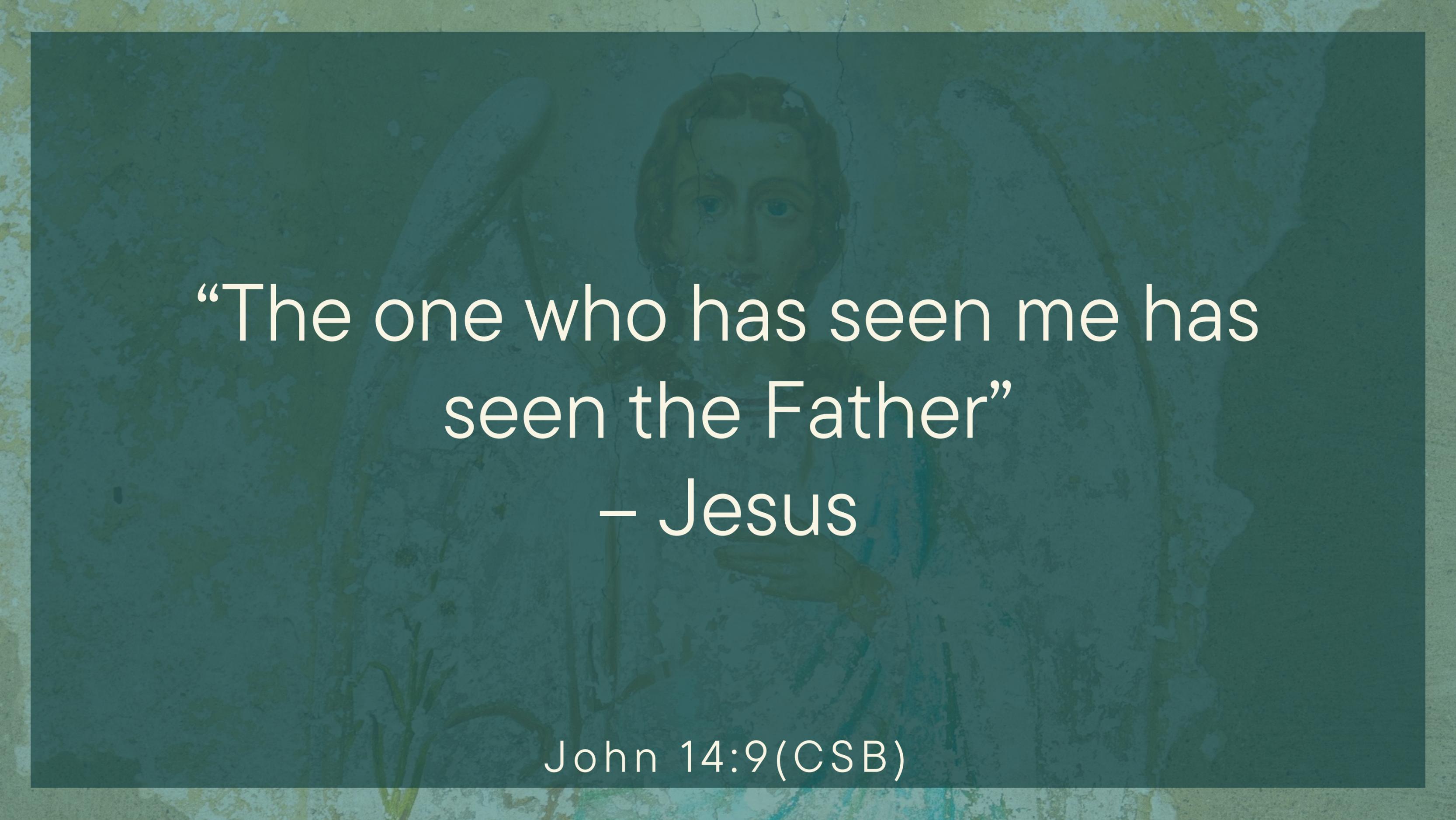
13 And they were born, not from blood or from a fleshly will or from man's will, but from God.⁺

Does verse 18 have the article in front of "God"?

truth came to be through Jesus Christ. ⁺ **18** No man has seen God at any time; ⁺ the only-begotten god ⁺ who is at the Father's side ^{*} ⁺ is the one who has explained Him. ⁺

Why Does It Matter if Jesus was fully God?

1. Because other groups will try to convince you otherwise...
2. In Jesus, we truly see who GOD IS

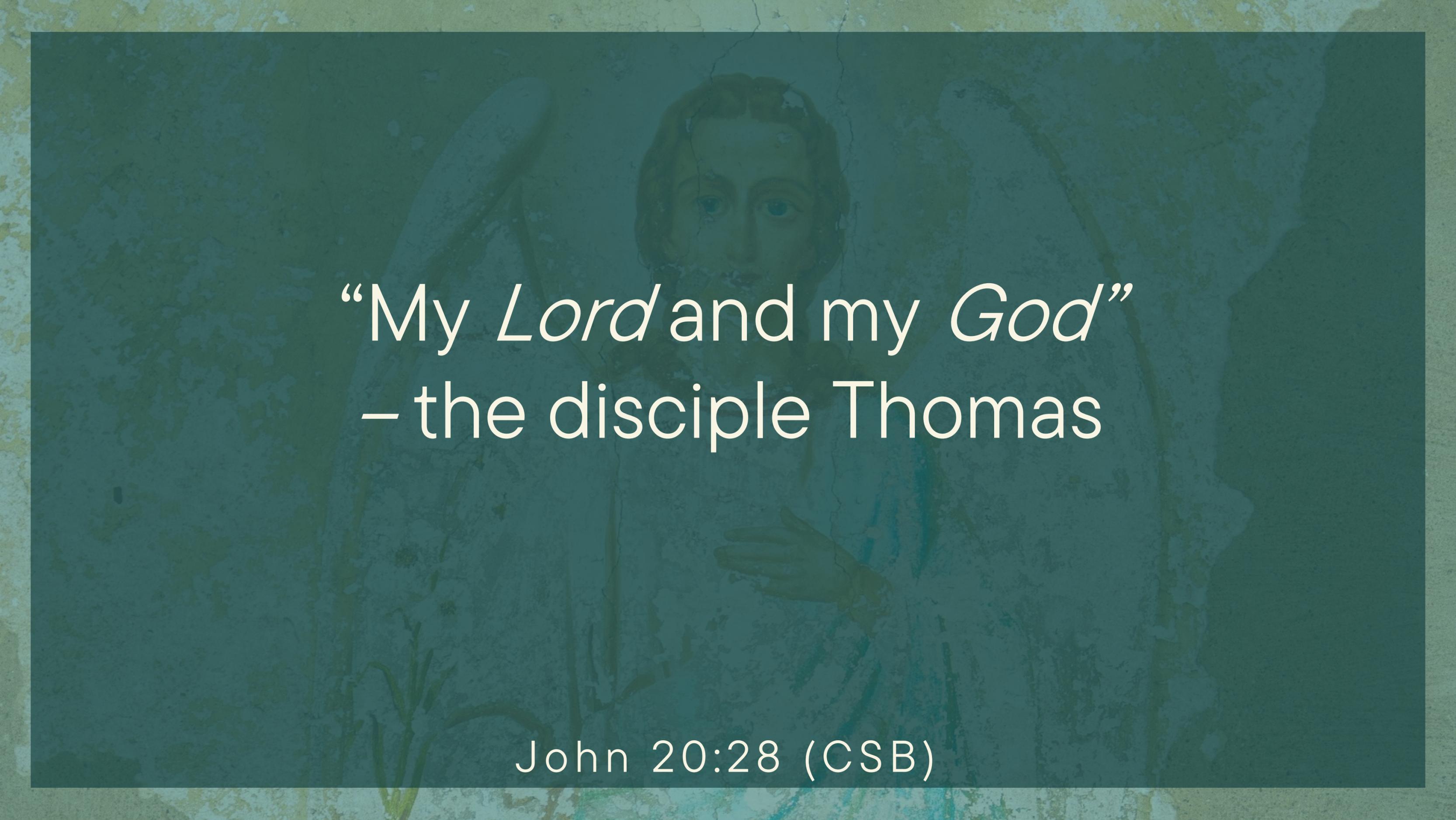
A faded, artistic background image of Jesus with his arms outstretched, set against a textured, light-colored wall. The image is overlaid with a dark teal semi-transparent rectangle.

“The one who has seen me has
seen the Father”
– Jesus

John 14:9 (CSB)

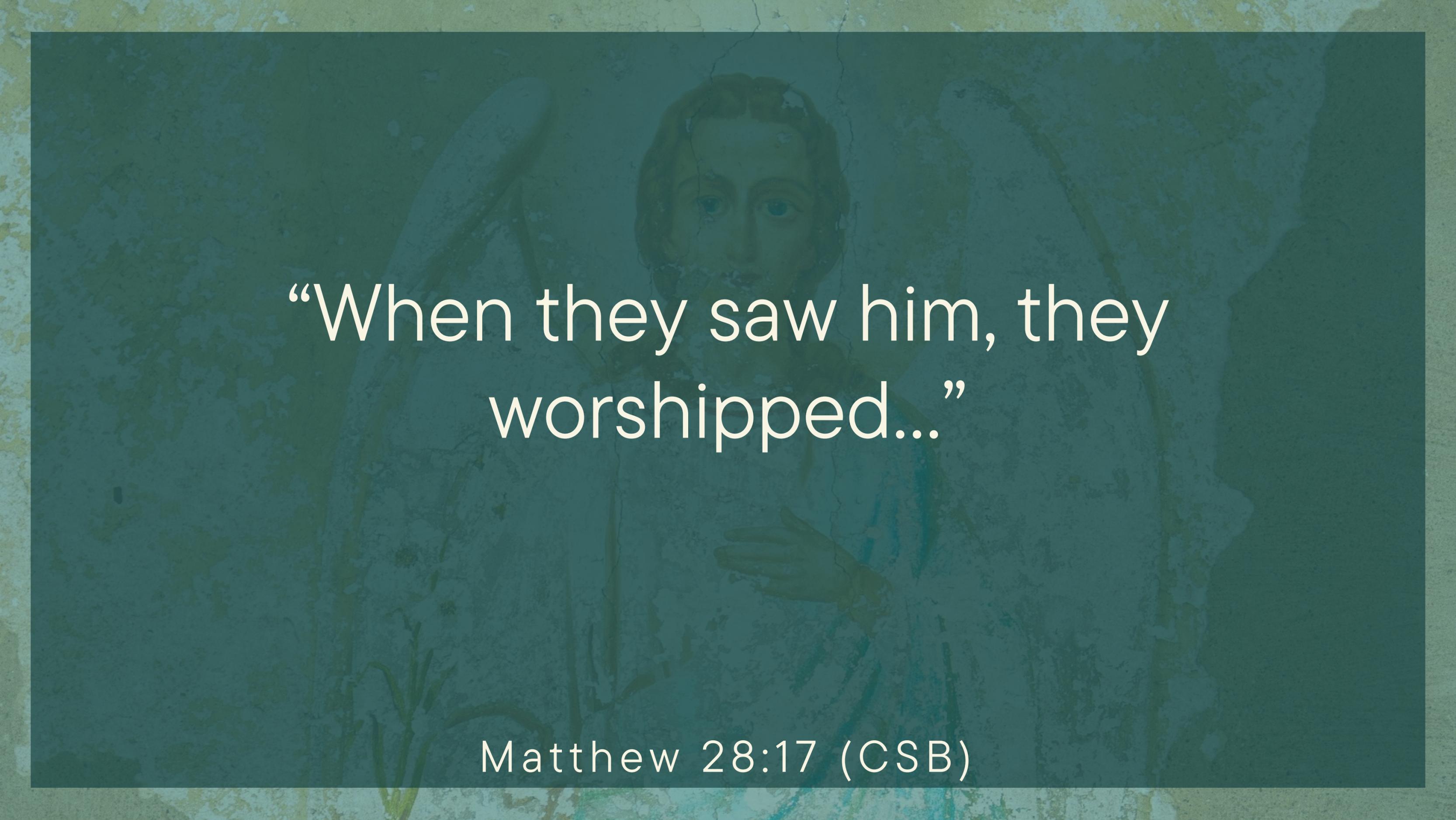
Why Does It Matter if Jesus was fully God?

1. Because other groups will try to convince you otherwise...
2. In Jesus, we truly see who GOD IS
3. Jesus being fully God means we should worship
Him

A faded, artistic background image depicting the Resurrection of Christ. Christ is shown emerging from a stone tomb, with his arms outstretched. The scene is set in a rocky, cavernous environment. The overall color palette is muted, with shades of blue, green, and brown.

“My *Lord* and my *God*”
– the disciple Thomas

John 20:28 (CSB)

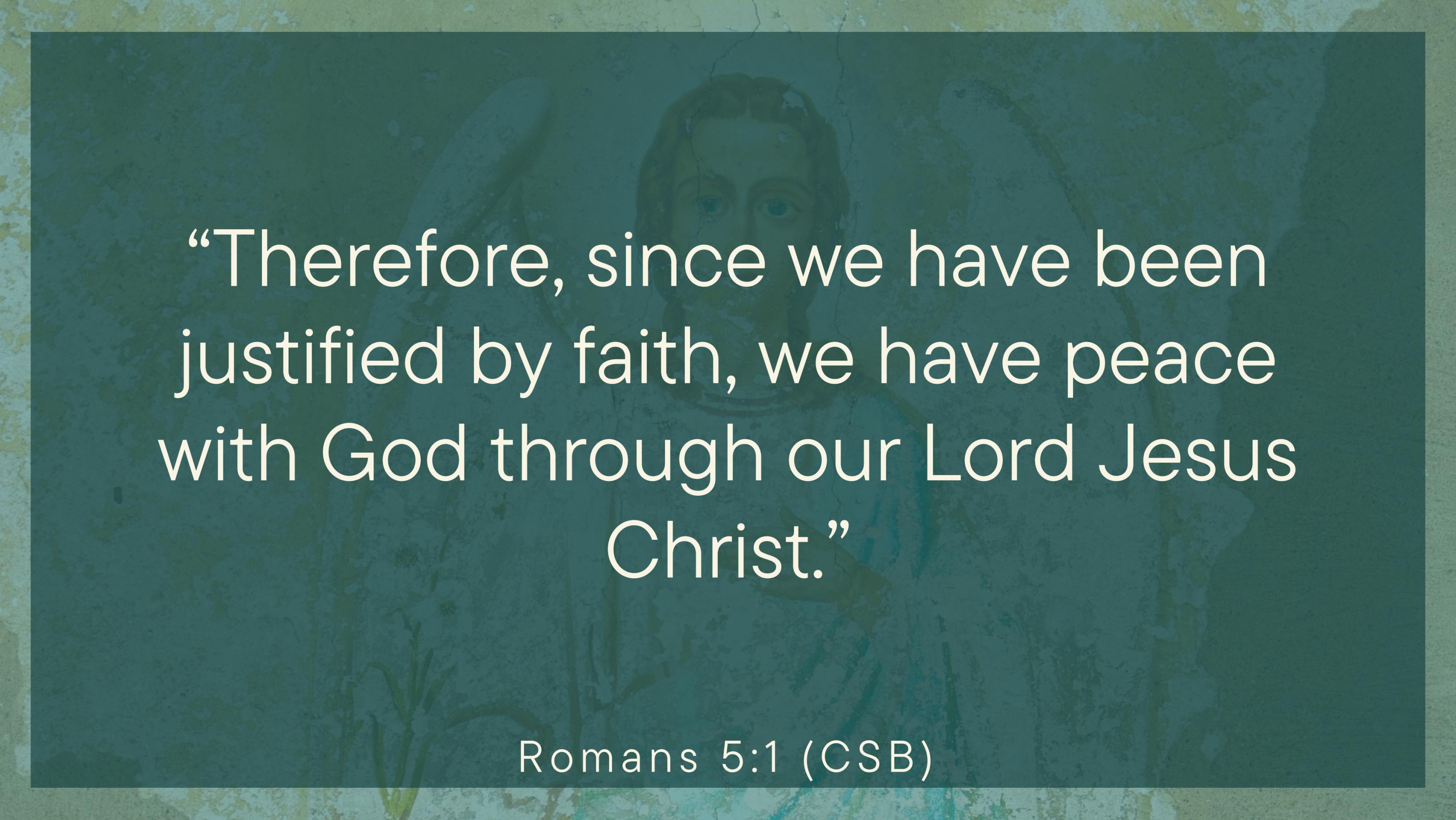


“When they saw him, they
worshipped...”

Matthew 28:17 (CSB)

Why Does It Matter if Jesus was fully God?

1. Because other groups will try to convince you otherwise...
2. In Jesus, we truly see who GOD IS
3. Jesus being fully God means we should worship Him
4. If Jesus is not fully God, then we can't be saved!



“Therefore, since we have been
justified by faith, we have peace
with God through our Lord Jesus
Christ.”

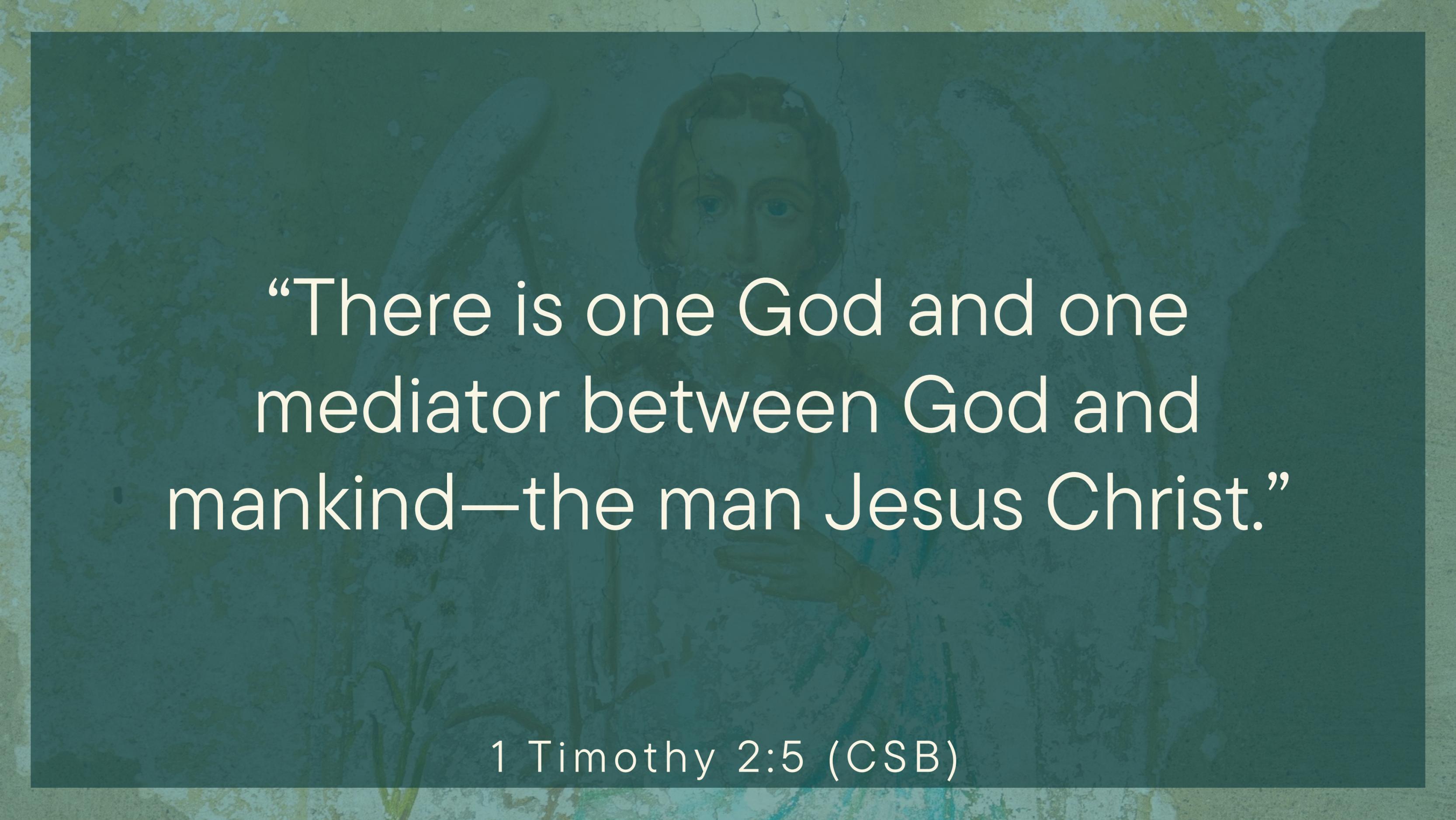
Romans 5:1 (CSB)

Why Does It Matter if Jesus was fully human?

1. Because only then could Jesus be our representative, take human sin upon himself, and be our sacrifice

“For just as through one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so also through one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.”

Romans 5:19 (CSB)



“There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind—the man Jesus Christ.”

1 Timothy 2:5 (CSB)

Say these three things
about Jesus:

1. Jesus Christ is fully human
2. Jesus Christ is fully God
3. The deity and humanity of Jesus Christ are united in one Person