



REVELATION

WHAT WAS, WHAT IS, AND WHAT IS TO COME.





Sardis – Dead!

Revelation 3:1-6

“Alpha — Omega”

“Things...seen”

“Beginning — End”

PAST

PRESENT

FUTURE

Son of Man in Heaven

The 7 Churches

The Cosmic Crisis

(After removal of true church and before the coming of Christ to creation)

“I am he that liveth”

“I was dead”

“the things which thou hast seen”

“Behold, I am alive”
“the things which are”

“I have the keys of hell and of death”
“the things about to be after these things [*meta tauta*]”

**Revelation 1
Christ in Glory**



**Revelation 2, 3
Church in the World**

**Revelation 4 — 22
Crisis in the Future**



Ephesus

Smyrna

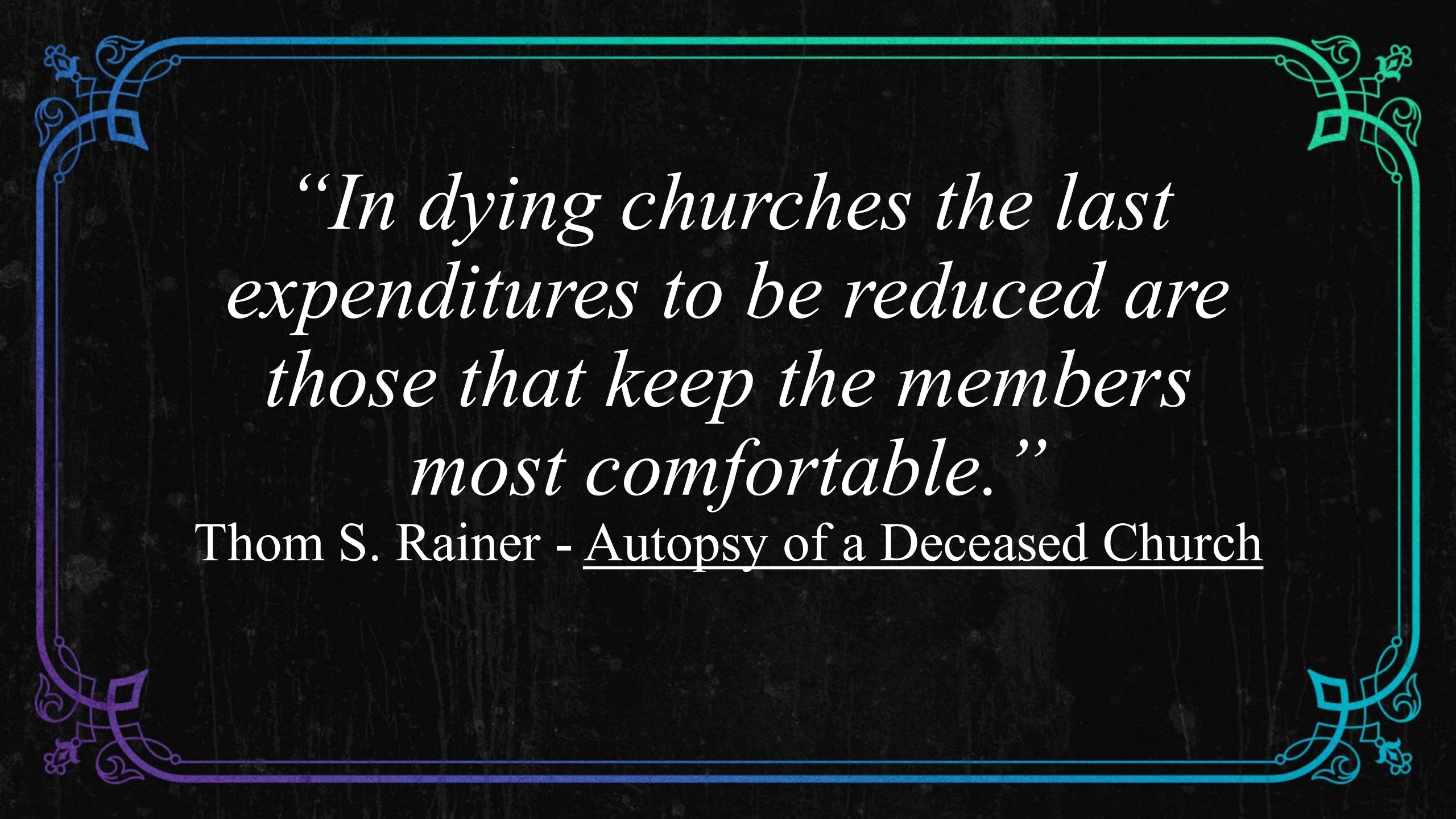
Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea



“In dying churches the last expenditures to be reduced are those that keep the members most comfortable.”

Thom S. Rainer - Autopsy of a Deceased Church



1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

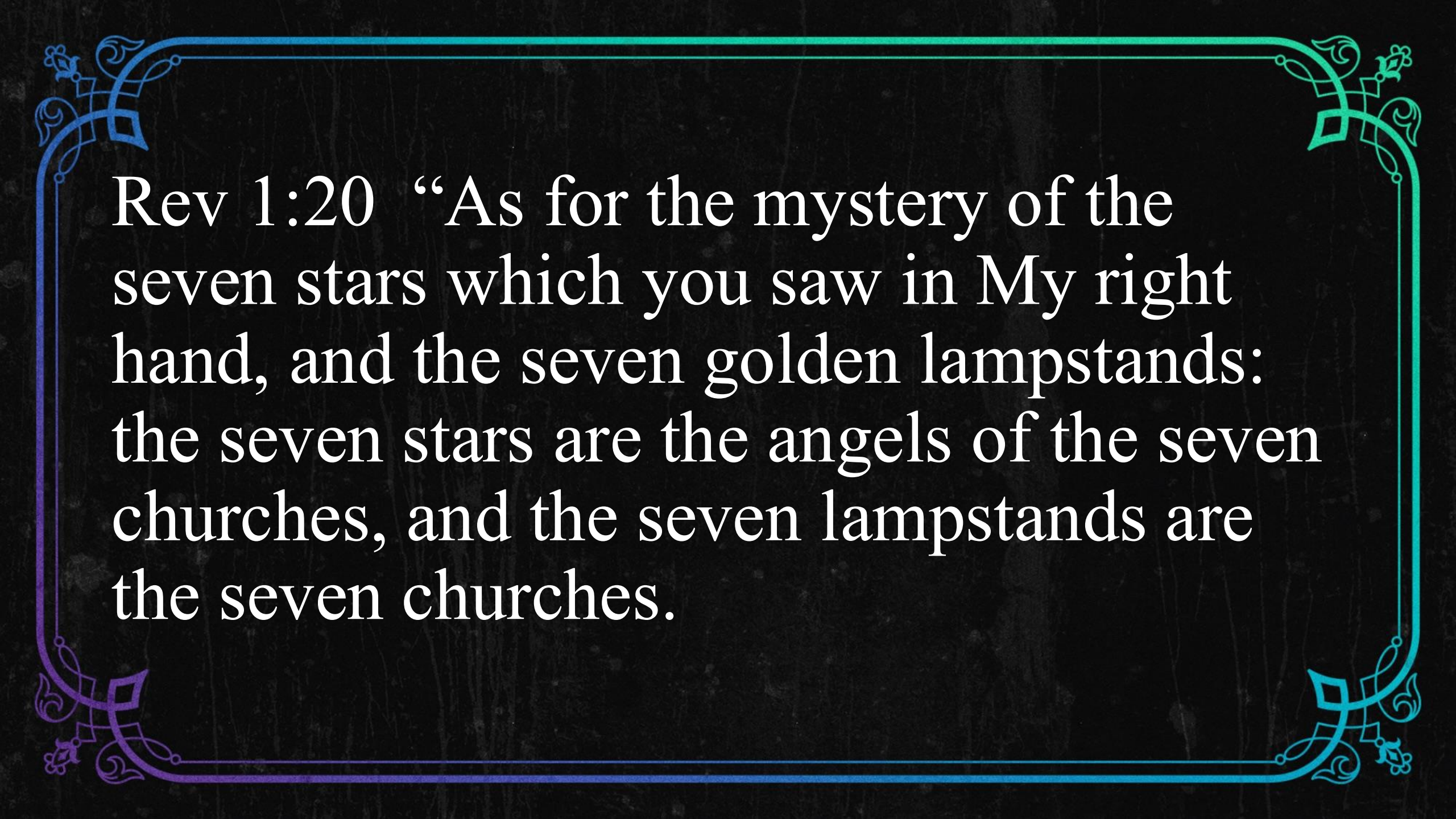
He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars, says this: ‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

City of Sardis 1

- Croesus (KREE-sus)
- “As rich as Croesus” – 1st minted coins!
- ‘impregnable?’ – not so fast!
- Looks secure but not so much – alive but not so much!

1 “To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

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Rev 1:20 “As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Christ and the 7 Spirits 1

- Rev 1:20 – 7 Stars and 7 Lampstands
- The 7 Spirits of God – Isaiah 11:1,2
- Fullness of God – OT (Col 1:19)
- Care and Holder of the Churches - NT

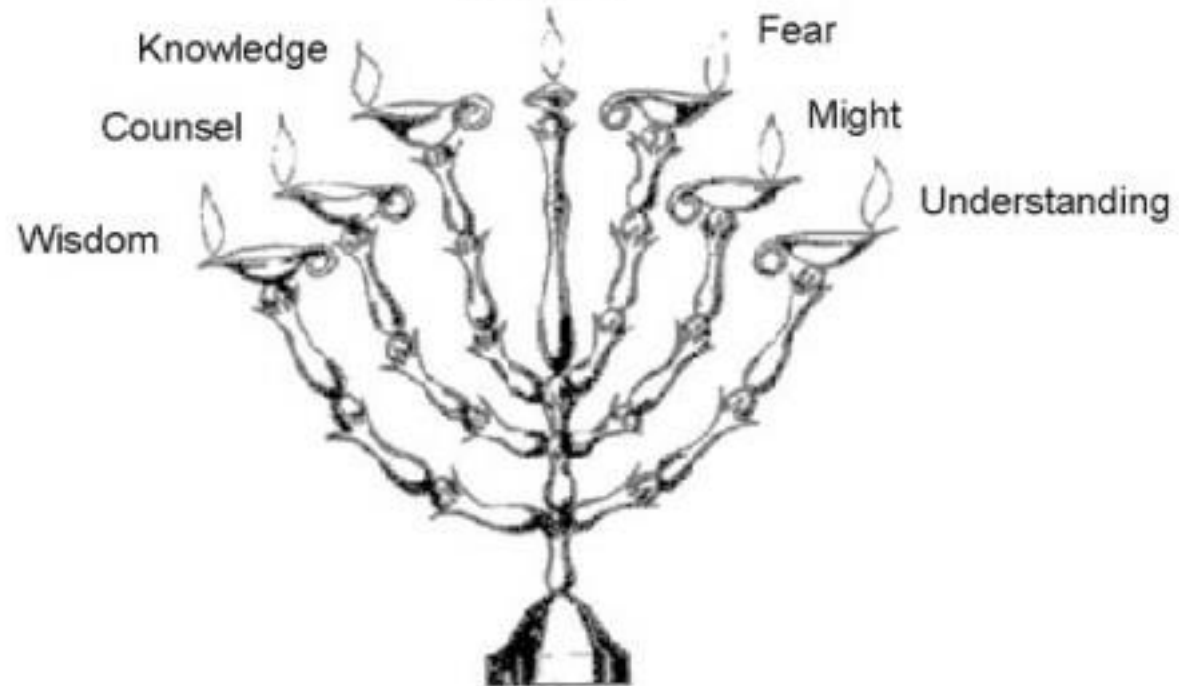
1 There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit. (CONIAH)

2 And the **Spirit of the LORD** shall rest upon him,
the **Spirit of wisdom** and **understanding**,
the **Spirit of counsel** and **might**,
the **Spirit of knowledge** and the **fear of the LORD**.

Isaiah 11

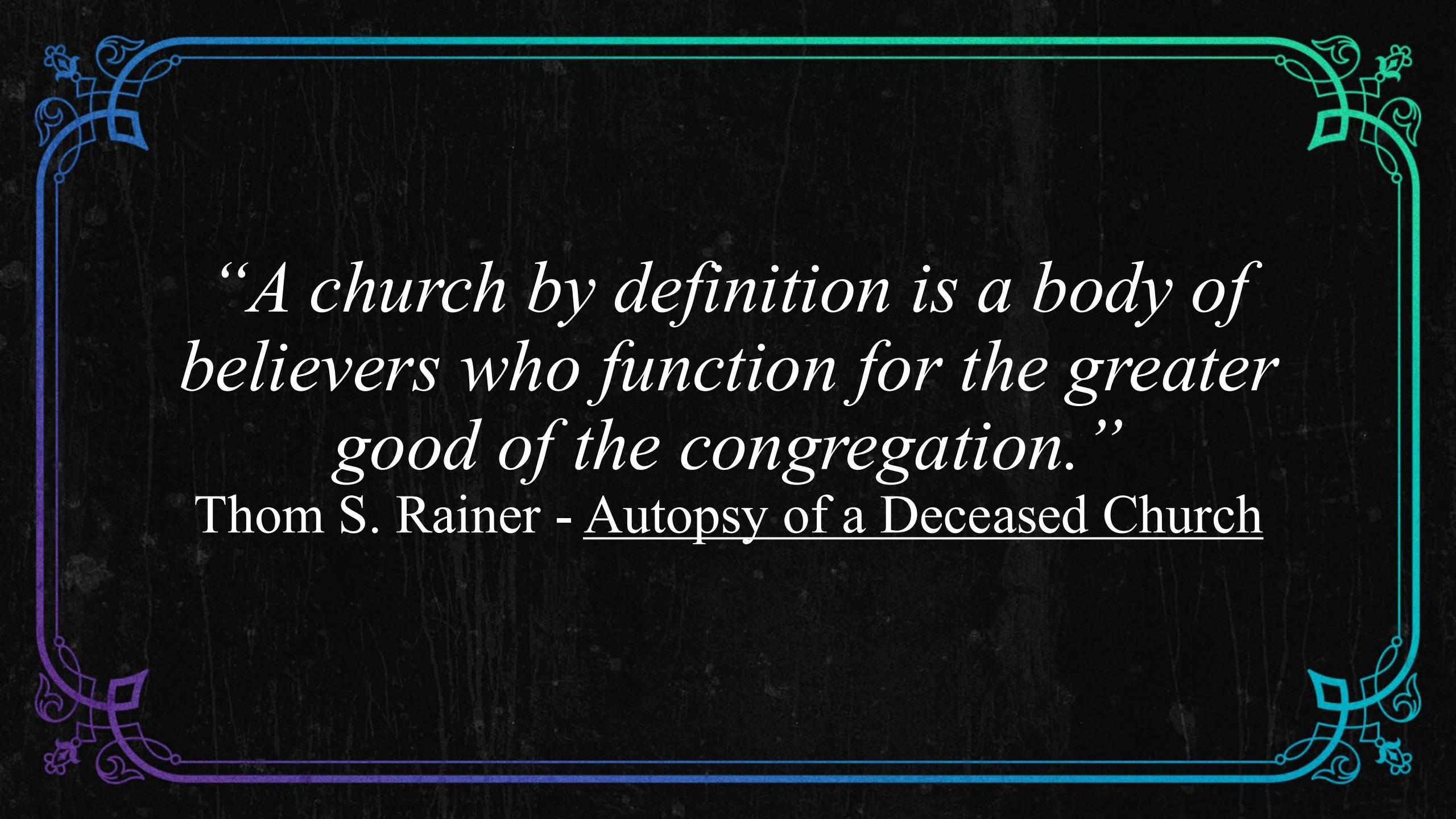
Isaiah 11:2

The Lord



Revelation 4:5

Seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God



“A church by definition is a body of believers who function for the greater good of the congregation.”

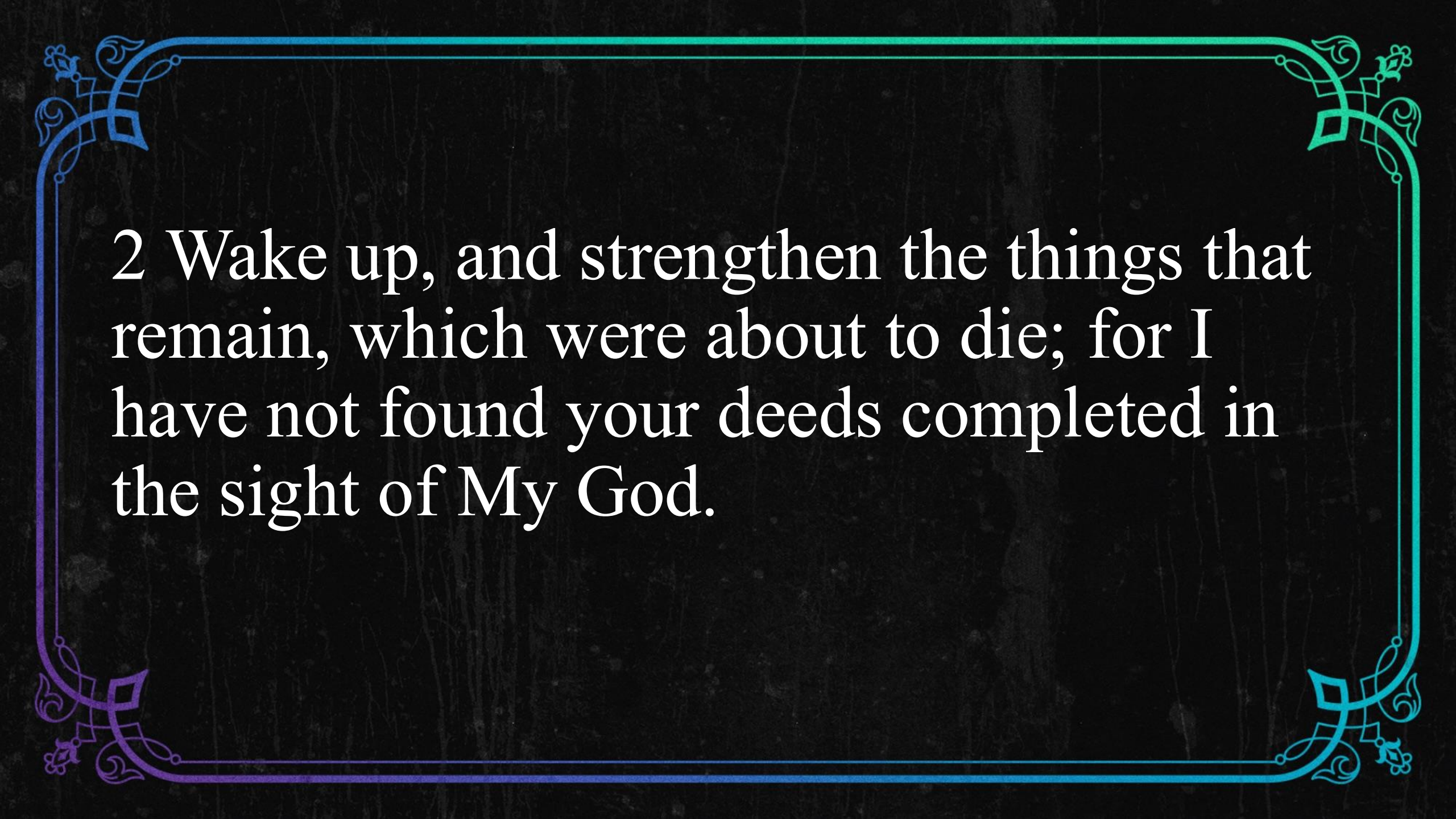
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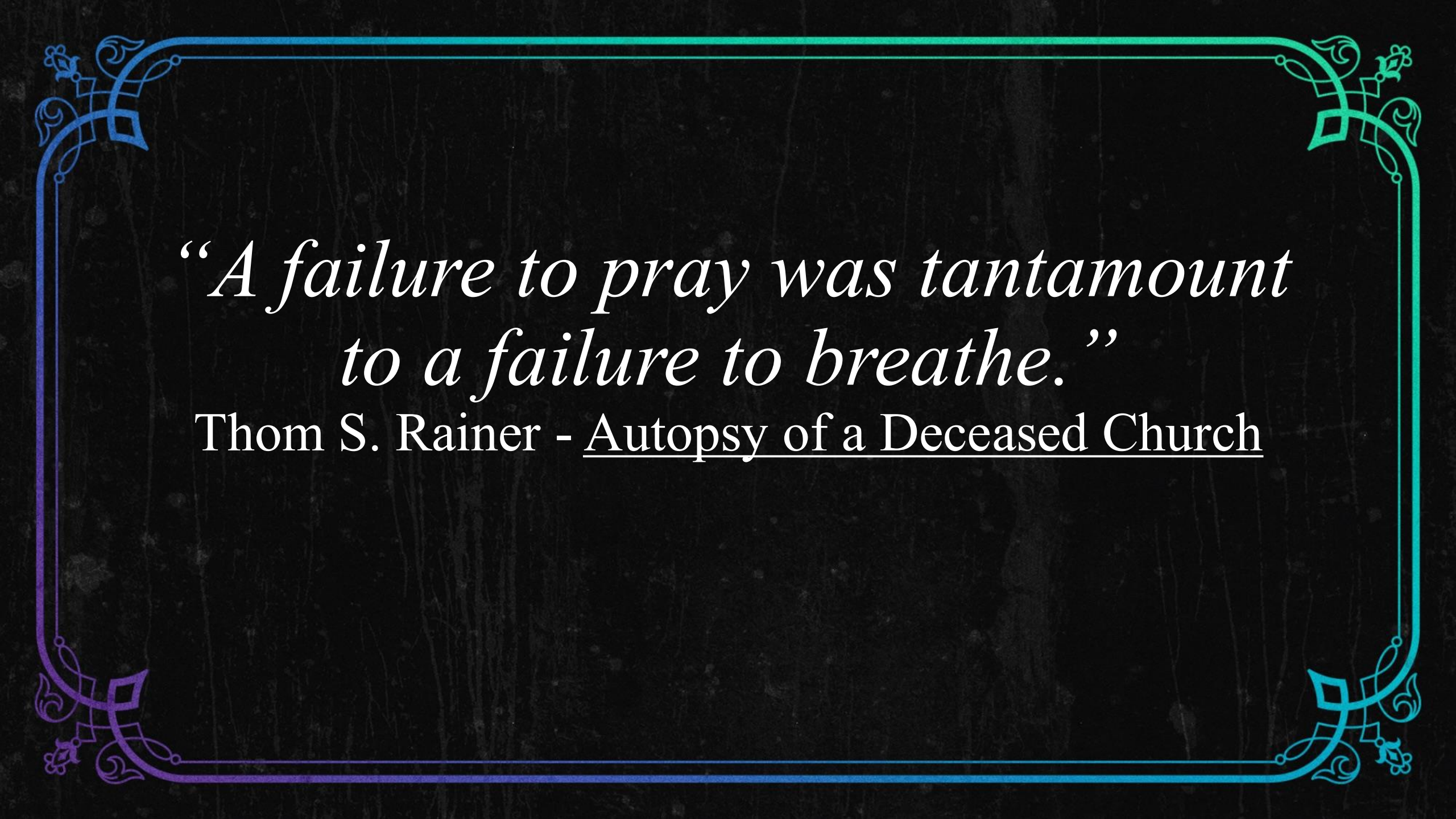
‘I know your deeds, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.



2 Wake up, and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die; for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

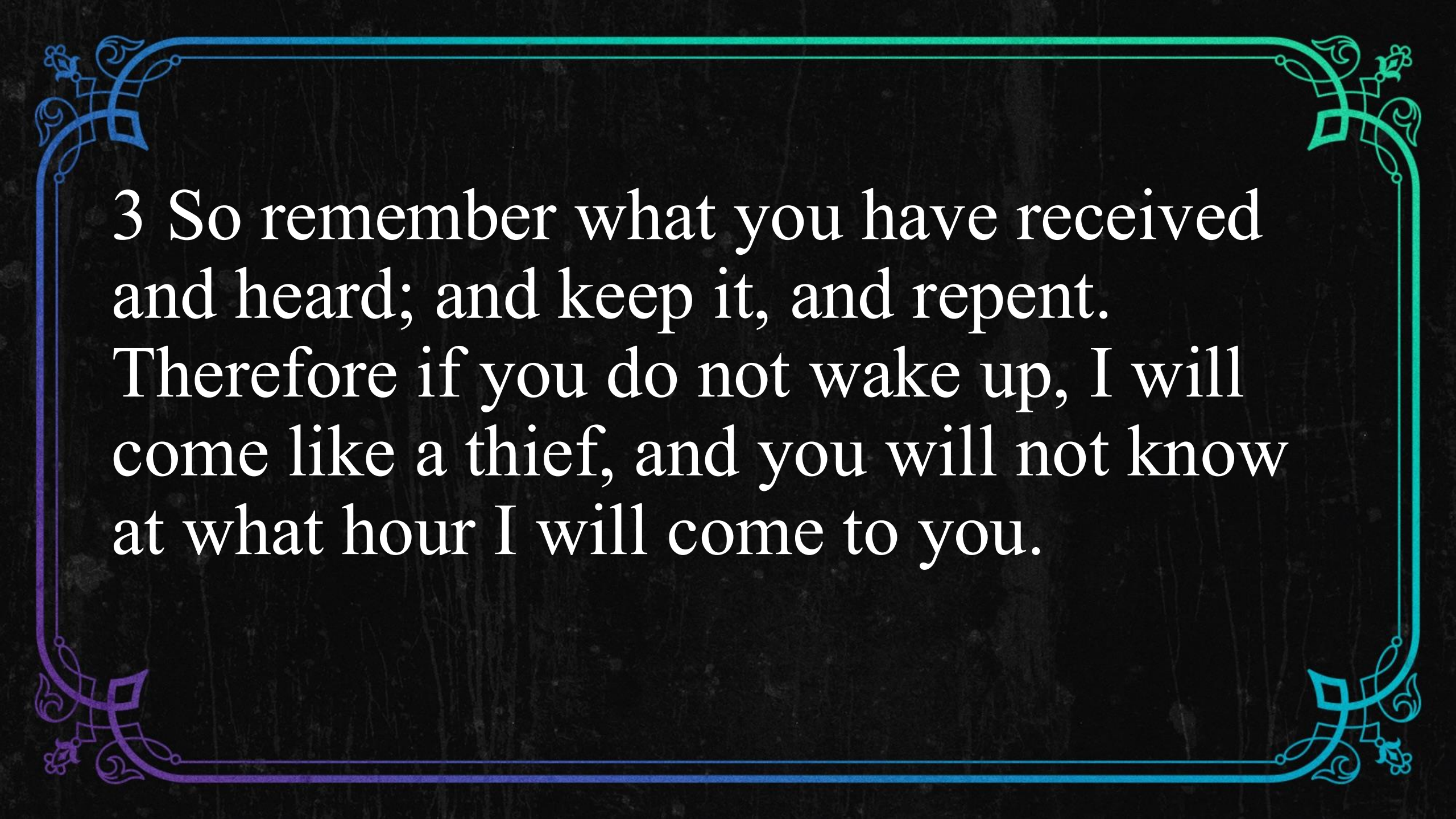
Criticism 1,2

- ‘I know’ – God always does!
- ‘you have a name’
- ‘alive BUT dead!’
- ‘WAKE UP!’
- Down but not out – yet...



*“A failure to pray was tantamount
to a failure to breathe.”*

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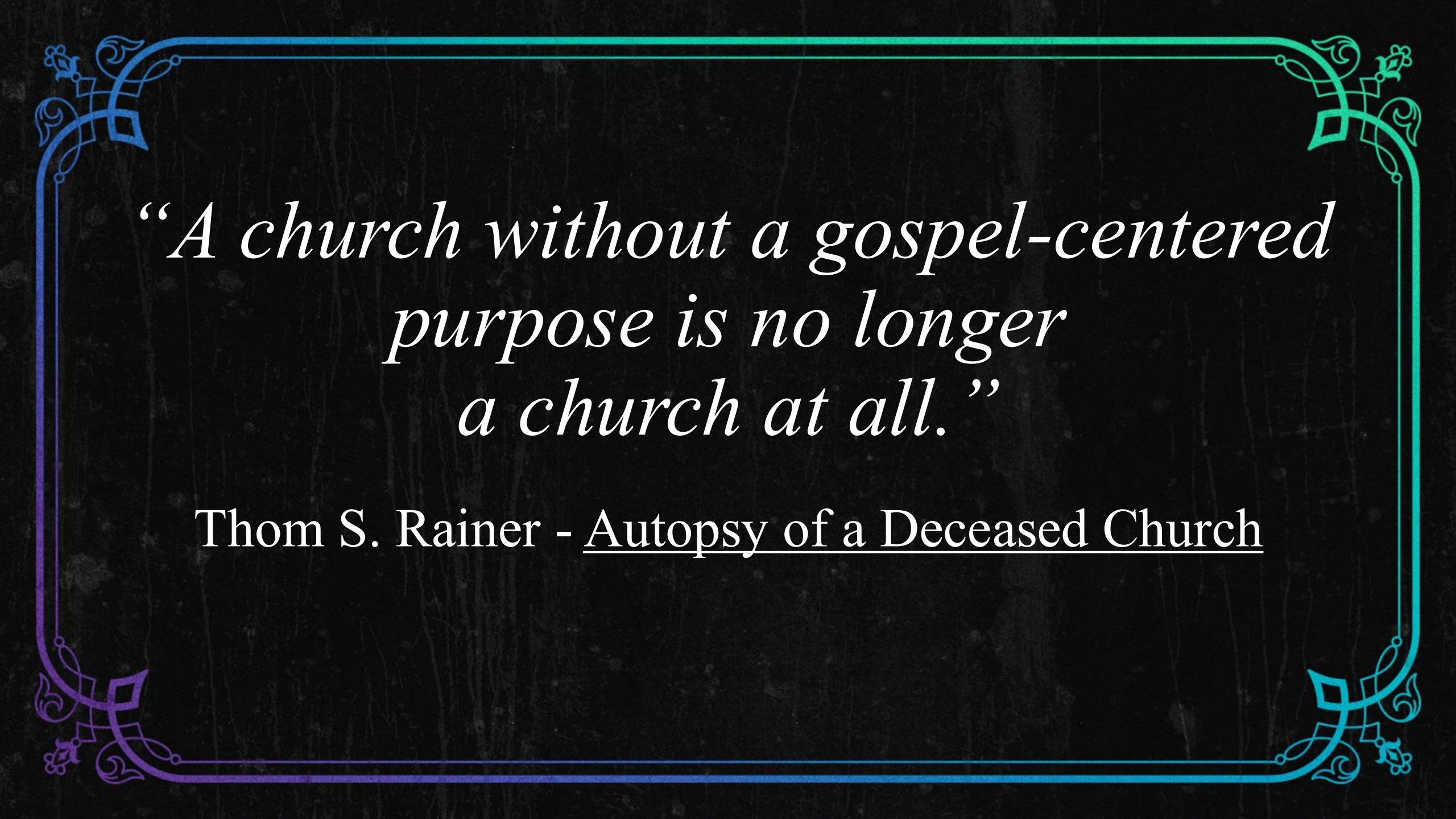


3 So remember what you have received and heard; and keep it, and repent.

Therefore if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

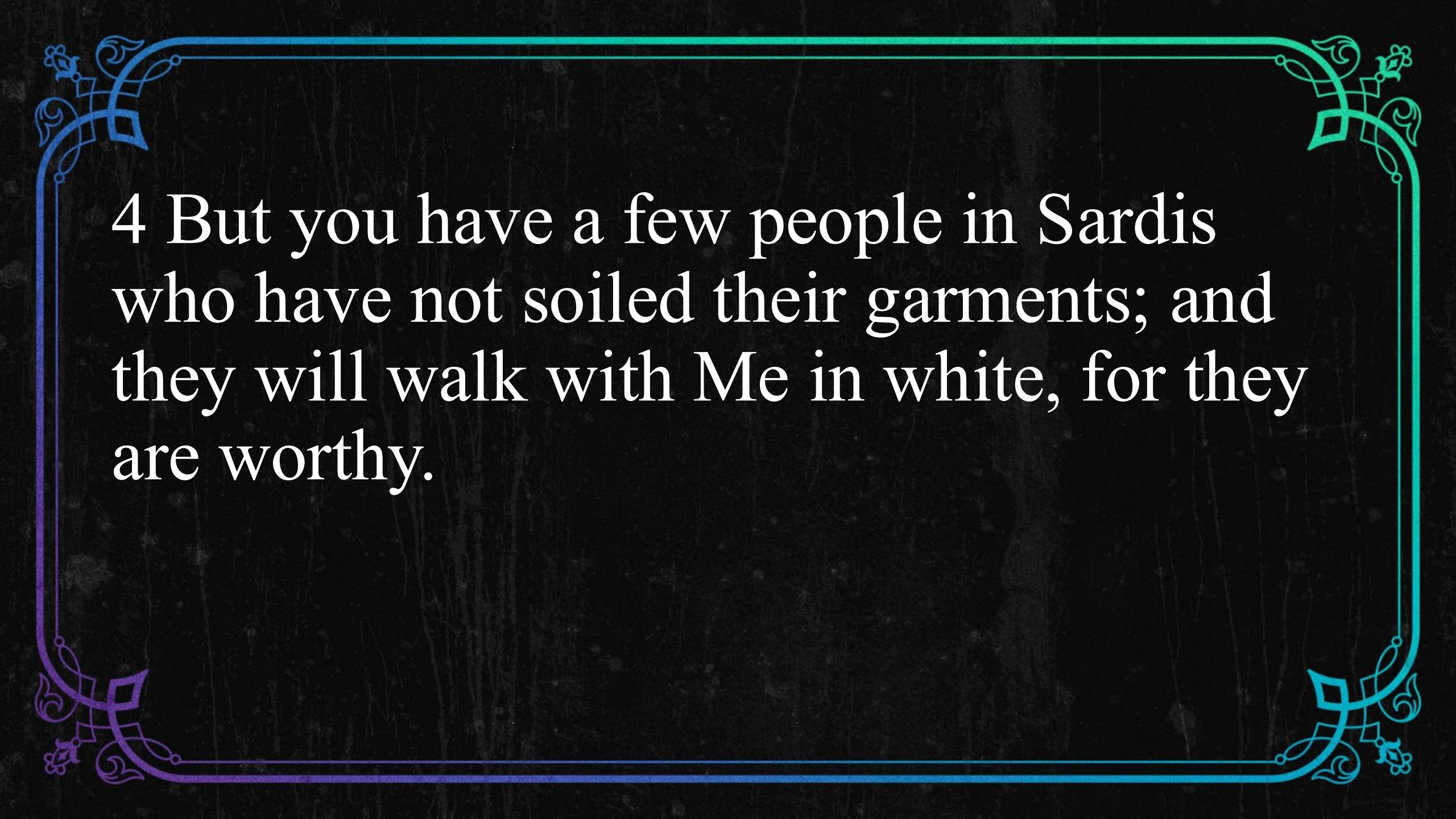
Consequences 3

- ‘Remember what you have received’
- 2 Timothy 2:2
- ‘keep it!’
- ‘repent’
- ‘if not...then’



“A church without a gospel-centered purpose is no longer a church at all.”

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4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their garments; and they will walk with Me in white, for they are worthy.

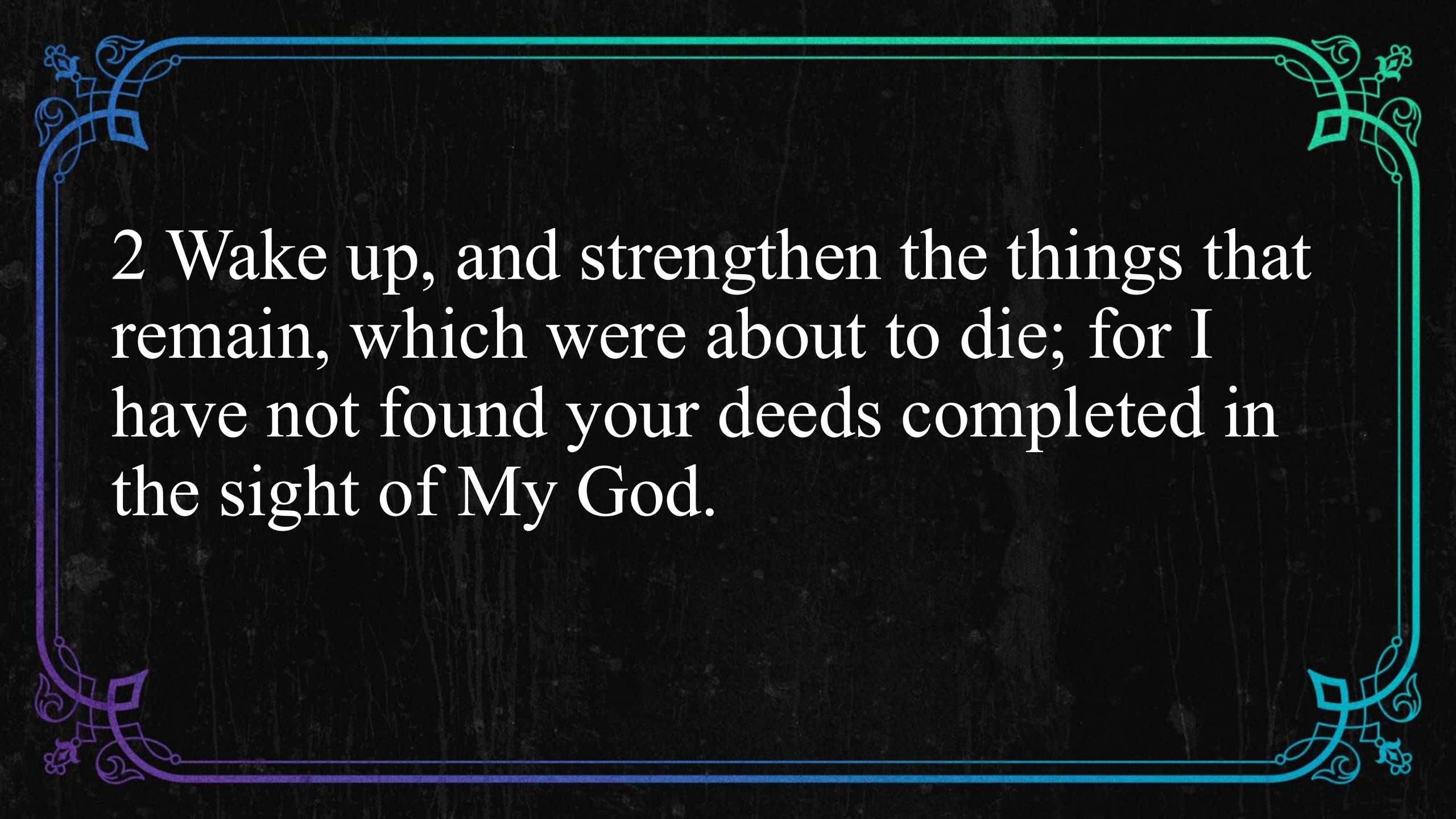
Condemnation 4

- ‘soiled garments’ (defiled – smeared)
- James 1:27 – “to keep oneself **unstained** from the world”
- Majority is NOT always right!
- ‘worthy’ in God’s eyes – our goal!

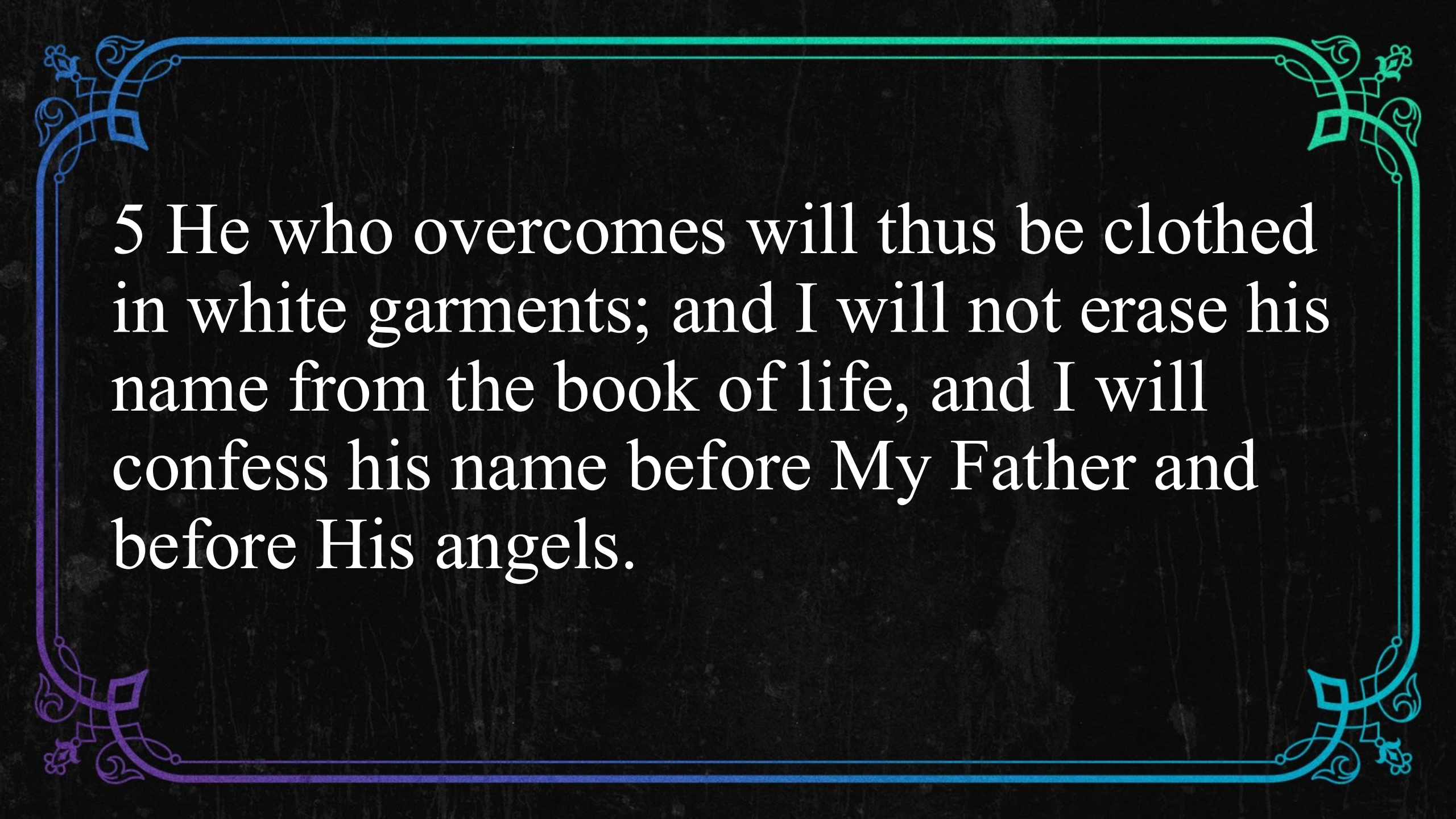


*“Yes, we respect the past.
At times we revere the past.
But we can’t live in the past.”*

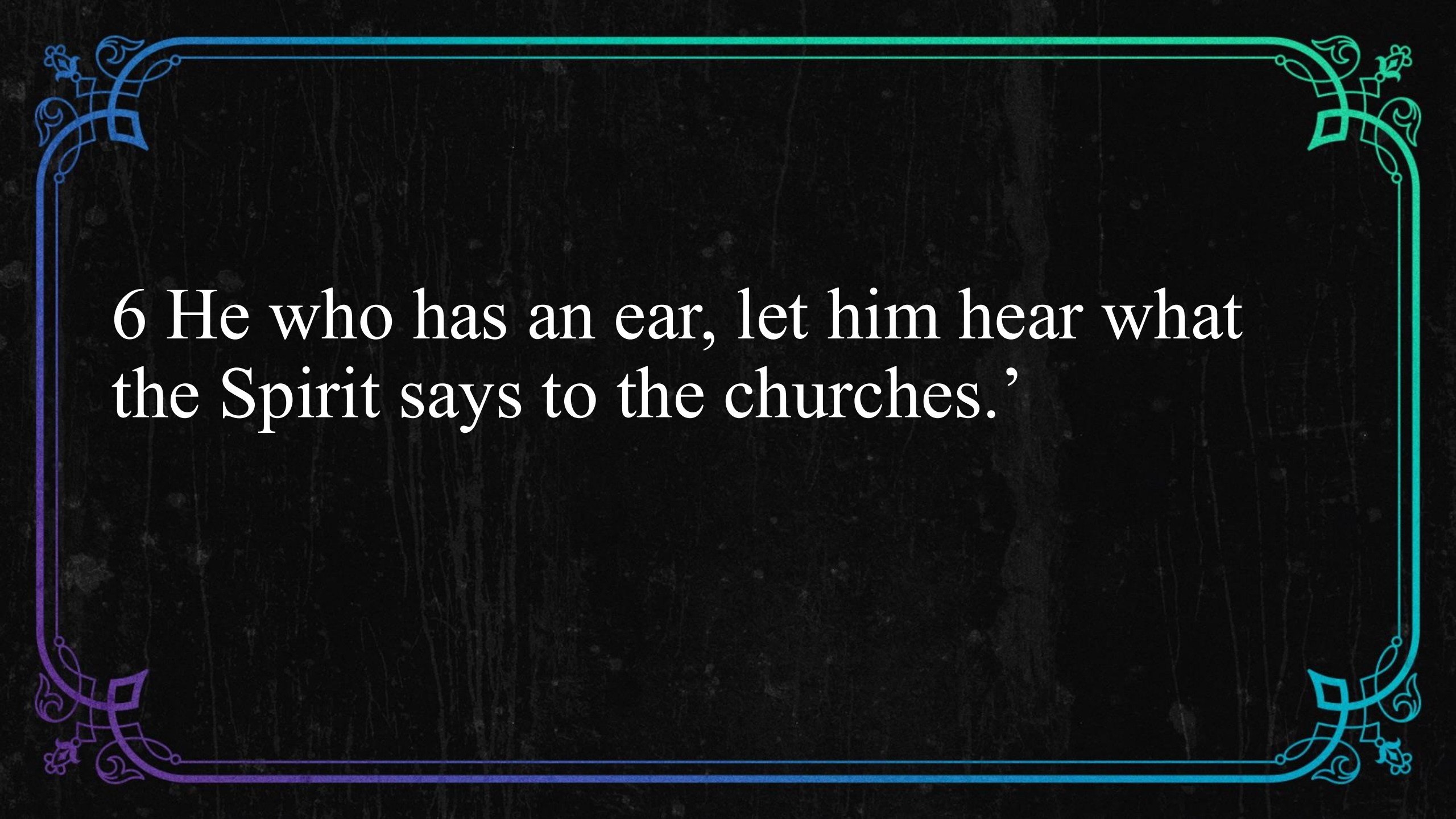
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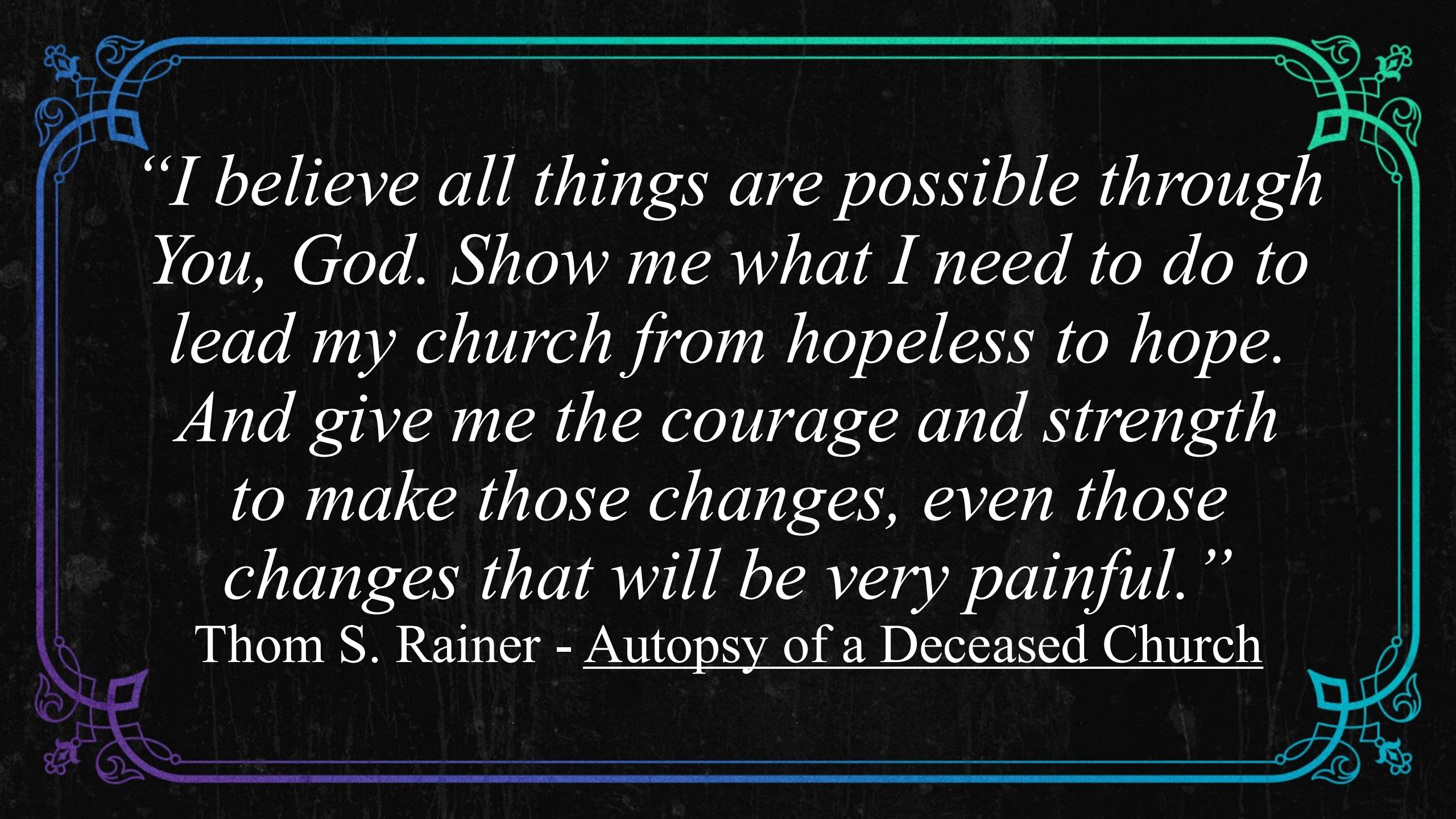
5 He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.



6 He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Cure 2,5,6

- “The church of Sardis was at peace - but it was the peace of the dead.” Barclay
- Wake up!
- ‘overcomes’ – against the flow
- ‘let him hear’ – are you listening?



“I believe all things are possible through You, God. Show me what I need to do to lead my church from hopeless to hope. And give me the courage and strength to make those changes, even those changes that will be very painful.”

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