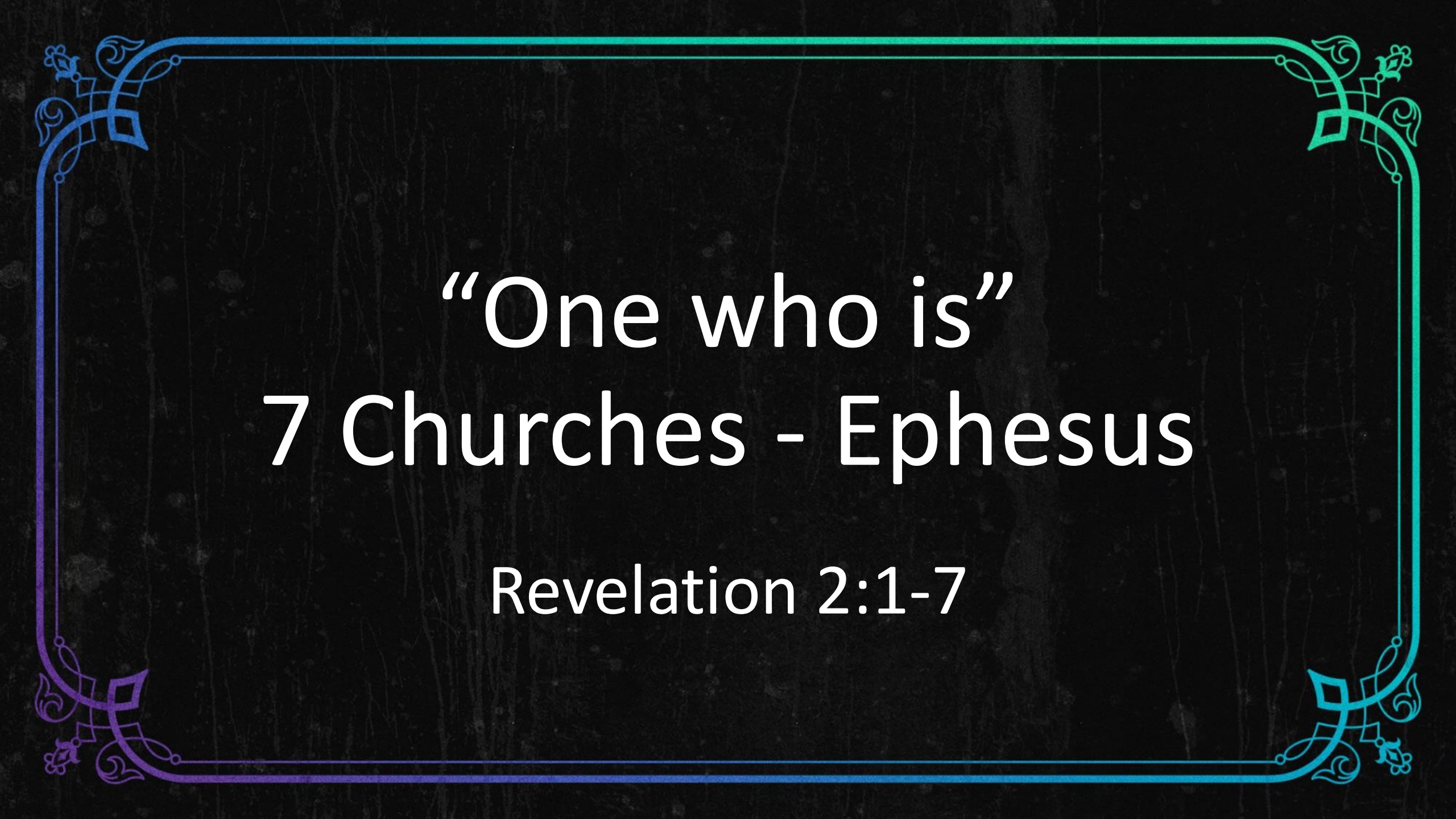




REVELATION

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





“One who is”
7 Churches - Ephesus

Revelation 2:1-7

“The Christian religion is the religion of sinners, of such as have sinned, and in whom sin in some measure still dwells. The Christian life is a life of continued repentance, humiliation for and mortification of sin, of continual faith in, thankfulness for, and love to the Redeemer, and hopeful joyful expectation of a day of glorious redemption, in which the believer shall be fully and finally acquitted, and sin abolished for ever.”

Matthew Henry

“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”

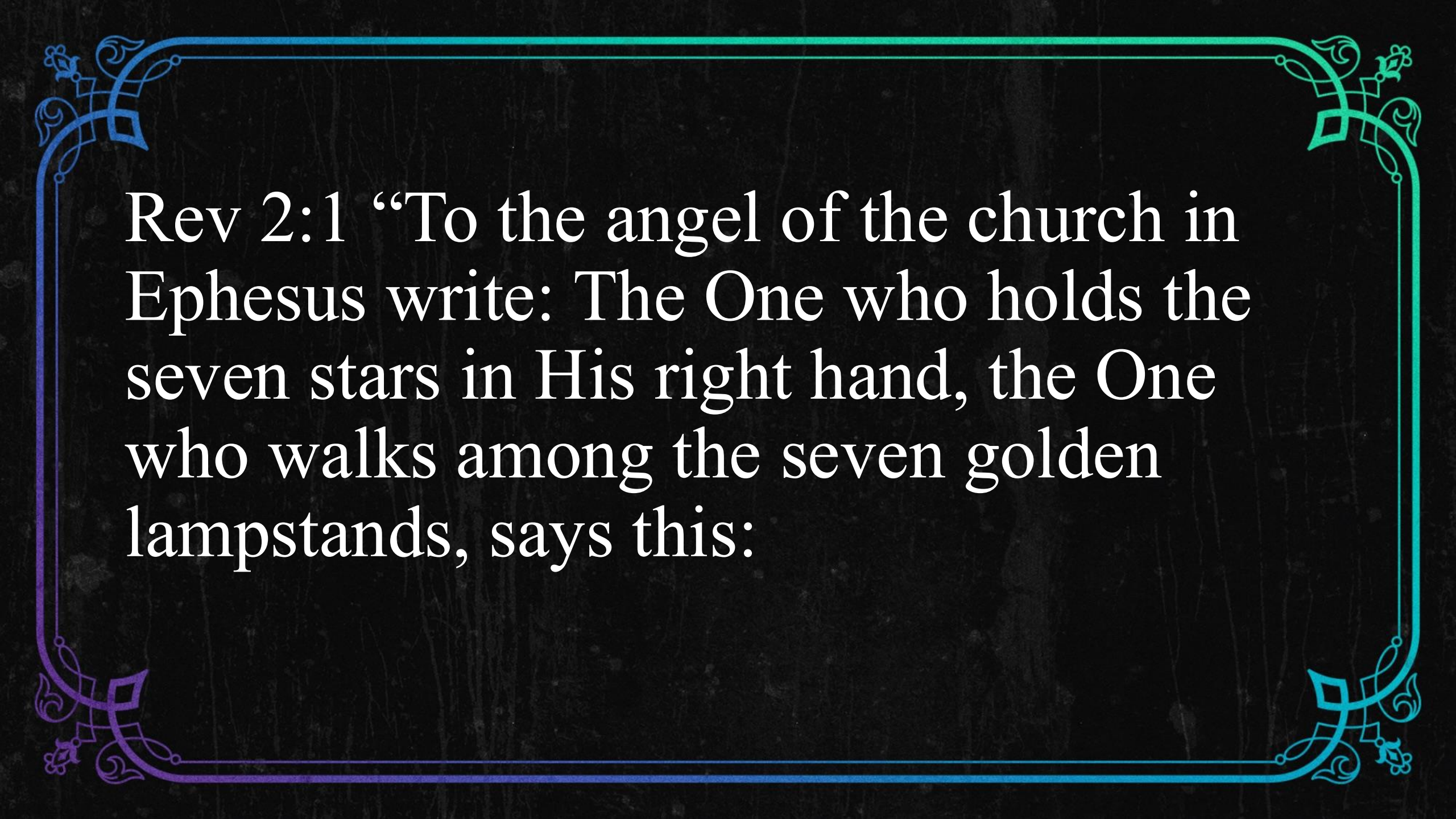
“I have the keys of hell and of death”
“the things about to be after these things [*meta tauta*]”

Revelation 1
Christ in Glory



Revelation 2, 3
Church in the World

Revelation 4 — 22
Crisis in the Future



Rev 2:1 “To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this:



Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamum

Thyatira

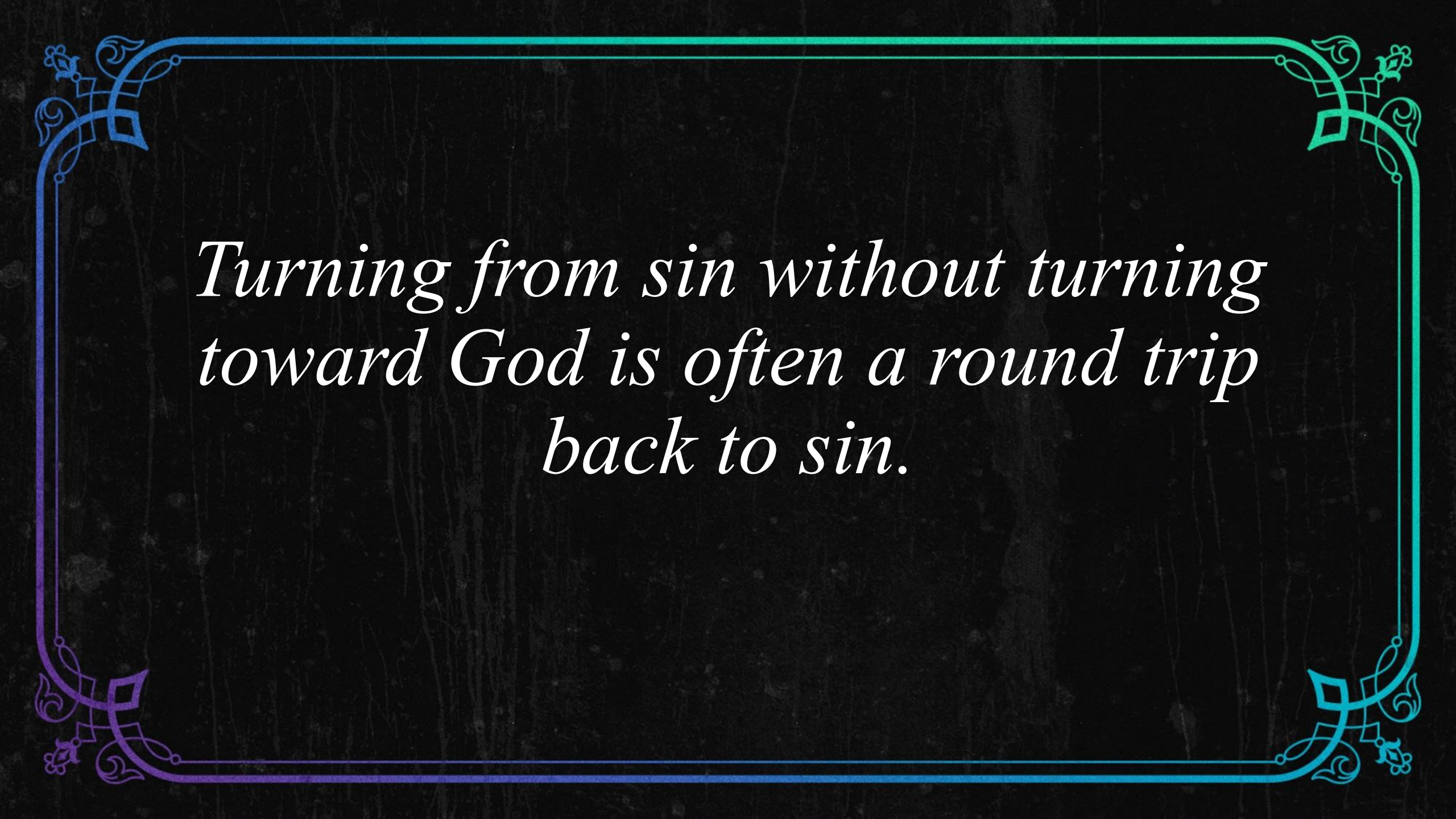
Sardis

Philadelphia

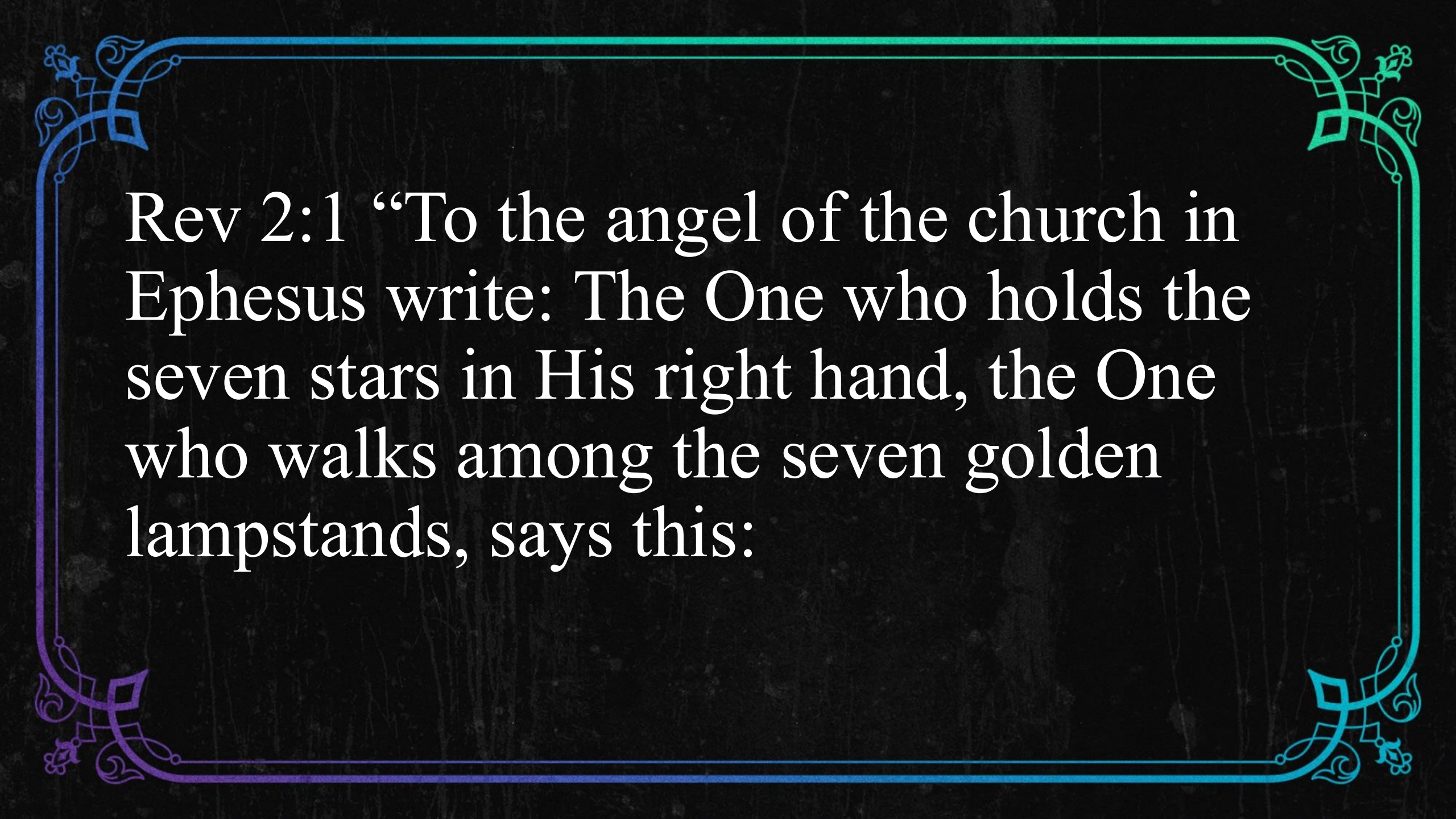
Laodicea

City of Ephesus

- Capital of Asia Minor
- Temple of Artemis (1/7 Ancient)
- Priscilla & Aquila – Apollos
- Paul stayed for **3** years – met with Elders
- Timothy & John



*Turning from sin without turning
toward God is often a round trip
back to sin.*

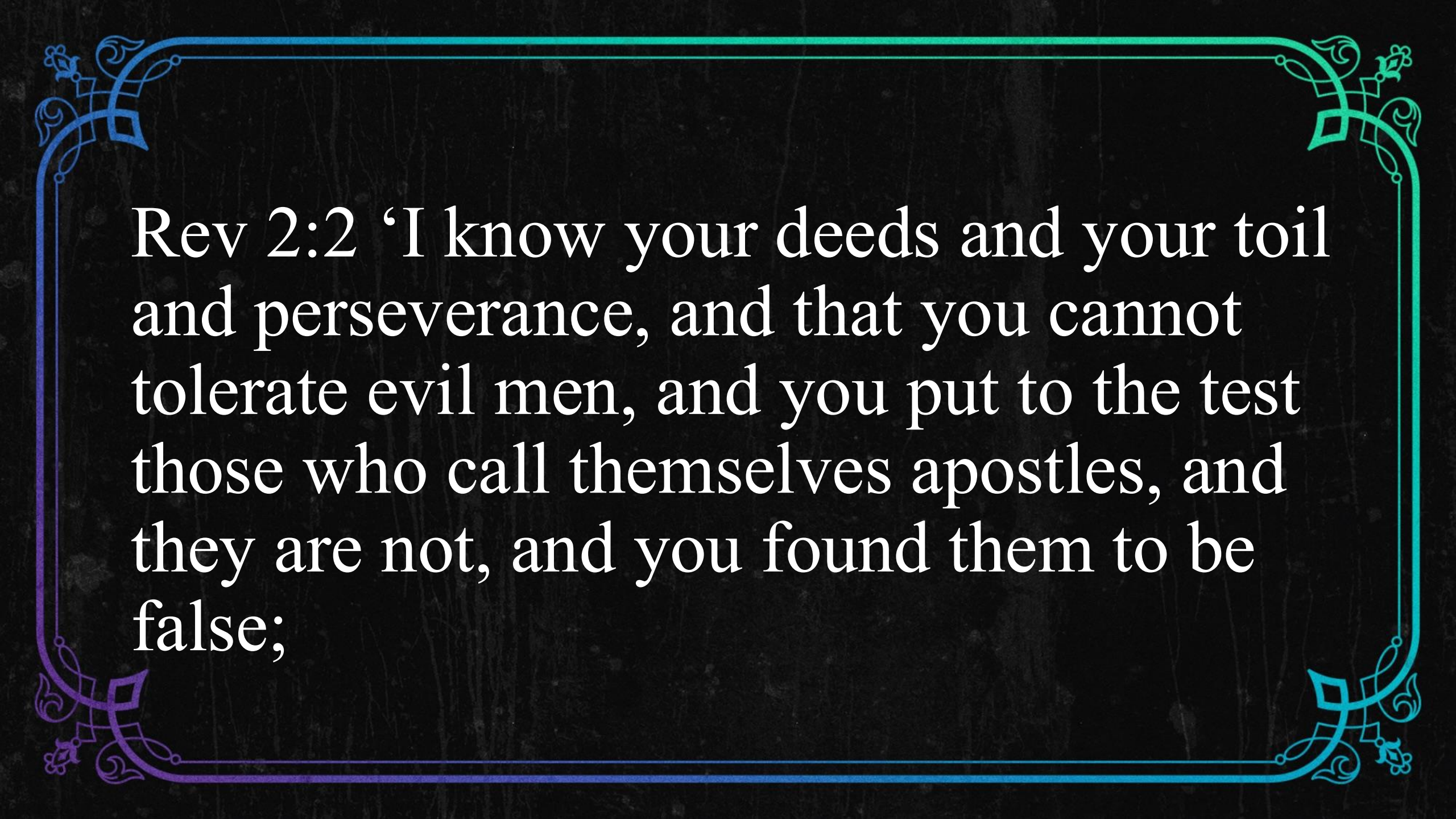


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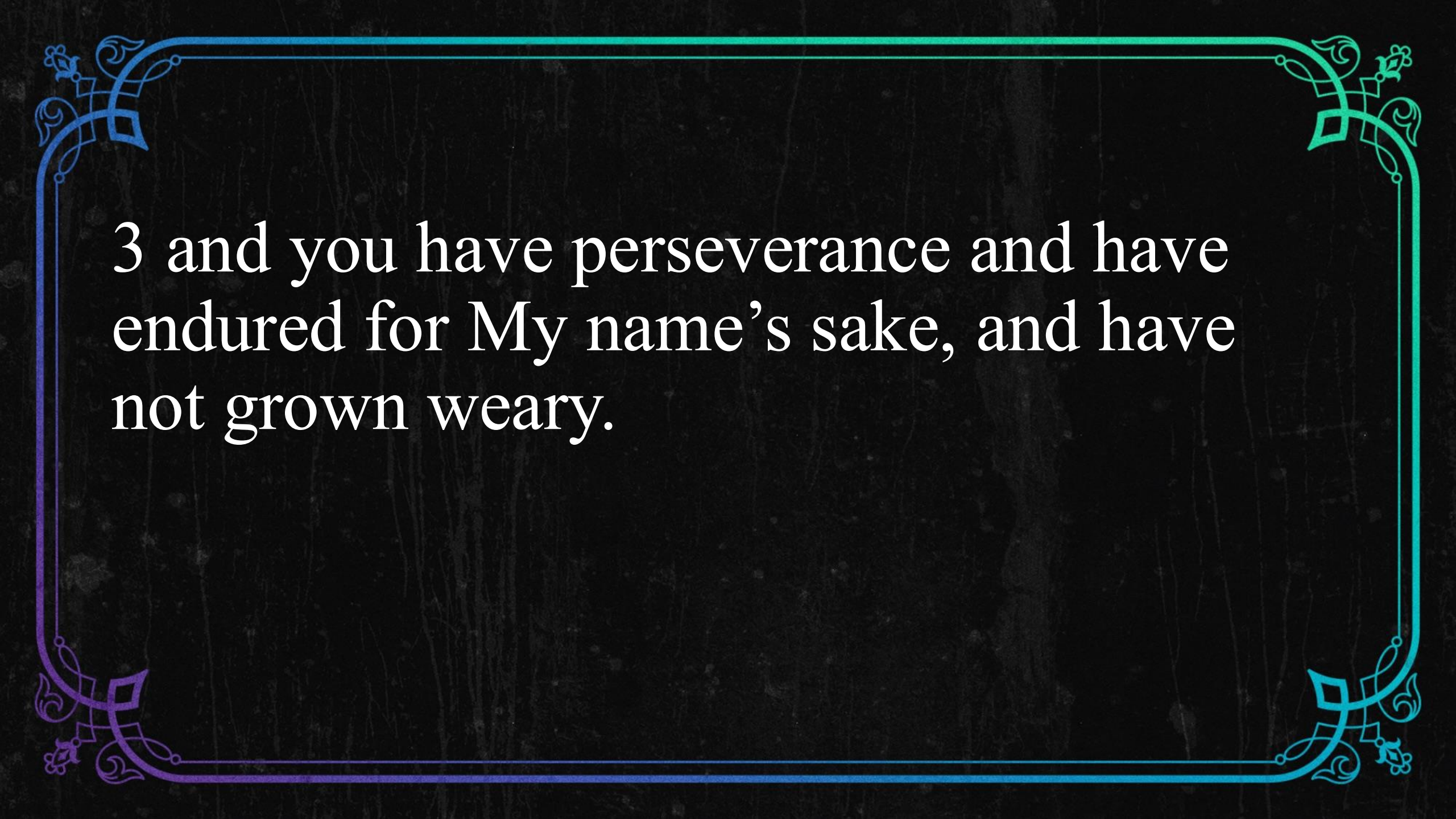
Christ – The One

- 7 Messengers – angels (1:16-20)
- 7 Lampstands – Churches with Gospel
- Image of One who has authority & love
- Garden of Eden
- Lampstand NOT to be hidden!

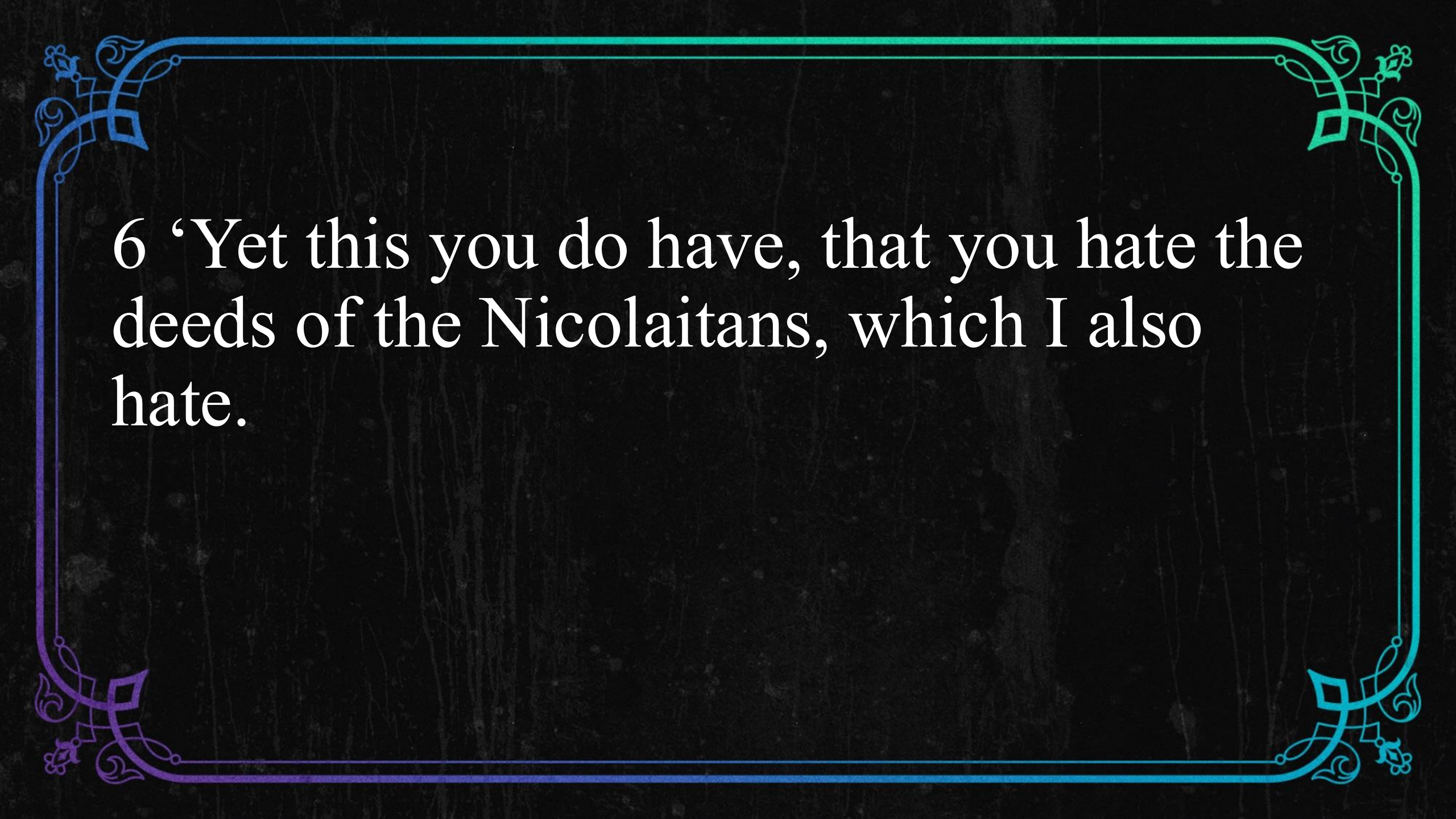
“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy” Col. 1:17-18



Rev 2:2 'I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false;



3 and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary.



6 ‘Yet this you do have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Commendations 2,3,6

- ‘deeds and toil’ – active Church!
- ‘perseverance’ μακροθυμία - ὑπομονή
- Laboring without ‘weary’ – faithful!
- You hate who I hate – Psalm 15



*Repentance is first a change of mind
– change of heart – change of life.*

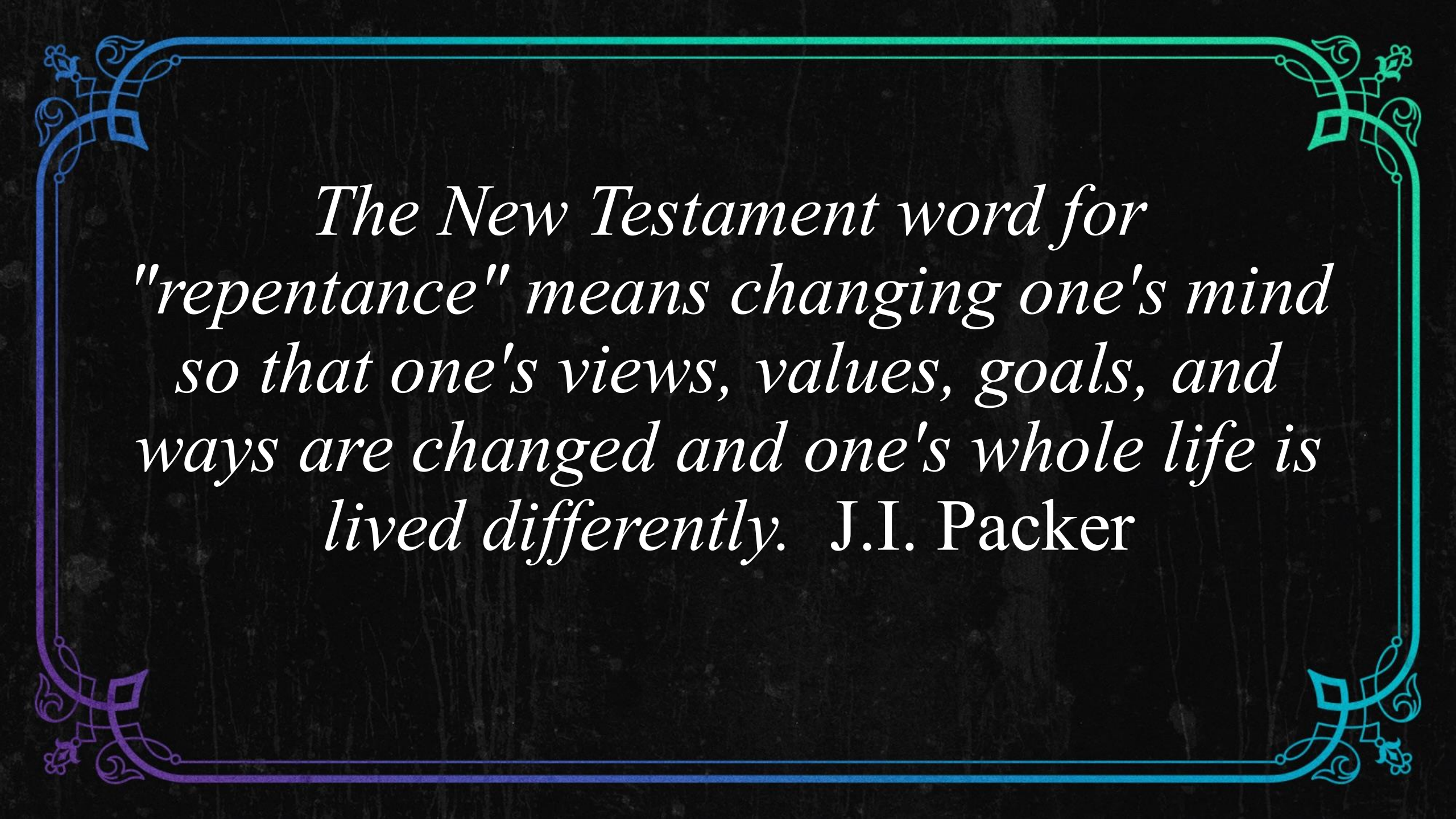
IN ORDER!



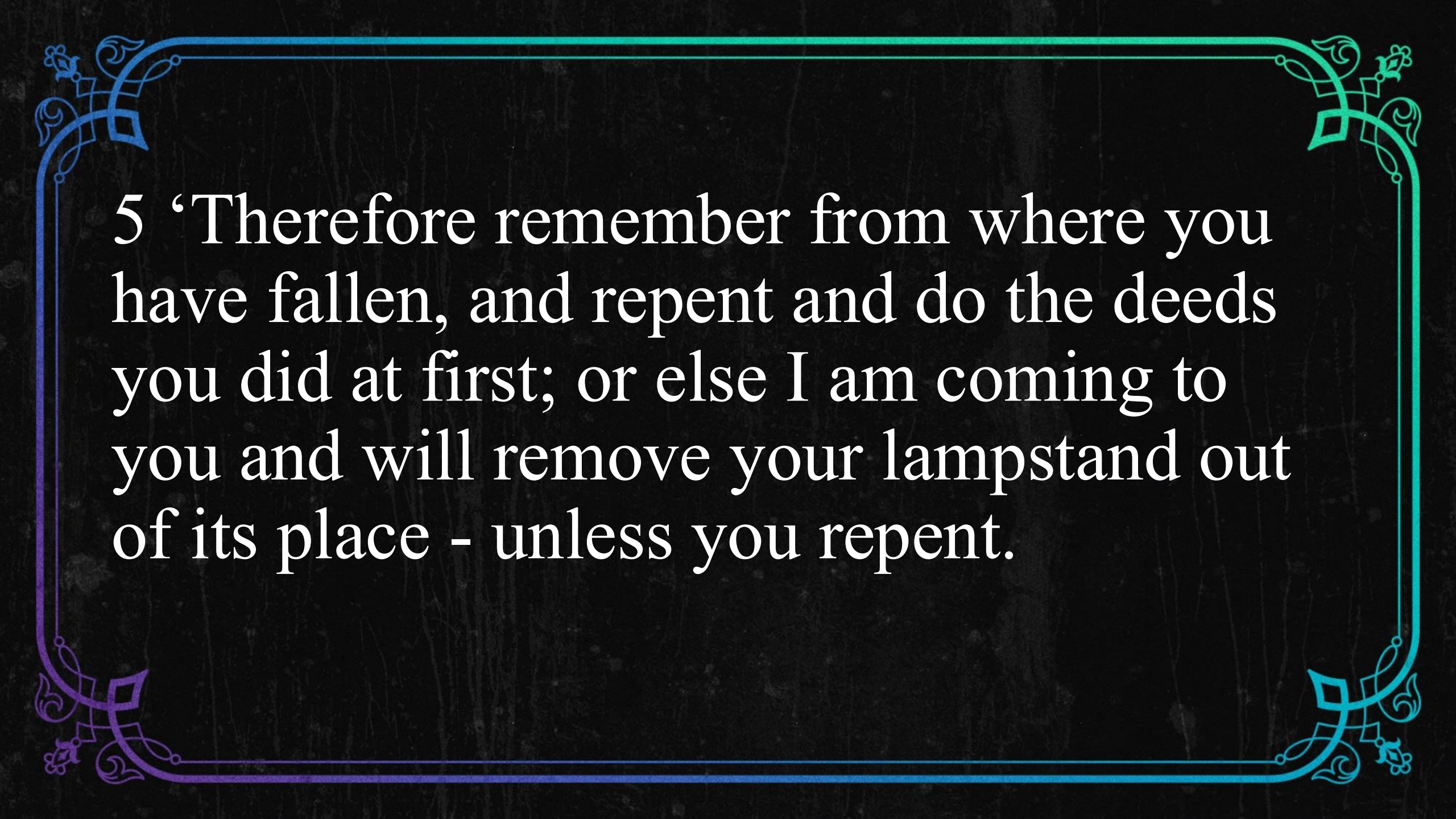
4 'But I have this against you, that you have left your first love.

Criticisms 4

- ‘left your first love’
- Doing the right what without why!
- Passionless faith = faith w/o purpose
- apathetic – without pathos!



The New Testament word for "repentance" means changing one's mind so that one's views, values, goals, and ways are changed and one's whole life is lived differently. J.I. Packer



5 ‘Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent.

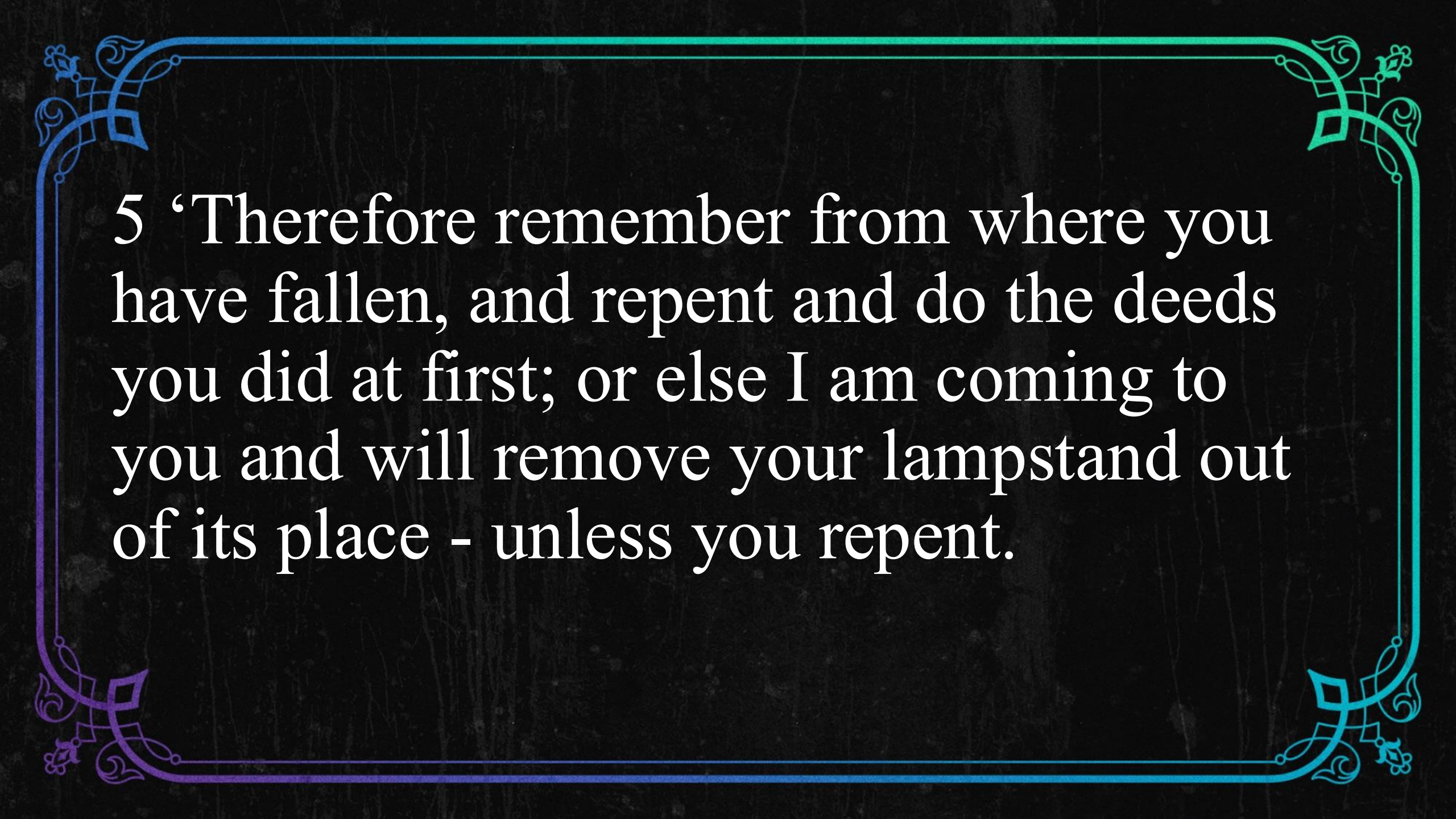
Consequences 5

- ‘or else....’
- I do not fear defeating God’s will
- God can do fine without me -
- I fear being left out of it!
- ‘useless and fruitless’

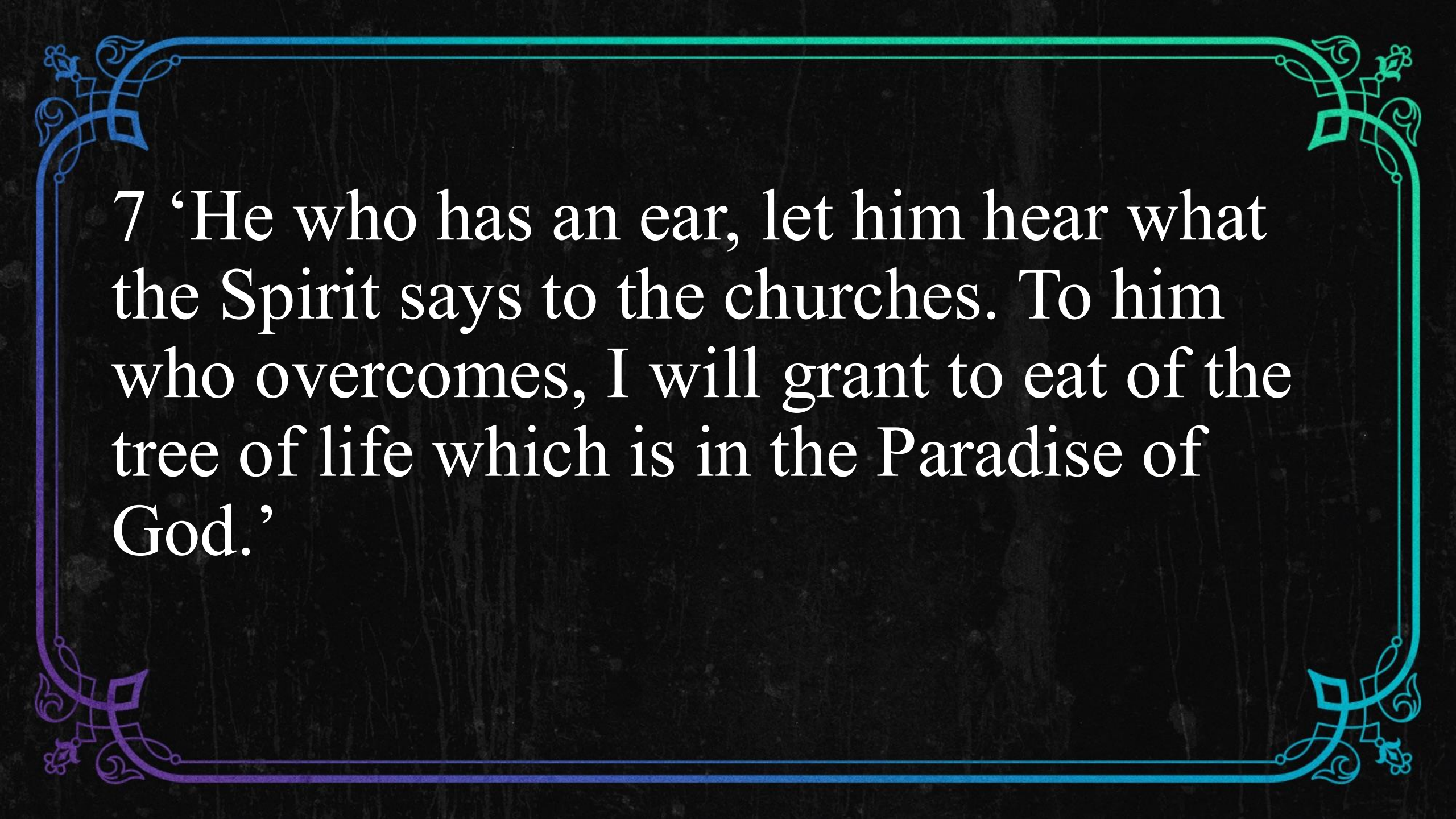
USELESS & FRUITLESS

“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being **useless or unfruitful** in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

2Peter 1:8



5 ‘Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place - unless you repent.



7 'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes, I will grant to eat of the tree of life which is in the Paradise of God.'

Cure 5,7

- ‘remember’ – not better times – worse!
- ‘repent’ – do what you did
- ‘let him hear what the Spirit says’
- ‘tree of life’
- ‘Paradise of God’

“The nature of true repentance is clearly and unmistakably laid down in holy Scripture. It begins with knowledge of sin. It goes on to work sorrow for sin. It leads to confession of sin before God. It shows itself before man, by a thorough breaking off from sin. It results in producing a habit of deep hatred for all sin. Above all, it is inseparably connected with lively faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.” J.C. Ryle

Left our first love?

Focus on knowledge not holiness

Comfortable with God not awe

Less love for one another not serving

Content with now instead of longing

Fewer decisions are matters of prayer

The world is an enemy not missions



REVELATION

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