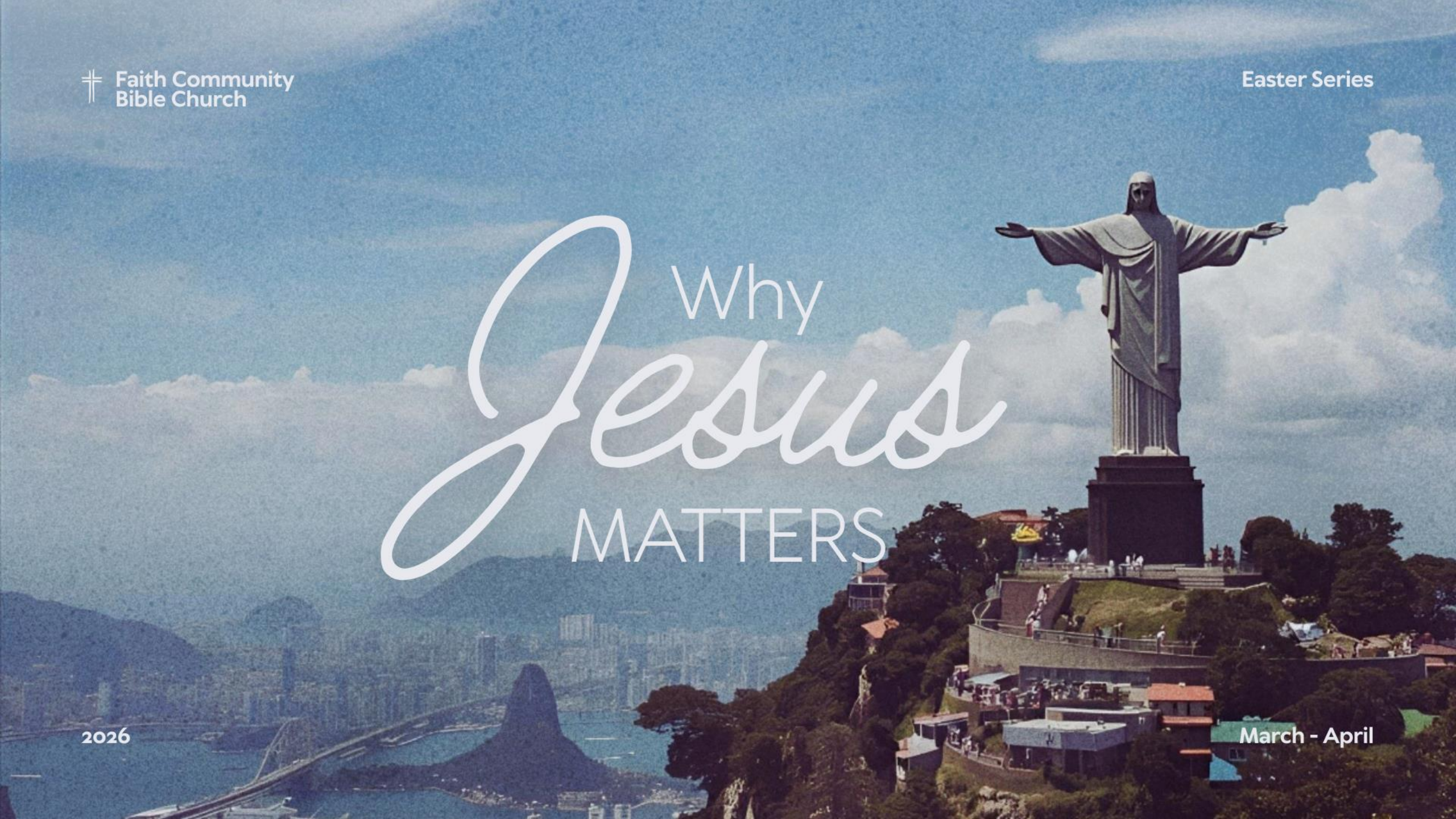


Why
Jesus
MATTERS

2026

March - April



A scenic view of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, featuring the Christ the Redeemer statue on Corcovado Mountain. The statue stands with arms outstretched against a blue sky with scattered white clouds. Below the statue, the city's buildings and a bridge are visible, along with the bay and distant hills.

JESUS BUILDS A NEW COMMUNITY

Acts 2:22-47

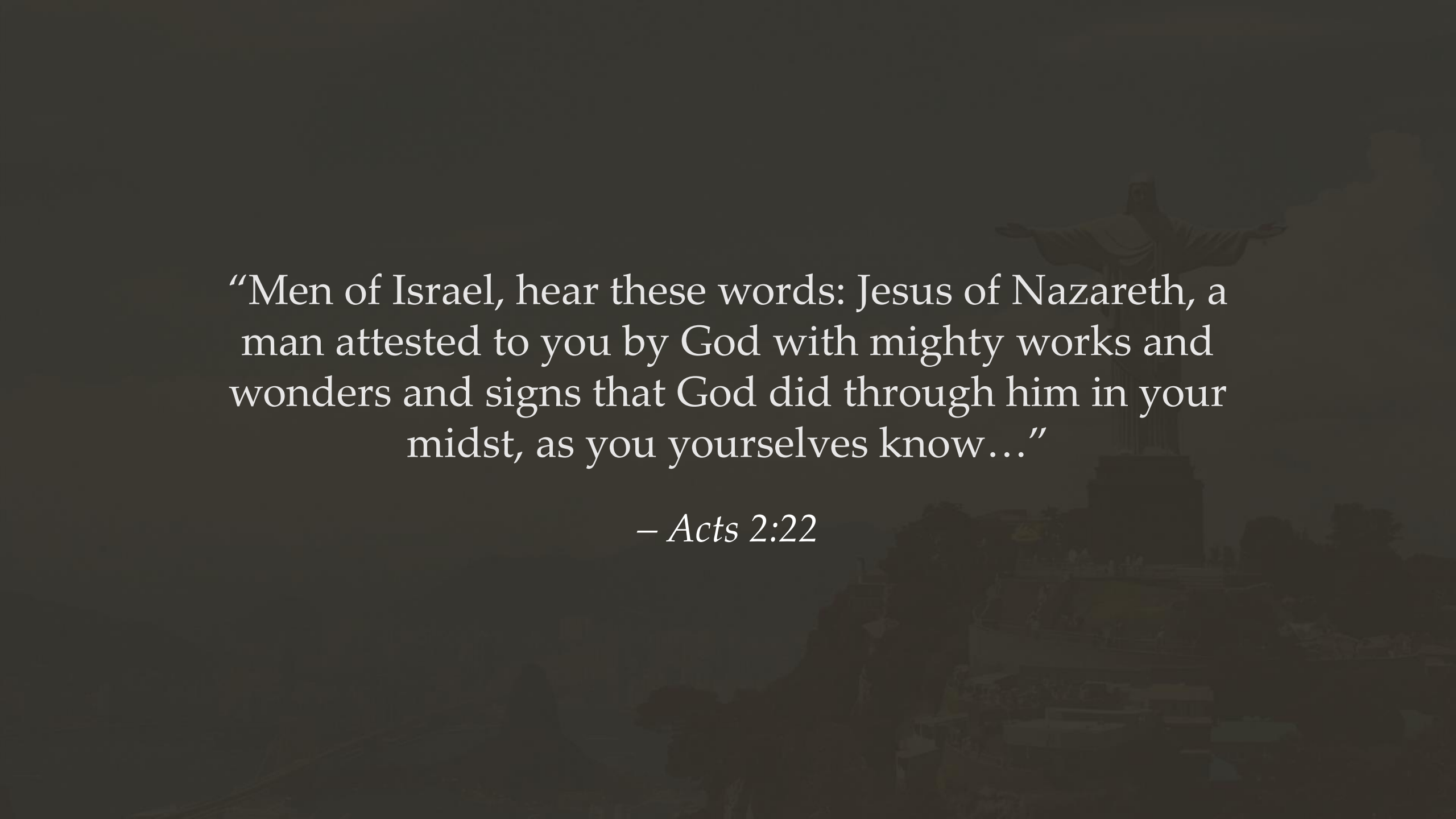
I. HIS LIFE SOURCES THEM



I. HIS LIFE SOURCES THEM

A. *His Life was Accredited by God.*





“Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know...”

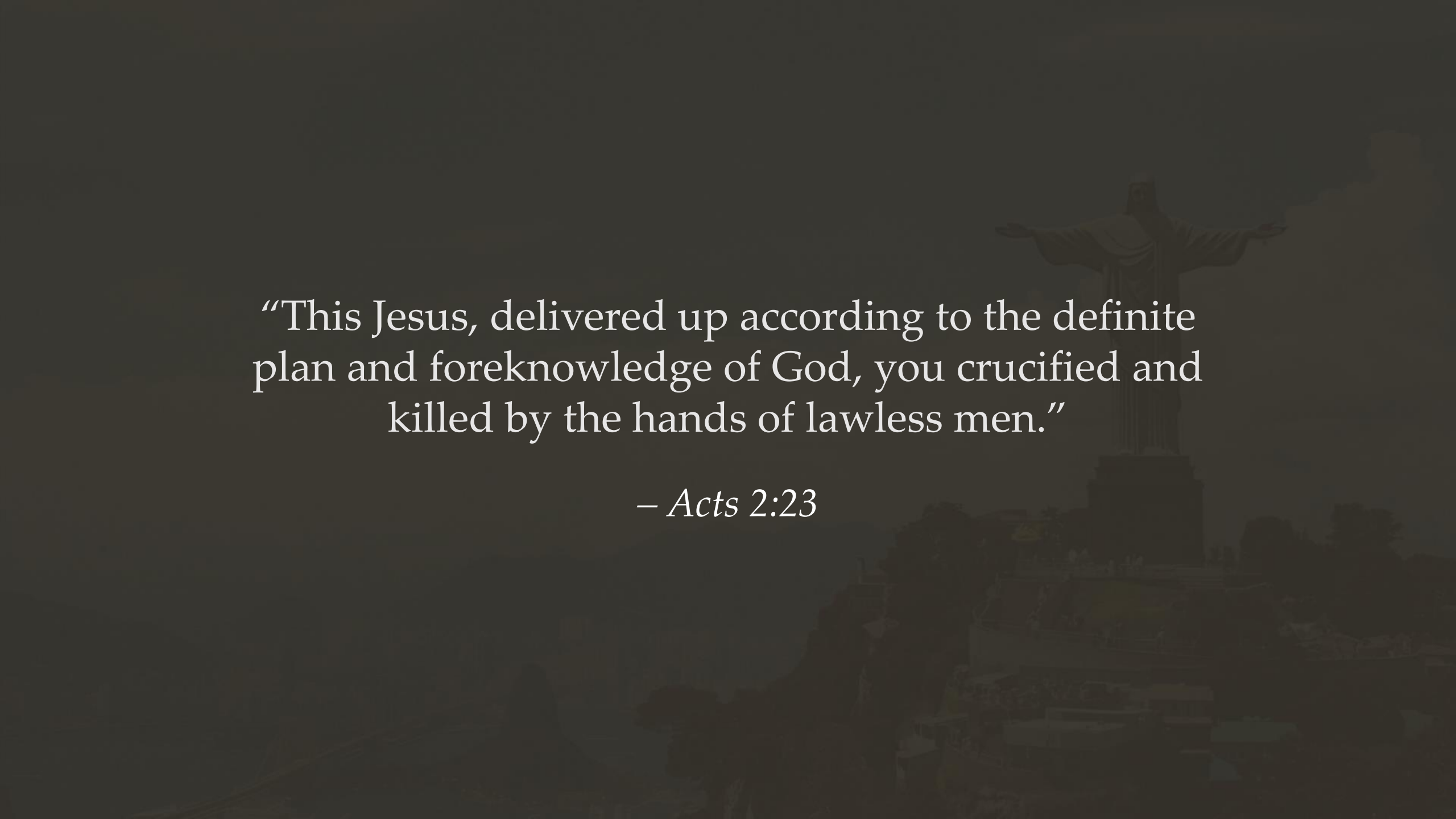
– *Acts 2:22*



I. HIS LIFE SOURCES THEM

A. His Life was Accredited by God. (v. 22)

B. His Death was Planned by God.



“This Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men.”

– *Acts 2:23*

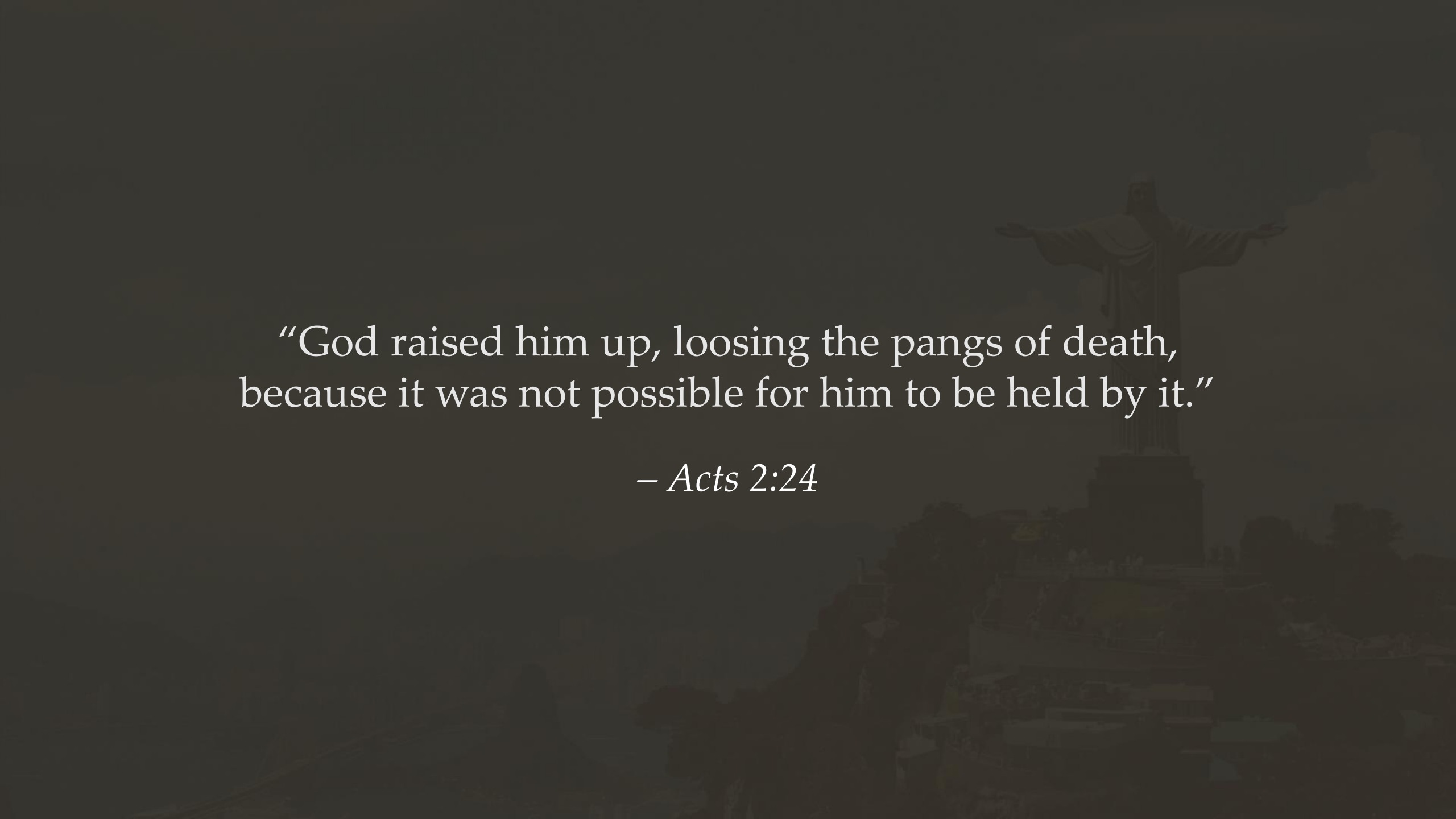


I. HIS LIFE SOURCES THEM

A. His Life was Accredited by God. (v.22)

B. His Death was Planned by God. (v.23)

C. His Resurrection was Foretold by God.



“God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death,
because it was not possible for him to be held by it.”

– *Acts 2:24*

I. HIS LIFE SOURCES THEM

D. His Ascension Puts Him at the Right Hand of God.



“Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he himself says, ‘The Lord said to my Lord, ‘Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool’.’ Let all the house of Israel therefore know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom you crucified.”

– *Acts 2:33-36*



I. HIS LIFE SOURCES THEM

D. His Ascension Puts Him at the Right Hand of God.

E. *His Forgiveness and New Life is the Free Gift of God.*

“Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.’”

– *Acts 2:37-39*

II. HIS WORD NOURISHES THEM



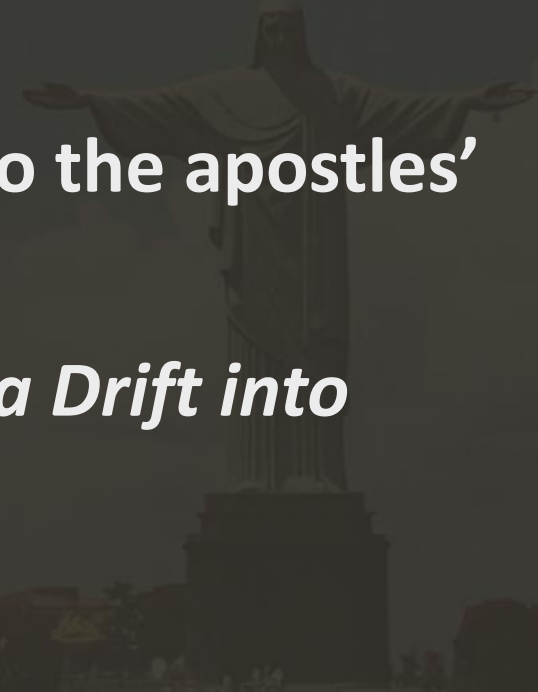
II. HIS WORD NOURISHES THEM

A. *“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”*



II. HIS WORD NOURISHES THEM

- A. “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching...”
- B. *It’s either Apostolic Teaching or a Drift into Apostacy.*





THE SPARKLE CREED

by Rev. Rachel Small Stokes

I believe in the non-binary God whose pronouns are plural.

I believe in Jesus Christ, their child, who wore a fabulous tunic and had two dads, and who saw everyone as a sibling child of God.

I believe in the rainbow Spirit, who shatters our image of one white light and refracts it into a rainbow of gorgeous diversity.

I believe in the church of everyday saints, as numerous, creative, and resilient as patches on the AIDS quilt, whose feet are grounded in mud and whose eyes gaze at the stars in Wonder.

I believe in the calling to each of us, that love is love is love, so beloved, let us love.

I believe, glorious God. Help my unbelief.

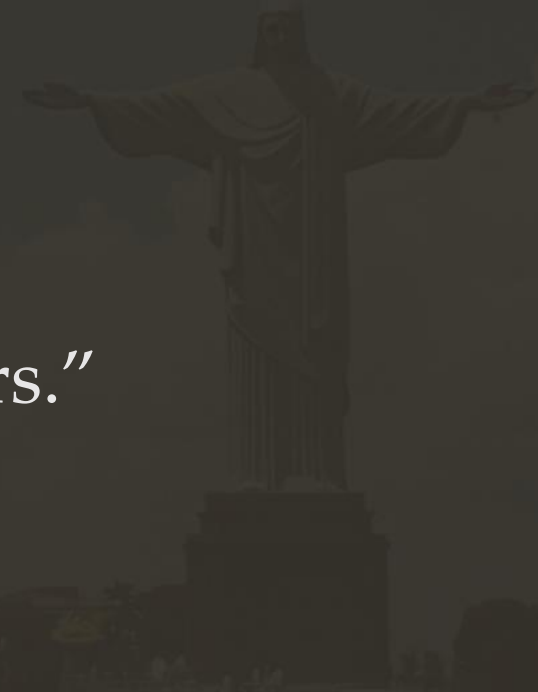
Amen.

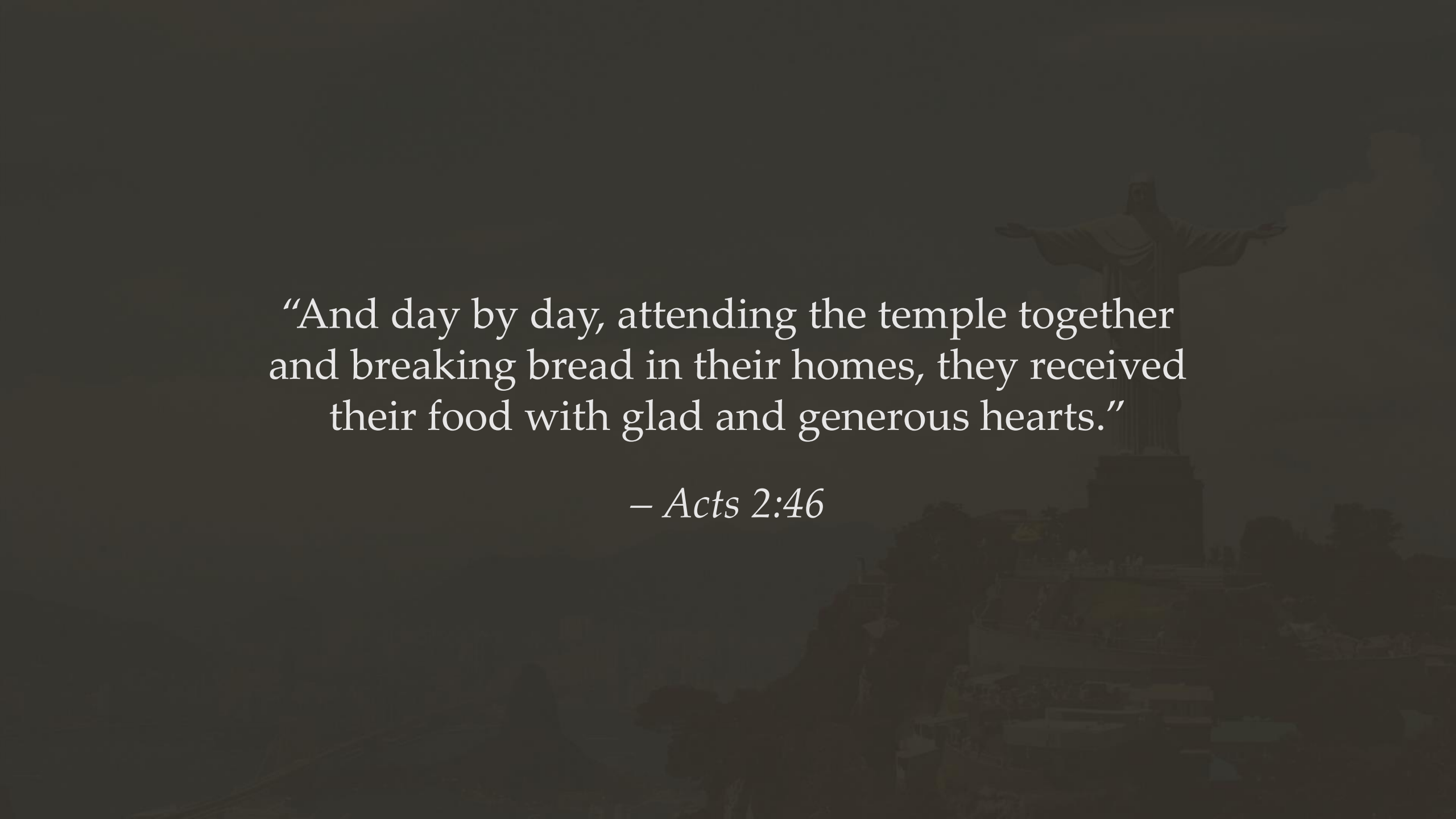
III. HIS WORSHIP UNITES THEM



“And the fellowship, to the
breaking bread and the prayers.”

– *Acts 2:42*



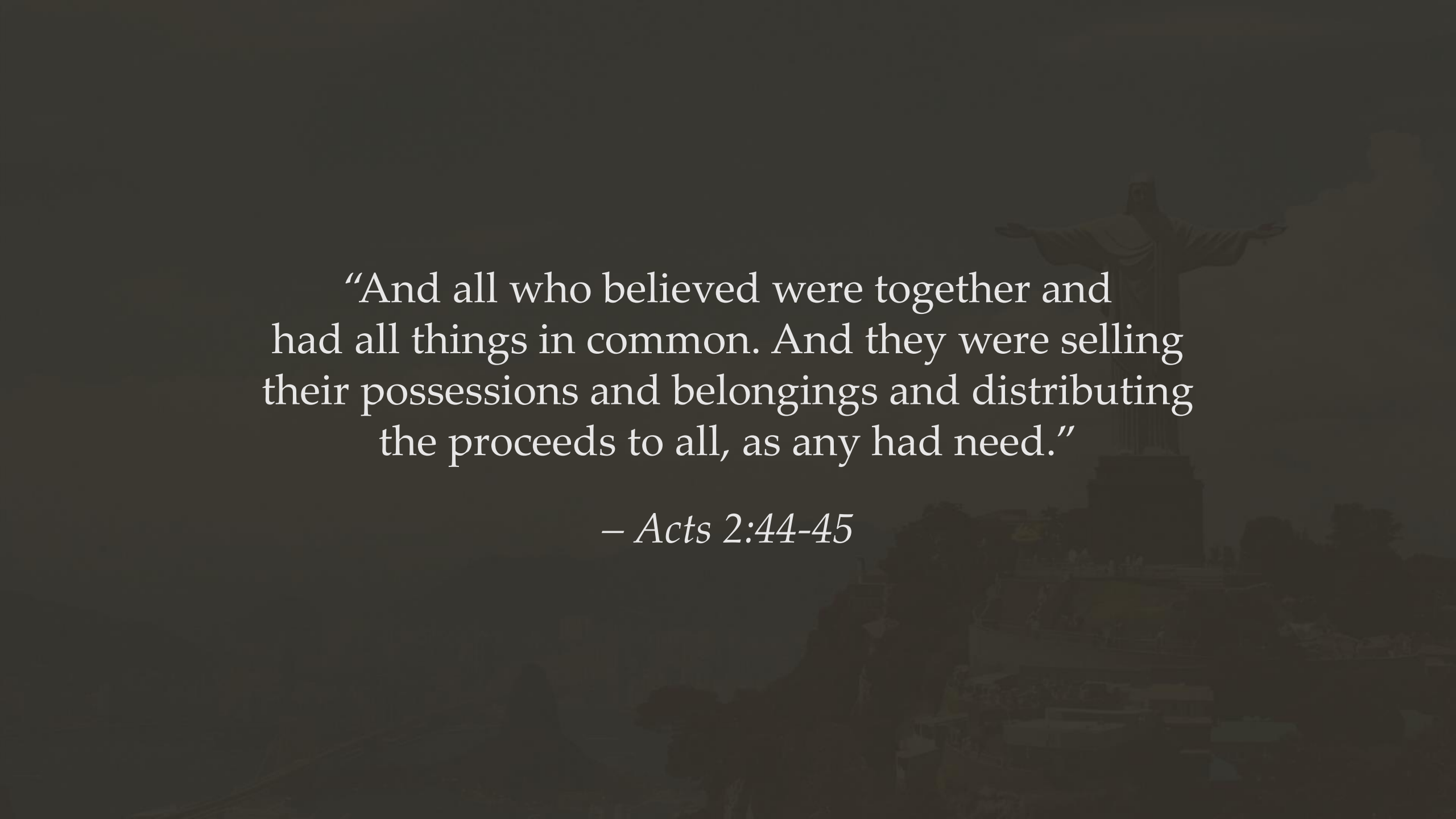


“And day by day, attending the temple together
and breaking bread in their homes, they received
their food with glad and generous hearts.”

– *Acts 2:46*

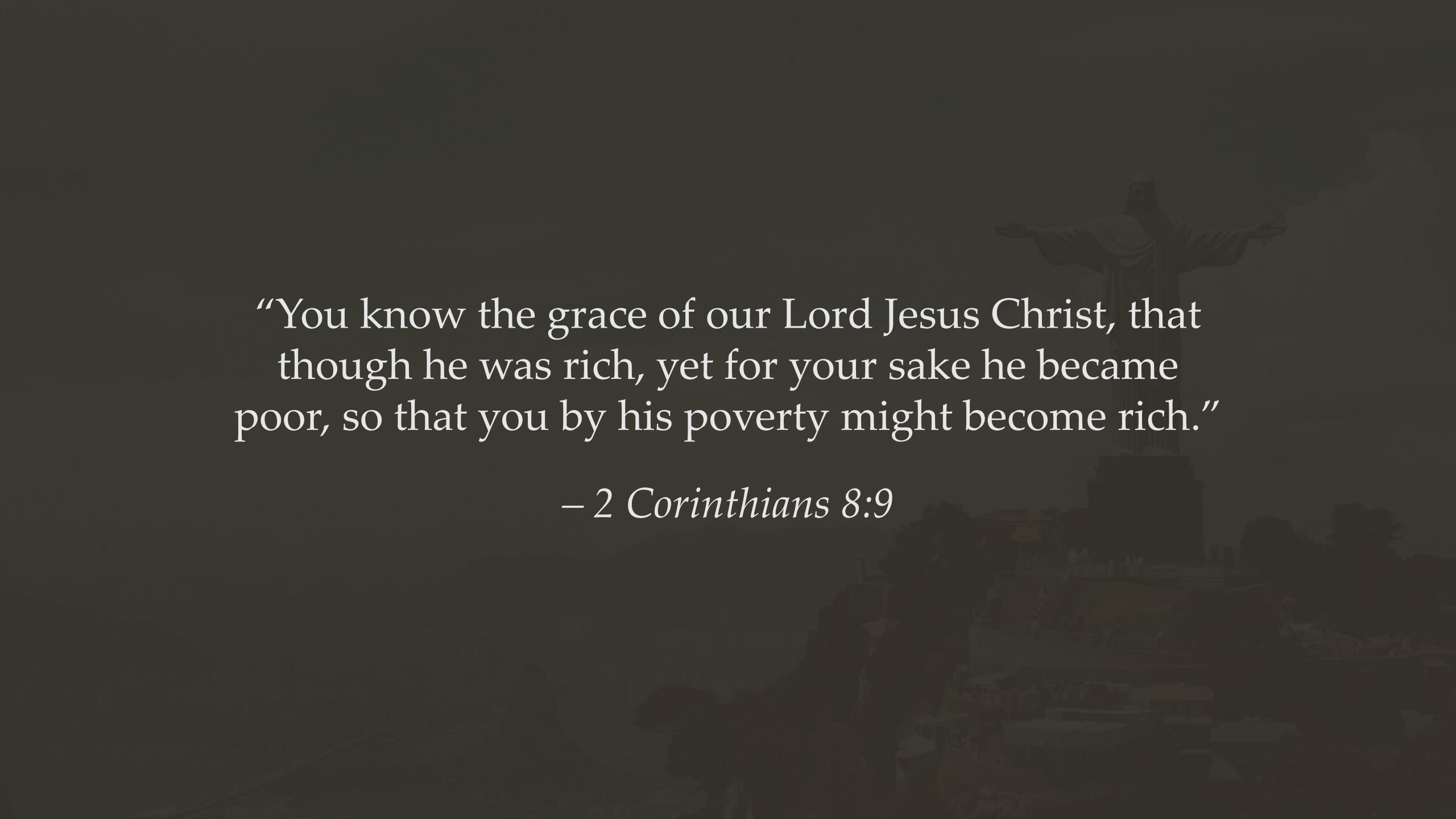
IV. HIS CHARACTER SHAPES THEM





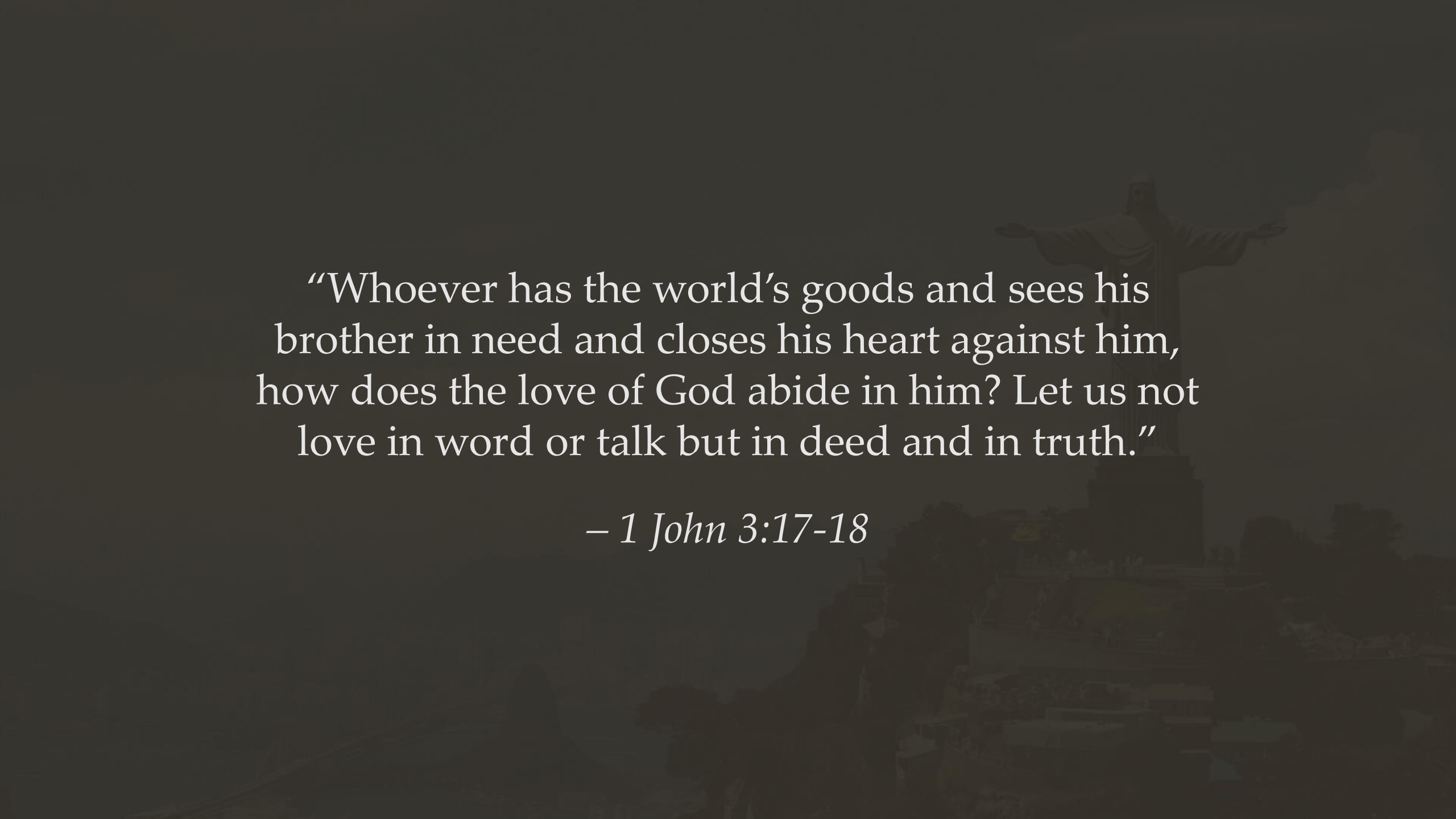
“And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”

– *Acts 2:44-45*



“You know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich.”

– *2 Corinthians 8:9*



“Whoever has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.”

– *1 John 3:17-18*

V. HIS MISSION ENGAGES THEM



“The Church of Jesus Christ does not make its maximum impact on the world through its so-called professionals – preachers, pastors, evangelists, missionaries, directors of Christian education. It makes its greatest impact through lay people. It is through the people of God in whom Christ dwells by His Spirit that He speaks His word and does His work. The people of God influence the world for Christ wherever He has sent them, wherever He has planted them. Through His people, Christ is infiltrating all the unites of society throughout the earth.”

– *Richard Halverson*
Former Chaplain, United States Senate

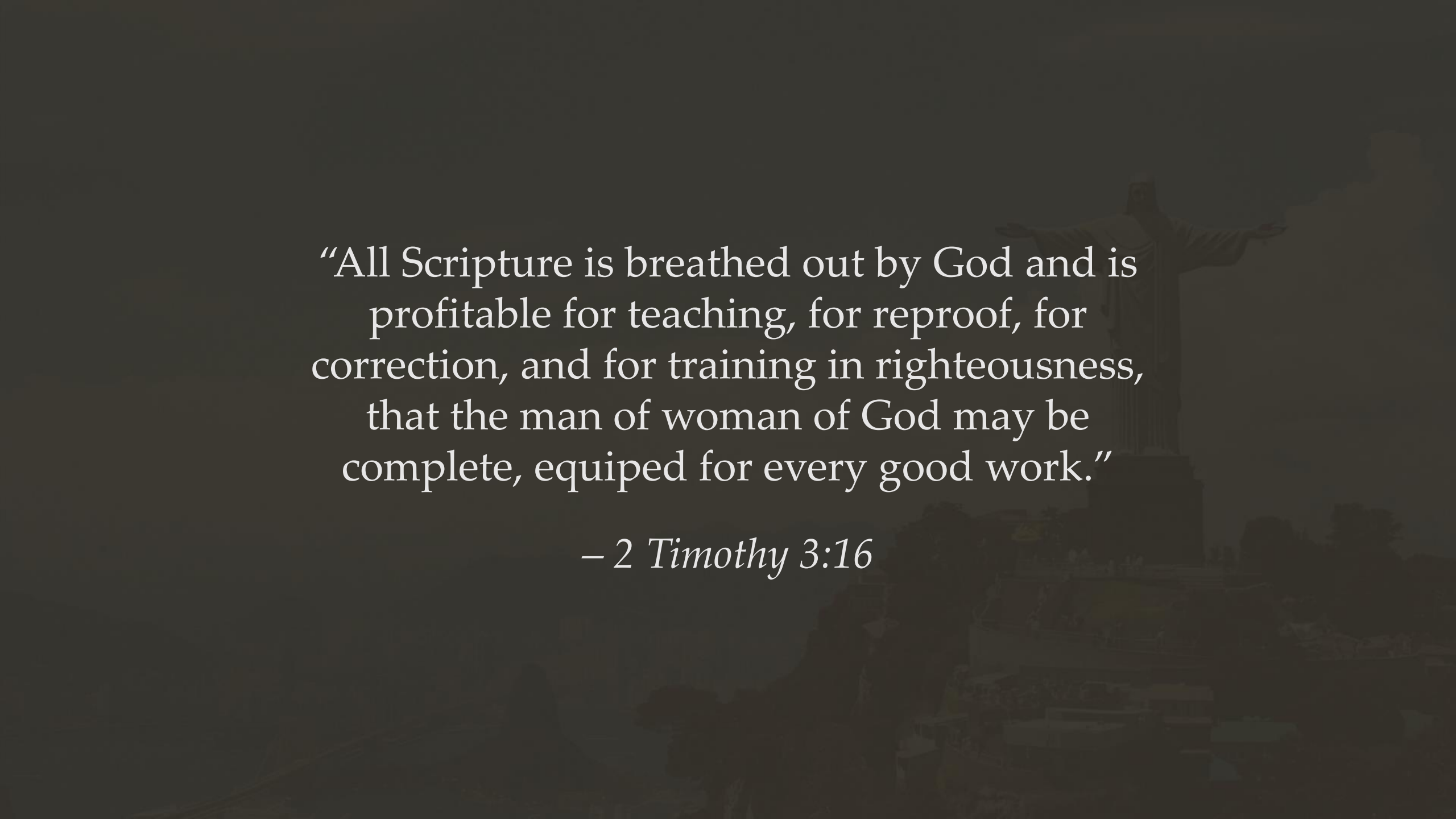
***V. HOW CAN WE BE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT THE
LORD'S LIFE AND LOVE WELL?
THREE WAYS:***



V. HOW CAN WE BE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT THE
LORD'S LIFE AND LOVE WELL?
THREE WAYS:

A. Anchor Yourself in God's Word.





“All Scripture is breathed out by God and is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of woman of God may be complete, equiped for every good work.”

– *2 Timothy 3:16*



V. HOW CAN WE BE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT THE LORD'S LIFE AND LOVE WELL?

THREE WAYS:

A. Anchor Yourself in God's Word.

B. Commit Yourself to a Christian Community.



V. HOW CAN WE BE PEOPLE WHO REPRESENT THE LORD'S LIFE AND LOVE WELL?

THREE WAYS:

- A. Anchor Yourself in God's Word. (2 Tim 3:16)
- B. Commit Yourself to a Christian Community.
- C. Remind Yourself of the Lord's Grace.

“For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another. But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life. The saying is trustworthy, and I want you to insist on these things, so that those who have believed in God may be careful to devote themselves to good works. These things are excellent and profitable for people.”

– *Titus 3:3-8*