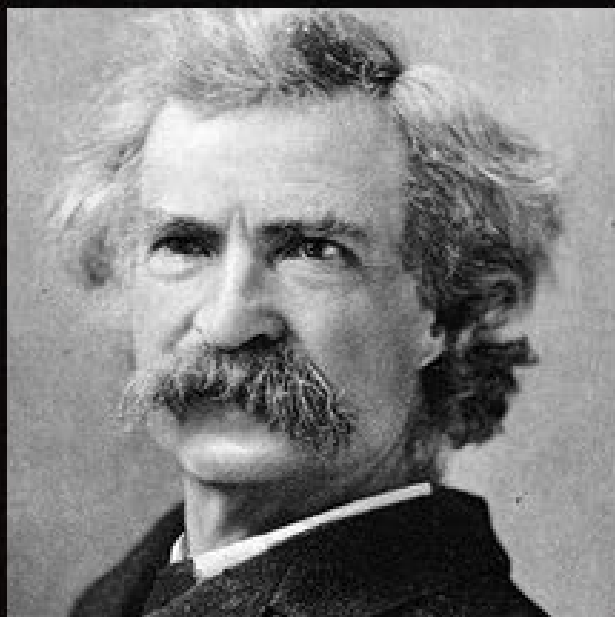


THERE'S NO MIDDLE GROUND

Brian Stroud

Mark Twain



The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why.

AZ QUOTES

Brian Stroud



The two most important days in your life are the day that you are born and the day that you are born again.

AZ QUOTES

**YOU ARE IN ONE
OF TWO PLACES**



OR

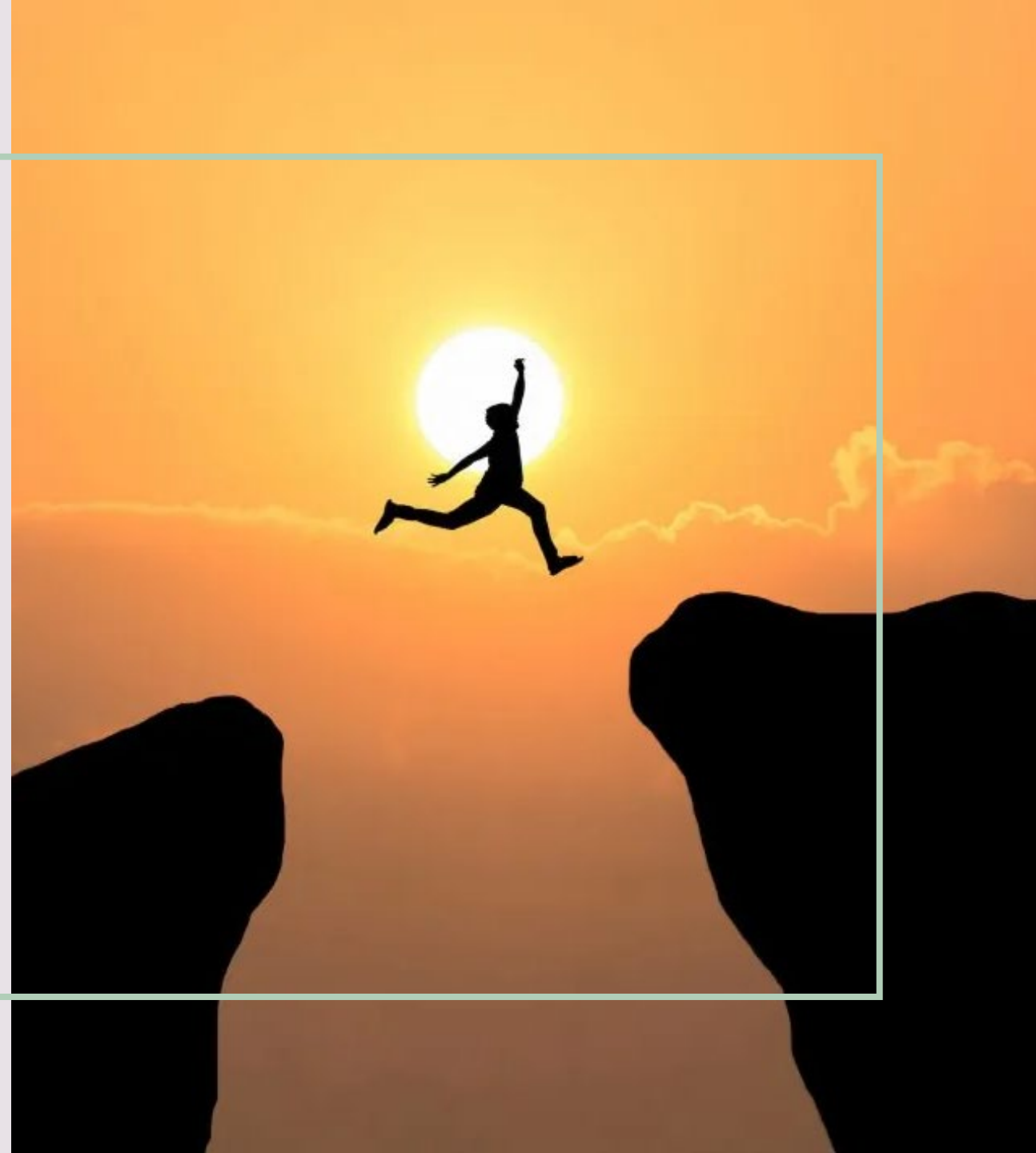


ROMANS 5:1-2

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU

- **We have been justified**
- **We have peace with God**
- **We change places**
- **We exult in hope**



**FOR IT IS BY GRACE YOU HAVE
BEEN SAVED, THROUGH FAITH—
AND THIS IS NOT FROM
YOURSELVES, IT IS THE GIFT OF
GOD— NOT BY WORKS, SO THAT
NO ONE CAN BOAST.**

Ephesians 2:8-9



THE BLOOD IS FOR GOD

A red gauge with a white face and black markings, labeled 'SIN-000-MEEETER'. The gauge has a needle pointing to 0. The numbers 1 through 9 are visible on the scale. The background is a bright yellow and orange gradient.

SIN-000-MEEETER

A man-made device used by well-meaning Christians to see how they or someone else is doing in the area of sin management.

DOES THIS MEAN THAT GOD IS SOFT ON SIN?

It is God's holiness, God's righteousness, which demands that a sinless life should be given for man. There is life in the Blood, and that Blood has to be poured out for me, for my sins. God is the One who requires it to be so. God is the One who demands that the Blood be presented, in order to satisfy His own righteousness, and it is He who says `When I see the blood', I will pass over you.' The Blood of Christ wholly satisfies God.



ROMANS 5:3-5

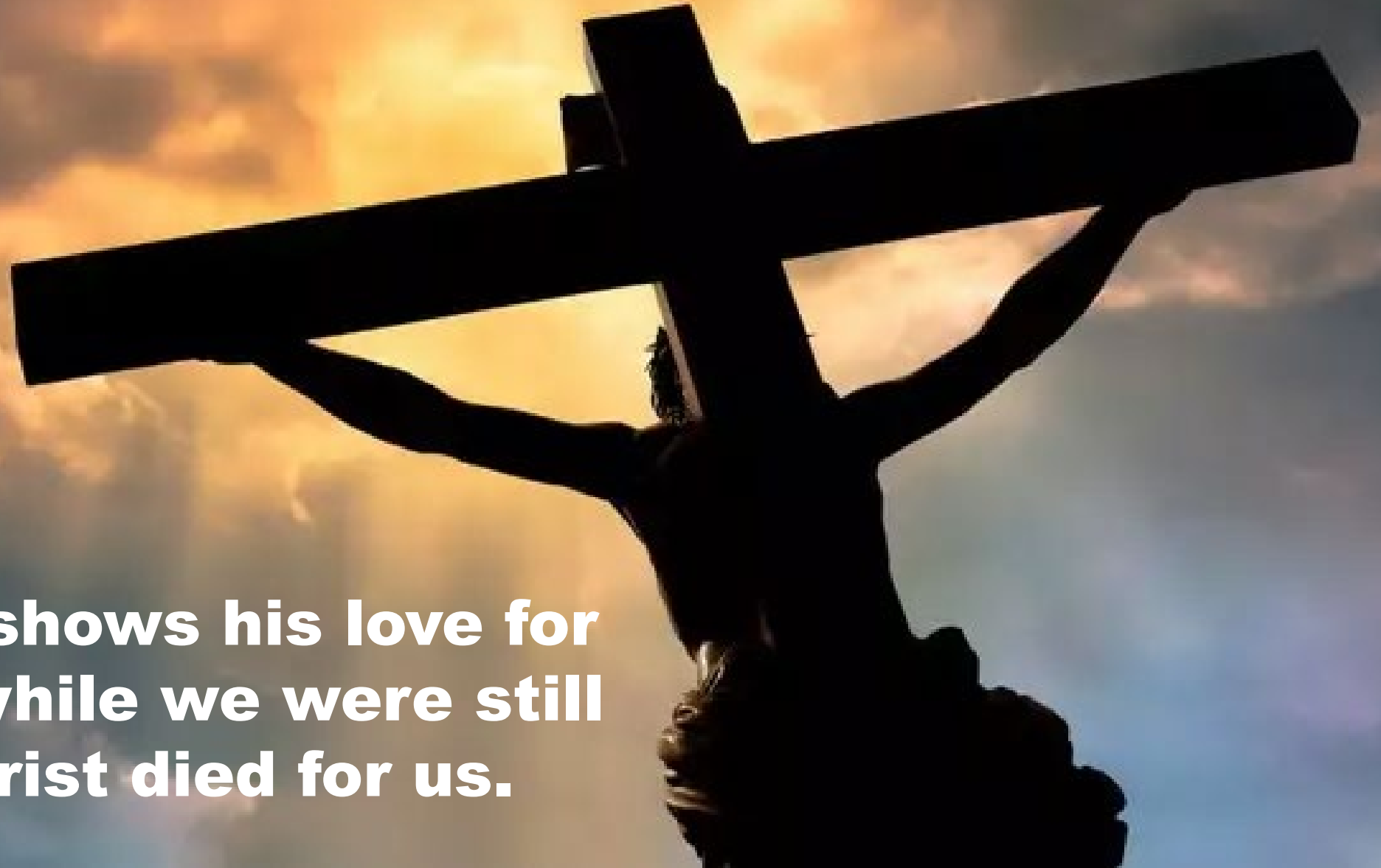
Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

GOD WORKS THROUGH SUFFERING

- **This life isn't easy**
- **God uses all things**
- **He is maturing us (building endurance)**
- **The result is HOPE (that doesn't disappoint)**
- **Why?... because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.**

ROMANS 5:6-8

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.



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

ROMANS 5:9-11

Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.



"Justified" means being declared righteous by God. It is a legal term indicating a change in status before God, where a person is acquitted of all sin charges and pronounced to be righteous.

This justification is based entirely on faith in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross, not on our own efforts.



To be righteous means to be in right standing with God, a status that is granted to us through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a gift of grace, not something we can earn, and it transforms our identity, making us new creations in Christ.



**HEAVEN
READY!**

RIGHTEOUS

To be righteous means to be in right standing with God, a status that is granted to us through faith in Jesus Christ. It is a gift of grace, not something we can earn, and it transforms our identity, making us new creations in Christ.

RECONCILIATION

A close-up photograph of a man with long, wavy brown hair and a beard, wearing a grey t-shirt. He is embracing a woman from behind. The woman has long, dark hair and is wearing a light-colored, textured top. The background is softly blurred, suggesting an indoor setting. The overall mood is intimate and emotional.

- **Restored Relationship**
- **An End to Enmity**
- **Peace With God**
- **Made Right (as they ought to be)**

ROMANS 5:12-14

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned— for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

Even Over Those Who Had Not Sinned in the Likeness of Adam's Offense: This phrase means that death affected everyone, even those who did not commit a direct act of disobedience like Adam did. Adam's sin brought a condition of spiritual death and separation from God to all his descendants. This underscores the idea that sin is not just about individual acts but also about a fallen condition inherited from Adam.



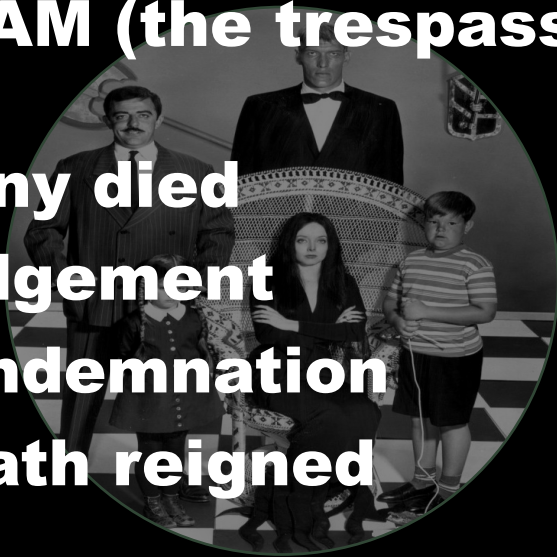
ROMANS 5:15-17

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

ADAM VS JESUS

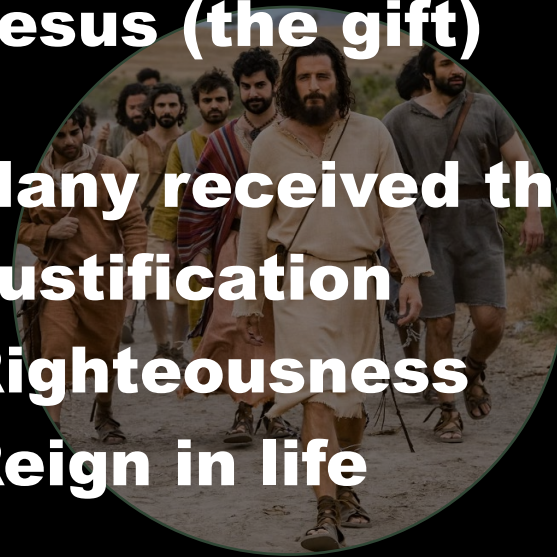
ADAM (the trespass)

Many died
Judgement
Condemnation
Death reigned



Jesus (the gift)

Many received the gift
Justification
Righteousness
Reign in life



TWO DIFFERENT GREEK WORDS FOR "GIFT" TO EMPHASIZE DIFFERENT ASPECTS OF GOD'S GRACE AND THE WORK OF JESUS CHRIST.

DOREA

- **Emphasizes the freeness of the gift.**
- **given freely, without any merit or effort on our part**
- **underscores the generosity and unearned nature of God's grace**

CHARISMA

- **Emphasizes the gracious nature of the gift**
- **Highlights the transformative and empowering effect of God's grace in our lives**
- **we receive not only forgiveness but also the gift of righteousness and the ability to live a new life in Him.**

ROMANS 5:18-19

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

ADAM VS JESUS

ADAM (the trespass)

- **Condemnation**
- **Made sinners**



Jesus (the gift)

- **Justification**
- **Made righteous**



ROMANS 5:20-21

Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more, so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

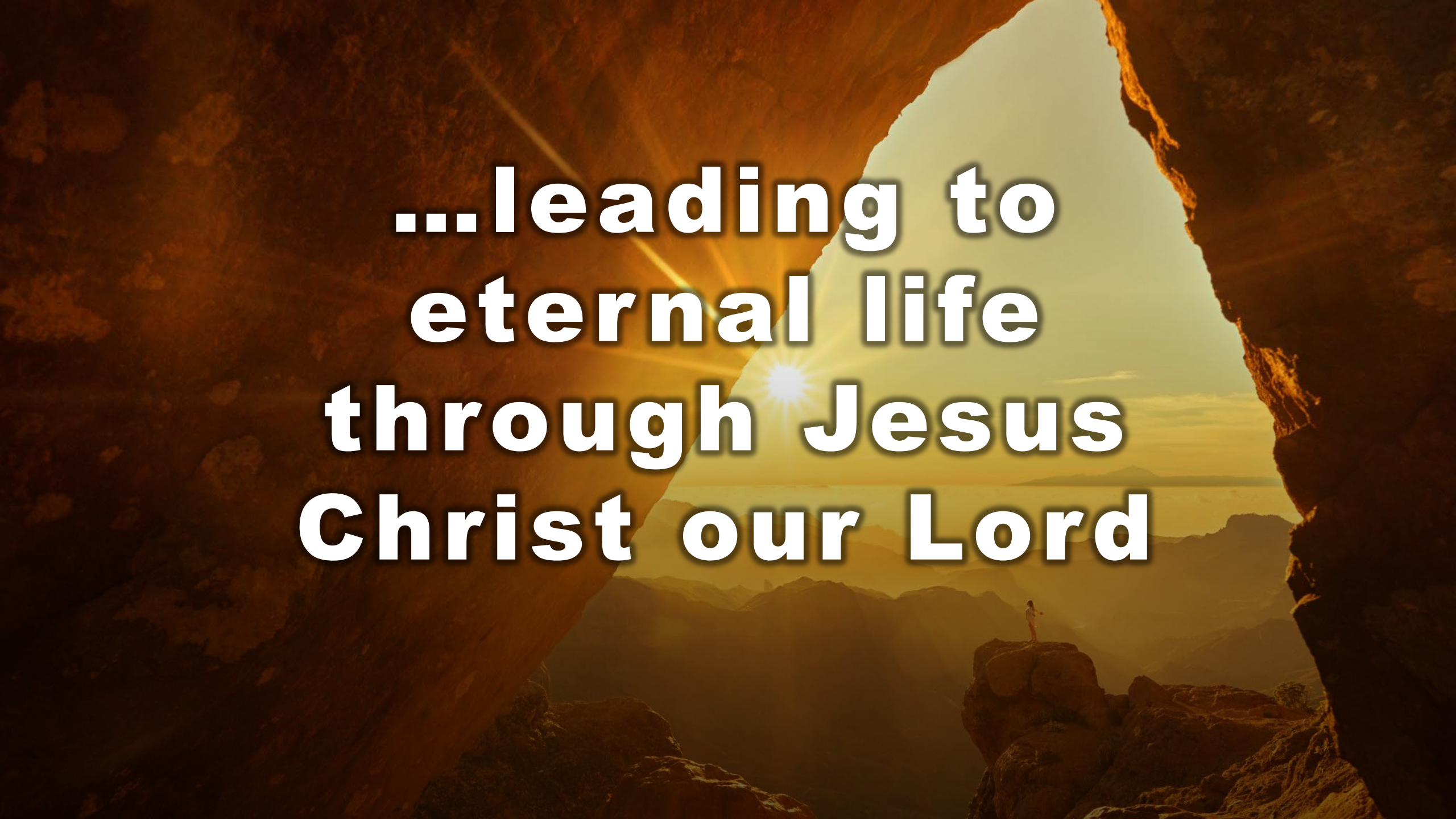
GRACE > LAW

LAW

- **Sin Increased**
- **Sin reigned in death**

GRACE

- **Grace abounded all the more**
- **Grace reigns through righteousness**

A person stands on a rocky cliff, looking out at a sunrise over a mountain range. The scene is viewed through a large, irregular opening in a dark, textured rock wall, creating a frame for the landscape. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a warm, golden glow over the mountains and the person. The overall atmosphere is one of hope and transcendence.

**...leading to
eternal life
through Jesus
Christ our Lord**

A person stands on a rocky peak, looking out from a cave opening. The scene is illuminated by a bright sunrise or sunset, with the sun's rays shining through the cave's opening. The background shows a vast, hazy landscape of rolling mountains and valleys. The overall mood is one of hope and peace.

**Know Jesus,
Know Peace**