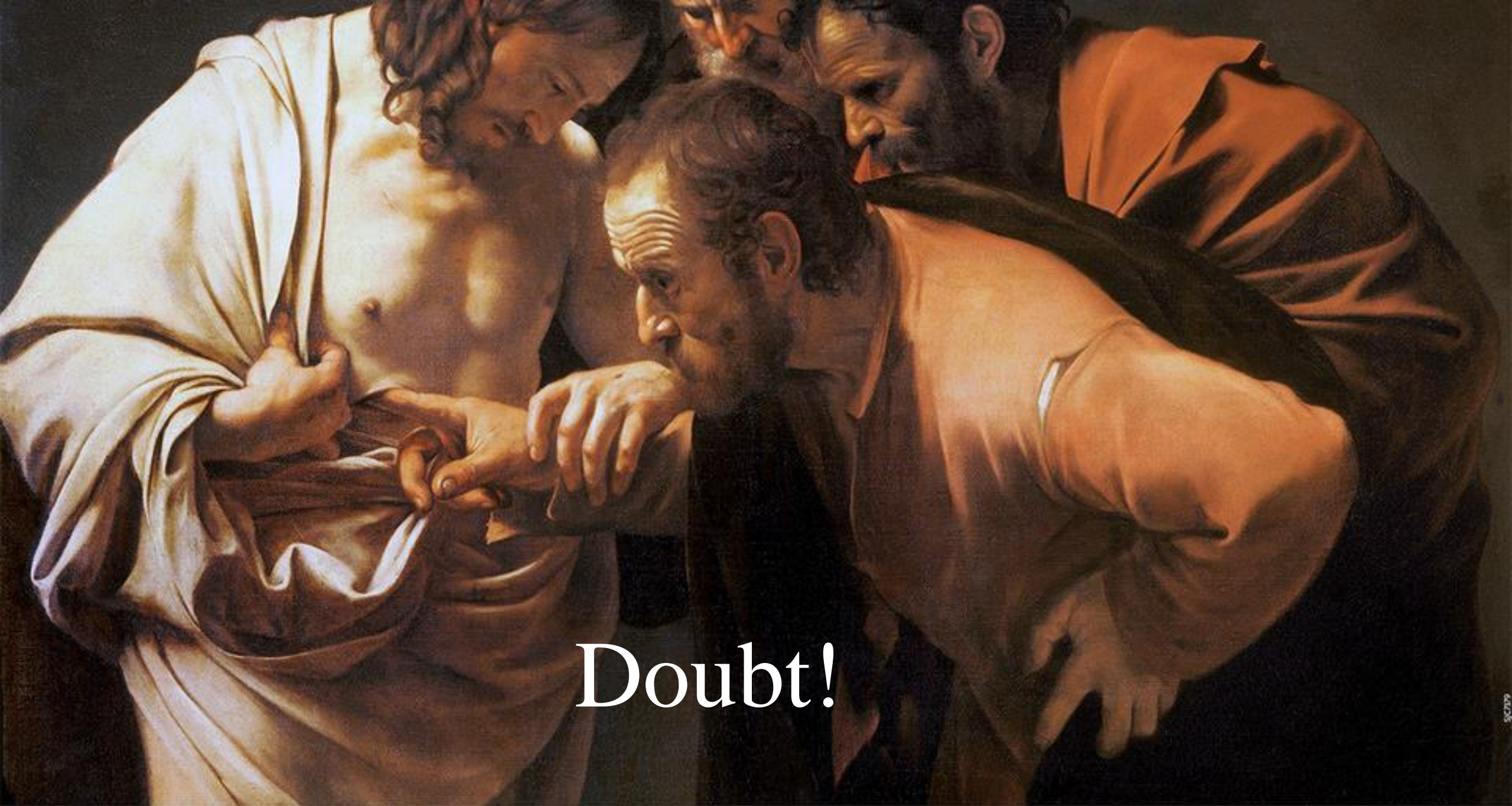


Gospel Assurance

ROMANS

8:31-39 “God’s Everlasting Love”



Doubt!

Impact of Doubt

- 50% of U.S. Christians have experienced a prolonged period of doubt regarding their faith (Barna Group, 2023)
- 64% of 18–29-year-olds who grew up in church have withdrawn from church involvement as an adult (Barna, 2019)
- 31% of individuals brought up in the Christian faith will leave it before the age of thirty (Pew Research, 2021)

Not all doubt is the same!

1. Factual Doubt: Doubts about the factual underpinnings of Christianity. (e.g., Feeding 5,000, Thomas)
2. Emotional Doubt: Doubts stemming from subjective emotional experience of our own feelings or circumstances (e.g., Anxiety, suffering, Peter).
3. Volitional Doubt: Doubts that arise from “impaired” faith (e.g., Turning away from God, Judas).

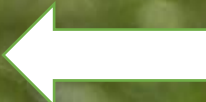
(G. Habermas, 1990)



Gospel



Doing my best!



Hang in there!

How we may view our faith!



Holy Spirit

Believer

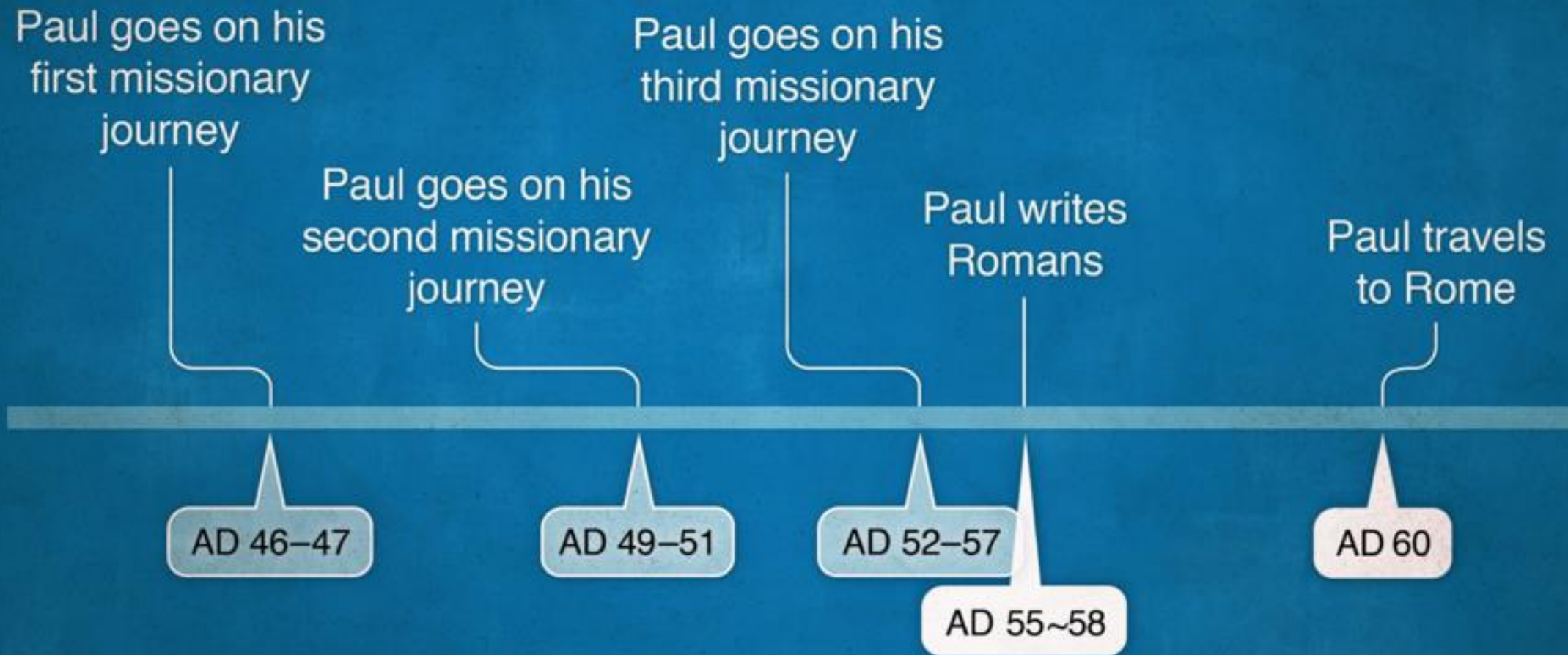
How the Bible portrays our faith

In Christ, the righteous God unites Jews and Gentiles into one people of God.
United by grace through faith in Jesus.

Written by Paul to the church in Rome during his third missionary journey, ca. AD 55–58

TIMELINE

ROMANS



*All dates are approximate



Rome

Corinth

Ephesus

Antioch

Jerusalem

1. Introduction (1:1–17)
2. The Righteousness of God (1:18–3:20)
3. The Gift of Righteousness (3:21–5:21)
4. The Nature of Righteousness (6:1–8:39)
5. Righteousness in God's Treatment of Israel
(9:1–11:36)
6. Righteousness in Relationships (12:1–15:13)
7. Conclusion (15:14–16:27)

There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death.

Romans 8:1-2

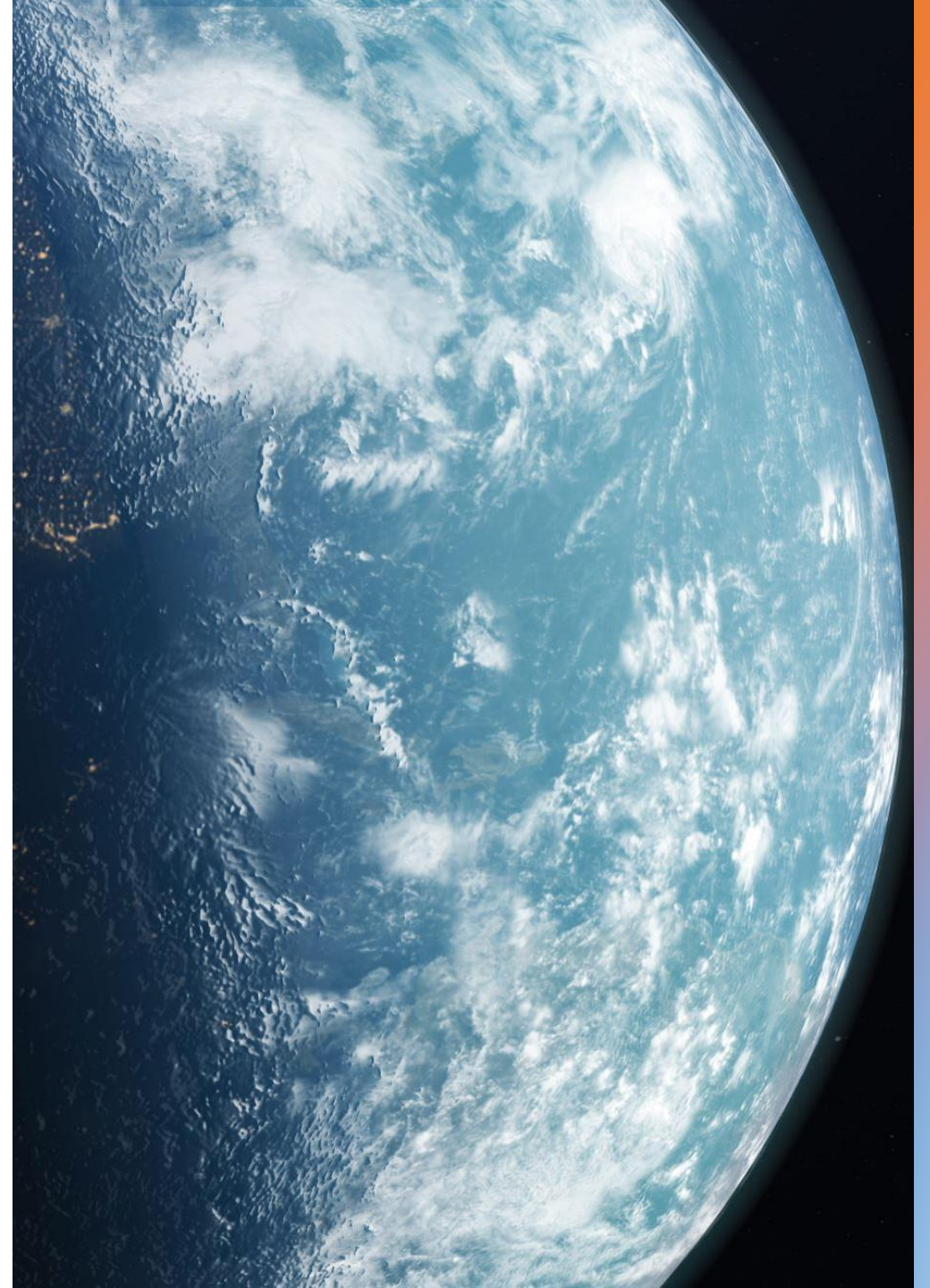
“...you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, *provided we suffer with him* in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:15-17

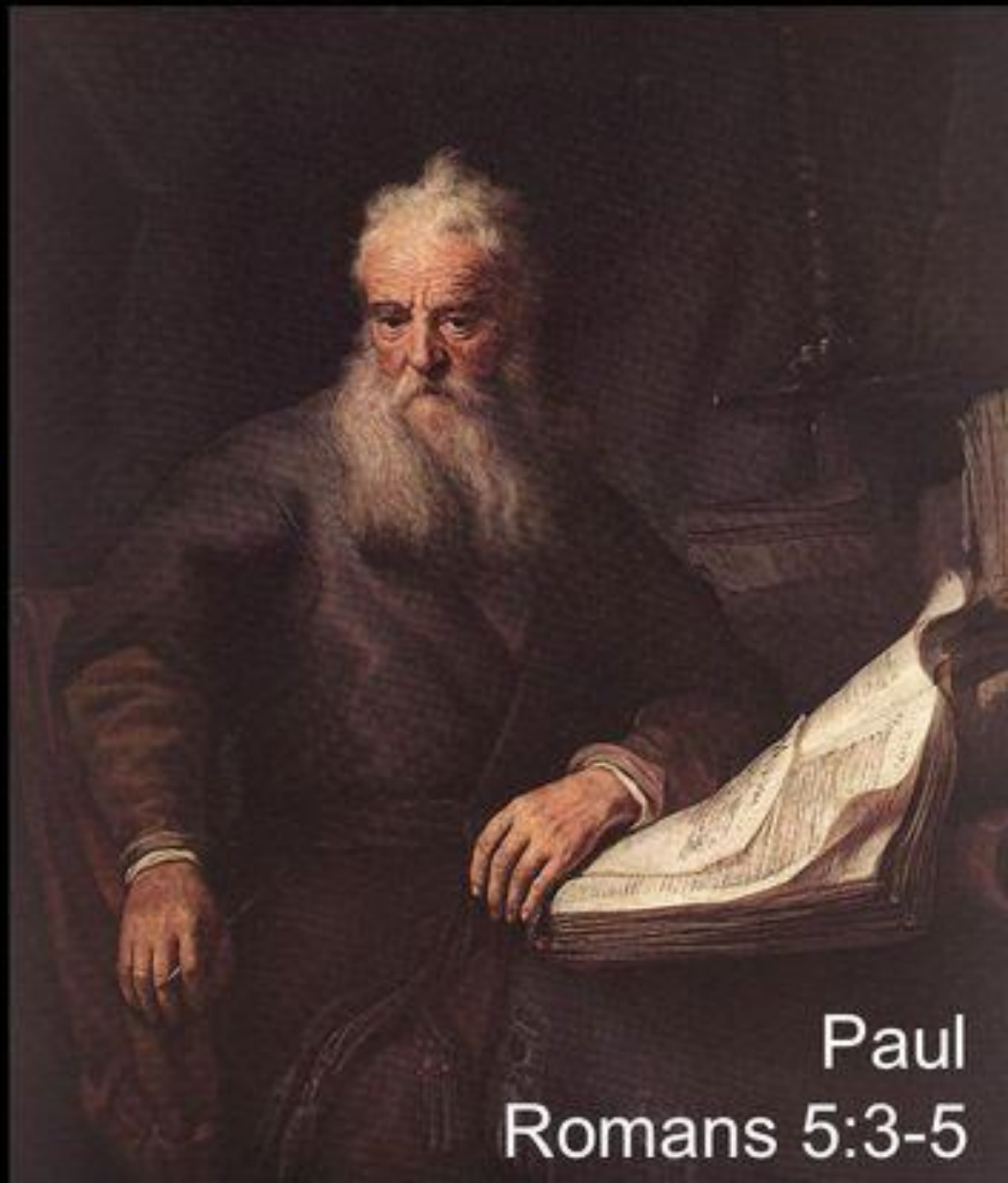
Wisdom of the World

“Let's be very clear: there is no divine purpose in suffering whatsoever. The idea of a God who sees some use in people being in physical pain, or traumatised emotionally, or having their lives wrecked by natural disasters or fellow human beings is warped theology.”

Rabbi Jonathan Romain (The Guardian, 2010)



We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that **suffering** produces perseverance, **perseverance** produces character, **character** produces **hope**. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his **love** into our hearts by the Holy Spirit whom he has given us.

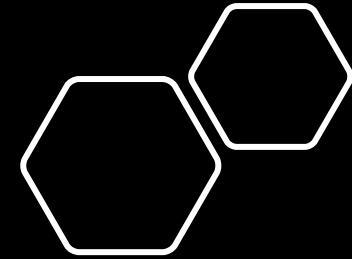


Paul
Romans 5:3-5

Paul is no stranger to suffering!

List Of Paul's Sufferings: **2 Corinthians 11:21-33**

- † Imprisoned & Flogged
- † Exposed to death
- † 5 x 39 lashes
- † 3 x beaten with rods
- † 1 x pelted with stones
- † 3 x shipwrecked
- † 1 x in open sea
- † Danger from rivers & bandits
- † Danger from Jews & Gentiles
- † Danger in the city, country & sea
- † Danger from false believers
- † Without sleep, food & clothes



For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Romans 8:18

Glory to glory with Christ!

“For our light and momentary affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory that is far beyond comparison.” (2 Cor. 4:17)



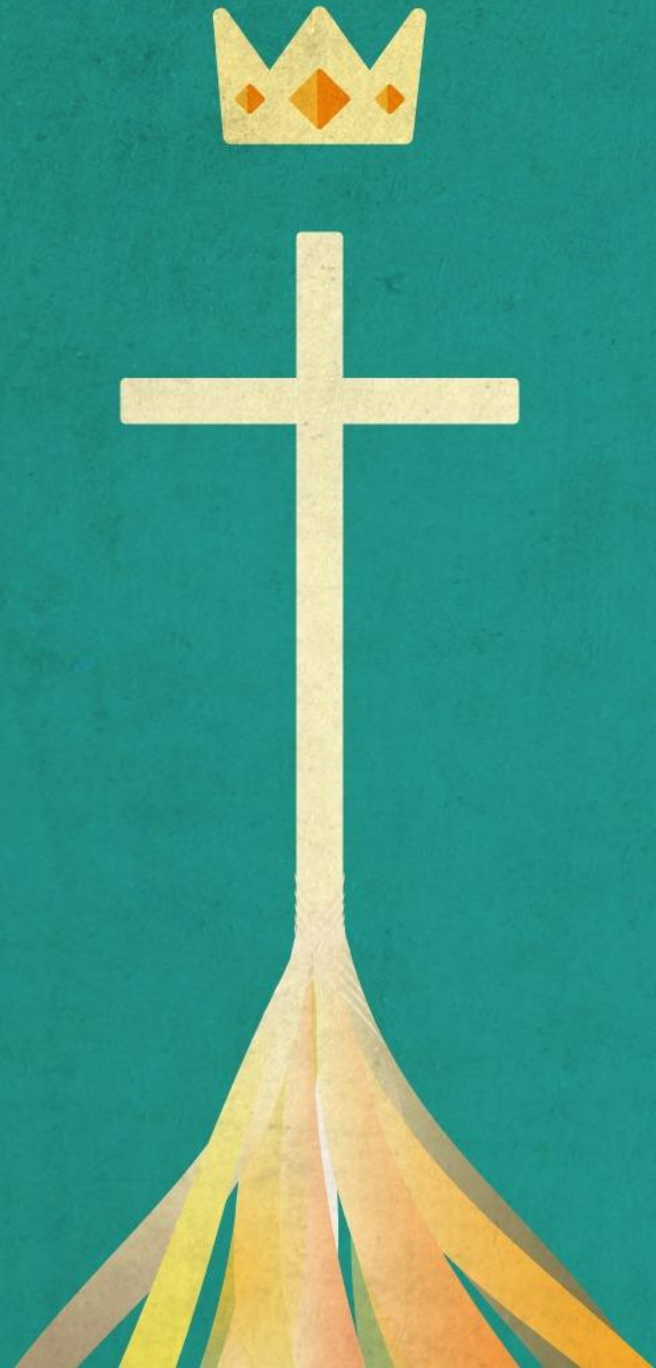
**THE GOLDEN CHAIN
OF
REDEMPTION
ROMANS 8:28-30**



What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Romans 8:31-33 (ESV)





“Who is to condemn?
Christ Jesus is the one who died—
more than that, who was raised—
who is at the right hand of God,

**WHO INDEED IS
INTERCEDING
FOR US.”**

ROMANS 8:34



Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword?

Romans 8:35



As it is written,

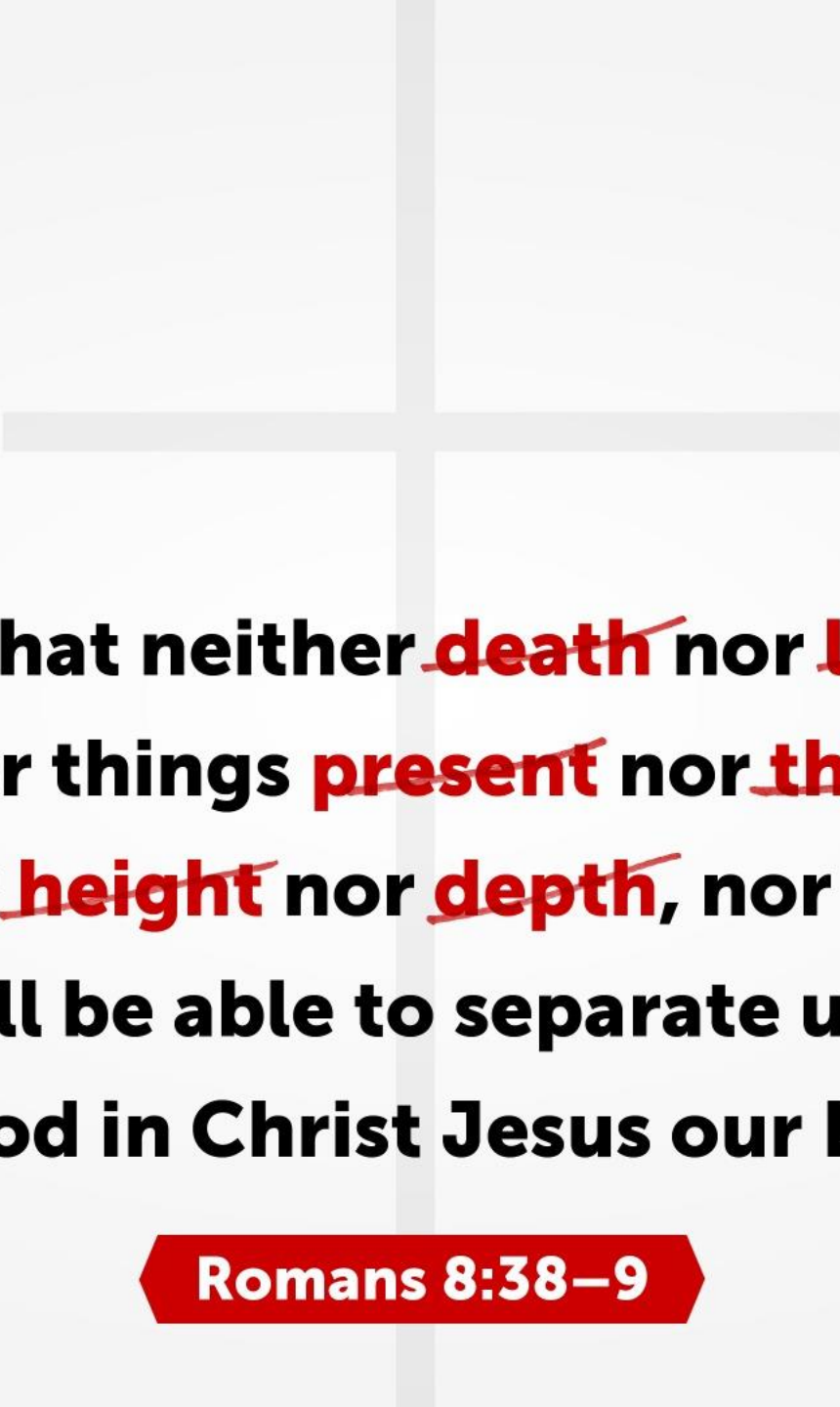
“For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

Romans 8:36

No, in all these things
we are more than
conquerors through
him who loved us.

Romans 8:37





**For I am sure that neither ~~death~~ nor ~~life~~, nor ~~angels~~
nor ~~rulers~~, nor things ~~present~~ nor ~~things to come~~,
nor ~~powers~~, nor ~~height~~ nor ~~depth~~, nor anything else in
all ~~creation~~, will be able to separate us from the love
of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

Romans 8:38–9



Takeaways:

1. Believe it!
2. Live it – with yourself
3. Live it – with others
4. Prepare your heart