Scripture Readings

Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes,** for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

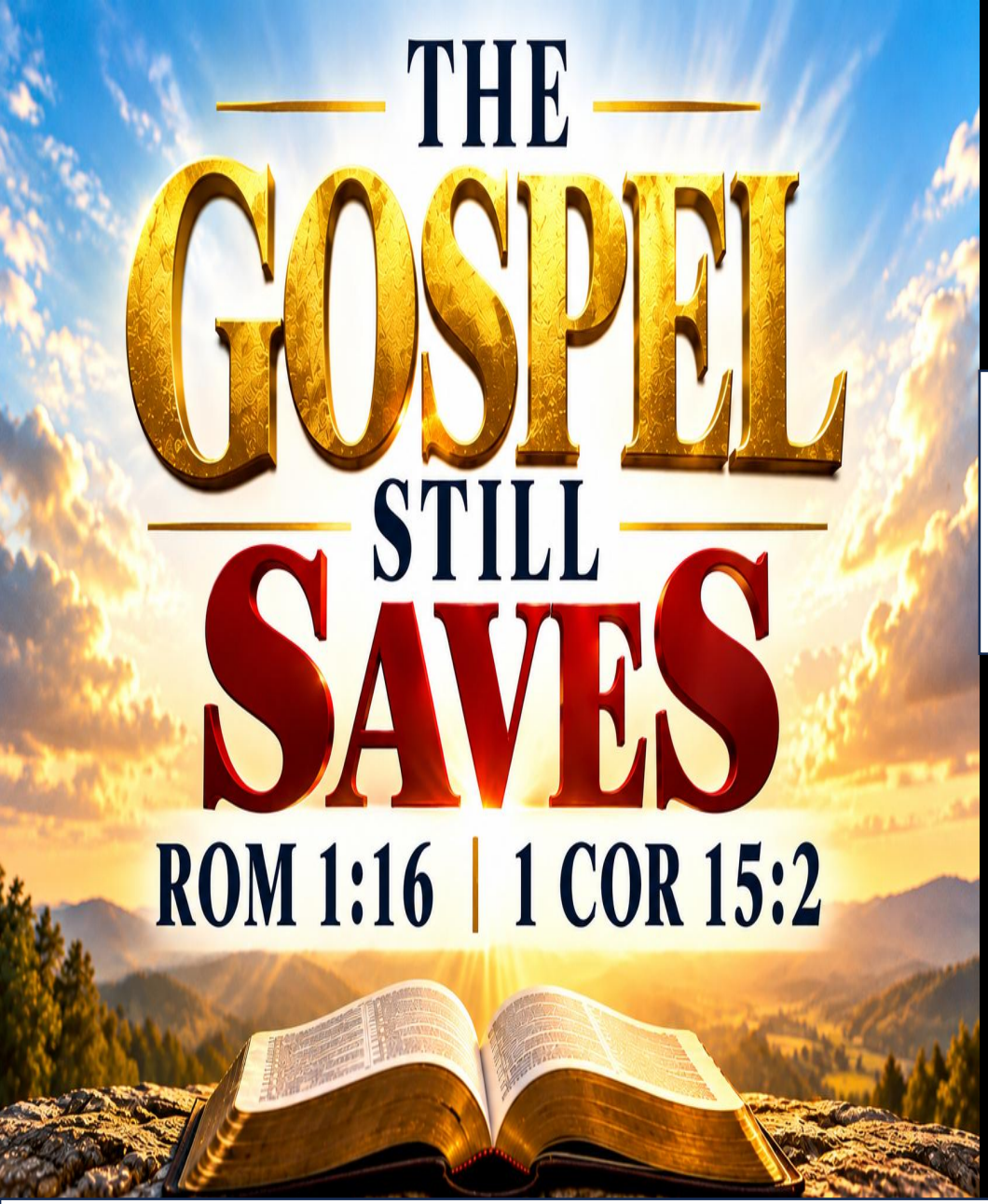
The Gospel Is The Good News

1 Cor 15:2 Moreover, brethren, **I declare to you the gospel** which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, [2] **by which also you are saved,** if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

The Heart of The Gospel

[3] For I delivered to you **first of all** that which I also received: that **Christ died for our sins** according to the Scriptures, [4] and that **He was buried,** and that **He rose again the third day** according to the Scriptures.


THE
GOSPEL
STILL
SAVES
ROM 1:16 | 1 COR 15:2

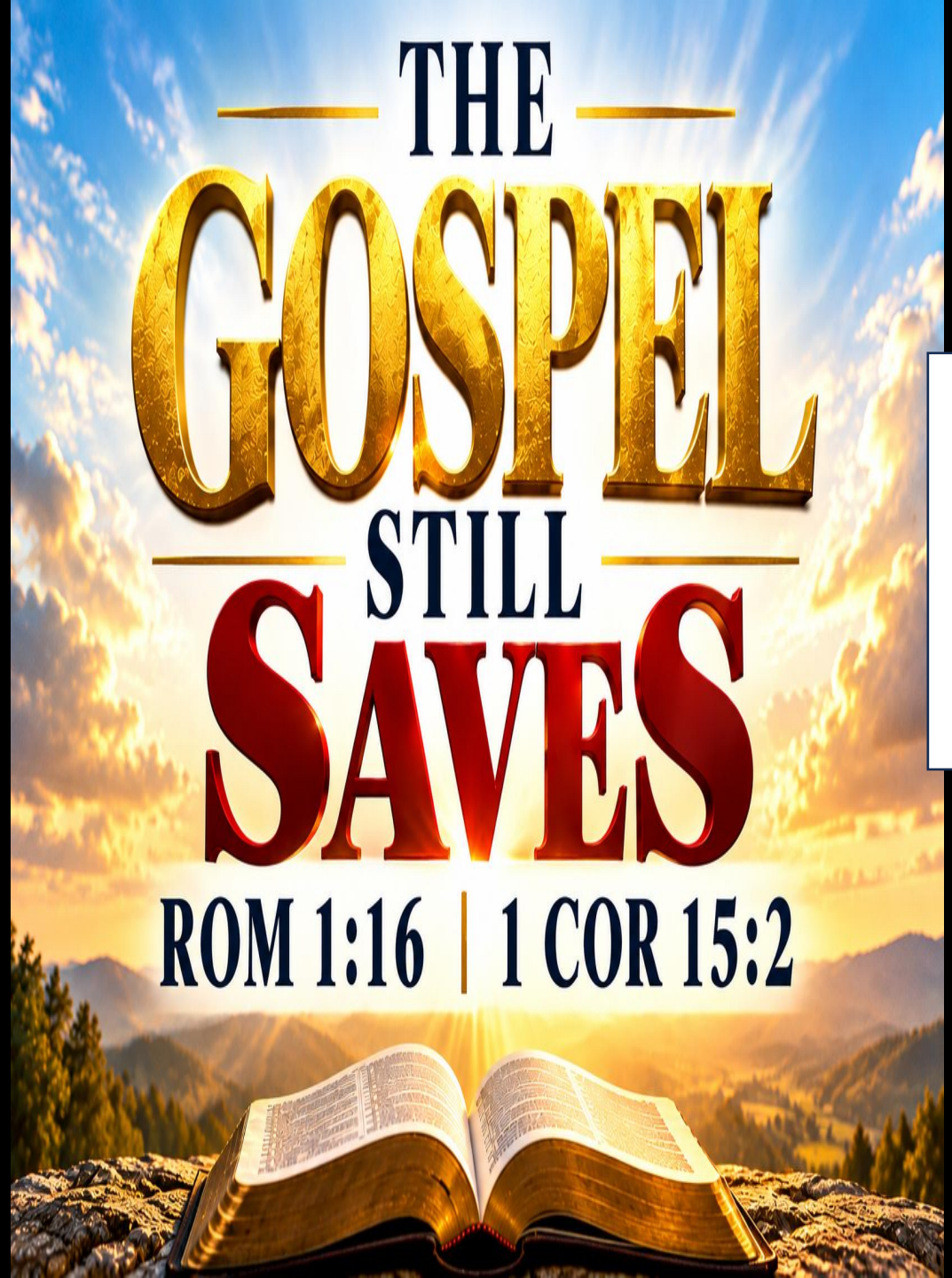


The Bible Is A The Greatest Love STORY Ever Told

After The First Sin (Gen 3:6) Love Showed Up

And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.“ Gen 3:15

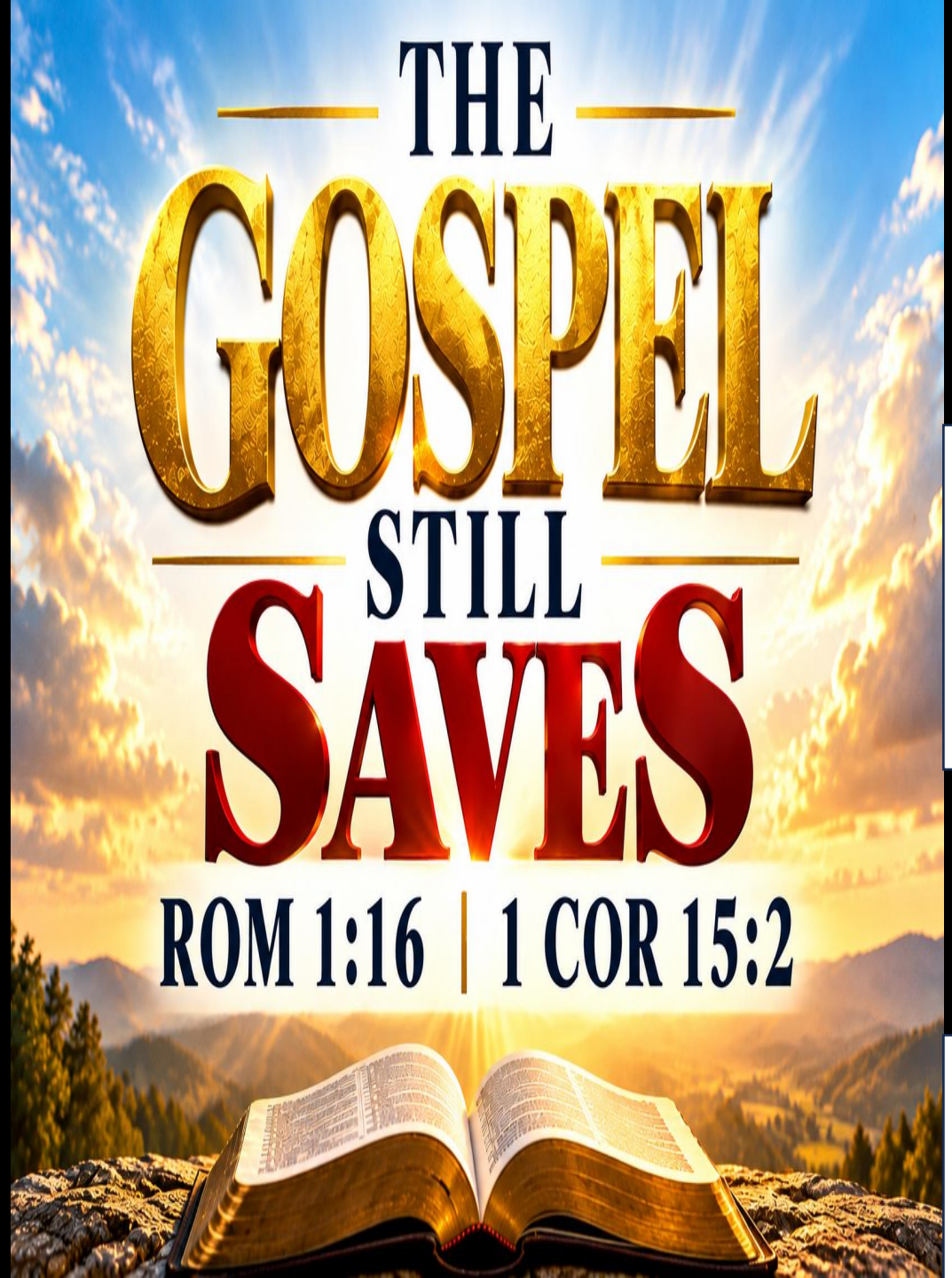
God Had A Plan of Redemption (The Story Of Us)



God’s Plan Was Never To Find Perfect People

We Are Here Because Jesus Christ Died For Imperfect People

POINT 1 — GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION HAS ALWAYS MOVED THROUGH IMPERFECT PEOPLE



In Genesis 12:3, God promised that through Abraham all the families of the earth would be blessed

Abraham was flawed

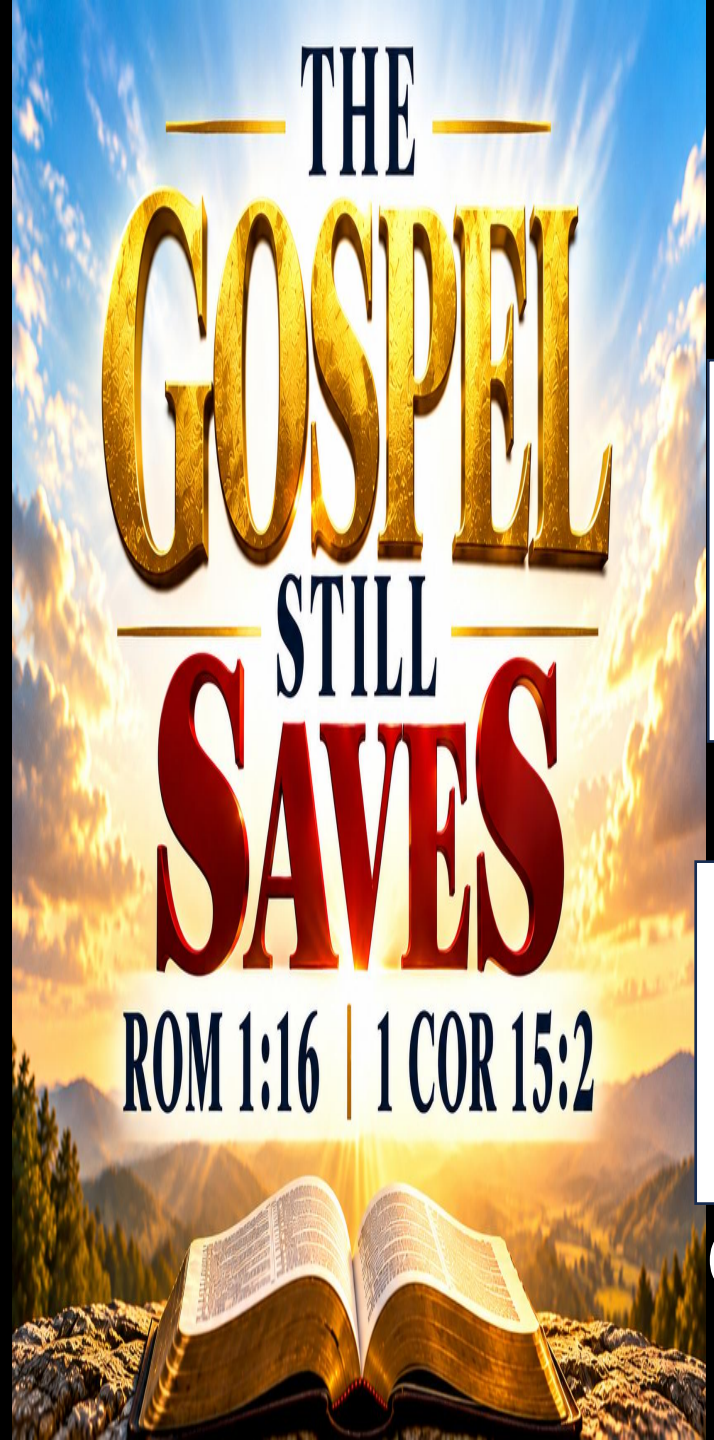
Liar and did not trust God

Genesis 12-21

Abraham's Flawed Family

Issac, Jacob and his Sons

You Ment It For Evil But God Ment It For Good Gen 50:20



The Old Testament Exodus-Malachai

Enemy's Opposition, Human Sin, and Suffering Could Not Cancel God's Promise

God Raised Up Moses Delivering Egypt

God Established A Covenant With Israel

God Raise of Judges, Kings & Prophets

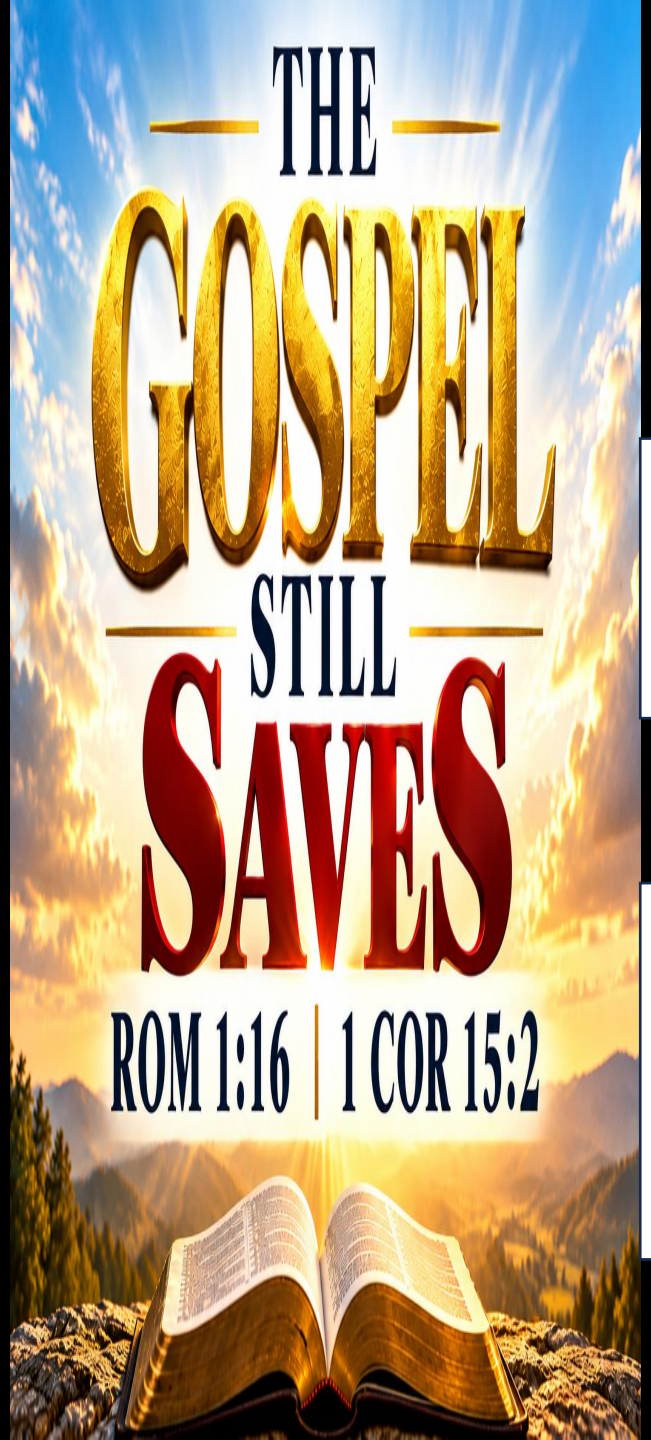
Israel Was Not Faithful

BUT GOD

Preserved His Promise

Old Testament Main Takeaway

God's Faithfulness Is Greater Than Man's Failures (Jeremiah 31:3)



The New Testament Opens

Matt 1:21 and she will bring forth a son and you shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins

Luke 2:11 born to you this day in the city of David a Savior who is Christ The Lord

Gal 4:4 Fullness Of Time Had Come

The Bible Story From Genesis To Matthew From The Garden To The Cross God Was Working To Redeem Sinners

We Must Understand What This Means



If The Entire Bible Is About God Redeeming Fallen People!

How Can The Church Become A Place Where Fallen People Cannot Find Redemption & Restoration?

Abraham Faith and Failures

David Heart & His Story Is: Adultery/Murder

Peter's Preach The 1st Sermon But The Rooster

Thank God For The Fire of Coals (John 21:9)

Saul To Paul: He Is My Chosen Vessel

Christ Came To Save Sinners Of Whom I Am Chief (Acts 9:15)



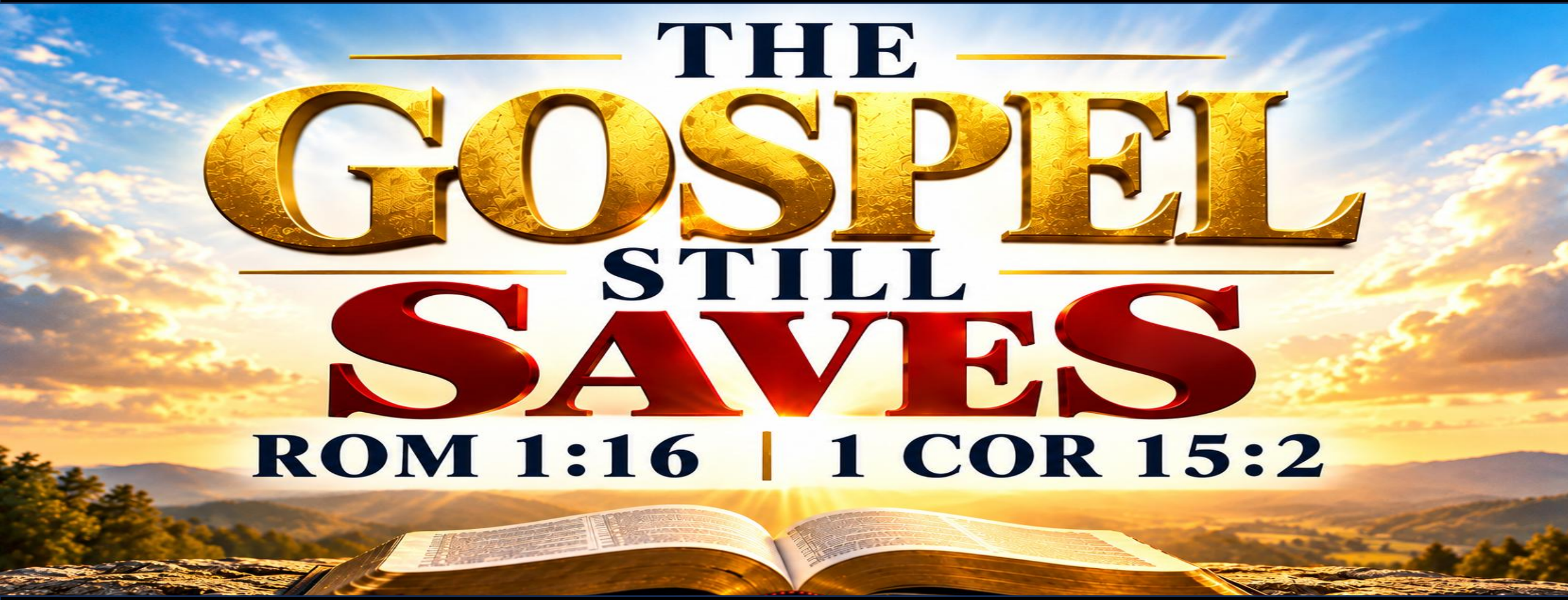
Long Creek We Must Remember What Story We Are A Part Of



Person	Their failure	What God did
Abraham — Genesis 12-19	Deception/failure to trust	Covenant promise his line
Jacob — Genesis 27-32	Deceived his father	Made him the father of the twelve tribes
Moses — Exodus 2:11–12	Killed an Egyptian	Called to deliver Israel
David — 2 Samuel 11–12	Adultery and arranging Uriah's death	Forgiven after repentance, consequences remained
Paul — Acts 8:1–3; 9:1–22	Persecuted the church Led Stephen's death	Made an apostle and preacher of the gospel

God Never Declared Their Past TO BAD For Them To Serve His Purpose!

Do We Believe In The Gospel?



Why Would We Question His Ability To Redeem & Restore Someone Sitting Among Us Today?



Point 2: Everyone In This Building Needs The Same Gospel

Before We Begin Examining The Past Of Others

Rom 3:23 “All Have Done What___?

Eccles 7:20 There Is Not A Man On Earth Who Never Sin

Jas 2:10 One Stumble Is All It Takes, In God’s Eyes

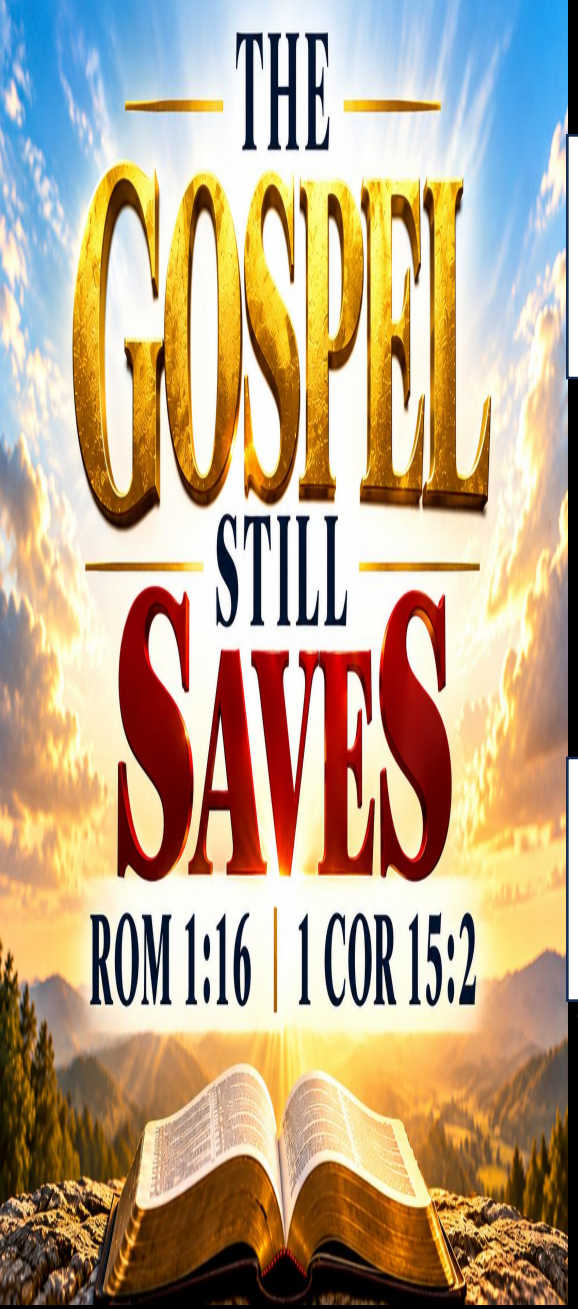
1 John 1:8 The one that say they have no sin is a____?

Be Thankful For The Gospel (1 Cor 15:2)

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes...“

Rom 1:16

Thank God For THE REACH of The Gospel



THANK GOD THE GOSPEL REACHED ME!

Paul:"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief 1 Tim 1:15

Like Paul Two Things We Must Remember

Who We Were (Sinners)

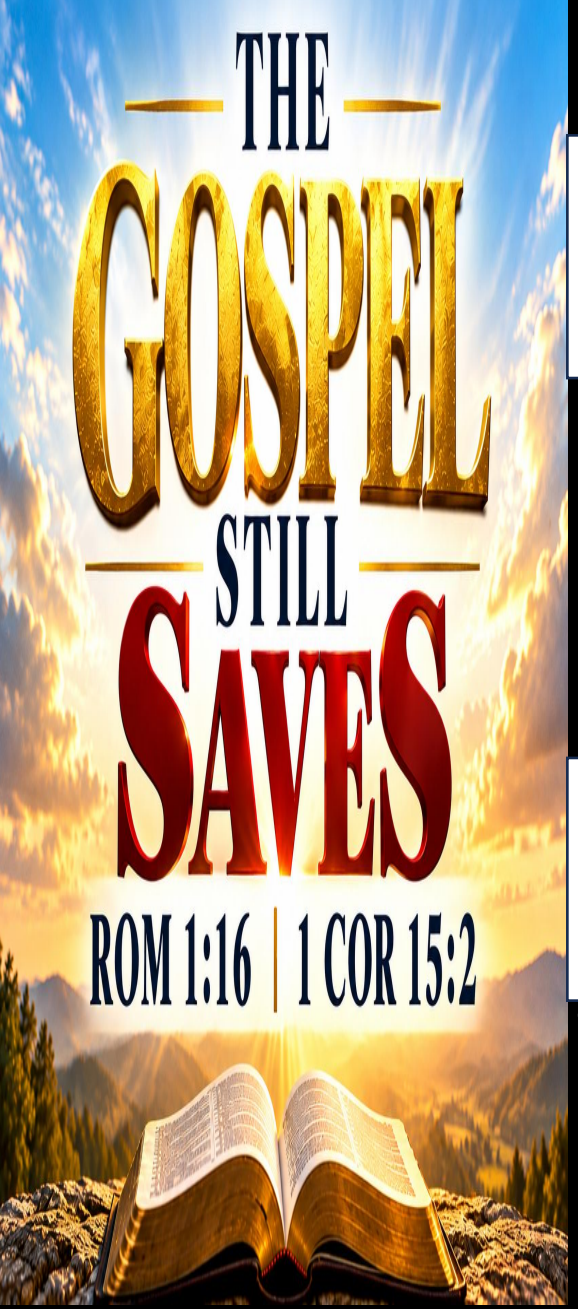
What Christ Did For Us (Saved Us)

1 Cor 6:9-10 Paul list sins that were incompatible with inheriting Heaven as your eternal Home

The List includes: sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, homosexual acts, theft, greed, drunkenness, reviling, and Extortion

Vs 11 AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU!

“We Know You Were Washed By We Still Cannot Accept You”



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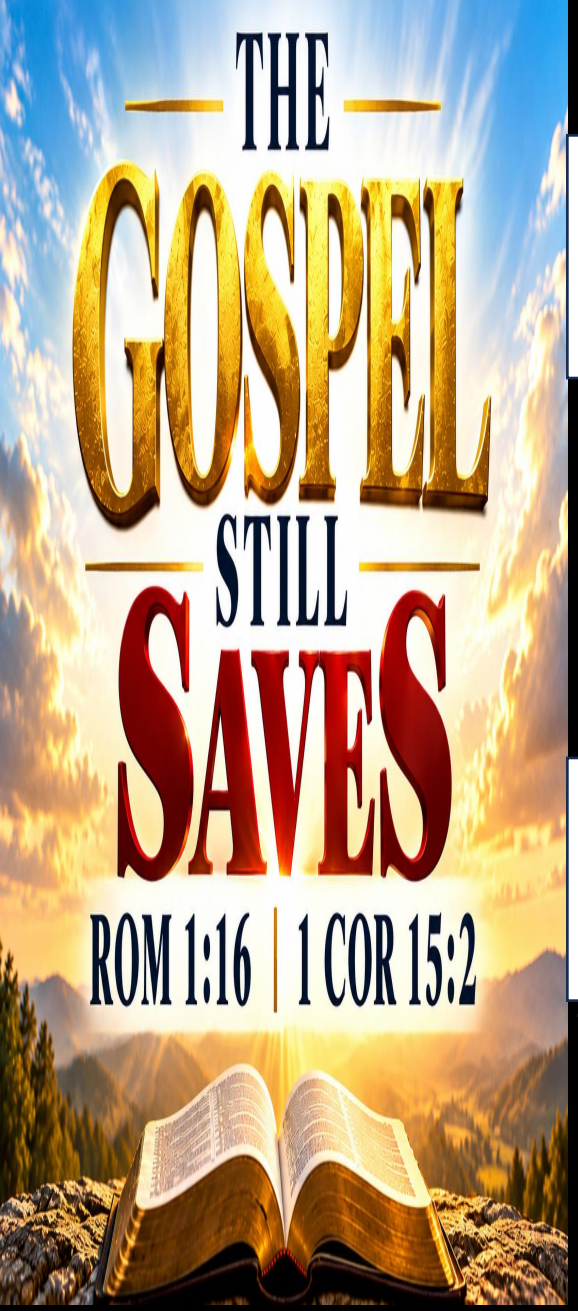
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Vs 11 AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU!

“We know God forgave you but your past is too ugly.”



THANK GOD THE GOSPEL REACHED ME!

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Like Paul Two Things We Must Remember

Who We Were (Sinners)

What Christ Did For Us (Saved Us)

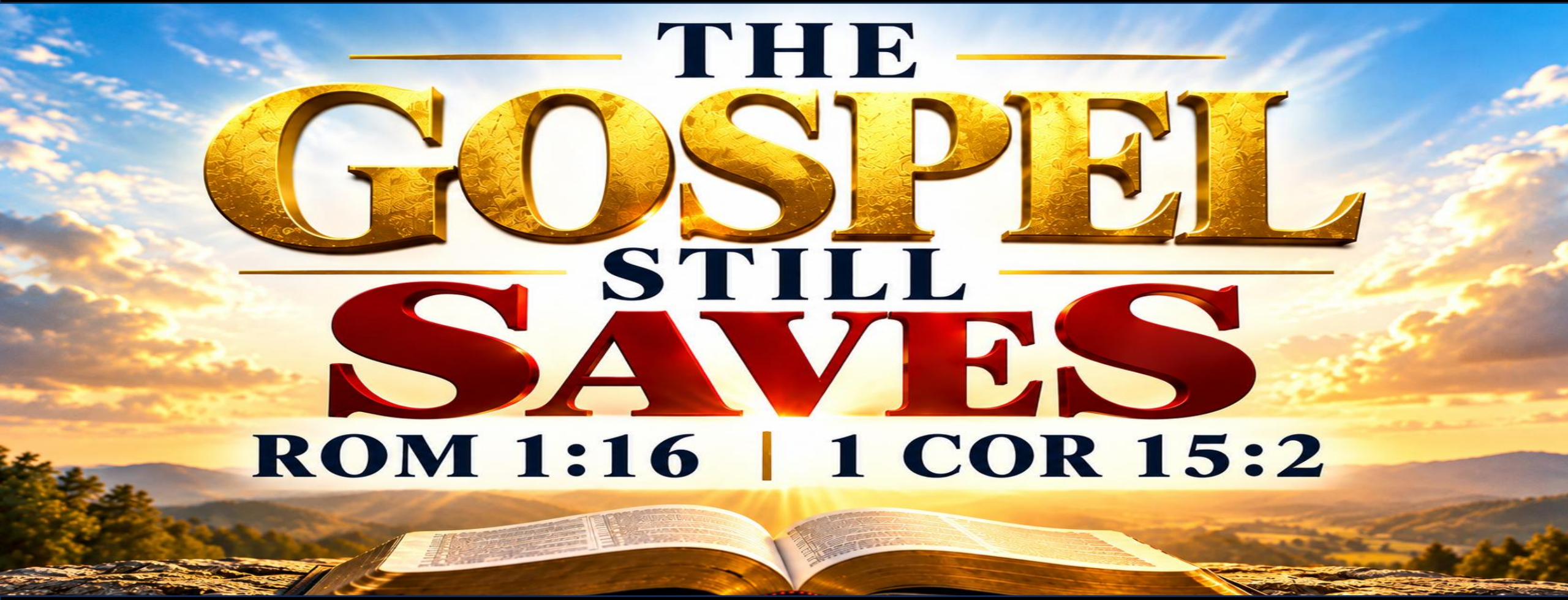
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The List includes: sexual immorality, idolatry, adultery, homosexual acts, theft, greed, drunkenness, reviling, and Extortion

Vs 11 AND SUCH WERE SOME OF YOU!

We Know You Are A New Creation In Christ BUT We Going To_?

Do We Believe In The Gospel?



Do We <u>ONLY</u> Believe In The Power of The Gospel When It Is Someone We Love.





Point 3: The Gospel And Long Creek

What Do We Believe About The Gospel

Forgiveness and Accountability Are Not Enemies

Repentance does not eliminate the need for WISDOM

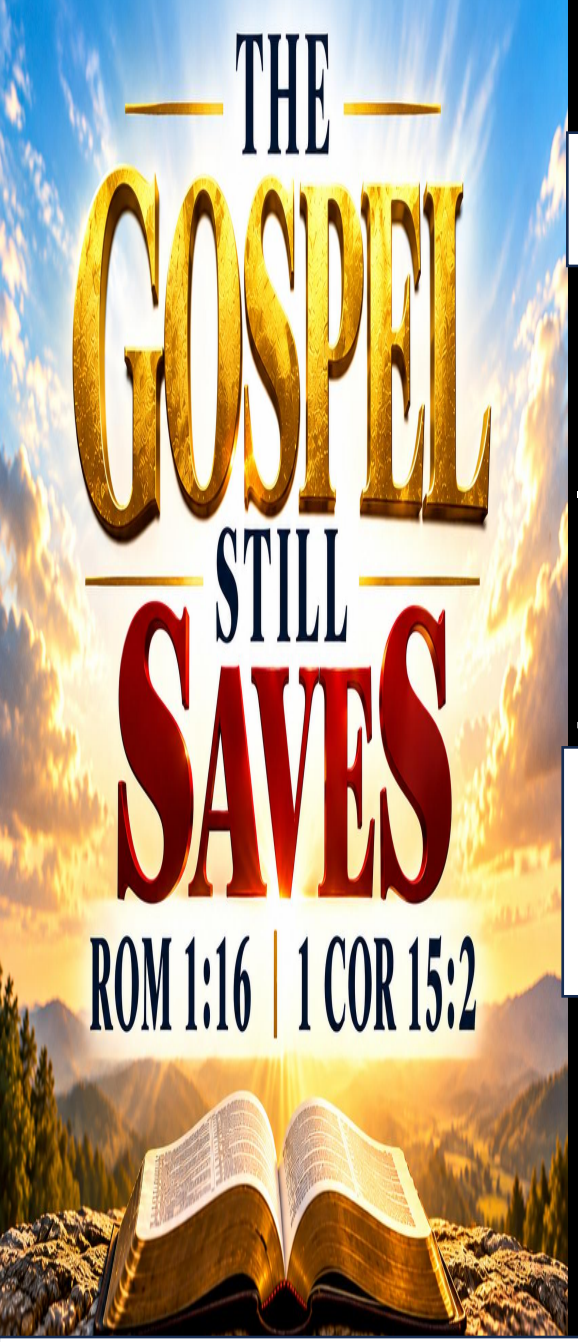
We Must Not Declare A Person Beyond The Reach of God's Grace

We Must Stand On The Word Not With The World

HOW WOULD THE WORLD VIEW US!

2 Tim 1:7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear

But of Power and Love and of A Sound Mind



A Need For Biblical Maturity

What Does God Desire For The Sinner

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man is **overtaken in any trespass,** you who *are* spiritual **restore such a one** in a **spirit of gentleness,** considering yourself **lest you also be tempted.**

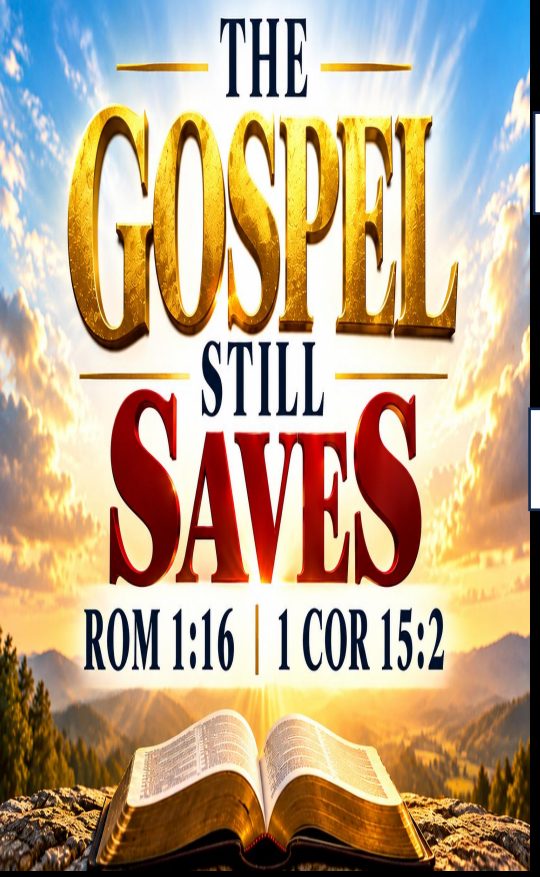
The Challenge How To Apply This Faithfully Without Cruelty, Favoritism or Fear

Clear Standards of Conduct For Certain Positions

1 Tim 3:2 and Titus 1:7

Elder Must be beyond reproach blameless

We Must Let God Be God



Let God Be God

Accusations, Rumors, Suspicion of Sin

Prov 18:13 foolish to answer without hearing facts first

Prov 18:17 the first person speak seems right

Keep Our Eyes On The Real Enemy Eph 6:12

For **we do not wrestle against flesh and blood,** but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of [c]the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places.*

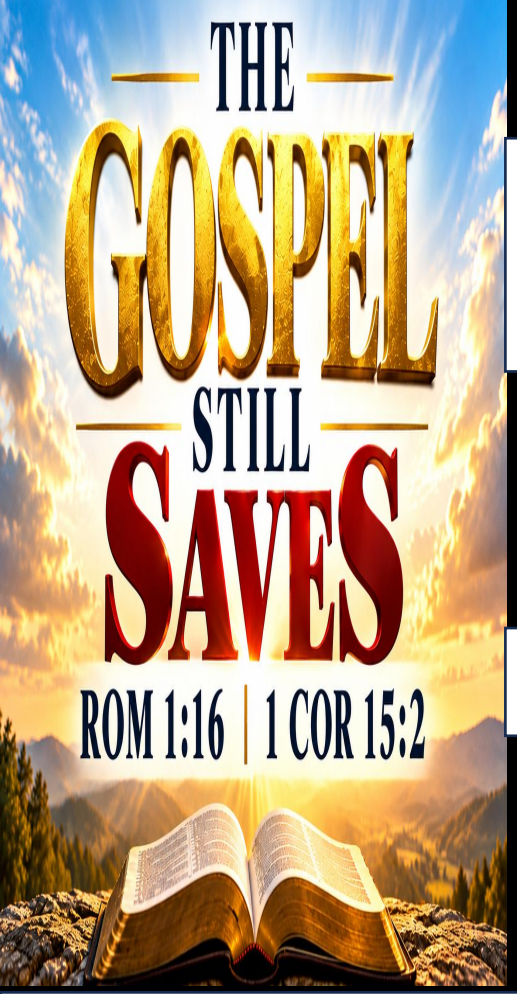
The Preachers Job 2 Tim 4:2 (Preach The Word)

2 Cor 5:10 All will stand before the judgement seat of Christ

Phil 2:12 Workout your Salvation with fear and trembling

Some Among Us Say It Will Be To Late…DO MORE PREACHER

He will convict the world of sin righteousness and Judgment John 16:8



Point IV: What If It Was Someone You Loved

THEY COMMITTED A TERRIBLE SIN YEARS AGO

They Acknowledged It,

Years Later They Turned Their Life Around

Obeyed The Gospel

They Walk Through The Doors of Long Creek

They Identify With Long Creek As A Member

Singing, Praying, Serving, Fellowshipping

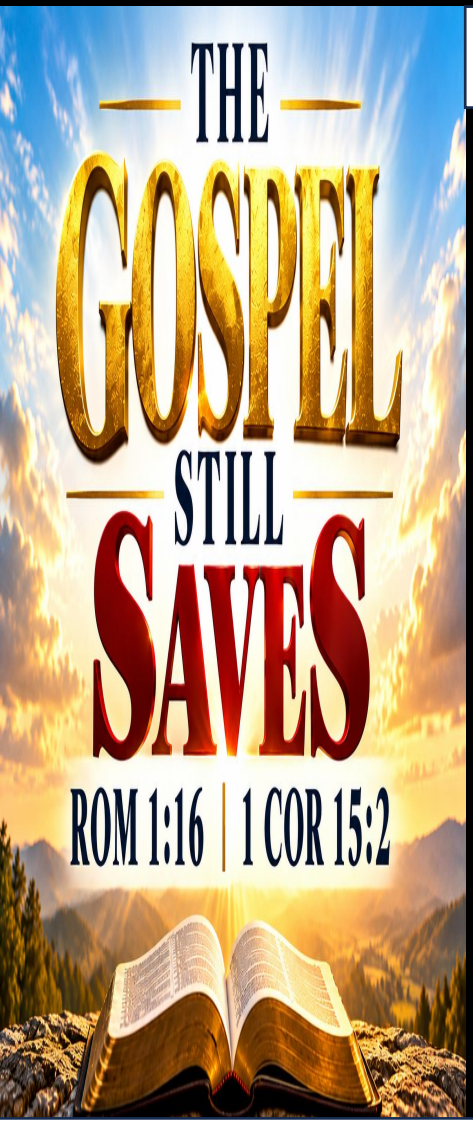
One Day It Happens: Someone Finds Out Their Past

SUDDENLY EVERYTHING CHANGES

Some Question Whether That Person Even Be Among Us

What Would You Want Us To Do, If It Was Your Love One?

We All Want Biblical Grace, Love and Acceptance



Accusations, Rumors, Suspicion of Sin & Sin

Matthew 6:14–15 teaches that **our willingness to forgive** others **is inseparable** from our **relationship with the Father.**

Ephesians 4:31–32 commands us **to put away** bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking, and to **be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving.**

We Must Be A People Who Believe In Forgiveness Enough To Practice It And In Holiness To Practice Accountability



And they **cast *him* out of the city and stoned *him***. And the witnesses laid down their clothes **at the feet of a young man named Saul**.

Acts 7:58

Then Saul, **still breathing threats and murder** against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest Acts 9:1



Then he fell to the ground, and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?” 5 And he said, “Who are You, Lord?” Then the Lord said, **“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting.** Acts 9:4-5



But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he **declared to them** how he had seen the Lord on the road, and that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus **Acts 9:27**

Christ Came To Save Sinners Whom I Am Chief 1 Tim 1:15



Now on the first *day* of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, **Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them** and **continued his message until midnight Acts 20:7**



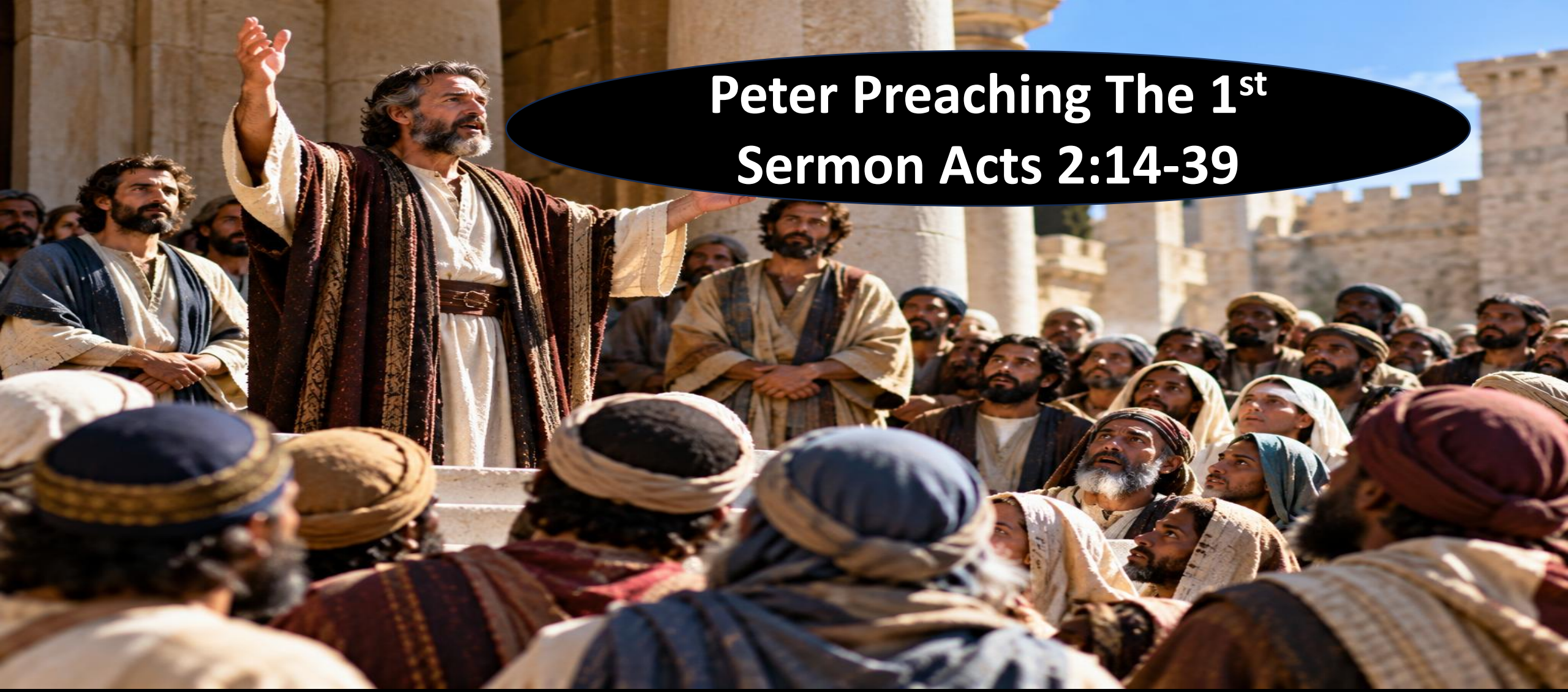
Now the servants and officers who had **made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold,** and they warmed themselves. And **Peter stood with them and warmed himself John 18:18**



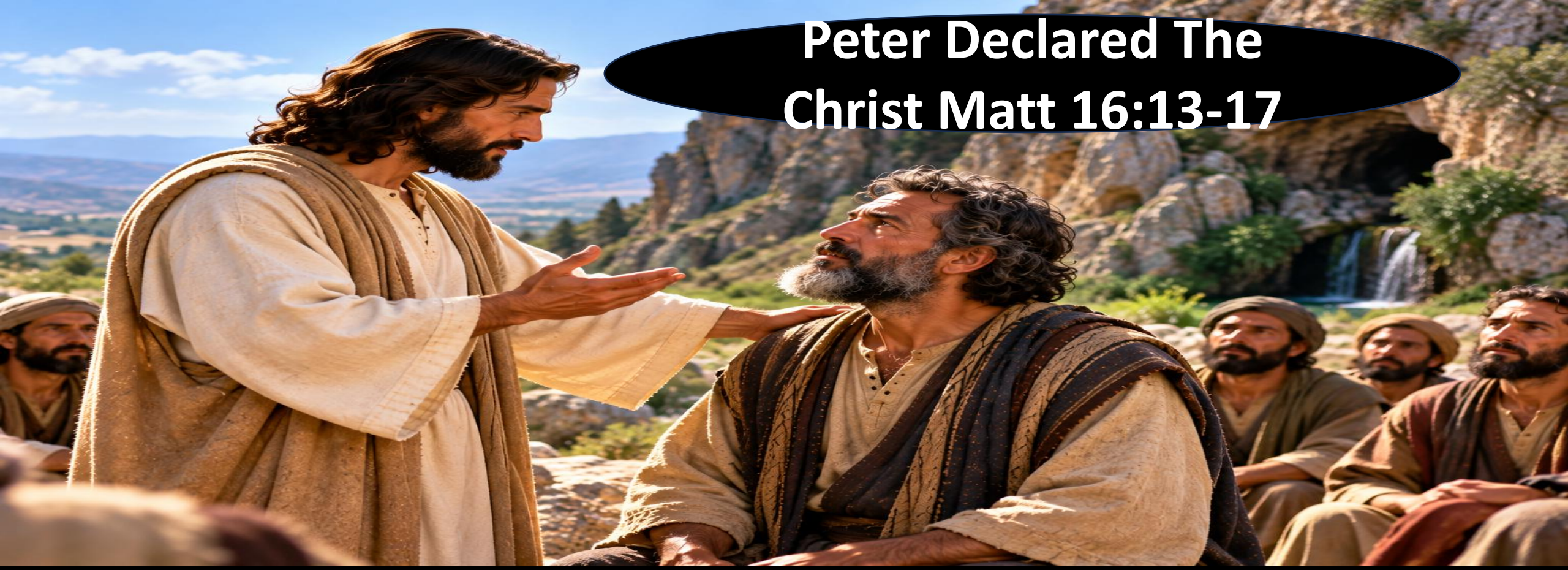
Then, as soon as they had come to land, **they saw a fire of coals there**, and fish laid on it, and bread. [10] **Jesus said to them**, “Bring some of the fish which you have just caught.” **John 21:9**



Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, “**Do you love Me?”** and he said to Him, “Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You.” **Jesus said to him, “Feed My sheep. John 21:17**



Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you **be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;** and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2:38**



Peter Declared The Christ Matt 16:13-17

And I also say to you that you are Peter, and **on this rock I will build My church,** and the gates of Hades shall not [g]prevail against it. 19 And **I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven**, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” **Matt 16:18-19**

LET US REMEMBER WHOSE GOD



Could They Preach Teach and Serve At Long Creek Today