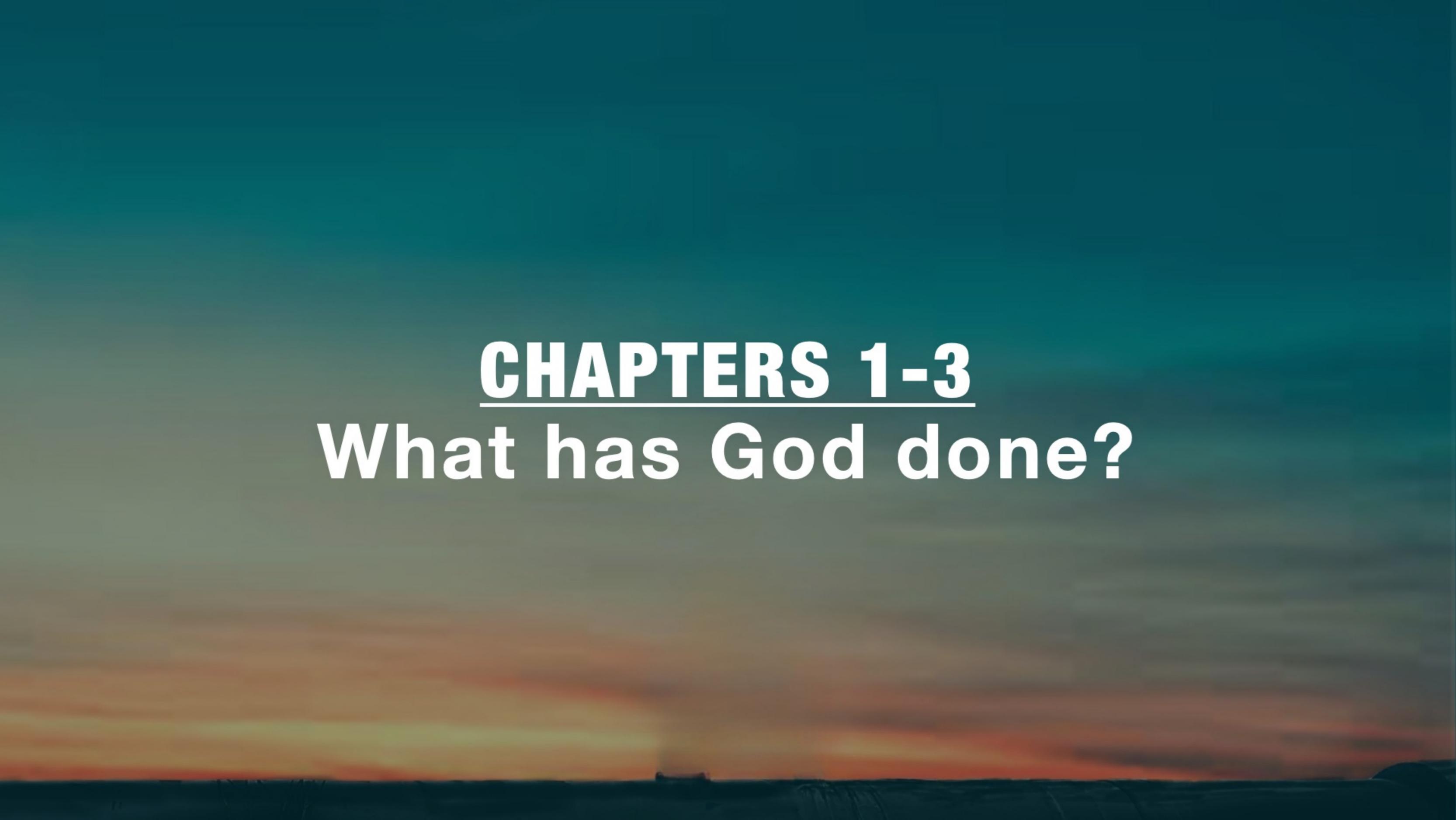


EVERY VALLEY EVERY MOUNTAIN

EPHESIANS 6:1-9





CHAPTERS 1-3
What has God done?

CHAPTERS 4-6

How then shall we live?

First Hinge Scripture

EPHESIANS 5:1-2

*Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children.
And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself
up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

Second Hinge Scripture

EPHESIANS 5:21

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

CHAPTERS 5:22-6:9

**What does mutual submission
look like practically?**



Mutual Submission: Christ's New Reality

The "Weaker" Party

Wives
Children
Bondservants

*"Render your
submission as
unto Christ."*

The "Stronger" Party

Husbands
Parents
Masters

*"Render your
leadership as
under Christ."*

Mutual Submission: Children & Parents

Children

vs. 1-4

Parents

Children, obey your parents in the Lord.

- Obey your parents as if you were obeying God Himself.
- Do not obey ungodly commands from your parents.

Honor your father and mother.

- Blessings will come to those that show parents honor.

Do not provoke your children to anger.

- Be reasonable with your rules.

Bring your children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- Center your discipline and instruction on God's Word.
- Devote your children to the Lord.



Mutual Submission: Servants & Masters

vs. 5-9

Servants

Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling.

- Take your work seriously.

Not by the way of eye-service...but as bondservants of Christ.

- Work as if Christ's employment.

Whatever good anyone does; this he will receive back from the Lord.

- Blessings will come to those that work as if for Christ.

Mutual Submission: Servants & Masters

vs. 5-9

Masters

Masters, do the same to them.

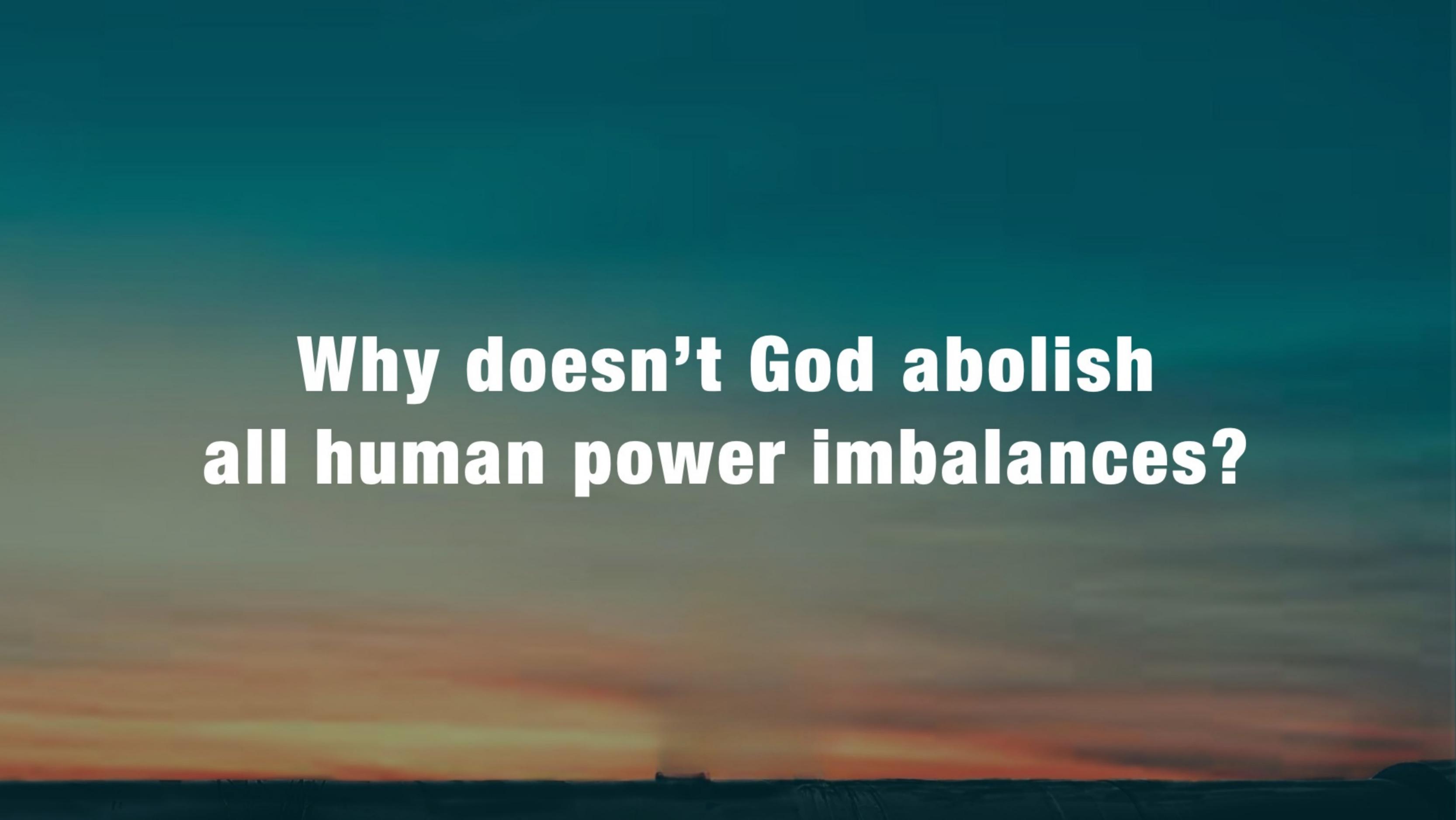
- Blessings will come to those that manage as if for Christ.

Stop your threatening, knowing that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven.

- Your employees are not yours, but the Lord's.

There is no partiality with Him.

- Use your position for good.

The background of the image is a sunset or sunrise over a dark horizon. The sky is filled with soft, horizontal bands of color, transitioning from a deep orange and red near the horizon to a lighter, hazy yellow and then a deep teal at the top. The overall mood is contemplative and serene. The text is centered in the upper half of the image.

**Why doesn't God abolish
all human power imbalances?**

Paganism: Strength, beauty, riches, and victory are evidences of God's *love*. Weakness, ugliness, poverty, and defeat are evidences of God's *disdain*.

Aristotle: *“Those who are the most prosperous seem to be the most loved by the gods.”*

Xenophon: *“The gods grant prosperity to those they favor.”*

Thucydides: *“The strong do what they can and the weak suffer what they must.”*

Plato: *“The offspring of inferior parents... will be hidden away in some secret place.”*



Christ: Reveals His *great love* for us in **weakness, humility, poverty,** and **death** upon the cross.

Philippians 2:8b *“He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.”*

1 Timothy 2:4 *“He desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

Isaiah 40:4a *“Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low.”*

Revelations 21:4 *“He will wipe away every tear... for the former things have passed away.”*



The “Already” of the Cross, the “Not Yet of Christ’s Return

The Pagan Pattern → The Already → The Not Yet

**Wives are their
husband’s property.**

**Husbands and wives
are one flesh.**

**We are not given in
marriage in Heaven.**

**Children are their
parents’ property.**

**Children belong to
the Lord.**

**We are all gathered
as the full family of
God in Heaven.**

**Servants are their
master’s property.**

**Wealth and power
are loans God will
one day call to
account.**

**We all reign with
Christ in Heaven.**

**On the cross, Christ began to
raise every valley and lower
every mountain.**

**Upon His return, He will finish
what He began.**

**Will you participate in the
work He is doing right now?**