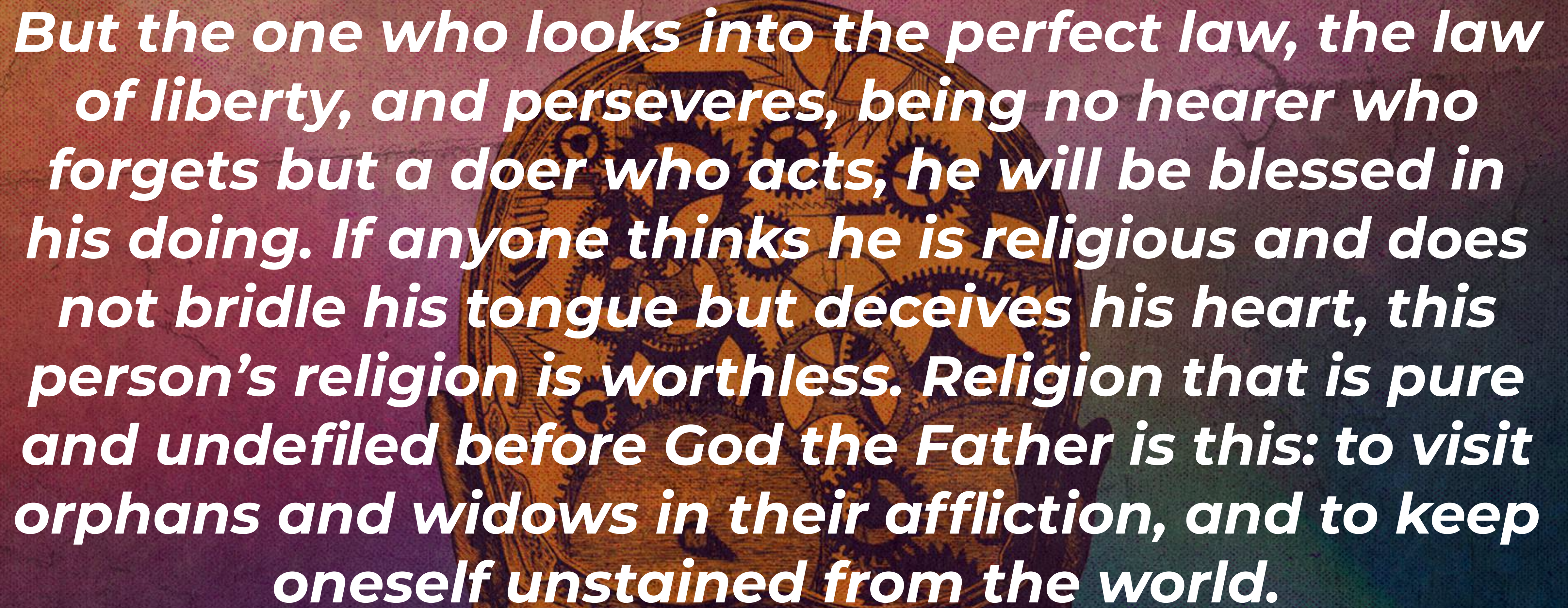
A hand holding a clock mechanism inside a head silhouette. The background is a gradient of purple and blue.

***Know this, my beloved siblings: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls. But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.***

***James 1:19-27***





***But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing. If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.***

***James 1:19-27***





**EXPERIENCE AND TRADITION 'VS.  
REVELATION: EXPERIENCING TRUTH**

James 1:19-27



# “EPISTEMOLOGY”: HOW WE KNOW WHAT WE KNOW

- TRADITION: I KNOW SOMETHING IS TRUE BECAUSE SOMEONE WITH AUTHORITY HAS TAUGHT IT TO ME.

## EXAMPLE:

I KNOW THE EARTH IS ROUND BECAUSE ASTRONAUTS HAVE GONE TO SPACE AND SEEN IT.

- EXPERIENCE: I KNOW SOMETHING IS TRUE BECAUSE I HAVE EXPERIENCED IT MYSELF.

## EXAMPLE:

I KNOW THE OCEAN IS LARGE BECAUSE I HAVE SAILED ON IT.

- REVELATION: I KNOW SOMETHING IS TRUE BECAUSE GOD HAS REVEALED IT TO ME THROUGH HIS WORD.

## EXAMPLE:

I KNOW JESUS LOVES ME BECAUSE THE BIBLE TELLS ME SO.



# THE FAILURE OF EXPERIENCE

- *19: “Our Truth” is constantly doing all it can to drown out that ‘still small voice’ (1 Kings 19:11-13)* [19] Know this, my beloved siblings: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; [20] for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. [21] Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.
- *20: Human passions originate in our heart/mind which is often ‘deceitful above all things and beyond (human) cure’ (Jeremiah 17:9)*
- *21: Overriding scripture with experiential ‘truth’ isn’t just “wrong”: It can and will prevent salvation.*



# RECEIVING REVELATION FULLY

- *22: A critical weakness of being human is that we easily “entertain” truth but do the opposite. (Romans 7:21)*
  - *23-24: When we “entertain” truth without doing it, we begin to “forget” what is true and what is false - deceiving ourselves in the process.*
  - *25: When we encounter God’s Word there is only one way to commit it to our heart/mind memory: by doing it.*
- [22] But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. [23] For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. [24] For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. [25] But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.
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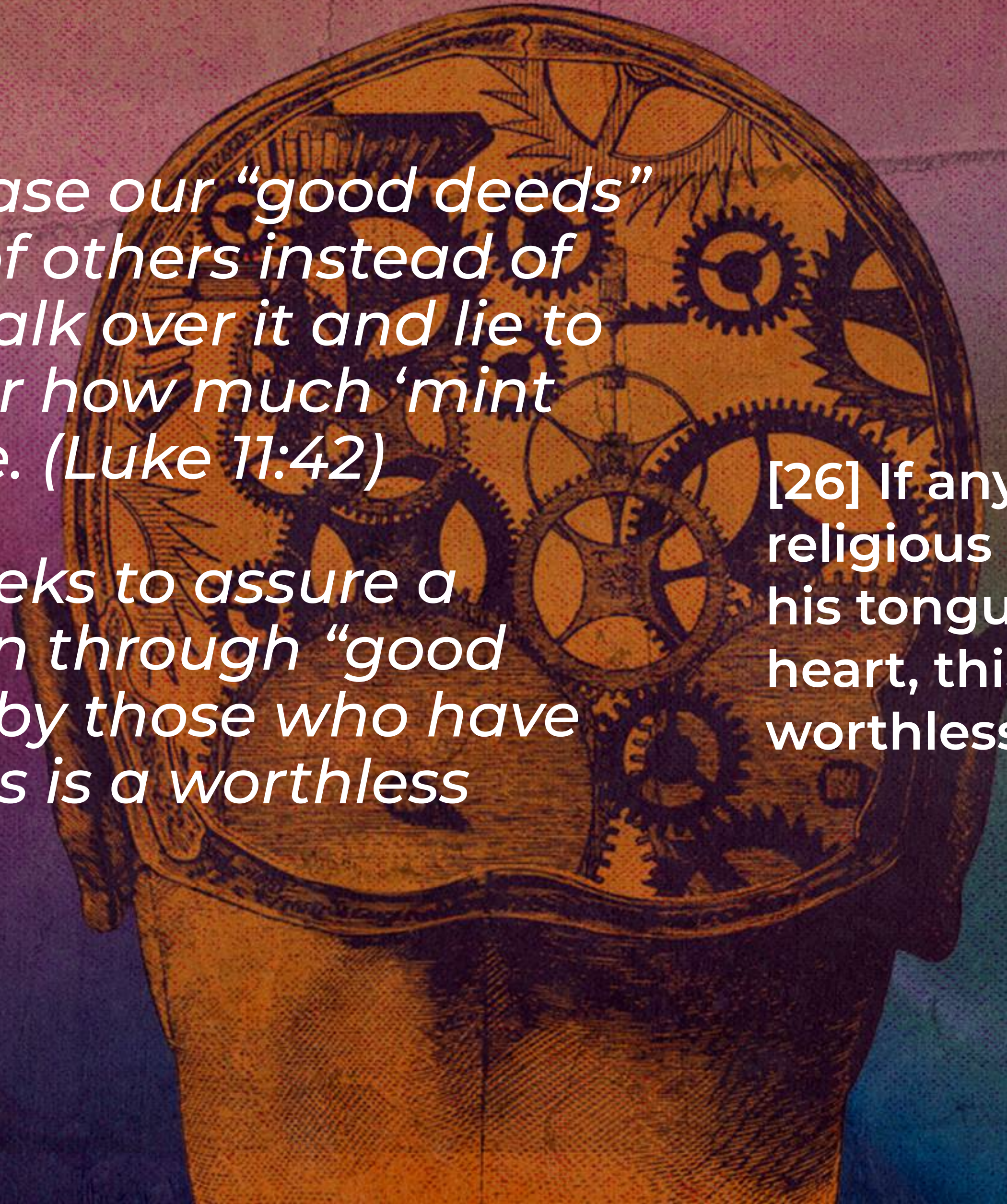


# TRADITION: FALSE WORSHIP

- *26a: When we base our “good deeds” off the wisdom of others instead of Gods Word, we talk over it and lie to ourself no matter how much ‘mint and rue’ we tithe. (Luke 11:42)*

- *26b: Tradition seeks to assure a persons salvation through “good deeds” dictated by those who have come before. This is a worthless salvation.*

[26] If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person’s religion is worthless.





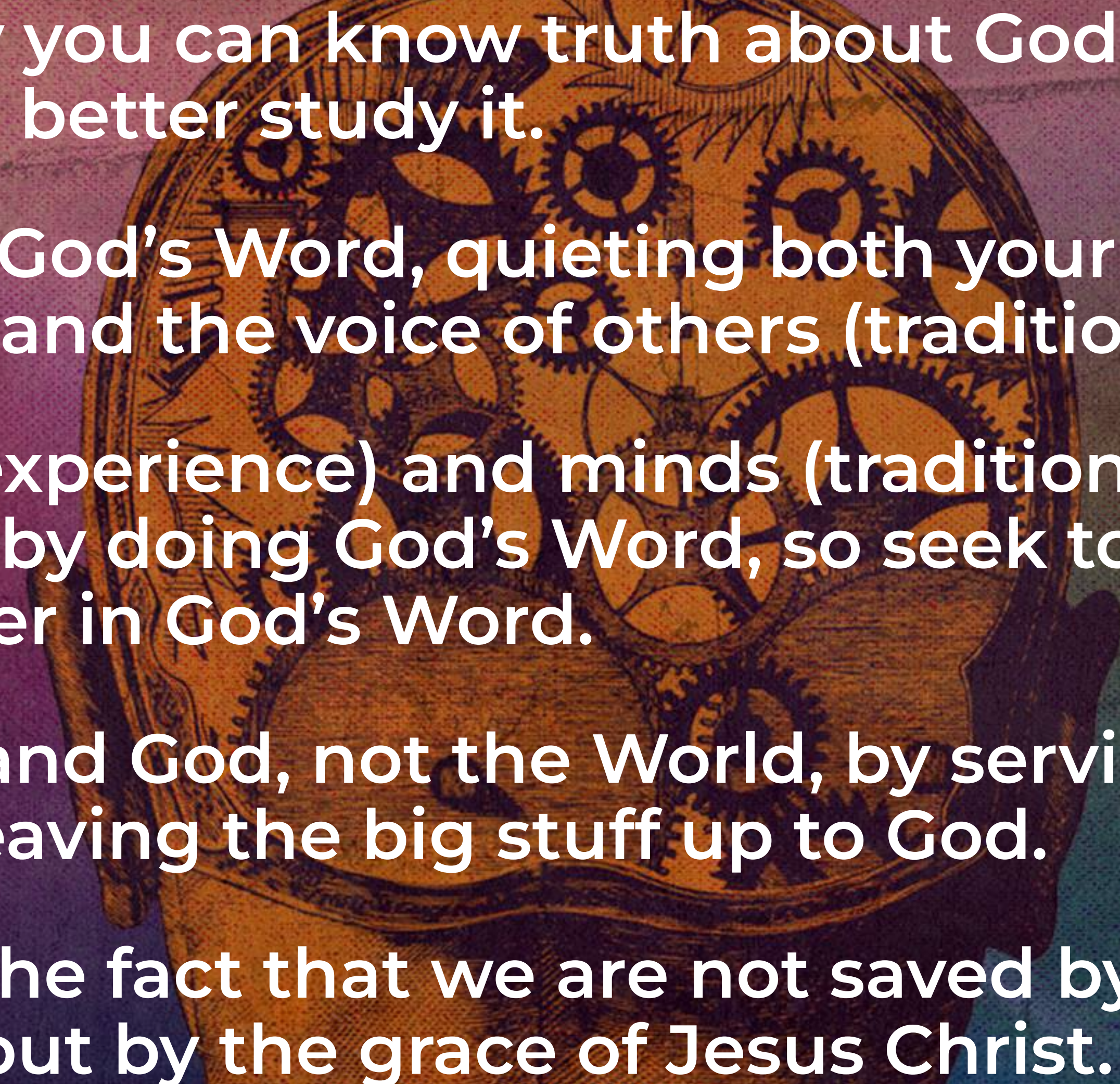
# LOVE: TRUE WORSHIP



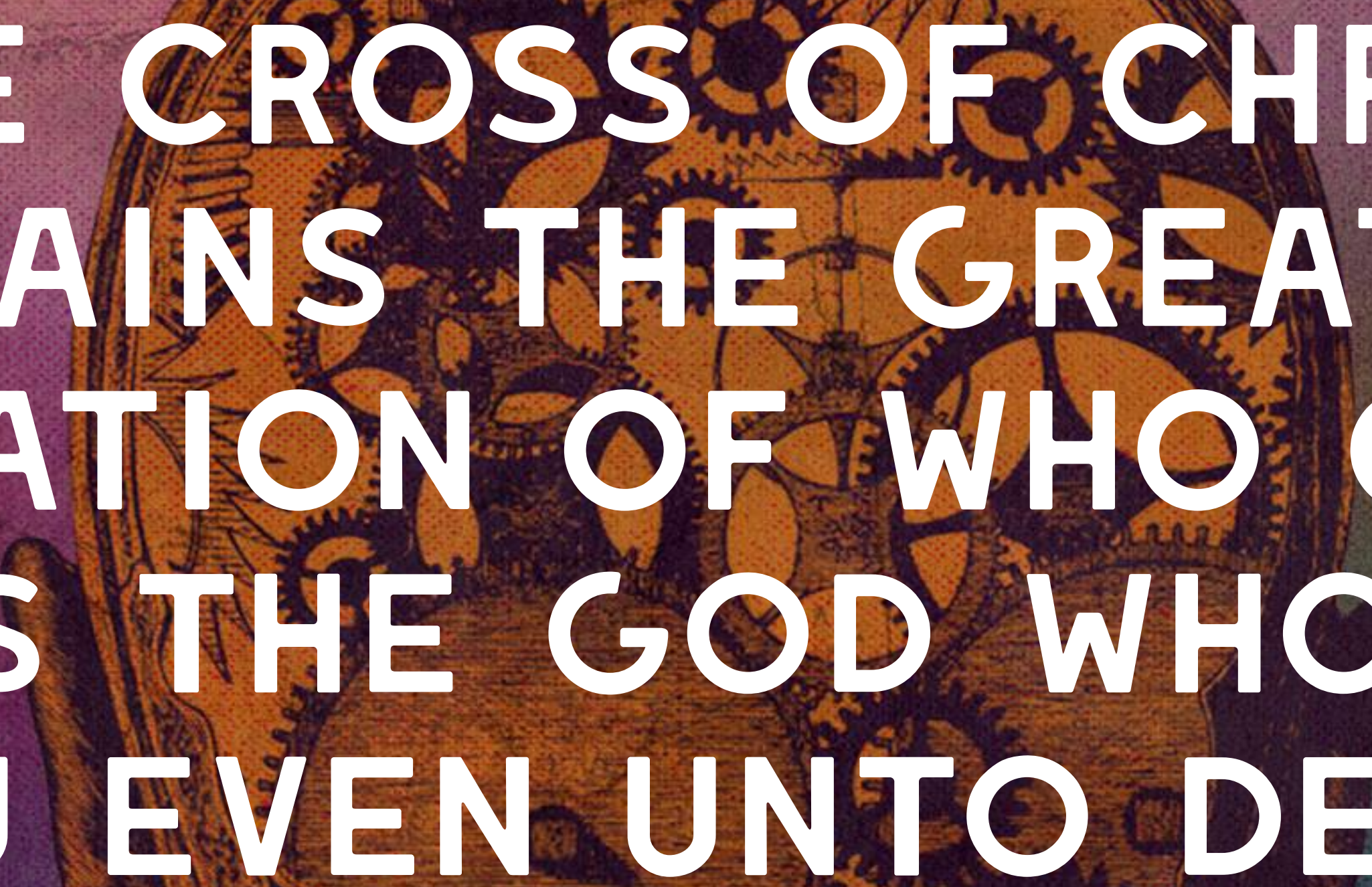
- *27a: Despite all the problems created by Tradition and Experience, Revelation still teaches us how to live a life that blesses us, others, and God.*
  - *27b: When we love the 'least of these in their affliction', we worship God. (Matthew 25:40)*
  - *27c: When we pursue love but are not 'conformed to this world', we worship God. (Romans 12:2)*
- [27] Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.



# HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE?

- The only way you can know truth about God is through His Word, so you better study it.
  - Take time in God's Word, quieting both your voice (experience) and the voice of others (tradition) as you do so.
  - Our hearts (experience) and minds (tradition) can only be transformed by doing God's Word, so seek to practice what you encounter in God's Word.
  - Love others and God, not the World, by serving the "least of these" and leaving the big stuff up to God.
  - Take rest in the fact that we are not saved by experience or by tradition but by the grace of Jesus Christ.
- 



A detailed illustration of a human head in profile, facing right. The head is rendered in a golden-brown color with fine cross-hatching for shading. The top of the head is open, revealing a complex internal mechanism of interlocking gears, cogs, and levers, symbolizing the mind or a divine spark. The background is a textured, mottled purple and blue gradient.

**THE CROSS OF CHRIST  
REMAINS THE GREATEST  
REVELATION OF WHO GOD IS:  
GOD IS THE GOD WHO LOVES  
YOU EVEN UNTO DEATH.**