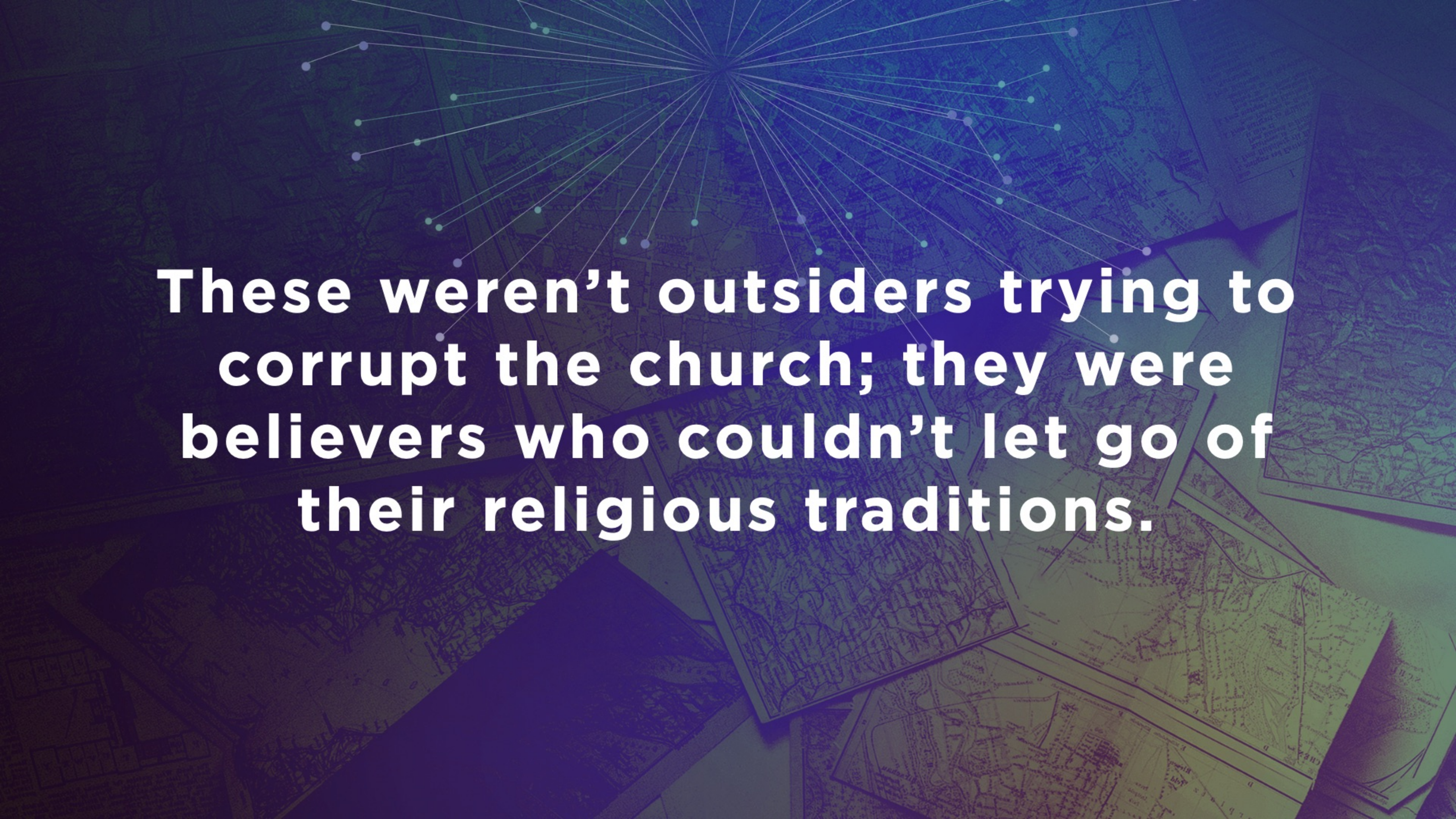


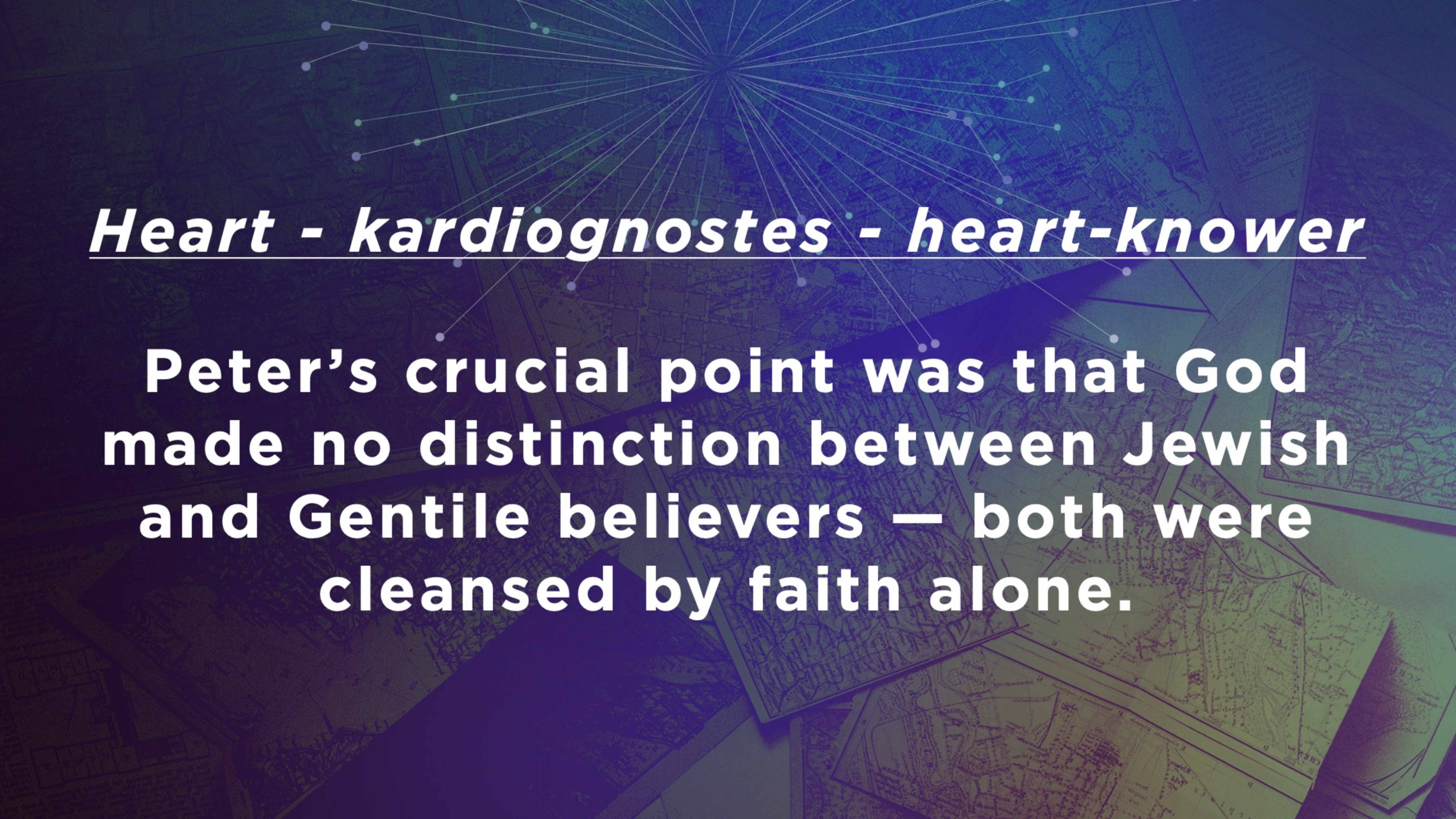
The background features a collage of old, sepia-toned maps. Overlaid on these maps is a network of thin white lines connecting various glowing blue and white dots, creating a sense of global connectivity. The text is centered in the middle of the image.

freedom through grace

A C T S 1 5 : 1 - 3 5

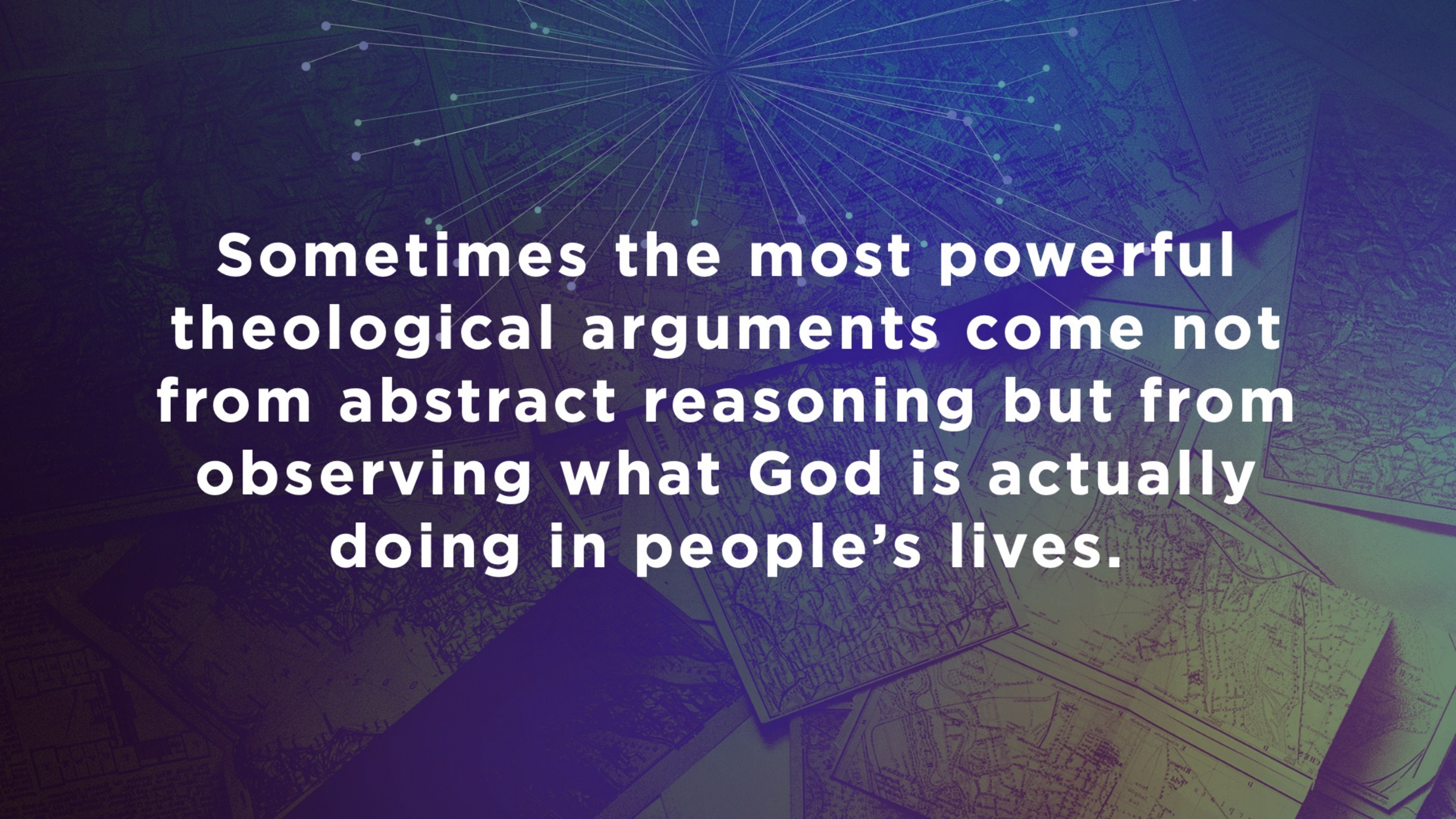
The background features a dark blue gradient with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, several historical maps are layered, showing various geographical features and place names. The text is centered over the maps.

These weren't outsiders trying to corrupt the church; they were believers who couldn't let go of their religious traditions.

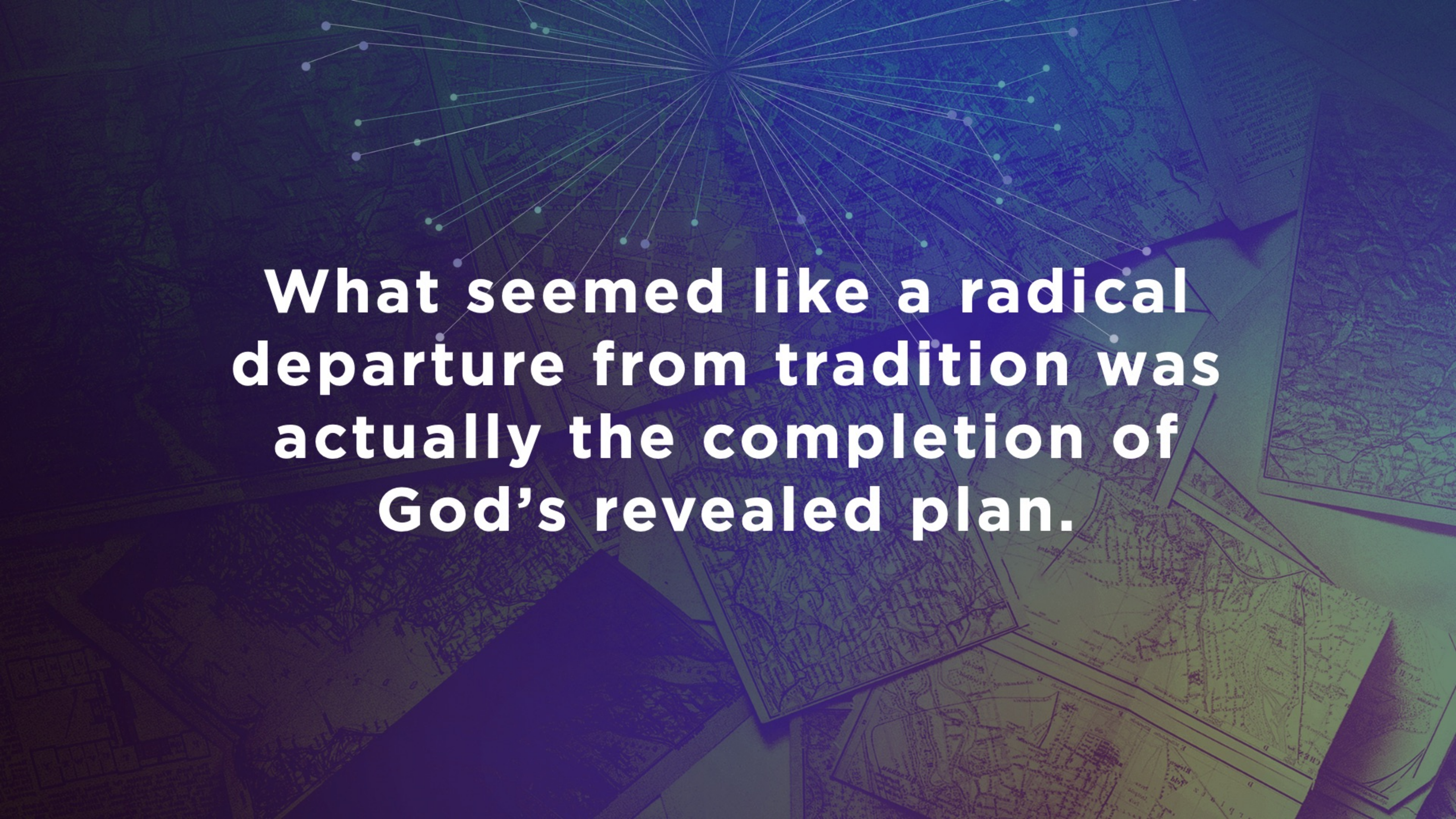
The background features a dark blue gradient with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent maps of various regions, including what appears to be a map of the Middle East and some European landmasses.

Heart - kardiognostes - heart-knower

Peter's crucial point was that God made no distinction between Jewish and Gentile believers — both were cleansed by faith alone.

The background features a dark blue overlay with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, several historical maps are visible, including one of the United States and others showing detailed regional or city-level information. The text is centered in a large, white, bold font.

**Sometimes the most powerful
theological arguments come not
from abstract reasoning but from
observing what God is actually
doing in people's lives.**



**What seemed like a radical
departure from tradition was
actually the completion of
God's revealed plan.**



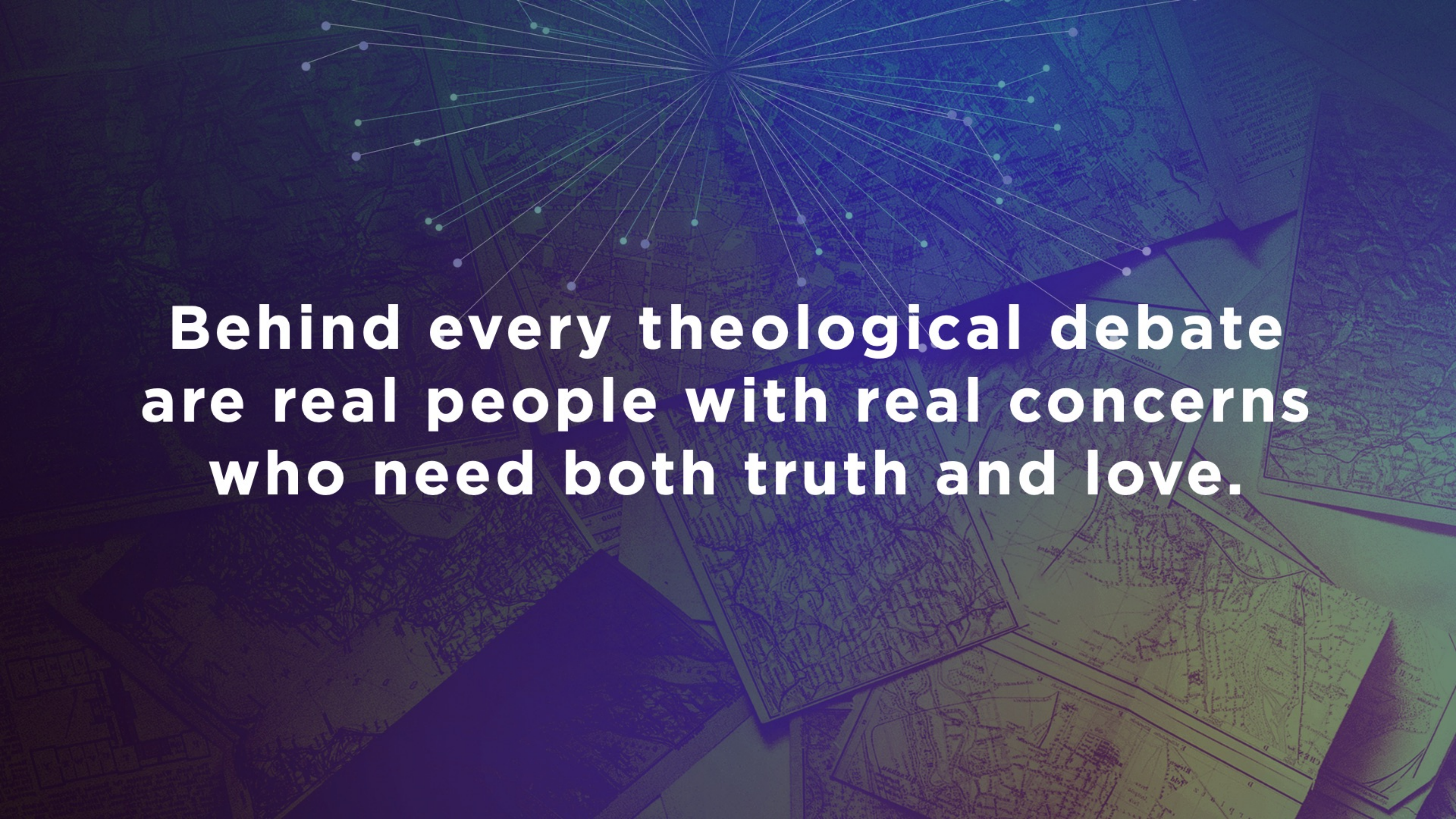
When we add human requirements to God's grace, we're essentially saying that Christ's sacrifice wasn't enough.

Abstain from:

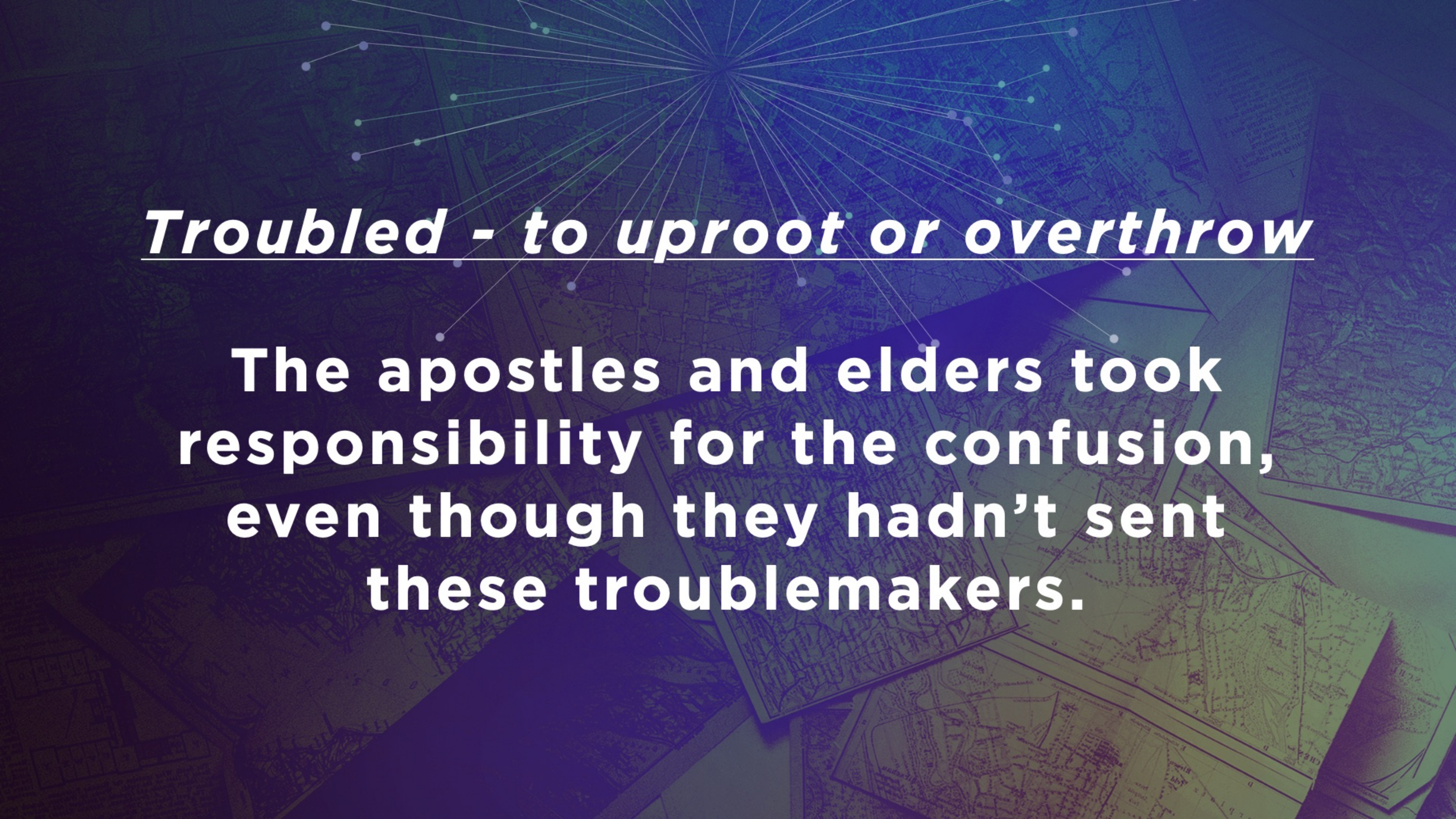
- 1. Things polluted by idols**
- 2. Sexual Immorality**
- 3. What has been strangled**
- 4. Blood**

The wisdom here was recognizing that while Gentiles didn't need to become Jews to be saved, they should be sensitive to their Jewish brothers and sisters in Christ.

PLEASE NOTE: These weren't requirements for salvation but practical guidelines for maintaining fellowship between Jewish and Gentile believers.

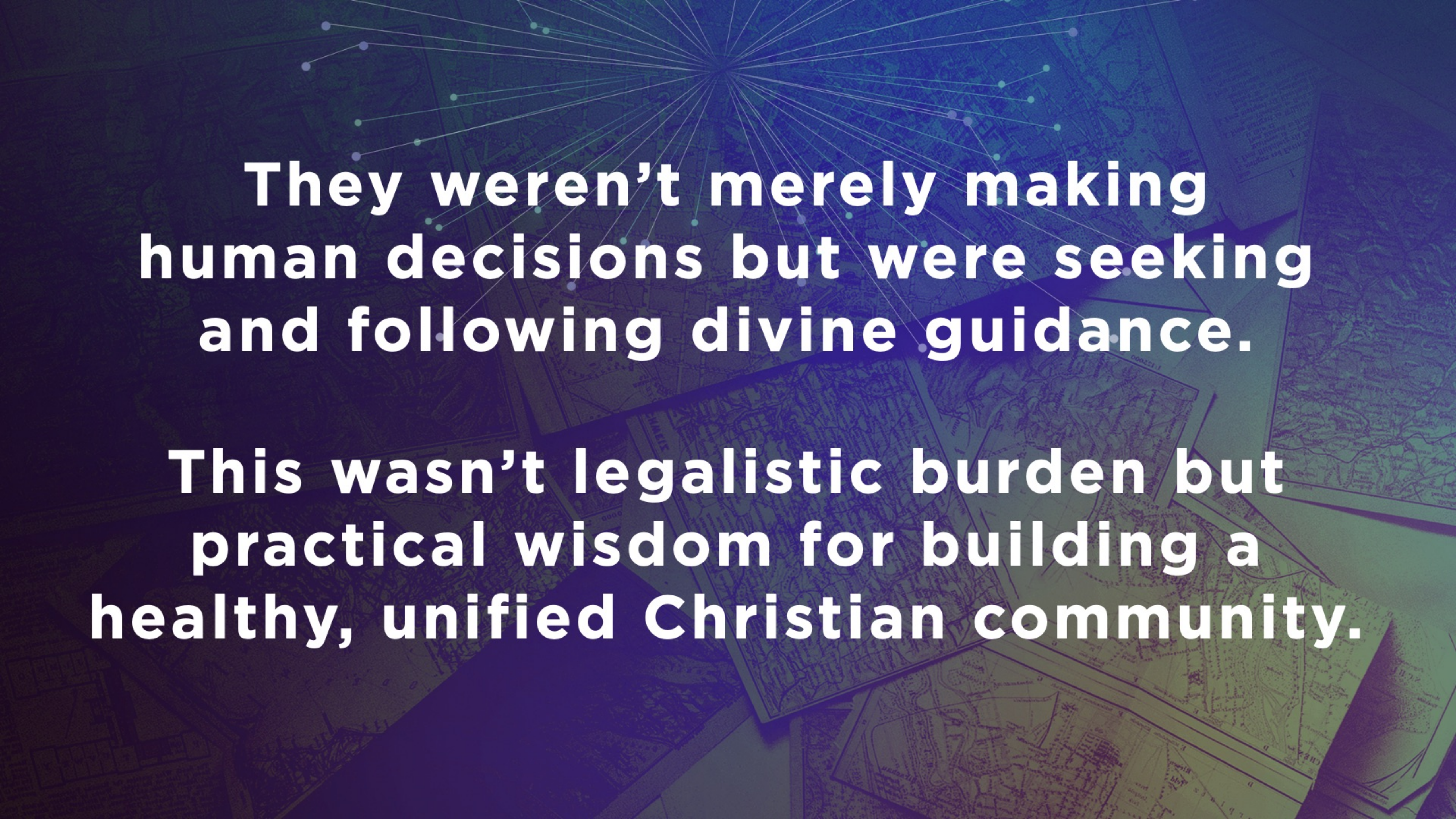
The background features a dark blue overlay with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, several historical maps are visible, including a detailed street map of London and a map of a coastal region with a river. The text is centered in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**Behind every theological debate
are real people with real concerns
who need both truth and love.**

The background features a dark blue gradient with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent maps of various regions, including what appears to be a map of the Middle East and some European countries. The text is overlaid on this background.

Troubled - to uproot or overthrow

**The apostles and elders took
responsibility for the confusion,
even though they hadn't sent
these troublemakers.**

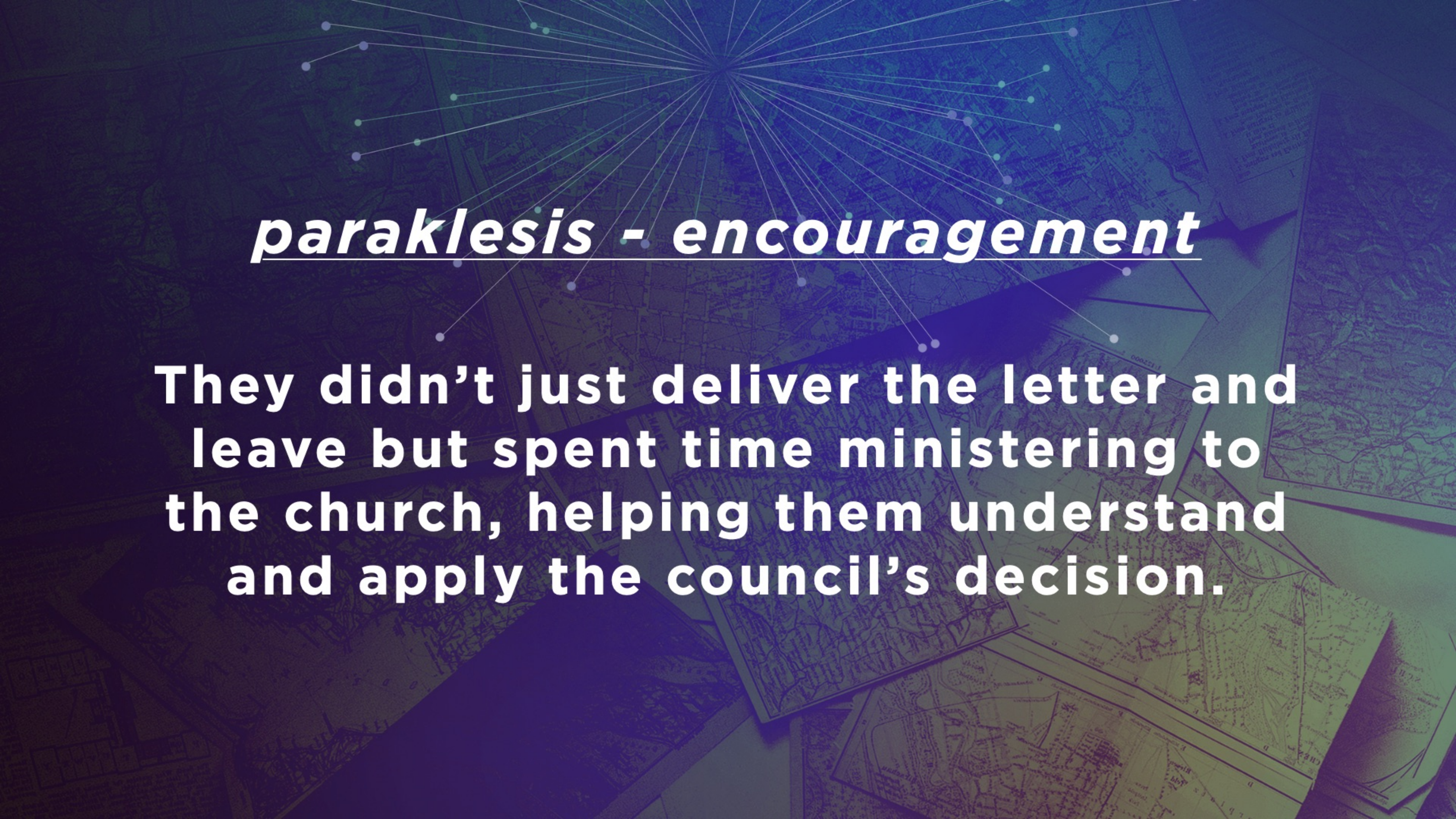
The background features a dark blue overlay with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, several historical maps are visible, including one of the United States and others showing regional details. The text is overlaid on this background.

**They weren't merely making
human decisions but were seeking
and following divine guidance.**

**This wasn't legalistic burden but
practical wisdom for building a
healthy, unified Christian community.**



The gospel creates a new family where love and mutual respect trump cultural preferences.

The background features a dark blue gradient with a network diagram of white lines and dots at the top. Below this, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent maps in shades of green and yellow, showing various geographical locations and street layouts.

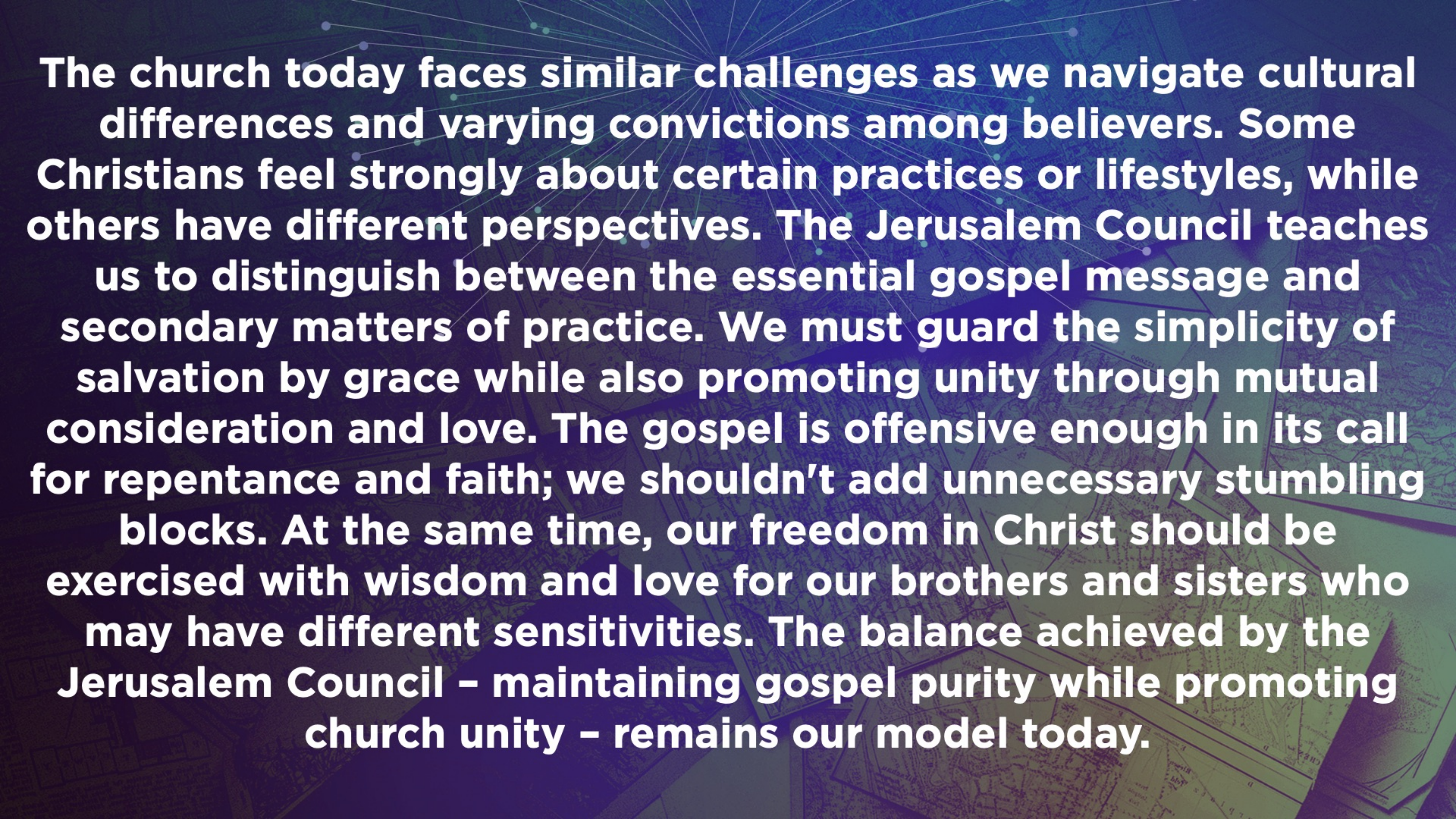
paraklesis - encouragement

They didn't just deliver the letter and leave but spent time ministering to the church, helping them understand and apply the council's decision.

The background of the slide features a dark, textured map, likely of Jerusalem, with a network of thin white lines and small dots overlaid, resembling a web or a digital map. The text is centered and written in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**The Jerusalem Council's decision
established the principle that
salvation is by grace alone through
alone in Christ alone.**

**When we're tempted to add our own
requirements to the gospel — whether
they're cultural preferences, political
positions, or personal convictions —
we need to remember the Jerusalem
Council's courageous stand for grace.**



The church today faces similar challenges as we navigate cultural differences and varying convictions among believers. Some Christians feel strongly about certain practices or lifestyles, while others have different perspectives. The Jerusalem Council teaches us to distinguish between the essential gospel message and secondary matters of practice. We must guard the simplicity of salvation by grace while also promoting unity through mutual consideration and love. The gospel is offensive enough in its call for repentance and faith; we shouldn't add unnecessary stumbling blocks. At the same time, our freedom in Christ should be exercised with wisdom and love for our brothers and sisters who may have different sensitivities. The balance achieved by the Jerusalem Council – maintaining gospel purity while promoting church unity – remains our model today.