



WHY DOESN'T GOD STOP EVIL?

Three tough truths about climate

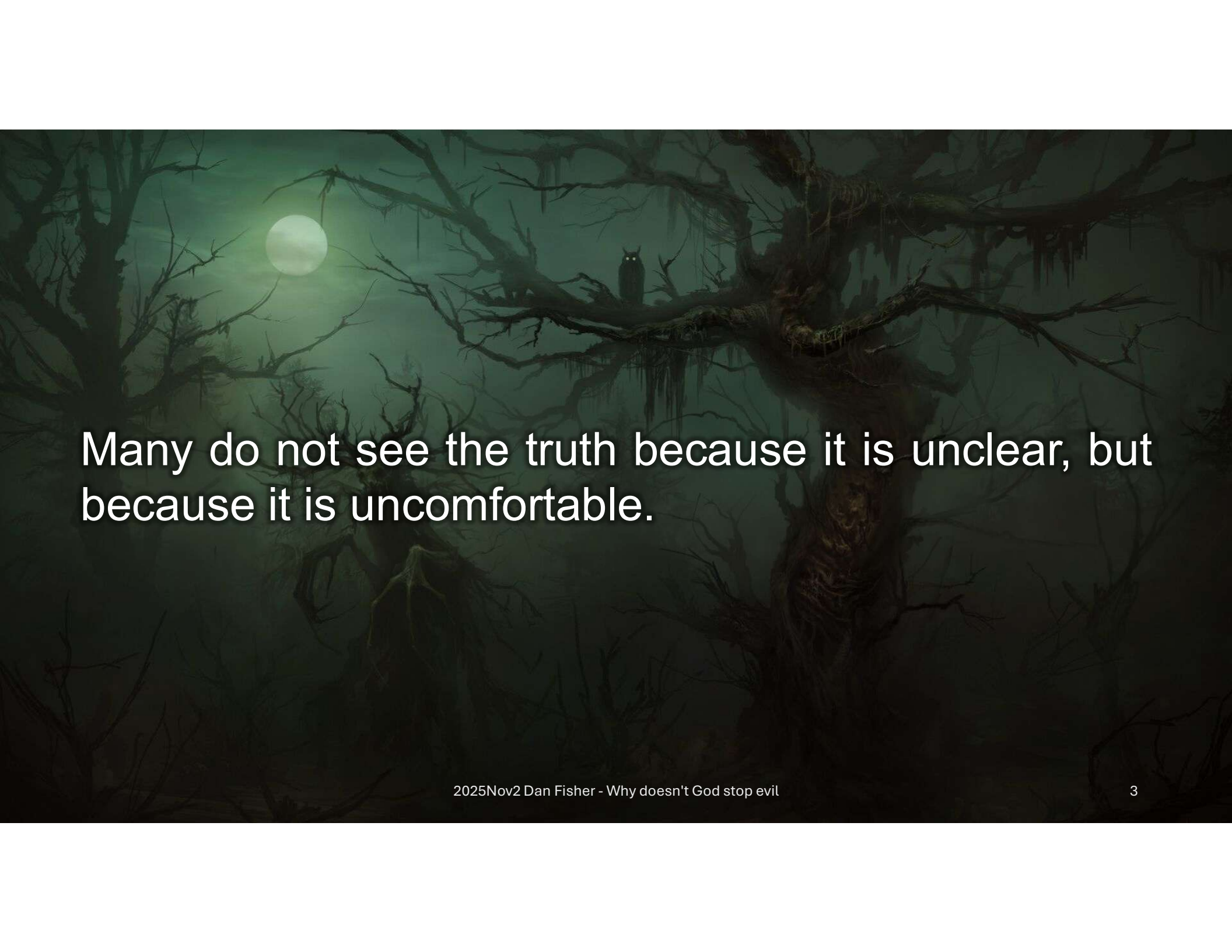
It's time to put human welfare at the center of our climate strategies ...

There's a doomsday view of climate change that goes like this:

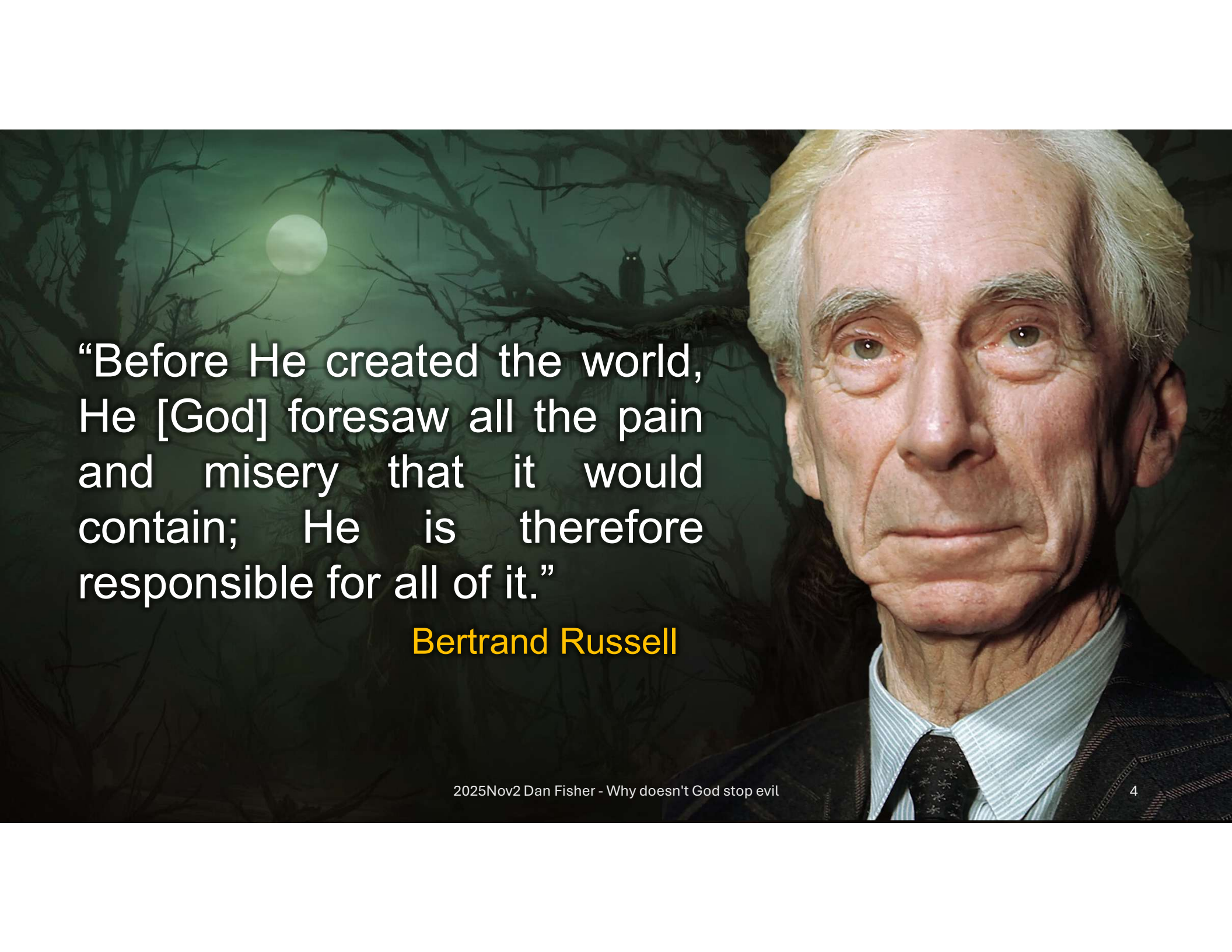
In a few decades, cataclysmic climate change will decimate civilization. The evidence is all around us – just look at all the heat waves and storms caused by rising global temperatures. Nothing matters more than limiting the rise in temperature.

Fortunately for all of us, this view is wrong.

The biggest problems are poverty and disease, just as they always have been.



Many do not see the truth because it is unclear, but because it is uncomfortable.



“Before He created the world,
He [God] foresaw all the pain
and misery that it would
contain; He is therefore
responsible for all of it.”

Bertrand Russell



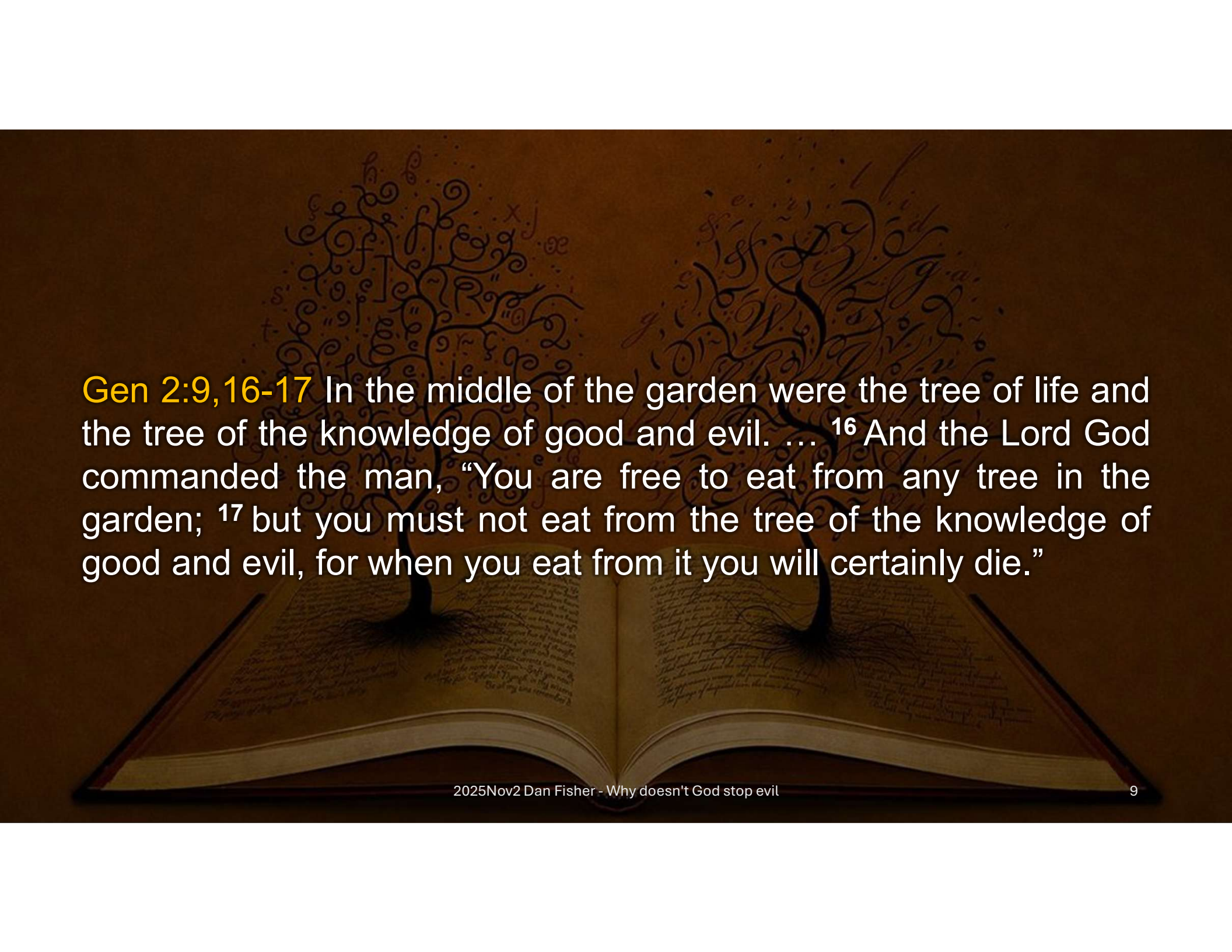
1. EVIL exists because free will exists



- Freedom without **choice** is like a **square** circle
- No choice – no **freedom**



- God gave us a free will so we could choose to **love**



Gen 2:9,16-17 In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ... ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷ but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."



2. Free will brings meaning to culpability

- Without free will, man would simply be doing what he was **programed** to do
- A **free moral agent** is an individual who can **understand** right from wrong and has the autonomy to make their own ethical **choices** and is therefore held **accountable** for their actions. This concept implies that individuals have the freedom to choose to do good or evil, and their decisions are a result of their own will rather than being compelled by an outside force. This idea is often used in theological discussions to explain human responsibility for sin.

- Without free will, obedience and disobedience have no meaning



4. Man's free will is a dominant theme in Scripture



Mt 16:24-25 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. ²⁵ For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.

Jn 1:12-13 "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, even to those who believe in His name, who were born not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God."

Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.



Rom 10:9,13 if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ... ¹³ For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Rom 10:16 But they have not all obeyed the gospel.

Heb 4:2 For indeed the gospel was preached to us as well as to them; but the word which they heard did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in those who heard it.



Jonah 3:4-5,10 Jonah began by going a day's journey into the city, proclaiming, "Forty more days and Nineveh will be overthrown." ⁵ The Ninevites believed God. A fast was proclaimed, and all of them, from the greatest to the least, put on sackcloth. ... ¹⁰ When God saw what they did and how they turned from their evil ways, he relented and did not bring on them the destruction he had threatened.



Mt 13:58 Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.

Mt 23:37 “Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.



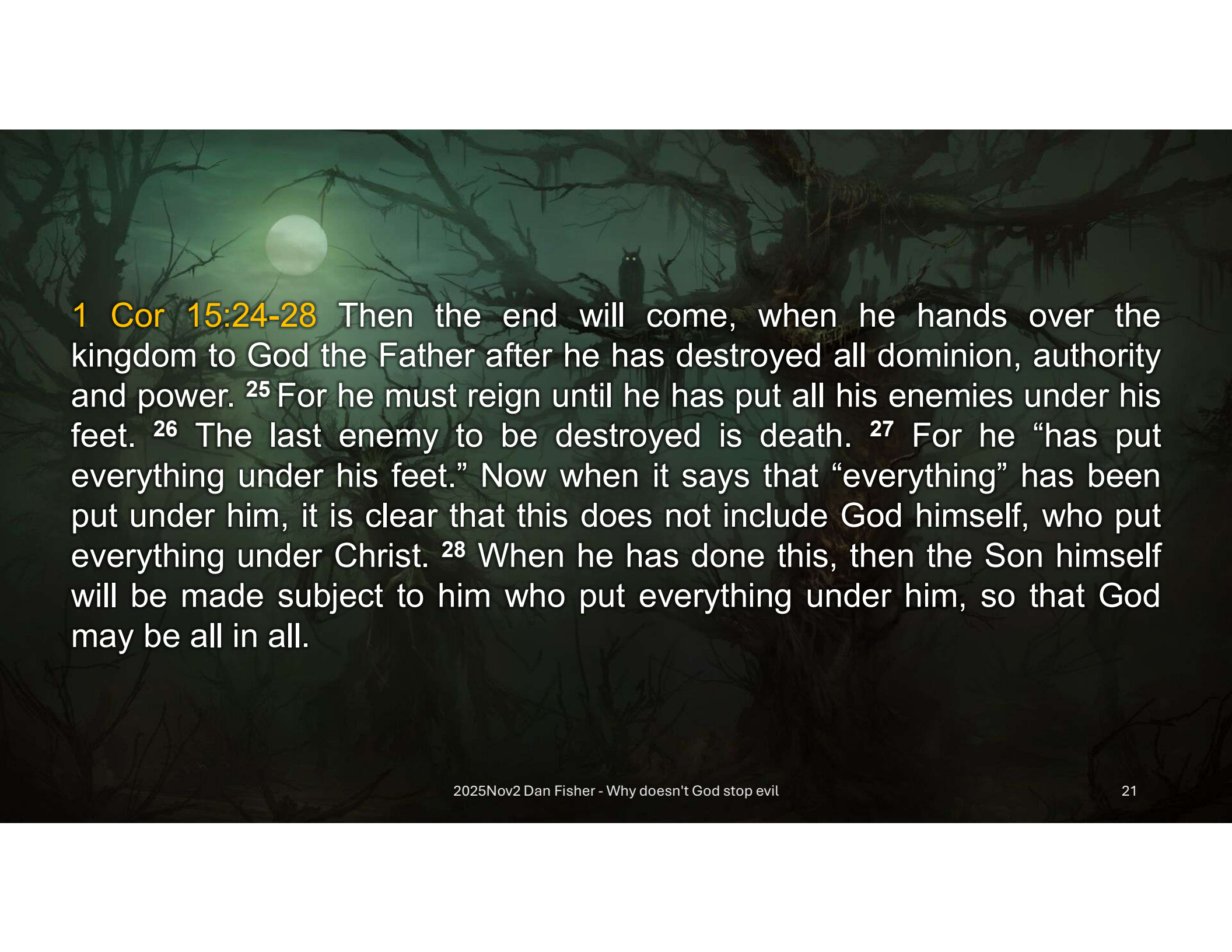
5. If God intervenes and overrides free will, life is trivial



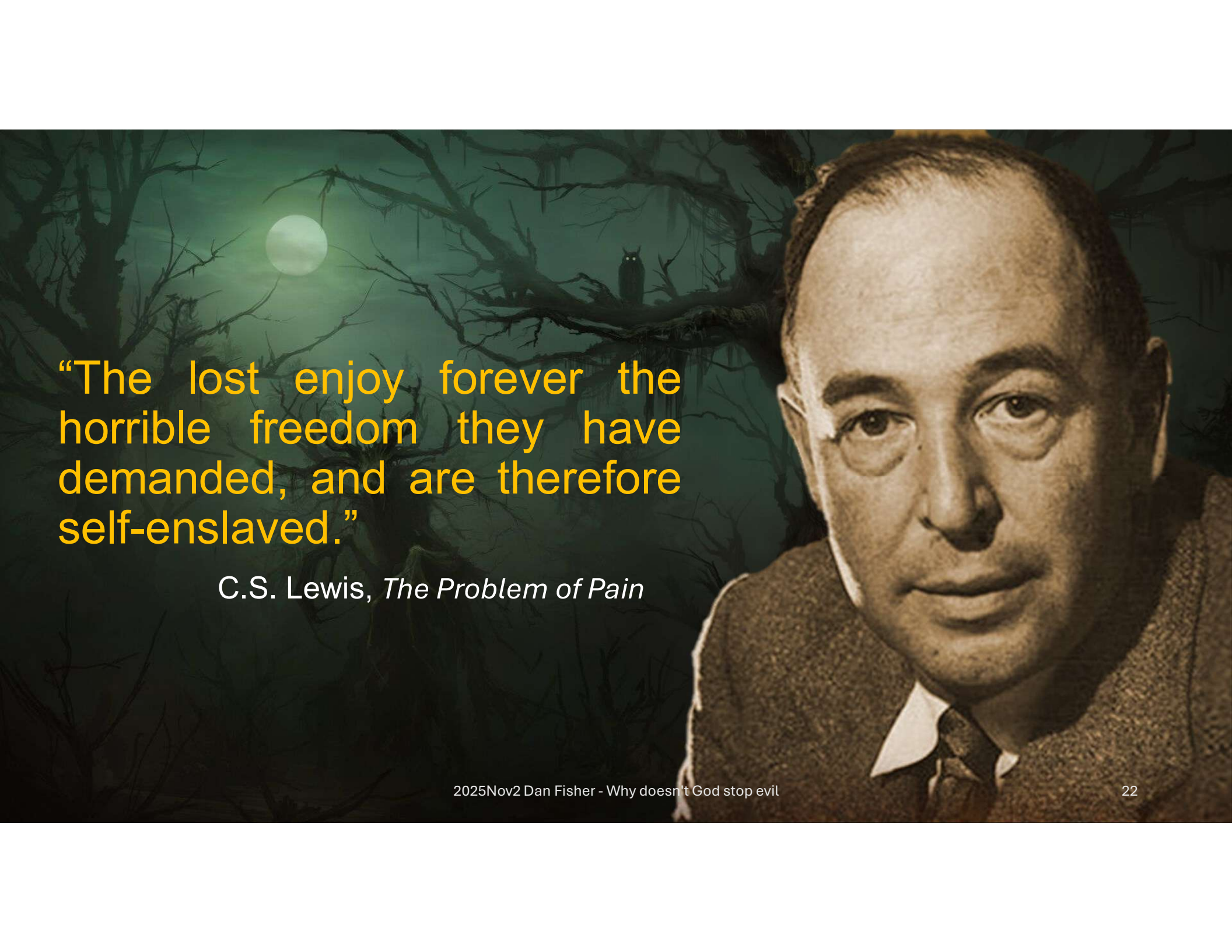
So, if God was to “stop” EVIL,
where would He **begin**?



If God was to “stop” EVIL,
where would He end?



1 Cor 15:24-28 Then the end will come, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father after he has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death. ²⁷ For he “has put everything under his feet.” Now when it says that “everything” has been put under him, it is clear that this does not include God himself, who put everything under Christ. ²⁸ When he has done this, then the Son himself will be made subject to him who put everything under him, so that God may be all in all.



“The lost enjoy forever the horrible freedom they have demanded, and are therefore self-enslaved.”

C.S. Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*