

# Saved

- Election
- Eternal security
- Ending life by suicide
- Eternal conscious torment vs. annihilation

# Election

## Pt 3: Is forced will free will?

## Calvinists

## Non-Calvinists



**John MacArthur**

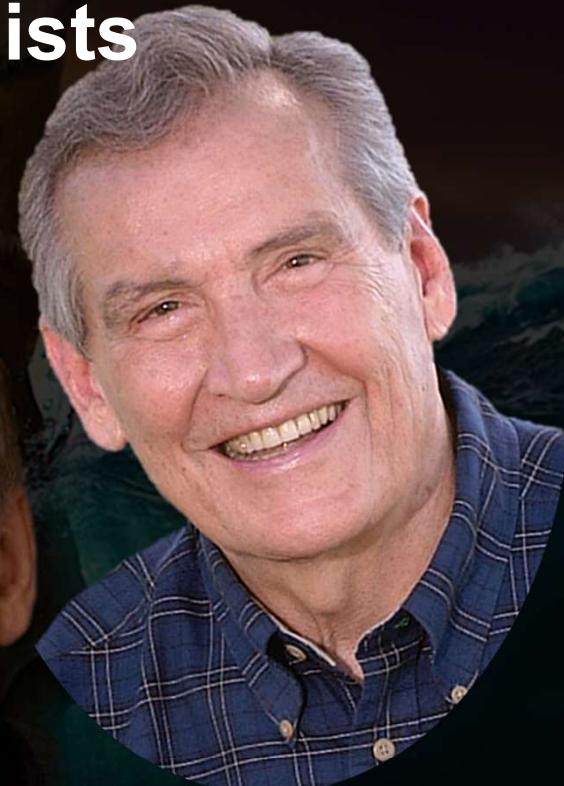


**Voddie Bauchum**

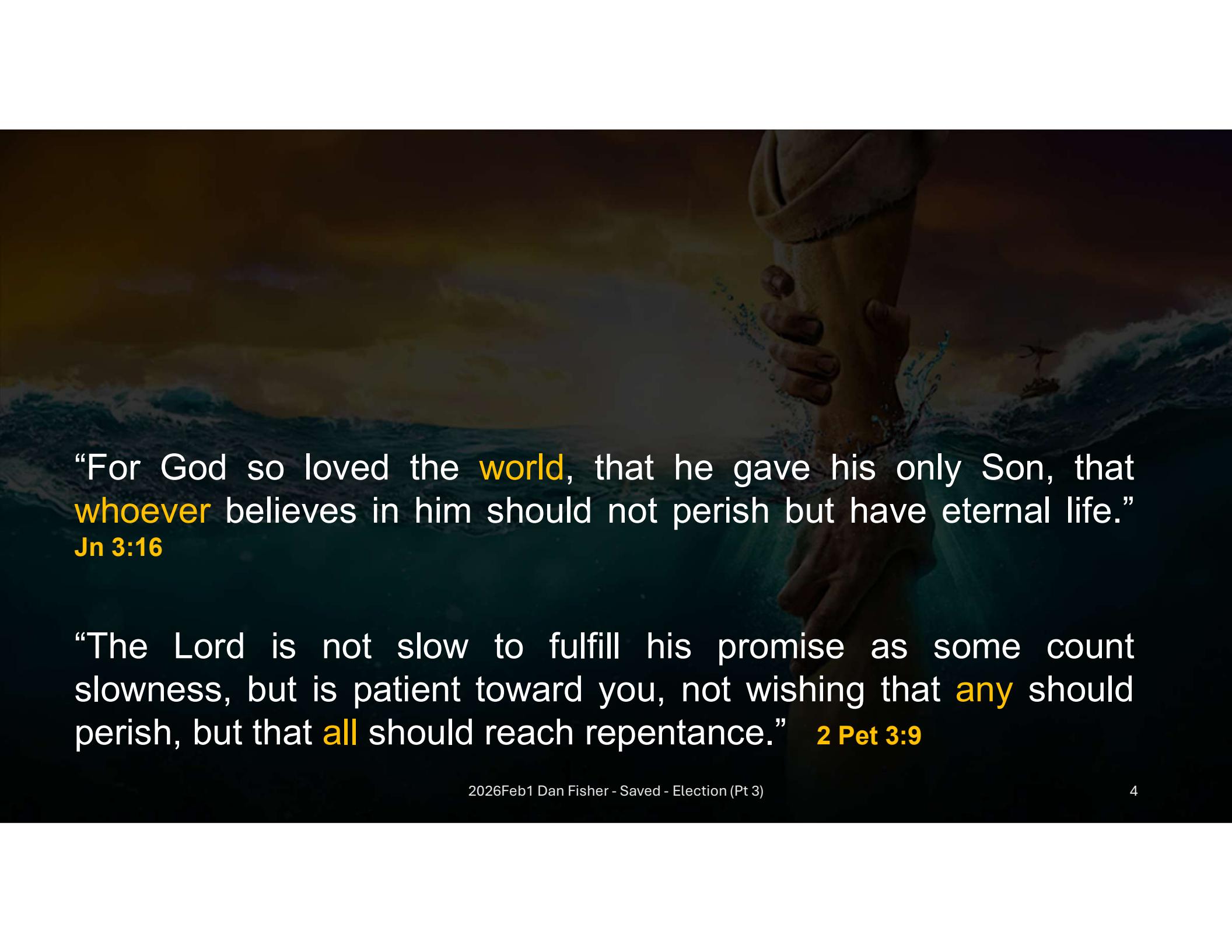
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**Norman Geisler**



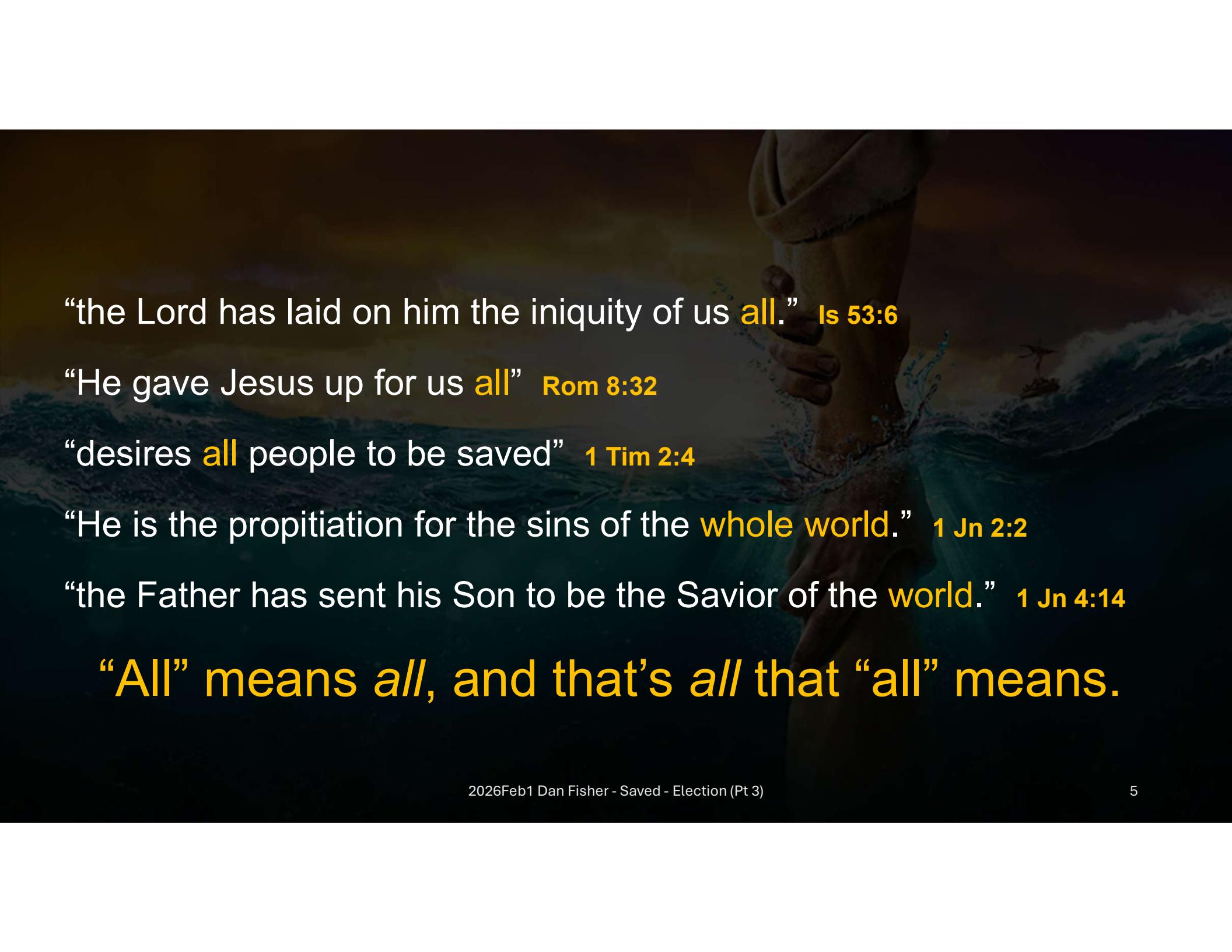
**Adrian Rogers**

A hand holds a small blue seed or object over a dark, stormy sea. In the background, a lighthouse stands on a rocky outcrop. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and symbolic.

“For God so loved the **world**, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever** believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

**Jn 3:16**

“The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that **any** should perish, but that **all** should reach repentance.” **2 Pet 3:9**

A hand reaches down from the top of the frame, palm open, over a dark, turbulent sea. In the distance, a small boat with figures is visible on the waves.

“the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us **all**.” **Is 53:6**

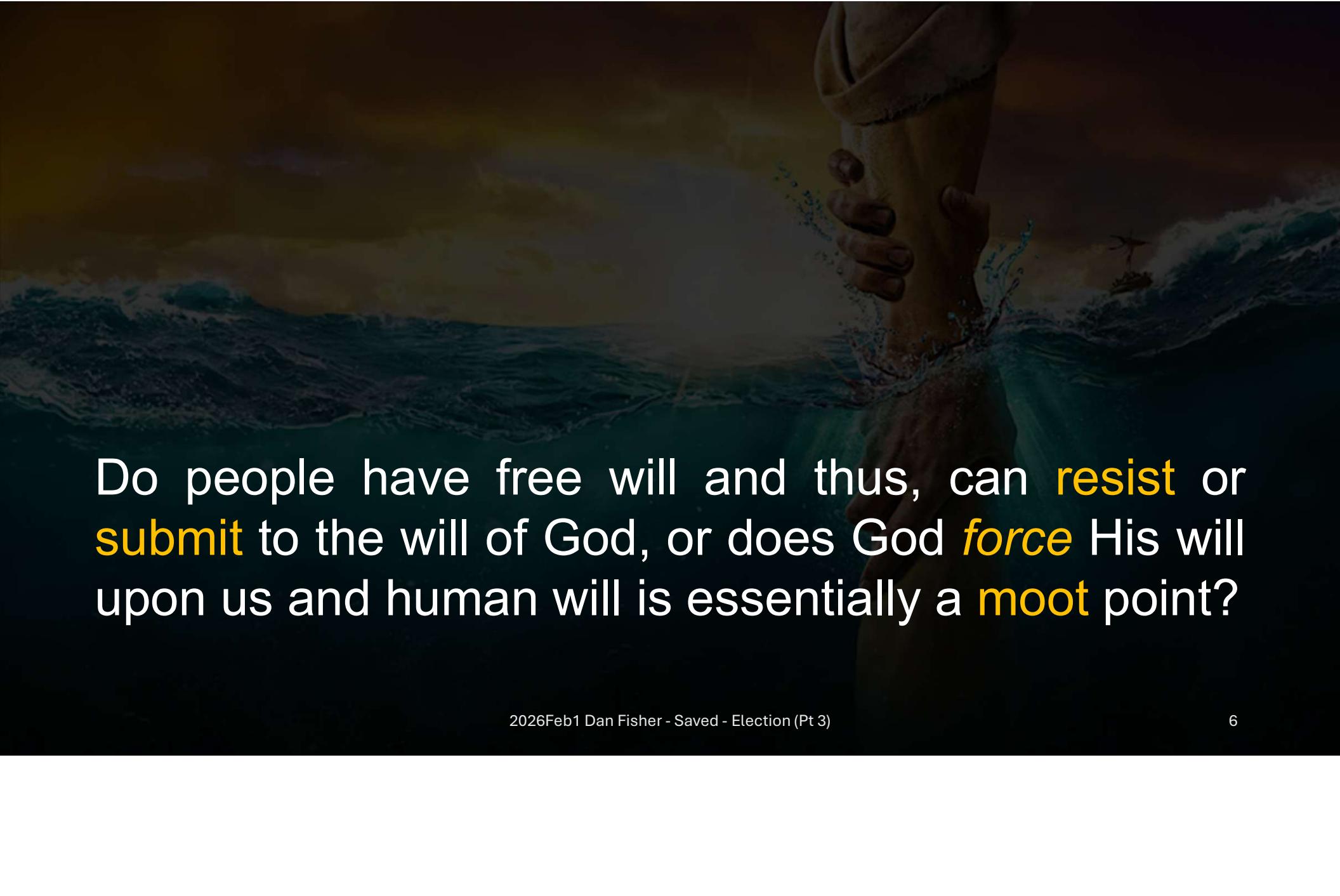
“He gave Jesus up for us **all**” **Rom 8:32**

“desires **all** people to be saved” **1 Tim 2:4**

“He is the propitiation for the sins of the **whole world**.” **1 Jn 2:2**

“the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the **world**.” **1 Jn 4:14**

**“All” means *all*, and that’s *all* that “all” means.**



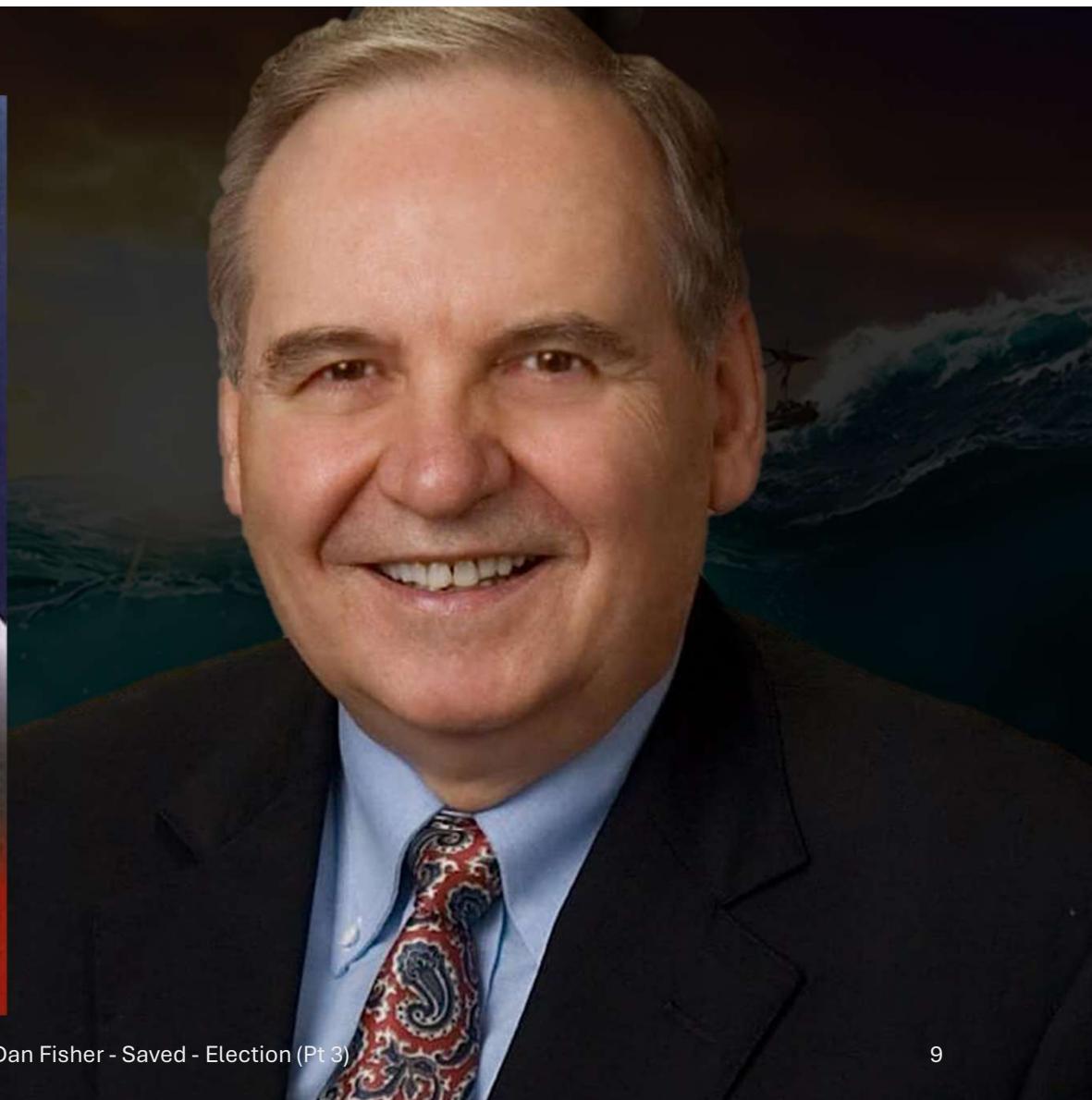
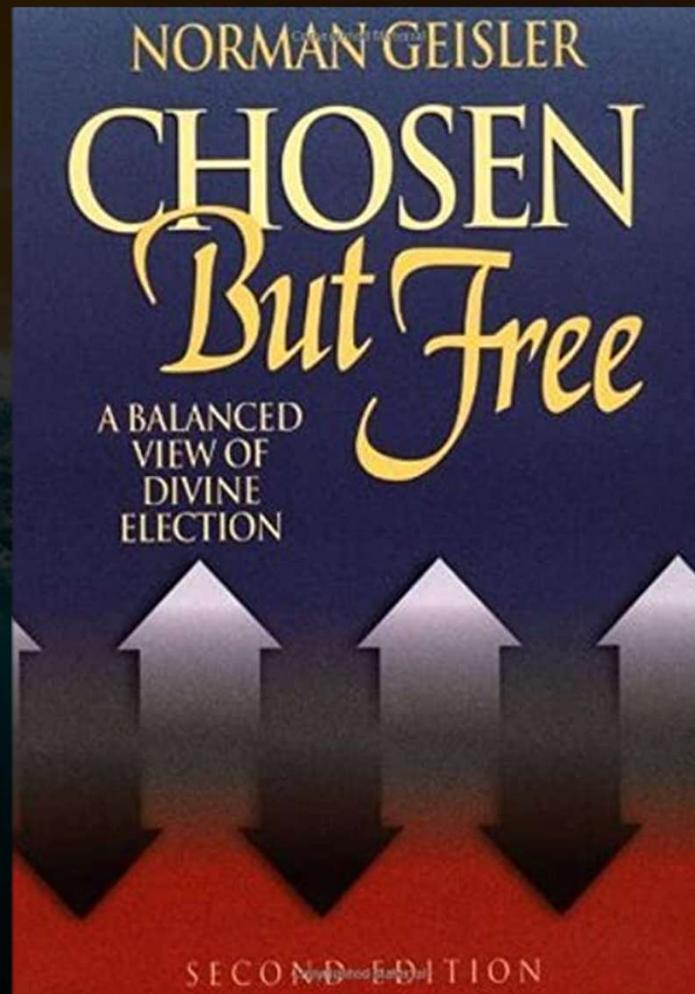
Do people have free will and thus, can **resist** or **submit** to the will of God, or does God **force** His will upon us and human will is essentially a **moot** point?

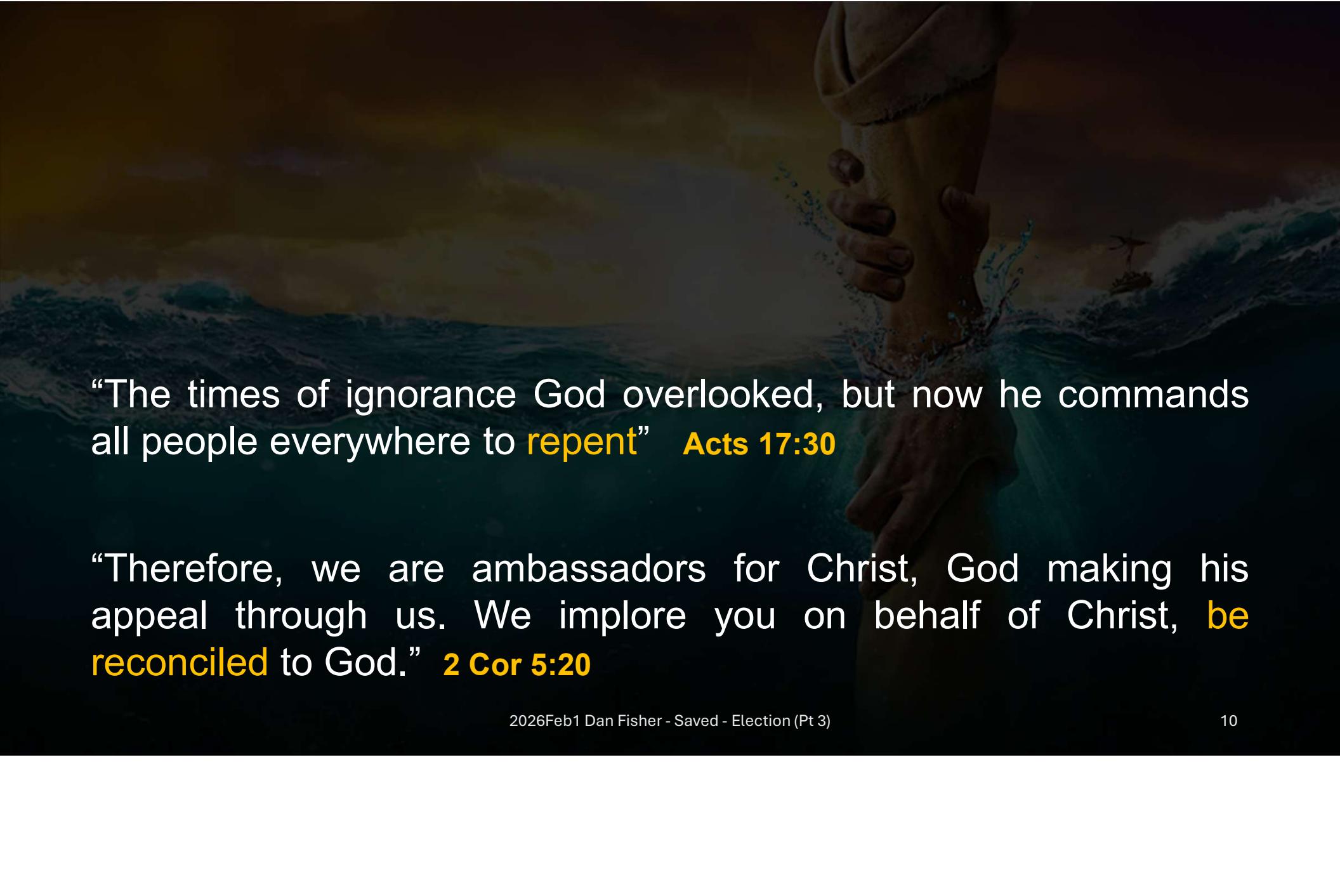
A hand is shown from the side, wearing a dark, textured glove, holding a small, detailed model ship. The ship is white with brown and blue accents, and it appears to be a three-masted sailing vessel. The background is a dark, moody sea with white-capped waves, suggesting a storm or a rough sea. The overall atmosphere is dramatic and somber.

**T**otal depravity  
**U**nconditional election  
**L**imited atonement  
**I**rresistible grace  
**P**erseverance of saints



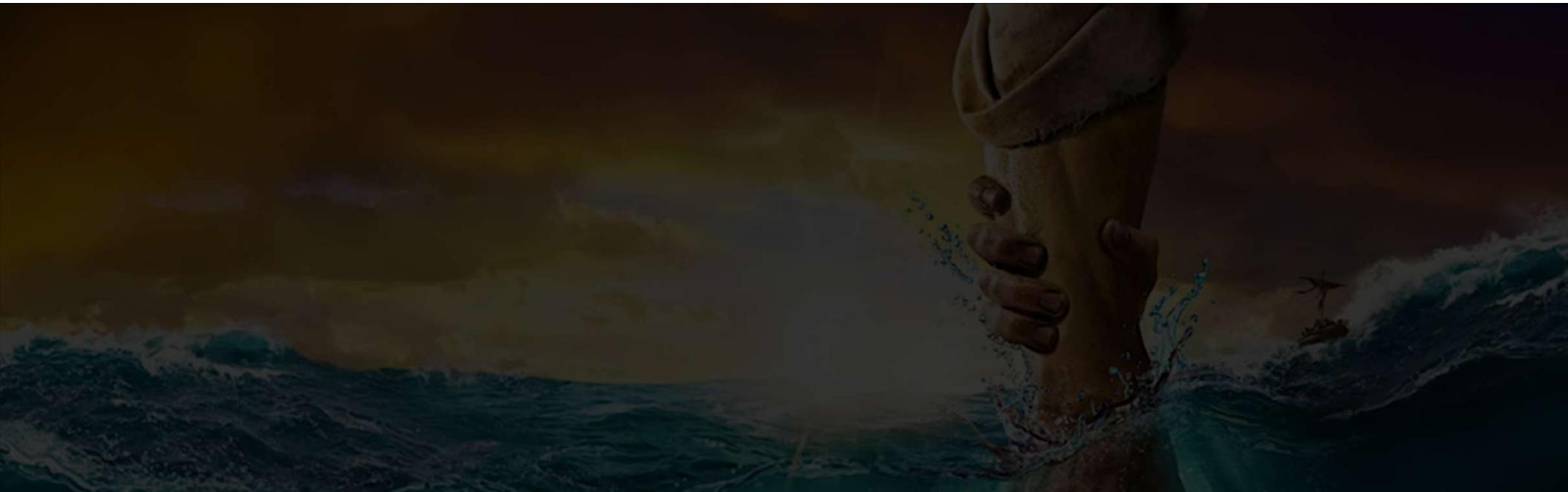
**Total depravity**  
**Unconditional election**  
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**Perseverance of saints**



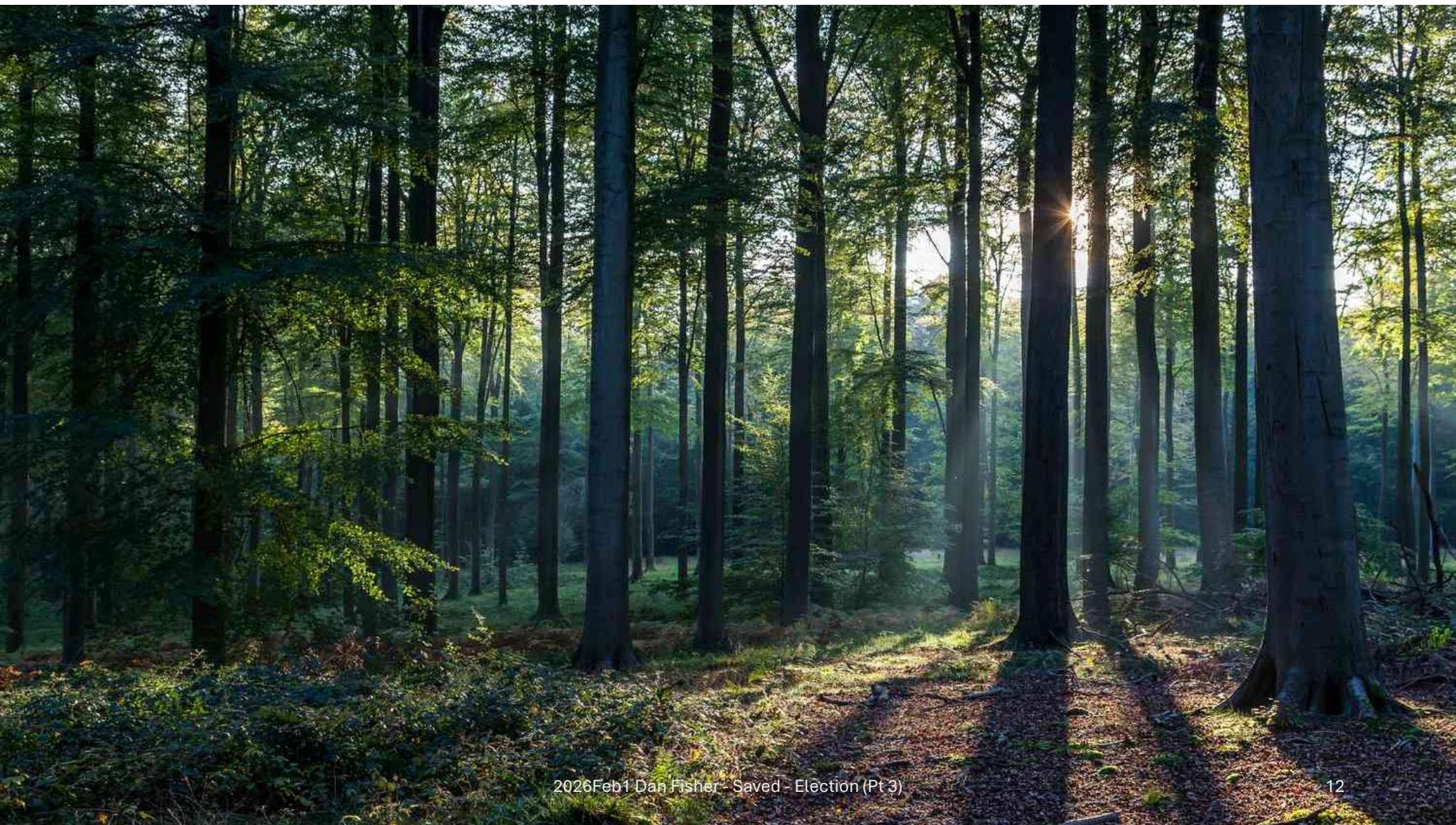


“The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to **repent**” **Acts 17:30**

“Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, **be reconciled to God.**” **2 Cor 5:20**

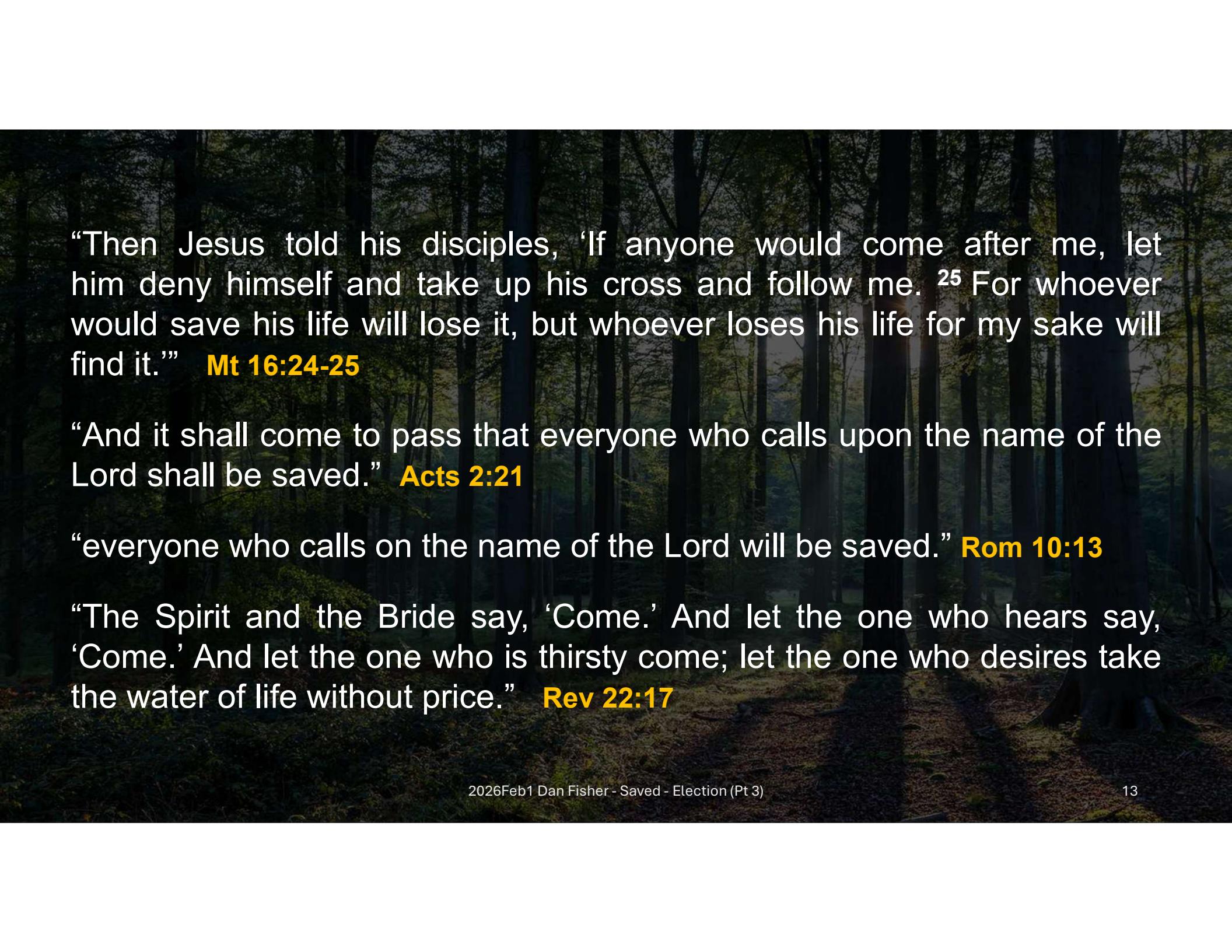


Scripture clearly declares that God is greatly displeased and grieved that mankind is separated from and disobedient to Him. How does this make sense if they are simply doing what He created them to do?



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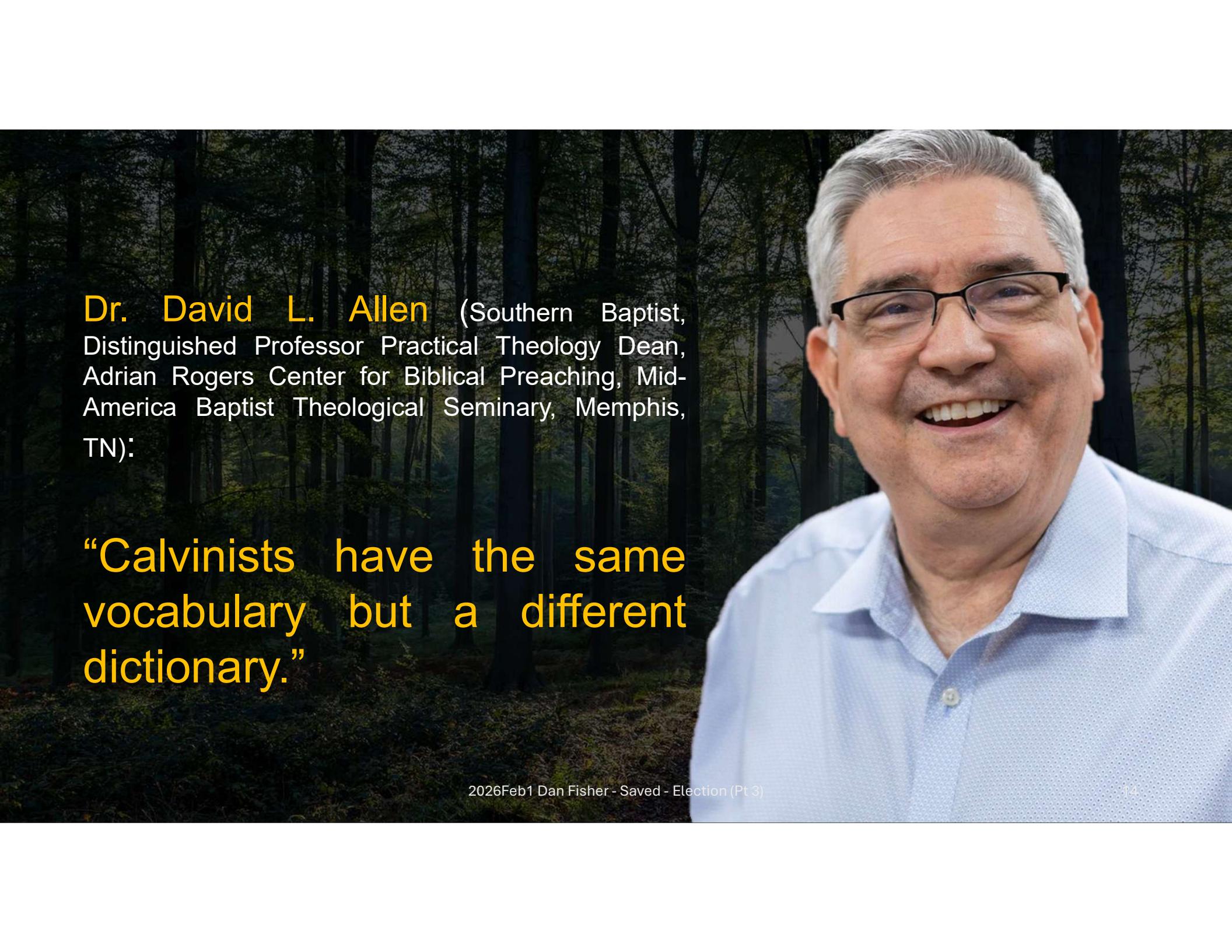


“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. <sup>25</sup> For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.’” **Mt 16:24-25**

“And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” **Acts 2:21**

“everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” **Rom 10:13**

“The Spirit and the Bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who desires take the water of life without price.” **Rev 22:17**



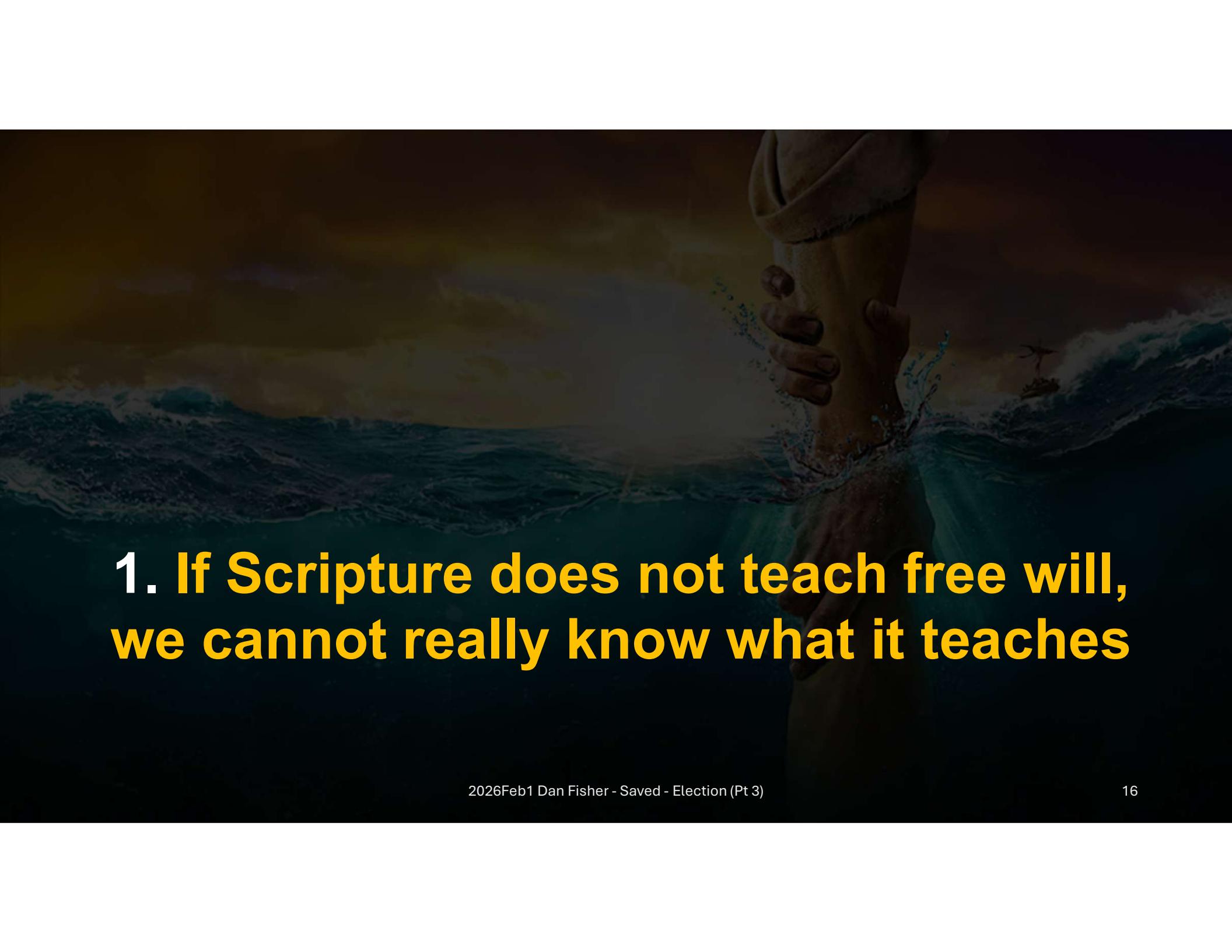
Dr. David L. Allen (Southern Baptist, Distinguished Professor Practical Theology Dean, Adrian Rogers Center for Biblical Preaching, Mid-America Baptist Theological Seminary, Memphis, TN):

“Calvinists have the same vocabulary but a different dictionary.”

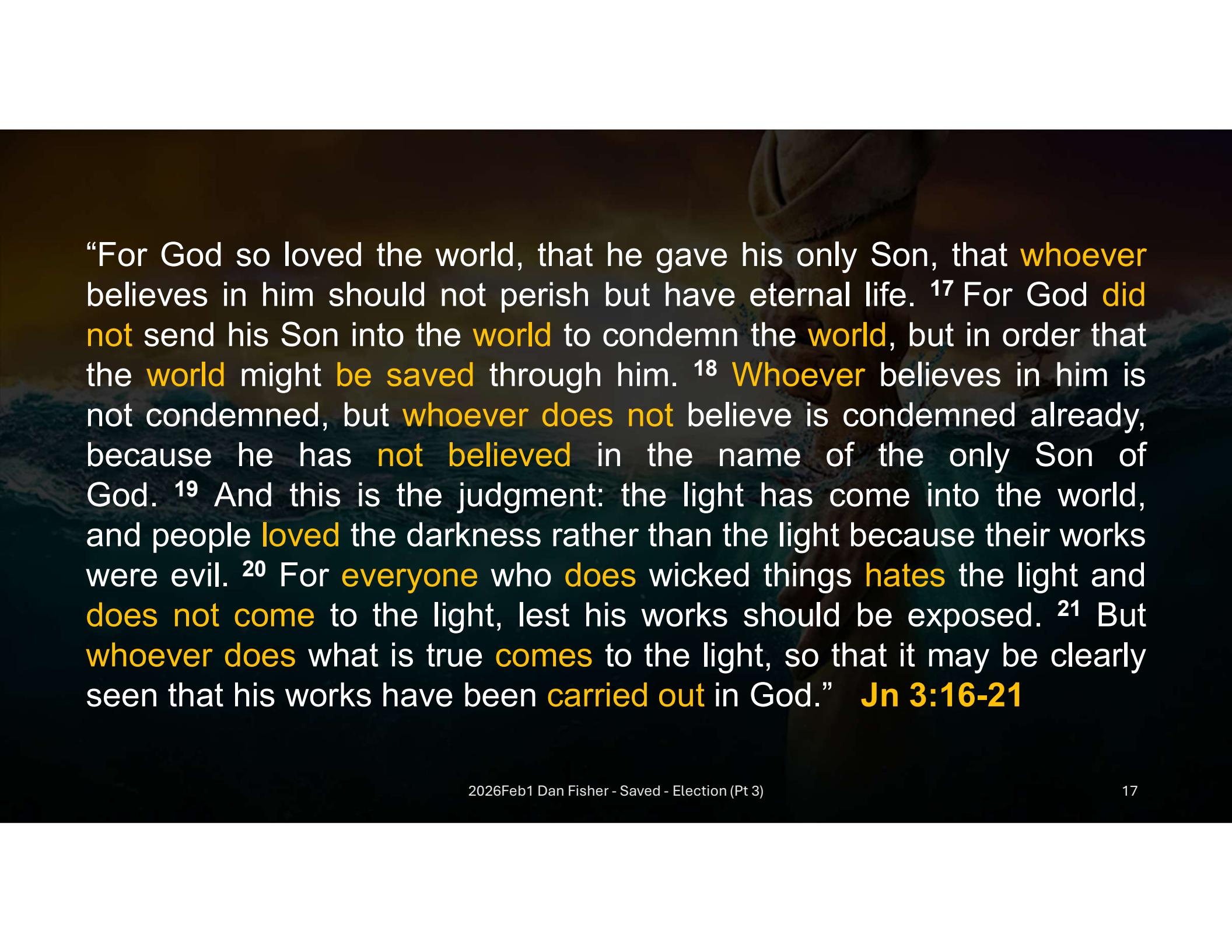
“No passage in all of scripture suggests that fallen men are incapable of willingly responding to God’s own appeal to be reconciled from their fallen condition. No one is able to attain righteousness by law through works. But how does that prove no one is able to attain righteousness by grace through faith? Proving that the lost cannot seek God does not prove that they are unable to respond to a God who is actively seeking to save the lost. Proving that I cannot call the President on the phone does not prove I cannot answer the phone if the President chose to call me.” Dr. Leighton Flowers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPvdEifrCYA>  
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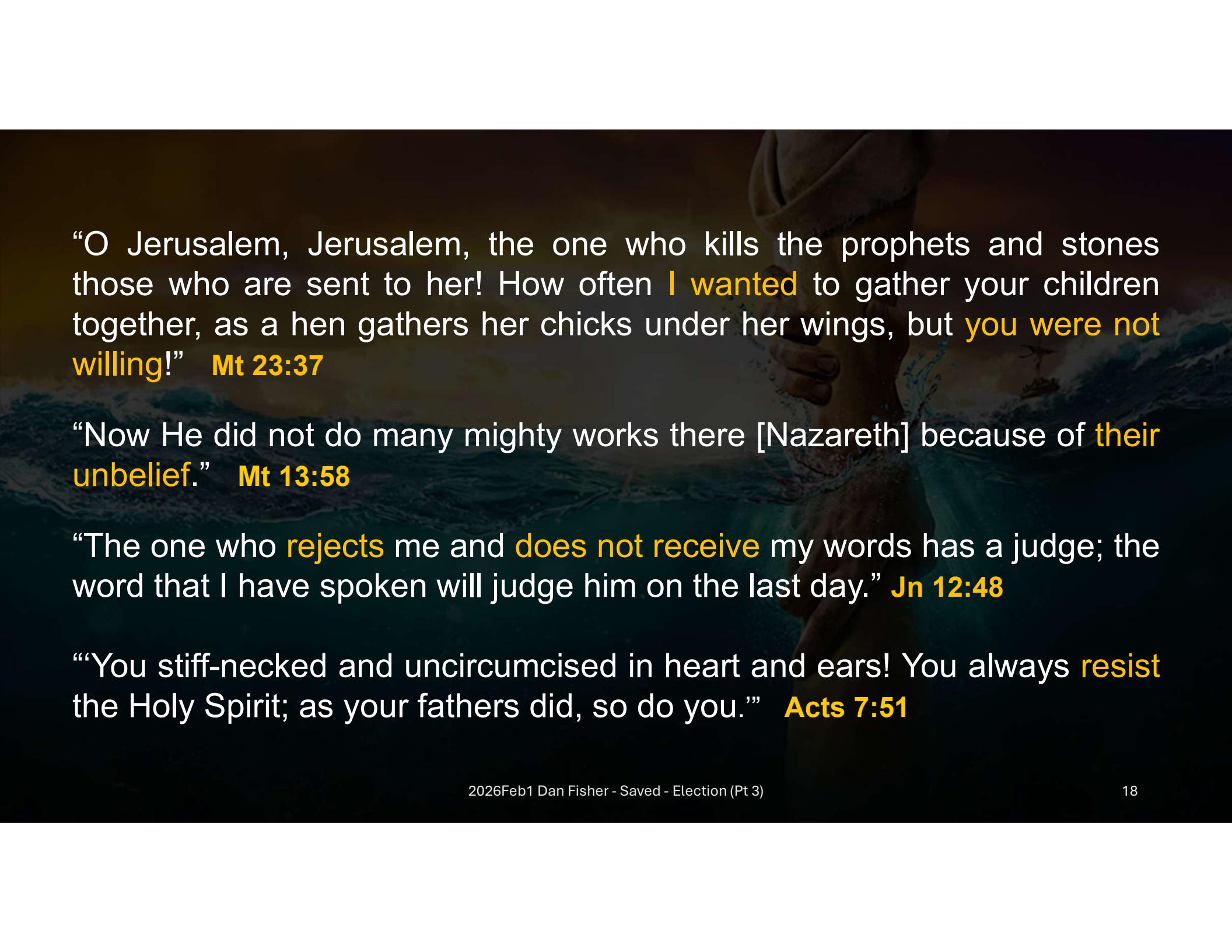




**1. If Scripture does not teach free will,  
we cannot really know what it teaches**



“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever** believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> For God **did not** send his Son into the **world** to condemn the **world**, but in order that the **world** might **be saved** through him. <sup>18</sup> **Whoever** believes in him is not condemned, but **whoever does not** believe is condemned already, because he has **not believed** in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment: the light has come into the world, and people **loved** the darkness rather than the light because their works were evil. <sup>20</sup> For **everyone** who **does** wicked things **hates** the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But **whoever does** what is true **comes** to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that his works have been **carried out** in God.” **Jn 3:16-21**

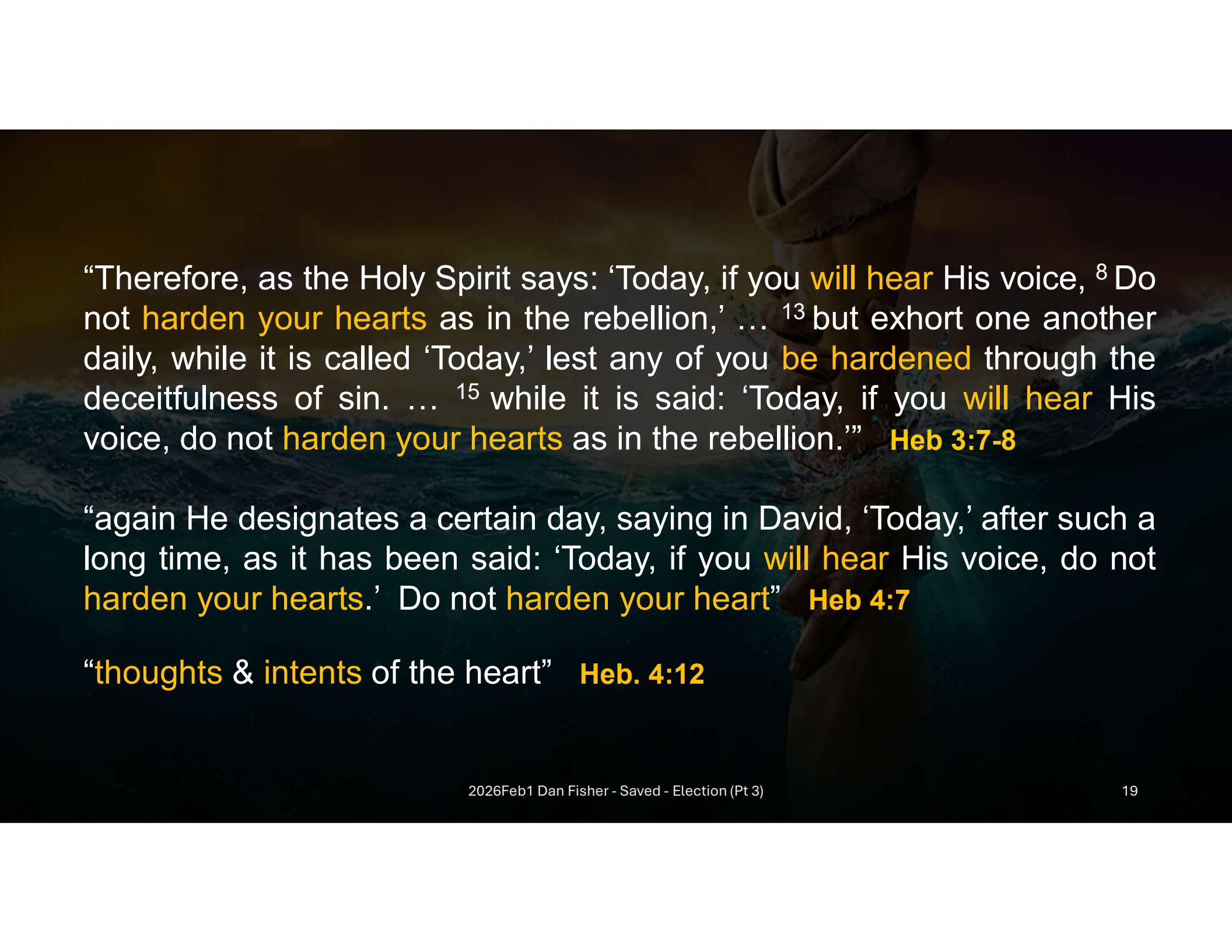


“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but **you were not willing!**” **Mt 23:37**

“Now He did not do many mighty works there [Nazareth] because of **their unbelief.**” **Mt 13:58**

“The one who **rejects** me and **does not receive** my words has a judge; the word that I have spoken will judge him on the last day.” **Jn 12:48**

“You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always **resist** the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you.” **Acts 7:51**



“Therefore, as the Holy Spirit says: ‘Today, if you **will hear** His voice, <sup>8</sup> Do not **harden your hearts** as in the rebellion,’ ... <sup>13</sup> but exhort one another daily, while it is called ‘Today,’ lest any of you **be hardened** through the deceitfulness of sin. ... <sup>15</sup> while it is said: ‘Today, if you **will hear** His voice, do not **harden your hearts** as in the rebellion.’” **Heb 3:7-8**

“again He designates a certain day, saying in David, ‘Today,’ after such a long time, as it has been said: ‘Today, if you **will hear** His voice, do not **harden your hearts.**’ Do not **harden your heart”** **Heb 4:7**

“**thoughts & intents of the heart”** **Heb. 4:12**

**Gen 3:6** Adam & Eve chose to sin

**Gen 4:6-7** God told Cain he could choose to do what was right

**Ex 35:29** Israelites contributed to the building of the Tabernacle as they chose

**Lev 19:5** the Israelites could offer peace offerings by their “free will”

**Deut 30:19-20** God told the Israelites to choose life over death, a blessing over a curse

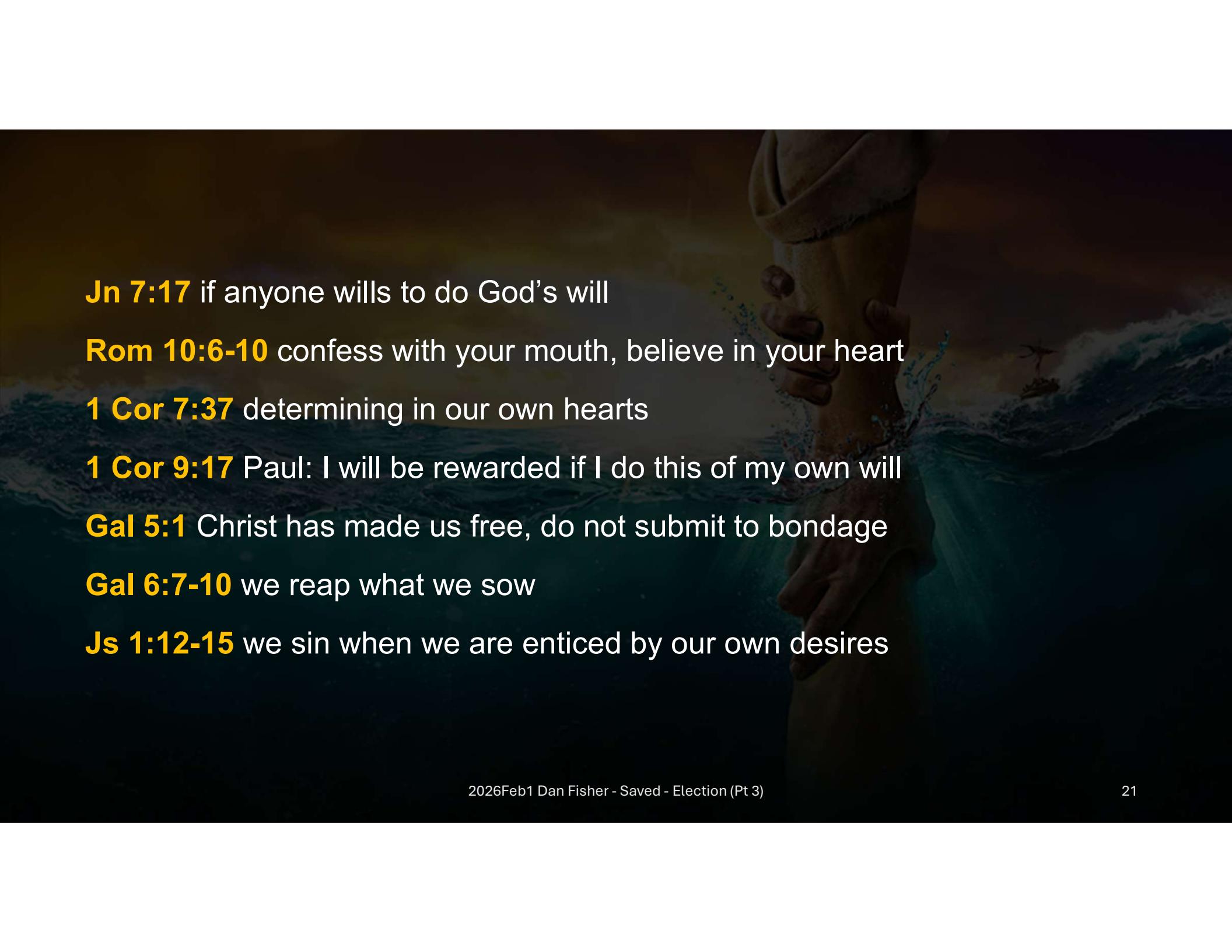
**Josh 24:15** Joshua told the Israelites to choose who they would serve

**Prov 3:5-7** trust in the Lord, do not trust your own understanding, acknowledge God in all your ways

**Is 1:16,19** choose to cease from doing evil and begin to do good

**Jer 16:12** Israel refused to listen to God

**Jonah**

A hand is holding a small, light-colored model sailboat with a single mast and a sail. The hand is positioned as if presenting the boat. The background is dark and textured, possibly a book cover or a wall.

**Jn 7:17** if anyone wills to do God's will

**Rom 10:6-10** confess with your mouth, believe in your heart

**1 Cor 7:37** determining in our own hearts

**1 Cor 9:17** Paul: I will be rewarded if I do this of my own will

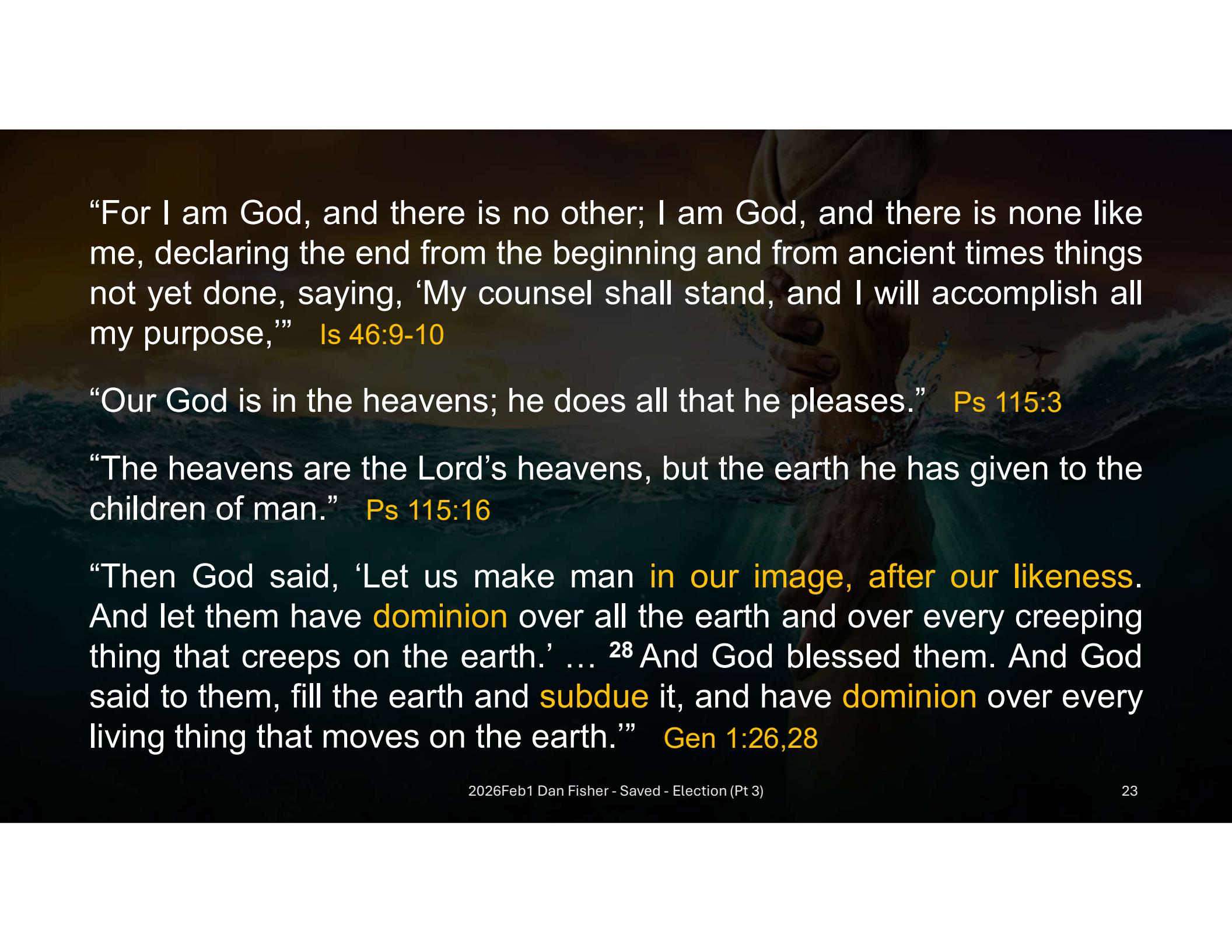
**Gal 5:1** Christ has made us free, do not submit to bondage

**Gal 6:7-10** we reap what we sow

**Js 1:12-15** we sin when we are enticed by our own desires

A person in a yellow raincoat and hat stands on a rocky shore, holding a fishing net. In the background, a small boat is visible on the water under a cloudy sky.

## 2. Libertarian free will does not diminish/depose God's sovereignty

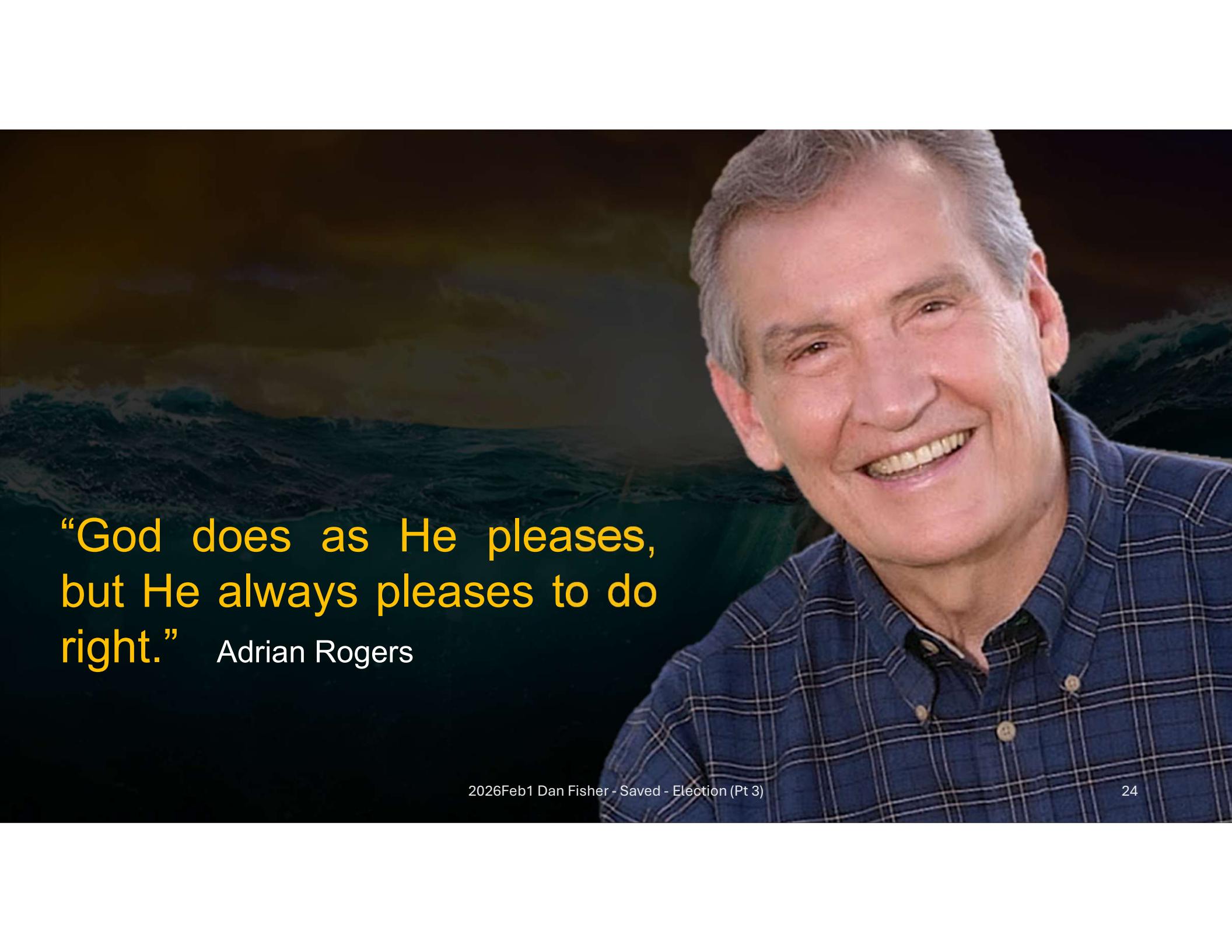


“For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’” Is 46:9-10

“Our God is in the heavens; he does all that he pleases.” Ps 115:3

“The heavens are the Lord’s heavens, but the earth he has given to the children of man.” Ps 115:16

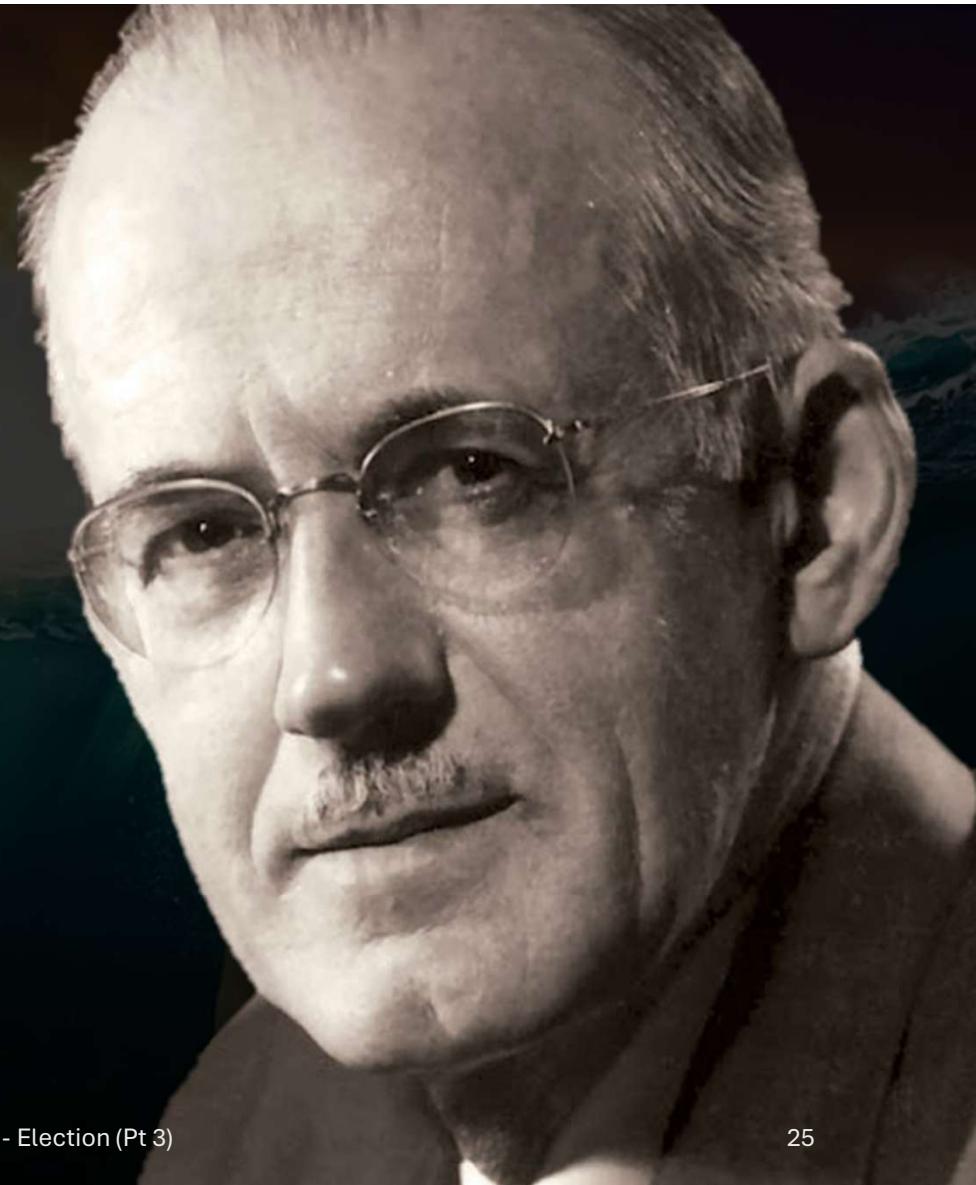
“Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ ... <sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over every living thing that moves on the earth.” Gen 1:26,28

A portrait of Adrian Rogers, a man with grey hair and a warm smile, wearing a blue plaid shirt. He is positioned on the right side of the image, with a dark, textured background that suggests a landscape with hills or mountains.

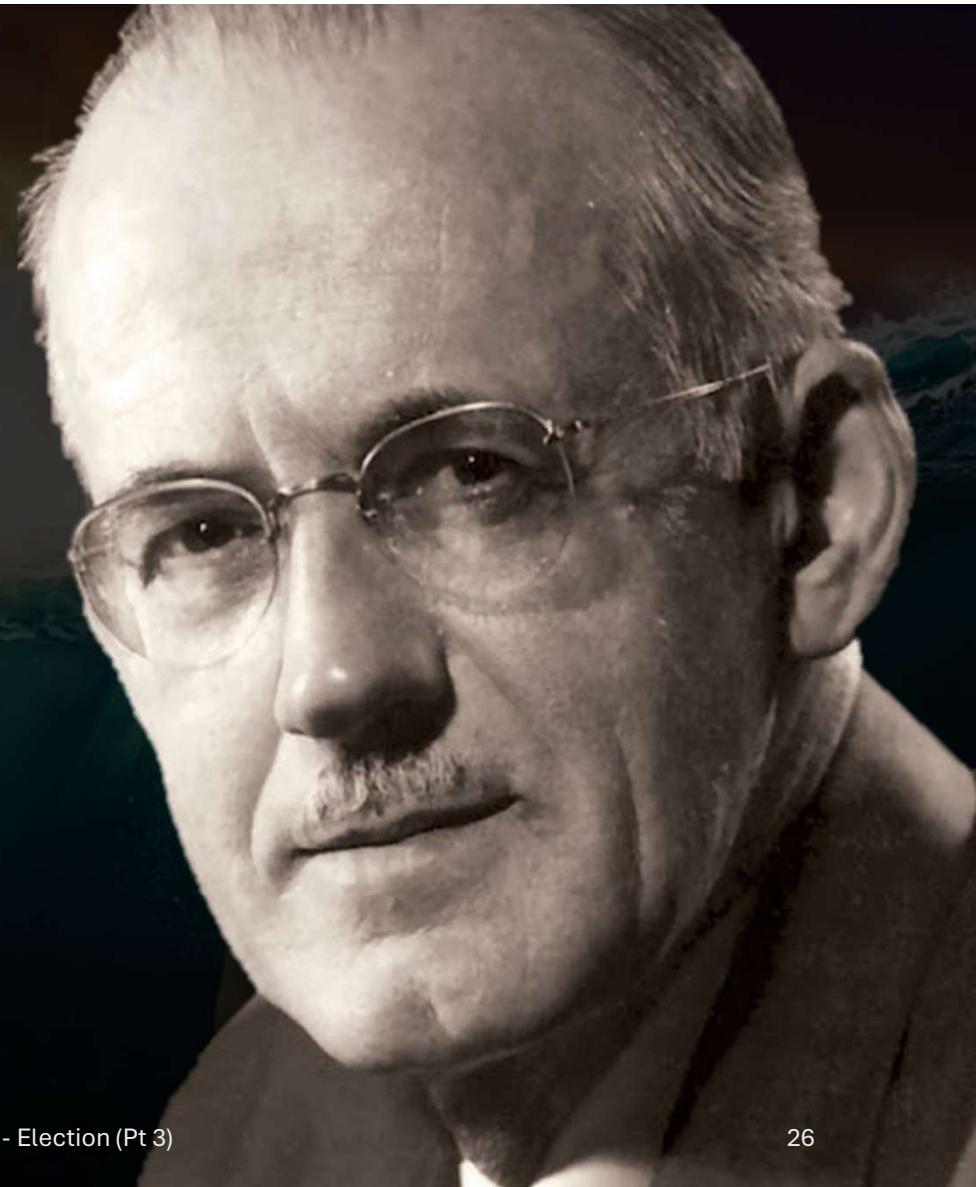
“God does as He pleases,  
but He always pleases to do  
right.” Adrian Rogers

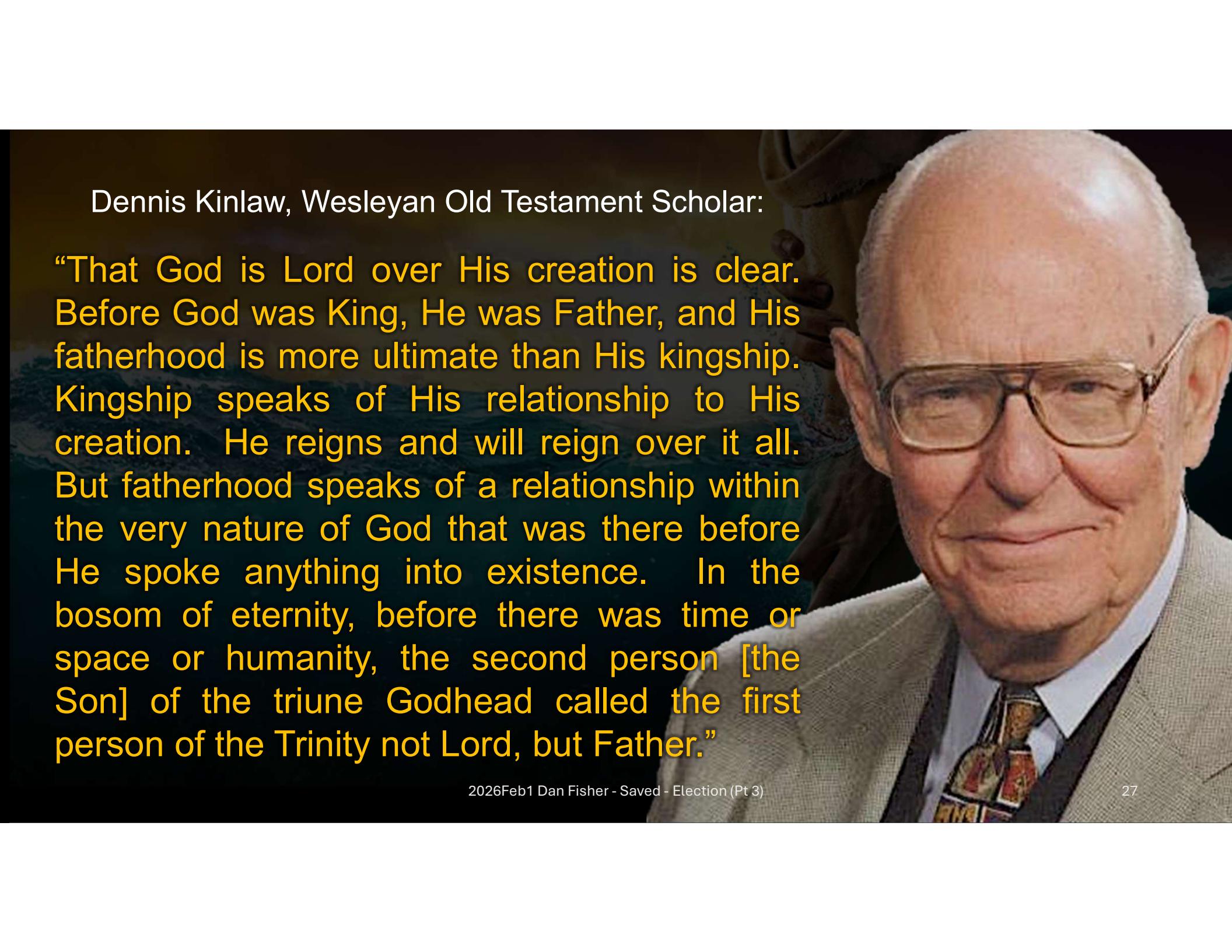
A.W. Tozer, *The Knowledge of the Holy*:

“God sovereignly decreed that man should be free to exercise moral choice, and man from the beginning has fulfilled that decree by making his choice between good and evil. When he chooses to do evil, he does not thereby countervail the sovereign will of God but fulfills it, inasmuch as the eternal decree decided not which choice the man should make but that he should be free to make it.



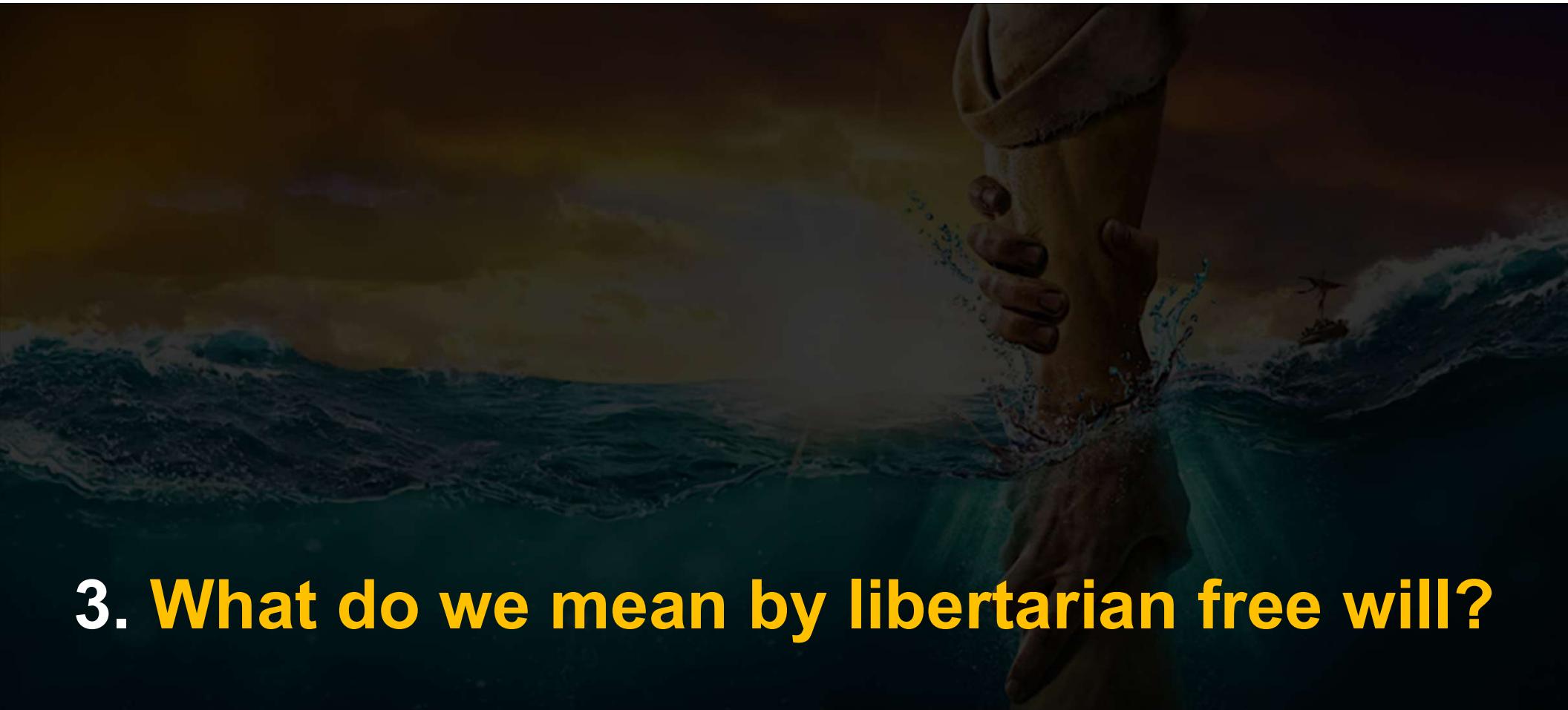
If in His absolute freedom God has willed to give man limited freedom, who may stay His hand or say, 'What doest thou?' Man's will is free because God is sovereign. A God less than sovereign could not bestow moral freedom upon His creatures. He would be afraid to do so."



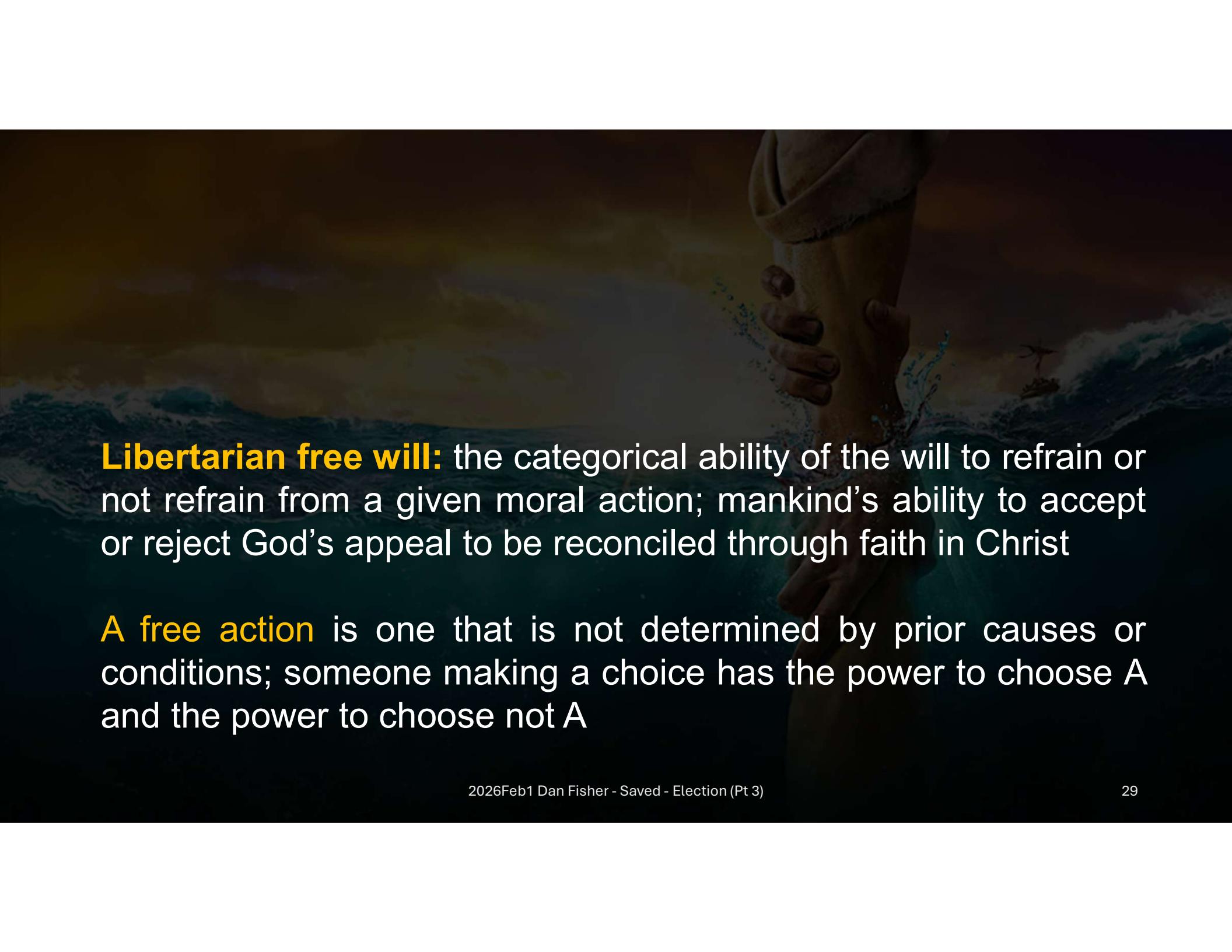
A portrait of Dennis Kinlaw, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

Dennis Kinlaw, Wesleyan Old Testament Scholar:

“That God is Lord over His creation is clear. Before God was King, He was Father, and His fatherhood is more ultimate than His kingship. Kingship speaks of His relationship to His creation. He reigns and will reign over it all. But fatherhood speaks of a relationship within the very nature of God that was there before He spoke anything into existence. In the bosom of eternity, before there was time or space or humanity, the second person [the Son] of the triune Godhead called the first person of the Trinity not Lord, but Father.”

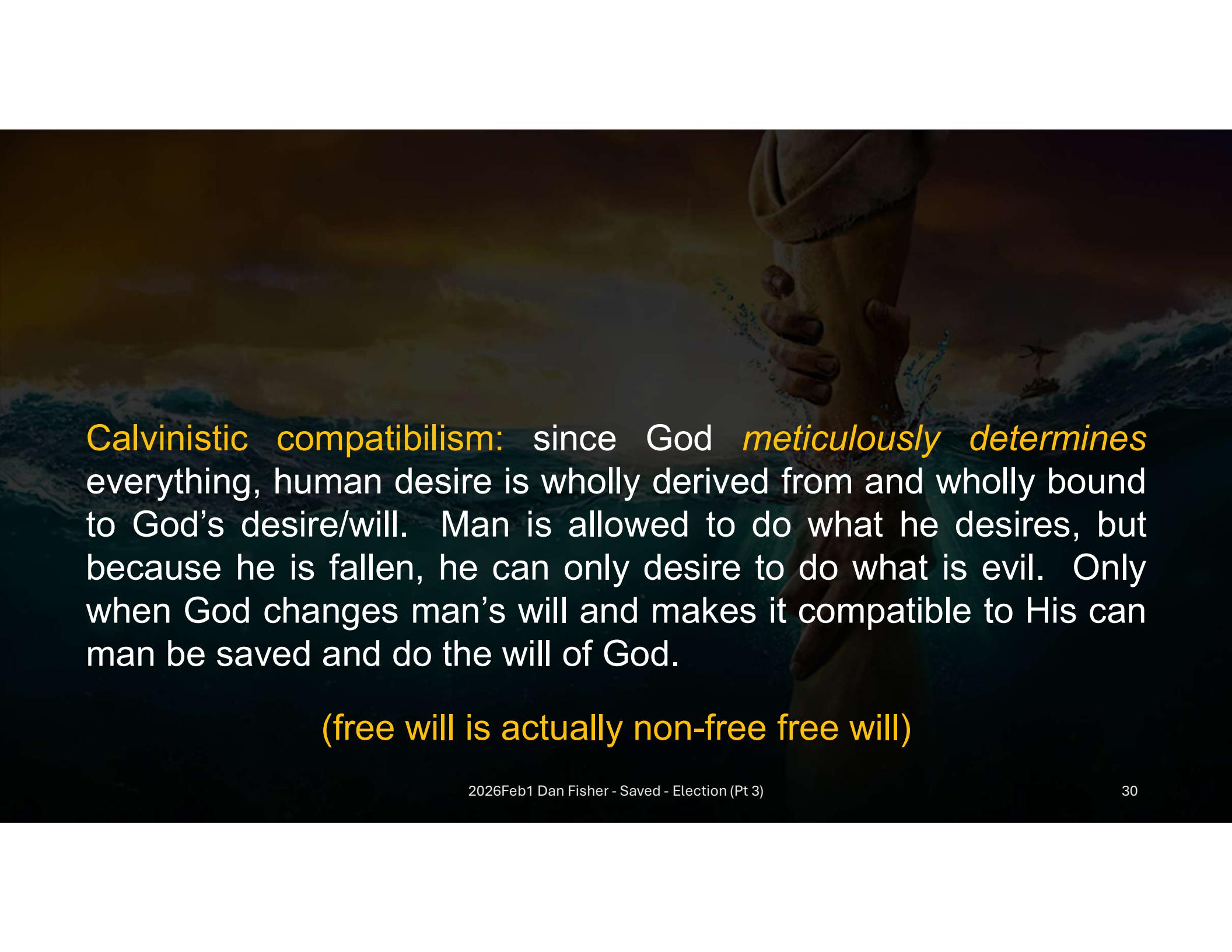


### 3. What do we mean by libertarian free will?



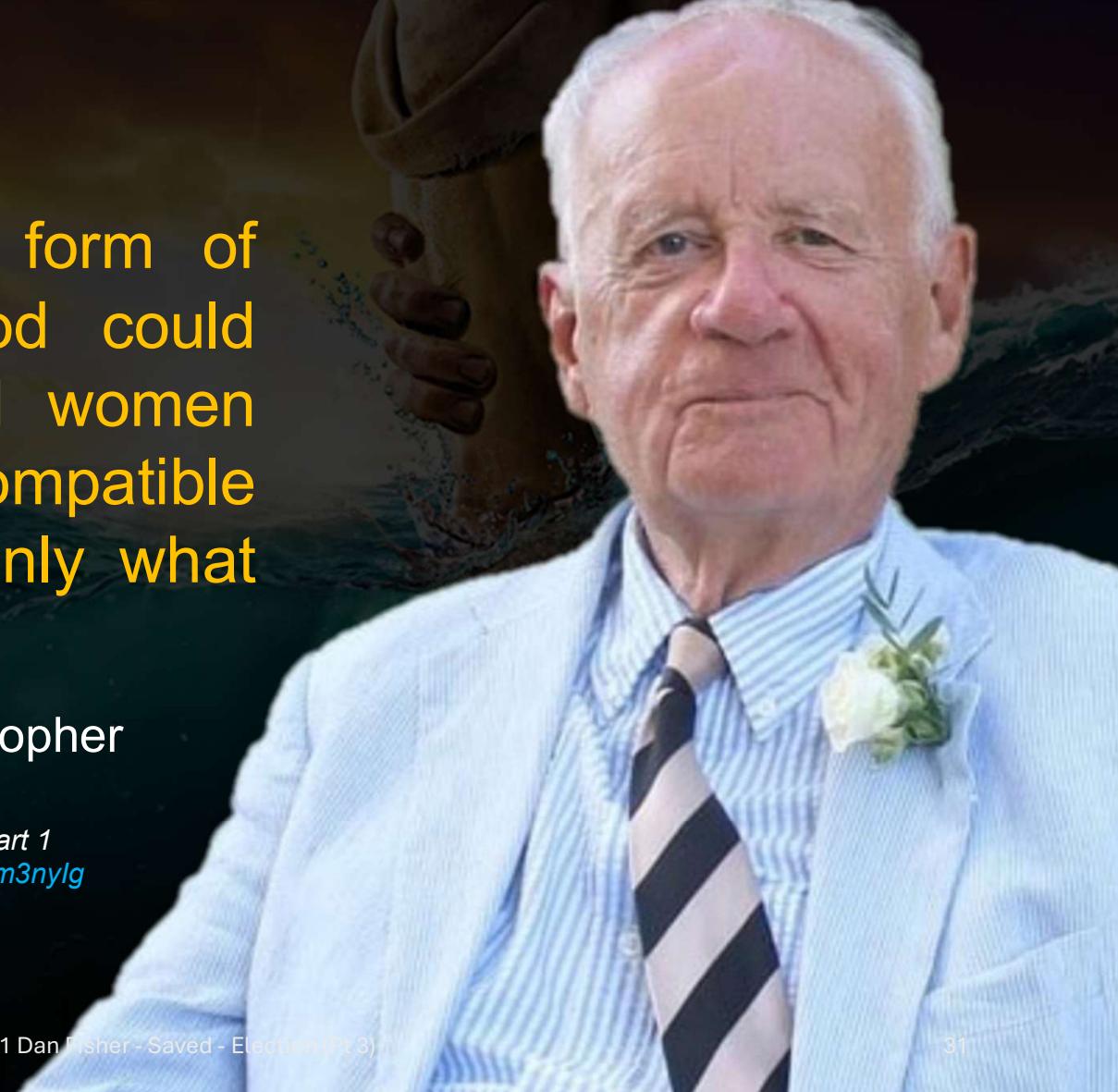
**Libertarian free will:** the categorical ability of the will to refrain or not refrain from a given moral action; mankind's ability to accept or reject God's appeal to be reconciled through faith in Christ

A free action is one that is not determined by prior causes or conditions; someone making a choice has the power to choose A and the power to choose not A

A hand is shown holding a long, thin scroll. The scroll is partially unrolled, revealing a map of the world with various landmasses and bodies of water. The background is a dark, cloudy sky. The hand is positioned in the lower right quadrant of the image.

Calvinistic compatibilism: since God *meticulously determines* everything, human desire is wholly derived from and wholly bound to God's desire/will. Man is allowed to do what he desires, but because he is fallen, he can only desire to do what is evil. Only when God changes man's will and makes it compatible to His can man be saved and do the will of God.

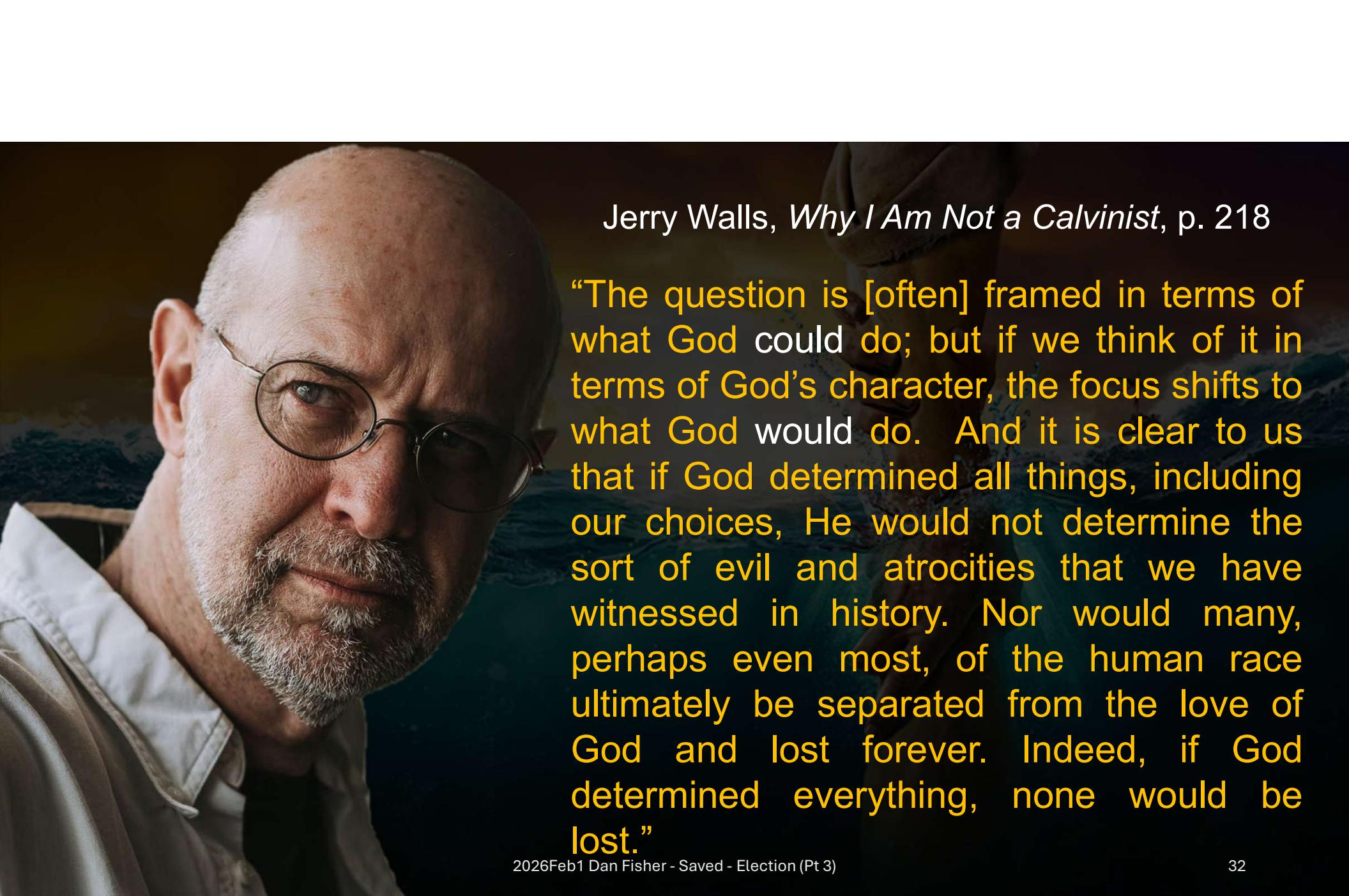
(free will is actually non-free free will)

A portrait of Paul Helm, an elderly man with white hair, wearing a light blue corduroy suit jacket, a striped shirt, and a striped tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. In the background, a hand is visible holding a small object, and there is a dark, textured surface.

“If we suppose some form of compatibilism, then God could have created men and women who freely (in a sense compatible with determinism) did only what was morally right.”

Paul Helm, Calvinist philosopher

Jerry Walls, *Why I Am Not A Calvinist, Part 1*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Daomzm3nylg>

A close-up portrait of Jerry Walls, a middle-aged man with a shaved head and a light beard, wearing round-rimmed glasses and a light-colored shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

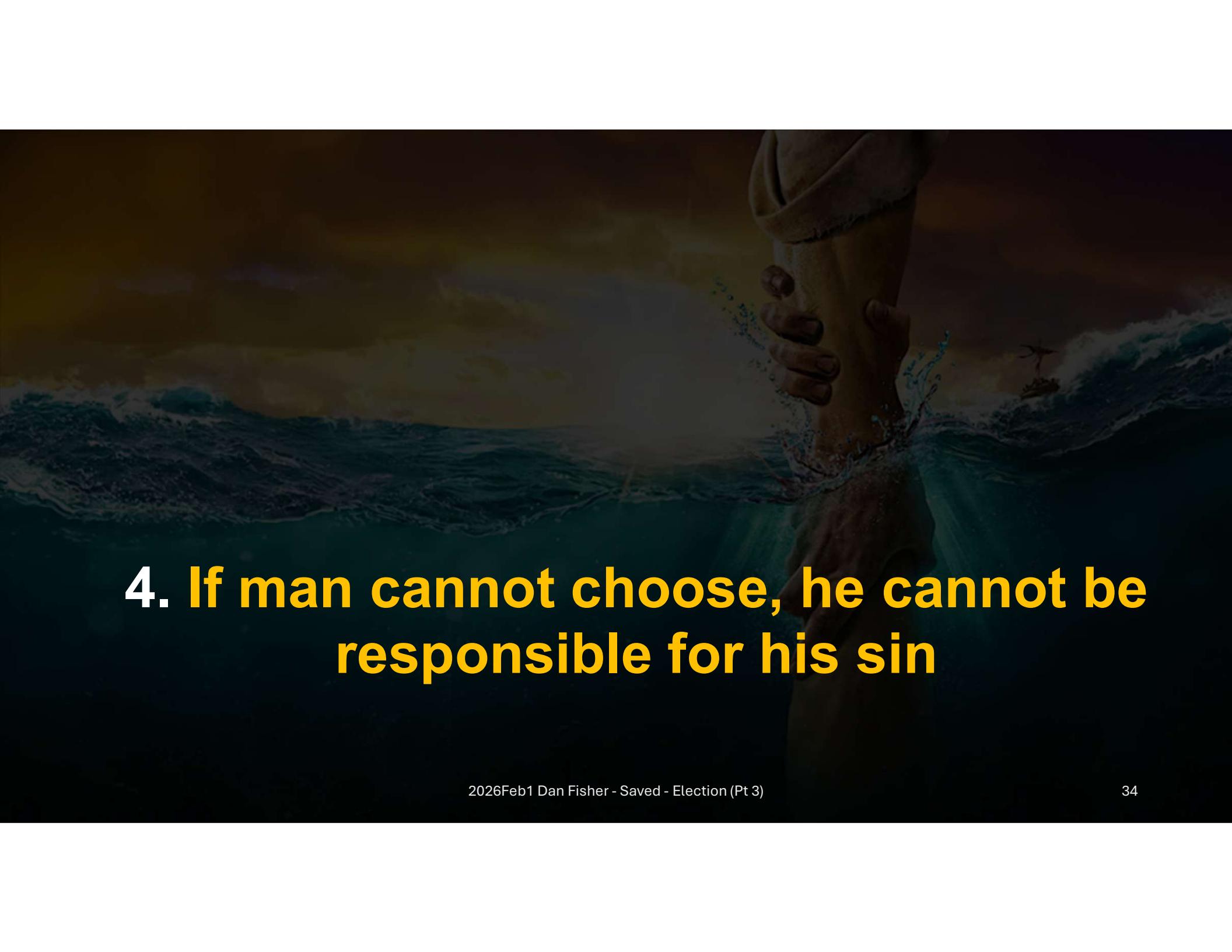
Jerry Walls, *Why I Am Not a Calvinist*, p. 218

“The question is [often] framed in terms of what God could do; but if we think of it in terms of God’s character, the focus shifts to what God would do. And it is clear to us that if God determined all things, including our choices, He would not determine the sort of evil and atrocities that we have witnessed in history. Nor would many, perhaps even most, of the human race ultimately be separated from the love of God and lost forever. Indeed, if God determined everything, none would be lost.”

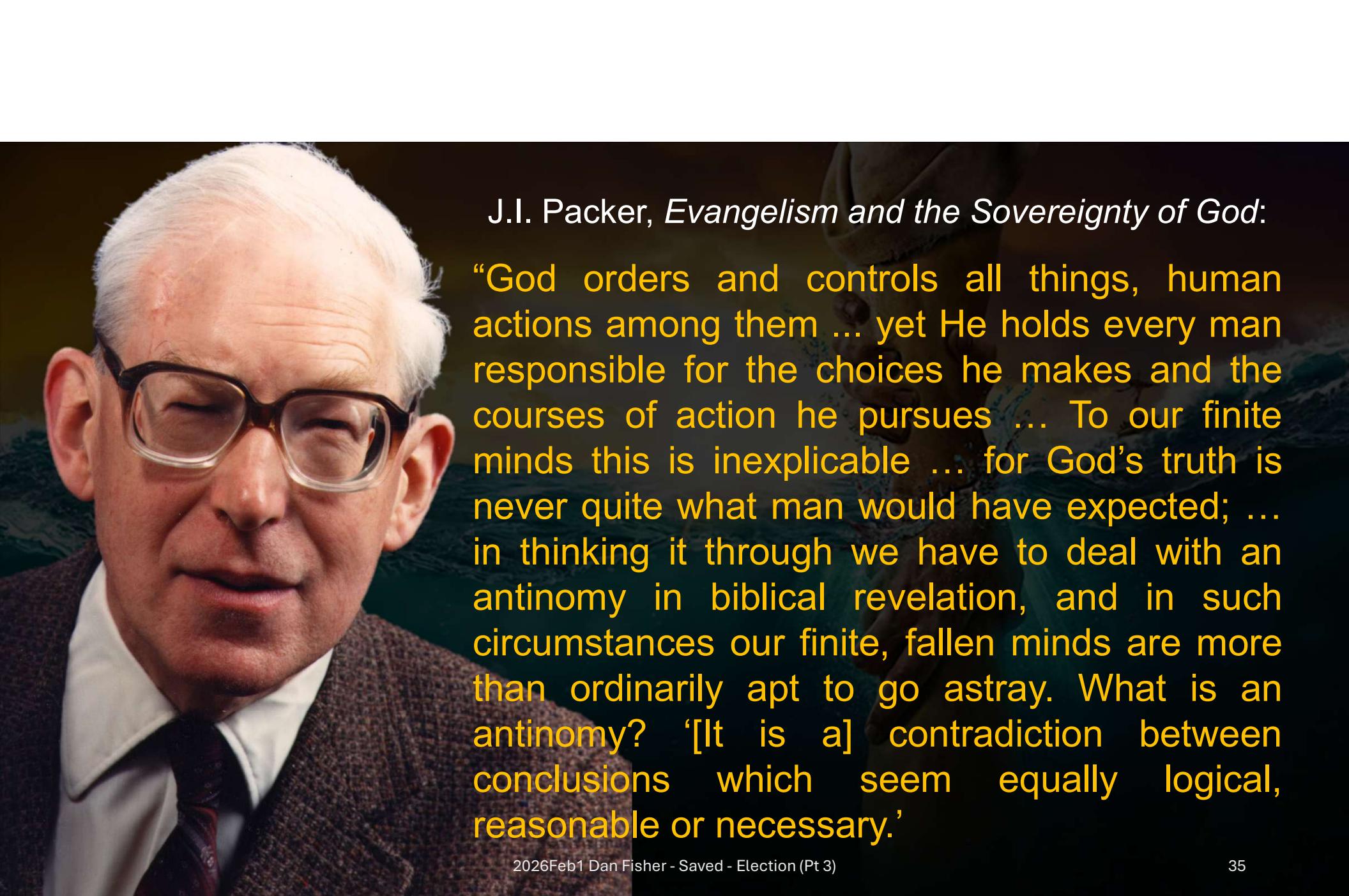
A composite image featuring a portrait of Dan Fisher on the left and a painting of a drowning man being rescued by an angel on the right.

“Calvinists as determinists must either reject freedom altogether or accept compatibilism.”

John Feinberg, Trinity Divinity School

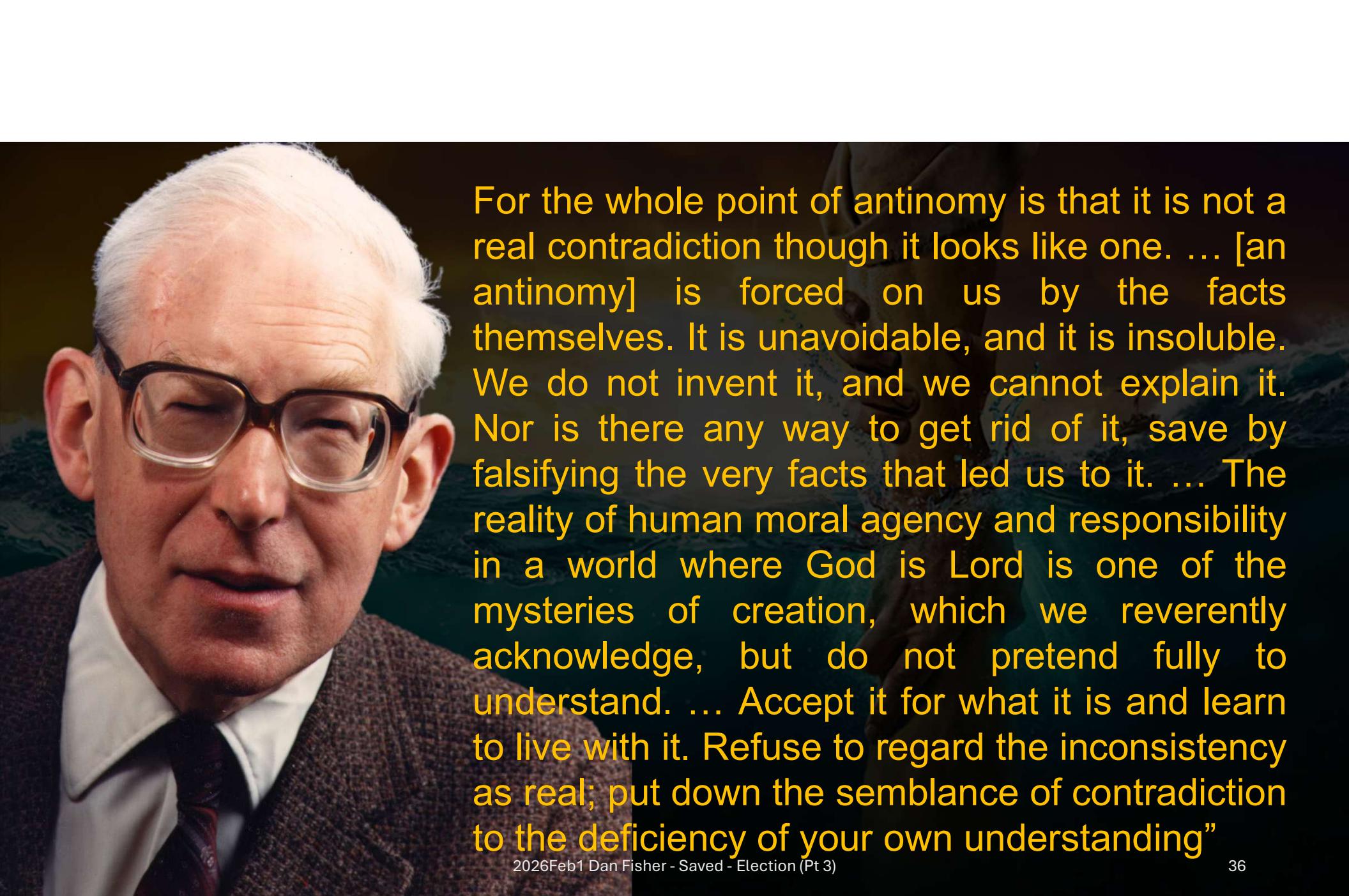


## 4. If man cannot choose, he cannot be responsible for his sin

A close-up portrait of J.I. Packer, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is dark and out of focus.

J.I. Packer, *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*:

“God orders and controls all things, human actions among them ... yet He holds every man responsible for the choices he makes and the courses of action he pursues ... To our finite minds this is inexplicable ... for God’s truth is never quite what man would have expected; ... in thinking it through we have to deal with an antinomy in biblical revelation, and in such circumstances our finite, fallen minds are more than ordinarily apt to go astray. What is an antinomy? ‘[It is a] contradiction between conclusions which seem equally logical, reasonable or necessary.’

A portrait of C.S. Lewis, an elderly man with white hair and glasses, wearing a suit and tie. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression.

For the whole point of antinomy is that it is not a real contradiction though it looks like one. ... [an antinomy] is forced on us by the facts themselves. It is unavoidable, and it is insoluble. We do not invent it, and we cannot explain it. Nor is there any way to get rid of it, save by falsifying the very facts that led us to it. ... The reality of human moral agency and responsibility in a world where God is Lord is one of the mysteries of creation, which we reverently acknowledge, but do not pretend fully to understand. ... Accept it for what it is and learn to live with it. Refuse to regard the inconsistency as real; put down the semblance of contradiction to the deficiency of your own understanding”

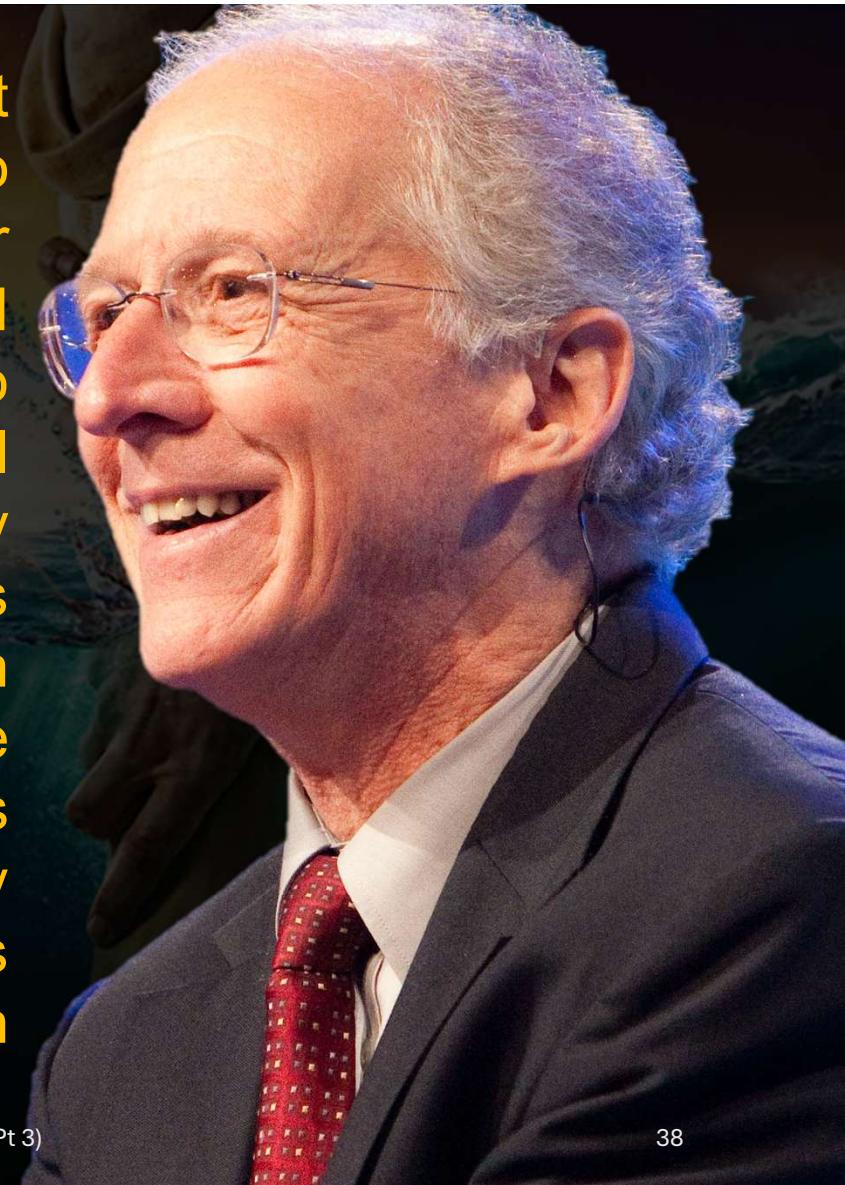
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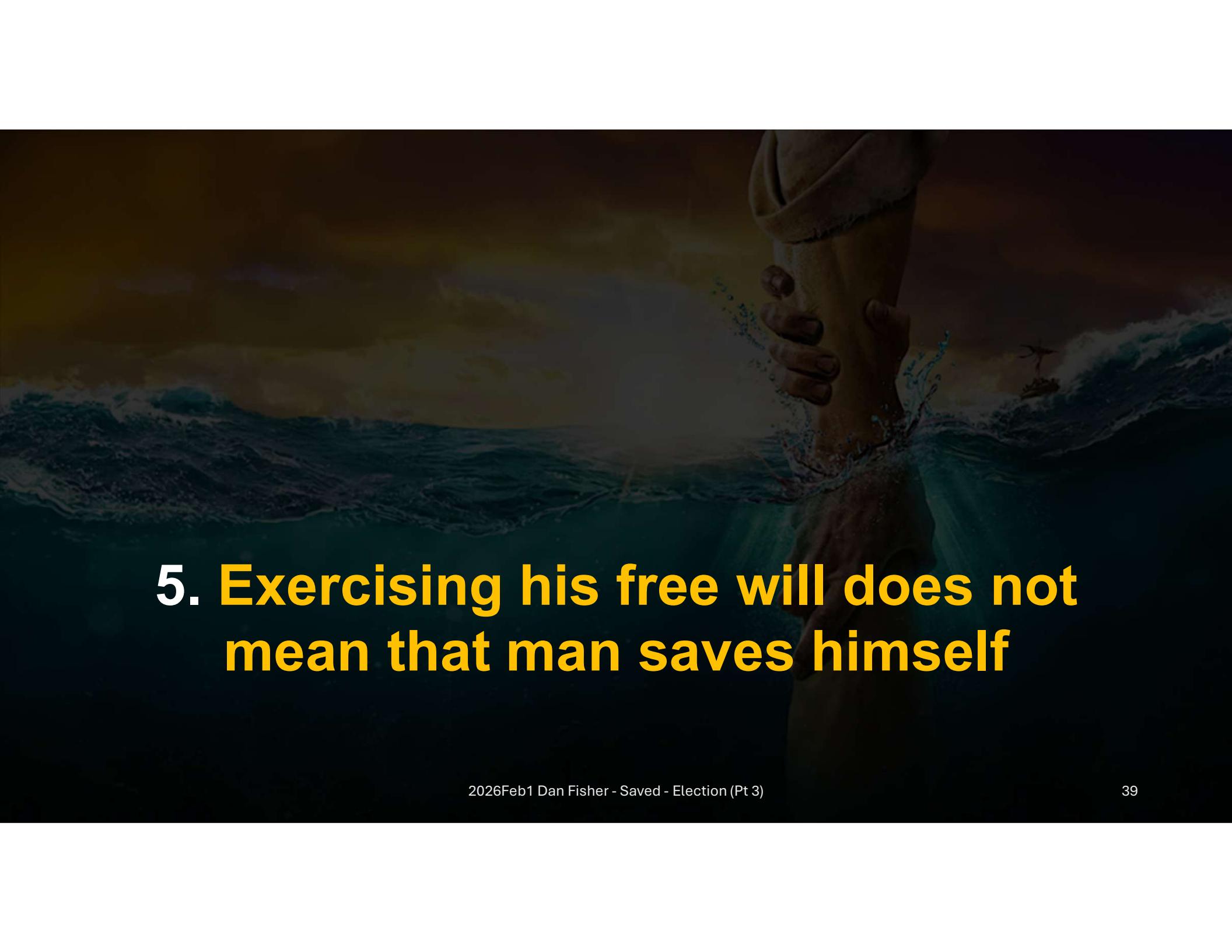
John Piper's response to J.I. Packer:

Packer is too good a biblical scholar to think there ever was such a thing as 'free will' taught in the scripture. ... free will is an unbiblical notion that is not part of the antinomy because it is not part of revelation. The point of disagreement is the two-fold presentation in scripture of God's sovereignty and man's responsibility that sounds to everybody like a contradiction. ... The solution is this: Moral ability is not a prerequisite to accountability. [M]oral inability to do a good thing does not excuse our failure to do it.

Though we love darkness rather than light and can't (because of moral inability) come to the light, nevertheless we are responsible for not coming, that is, we can be justly punished for not coming. God so disposes all things so that in accordance with moral necessity all men make only those choices ordained by God from all eternity. ... everything is His means of creating situations which function as motives to elicit the acts of will which He has ordained to come to pass [compatibilism]. In this way He ultimately determines all acts of volition and yet holds man accountable only for those acts which they want most to do.

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A dramatic illustration of a person in a life vest holding a small boat in a stormy sea. The person is looking towards the horizon, and the sea is filled with dark, churning waves under a cloudy sky.

## 5. Exercising his free will does not mean that man saves himself

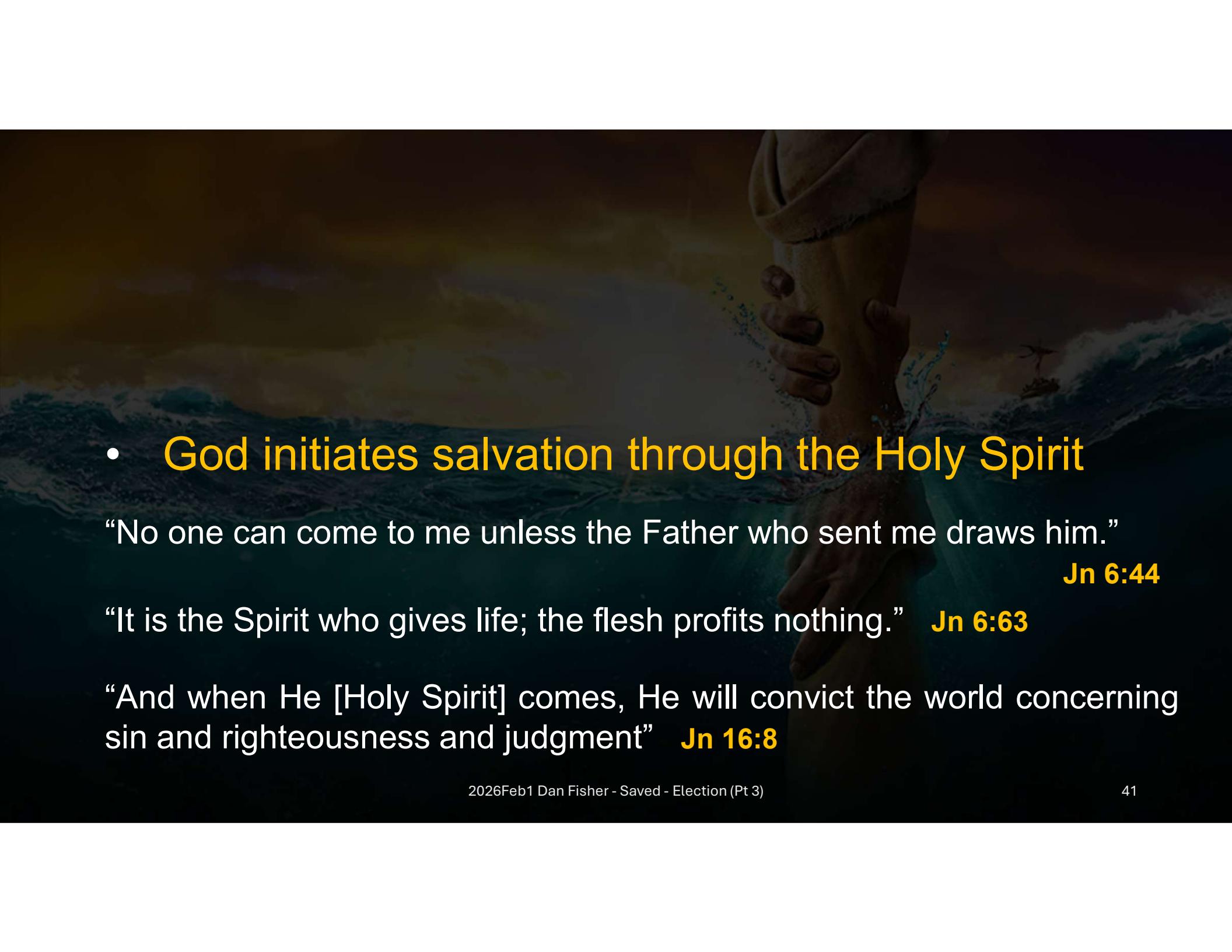
“A common error made by Calvinists is they wrongly assert that non-Calvinists believe salvation itself is “within the grasp of sinners” because we teach that mankind is responsible to believe and repent of sin. Being capable of repenting in faith is not equal to saving oneself. A doctor may clearly reveal your need for a heart transplant. Your ability to submit to his recommendation and allow him to perform the transplant is not equal to performing the transplant all by yourself.”

Dr. Leighton Flowers

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPvdEjfrCYA> (17:15-17:23)

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- God initiates salvation through the Holy Spirit

“No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him.”

**Jn 6:44**

“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing.” **Jn 6:63**

“And when He [Holy Spirit] comes, He will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment” **Jn 16:8**

- The Holy Spirit uses Scripture to convict

“[Scripture is] written that you may **believe** that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **believing** you may have life in His name” **Jn 20:31**

“**faith** comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ” **Rom 10:17**

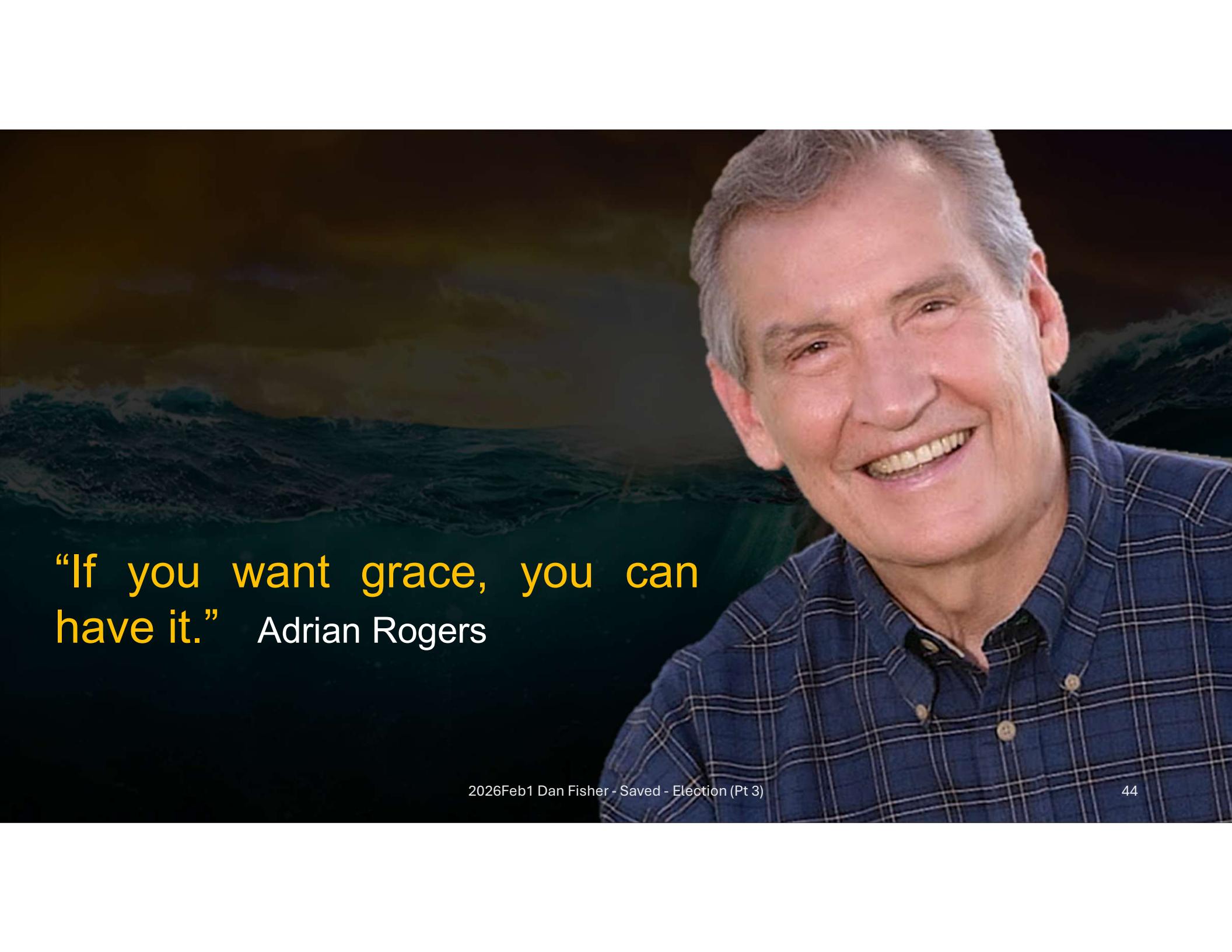
“[The Scriptures] are able to make you wise for salvation **through faith** in Christ Jesus” **2 Tim 3:15**

- **Man believes, confesses, and is saved**

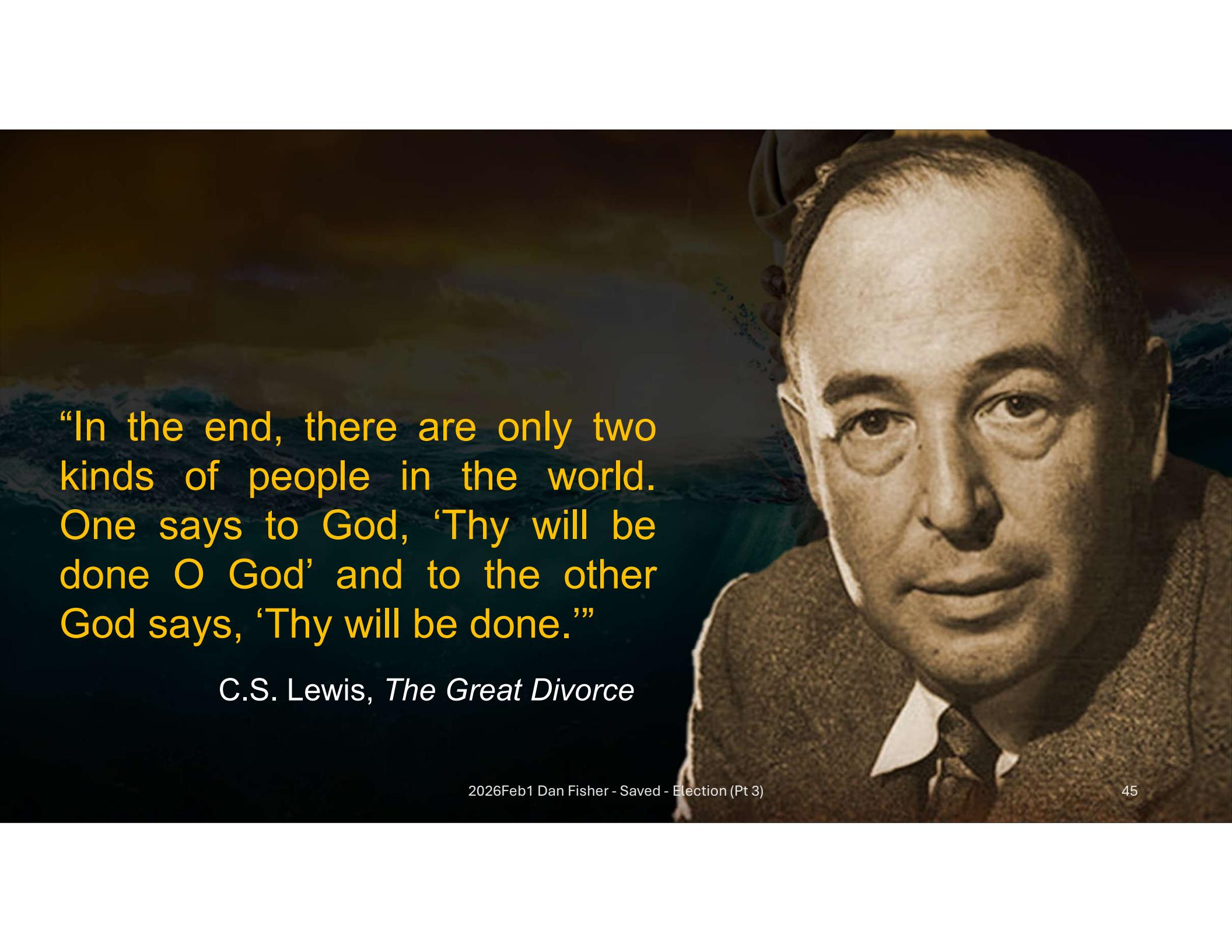
“if you **confess** with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and **believe** in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For with the **heart** one **believes** and is justified, and with the **mouth** one **confesses** and is saved.” **Rom 10:9-10**

“For by grace you have been saved **through** faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” **Eph 2:8-9**

“and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, “Abraham **believed** God, and it was counted to him as righteousness” – and he was called a friend of God.” **Js 2:23**

A portrait of Adrian Rogers, a man with grey hair and a warm smile, wearing a blue plaid shirt. He is positioned on the right side of the image, with a dark, textured background that suggests a landscape with hills or mountains.

“If you want grace, you can have it.” Adrian Rogers

A sepia-toned portrait of C.S. Lewis, an English author, academic, and Christian apologist. He is shown from the chest up, wearing a dark suit jacket, a white shirt, and a dark tie. He has a gentle expression and is looking slightly to the right of the camera. The background is a soft-focus landscape of hills or mountains under a cloudy sky.

“In the end, there are only two kinds of people in the world. One says to God, ‘Thy will be done O God’ and to the other God says, ‘Thy will be done.’”

C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*