

**I was Blind
but Now I
see:
Reasons
to Believe**

**Answering fools
with facts and Faith**



**Reasons to
Believe God is
good when
there's suffering**

**Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me
good? No one is good except God alone.**

Luke 18:19





Natural evil

Natural Evil:

Disease, illness...

Weather, storms...

quakes, volcanos...



Moral evil

Moral Evil:

Murder, war, theft..

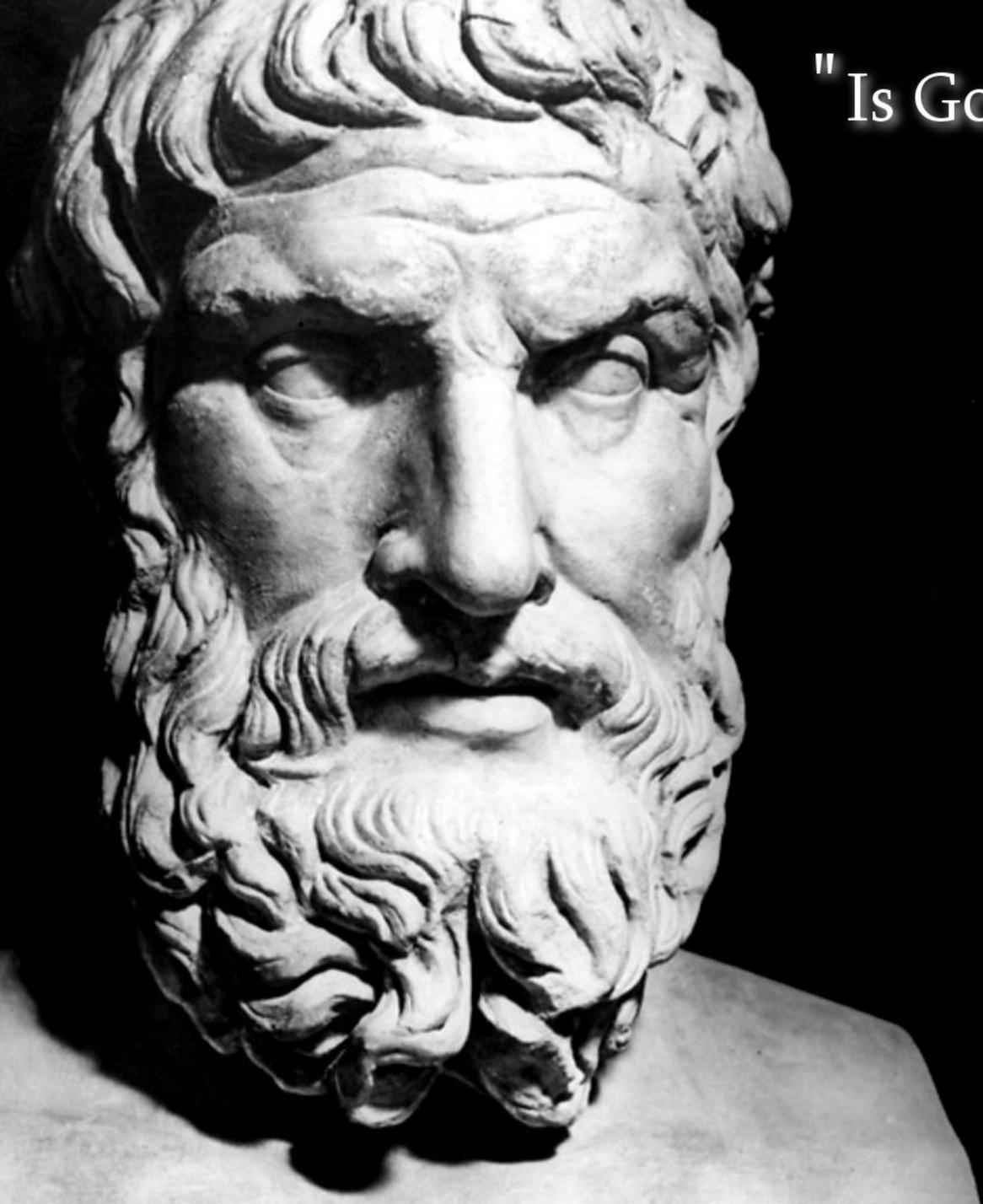
Slavery, tyranny...

Rape, lying, cruelty...

**"If there is a god, he will
have to beg for my
forgiveness."**

- Anonymously carved into the wall of Cell Block 20, Mauthausen-Gusen Concentration Camp





" Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?

Then He is not omnipotent.

Is He able, but not willing?

Then He is malevolent.

Is He both able and willing?

Then whence cometh evil?

Is He neither able nor willing?

Then why call Him God? "

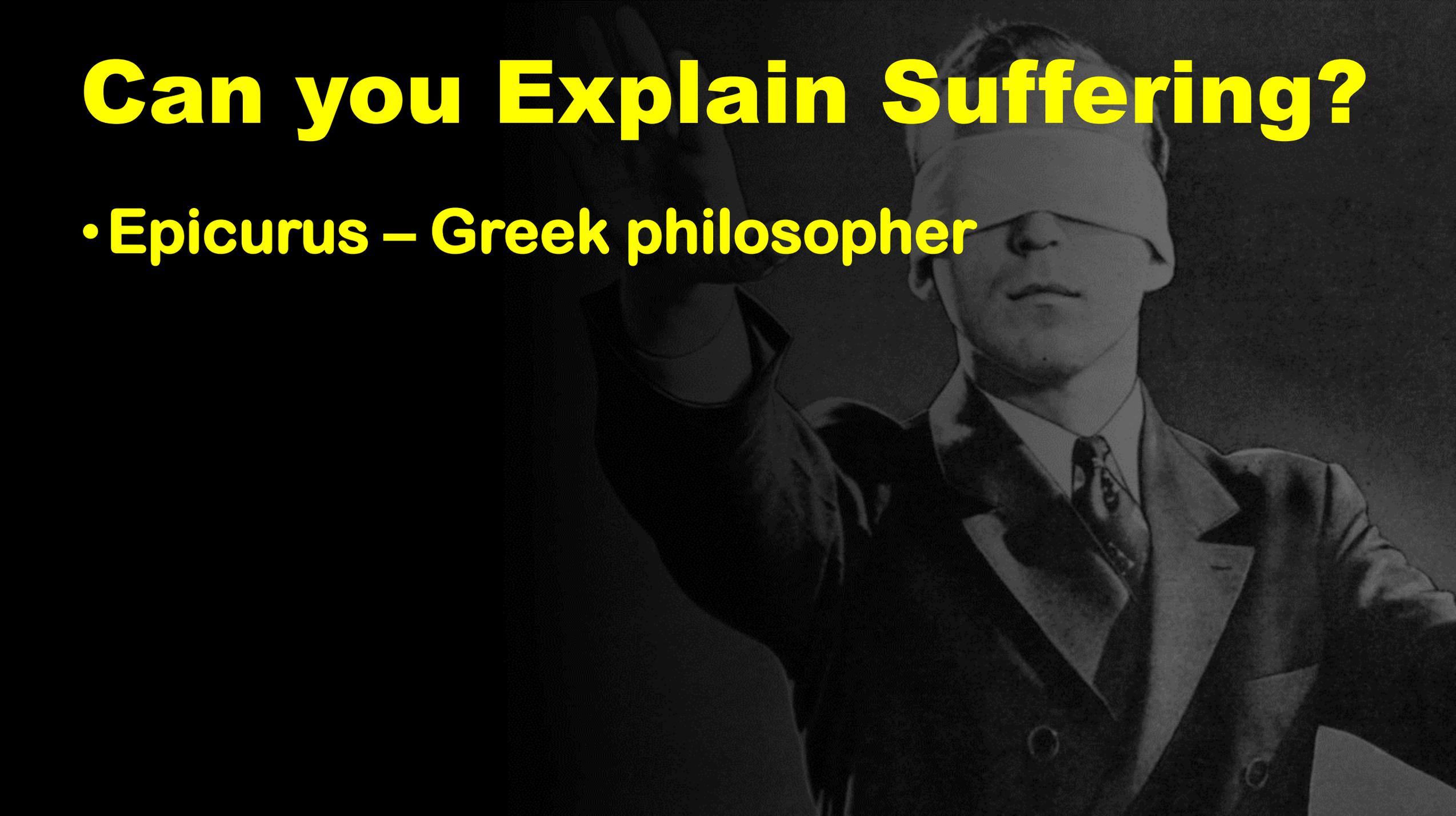
-Epicurus

Can you Explain Suffering?

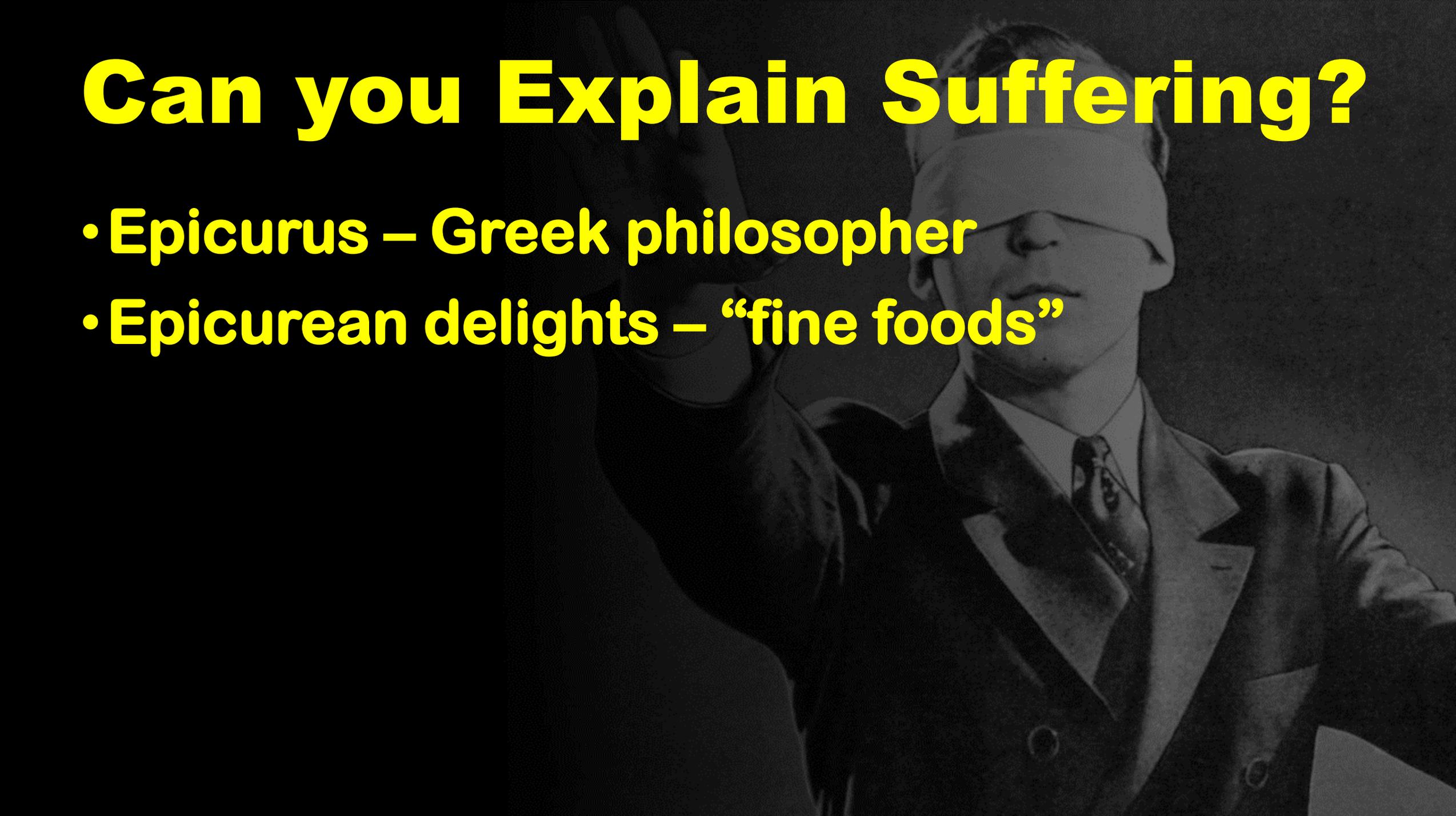


Can you Explain Suffering?

- **Epicurus – Greek philosopher**



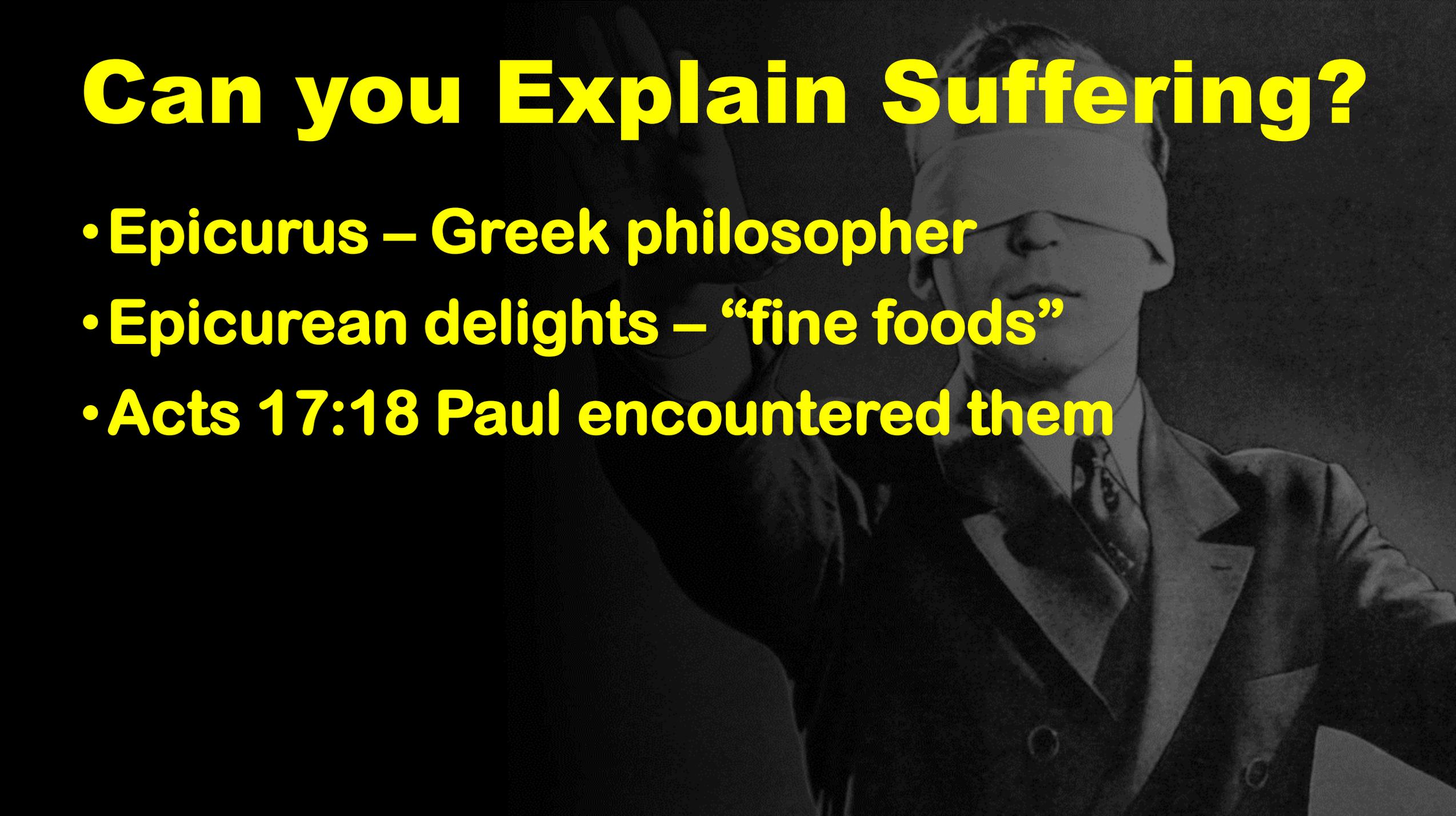
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- Acts 17:18 Paul encountered them
- 1 Corinthians 15:32 “LET'S EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.”
- Isaiah 22:13

Can you Explain Suffering?

- **Acts 17:18 Paul encountered them**
- **1 Corinthians 15:32 “LET'S EAT AND DRINK, FOR TOMORROW WE DIE.”**
- **Isaiah 22:13**
- **Epicurus died from digestive issue?**

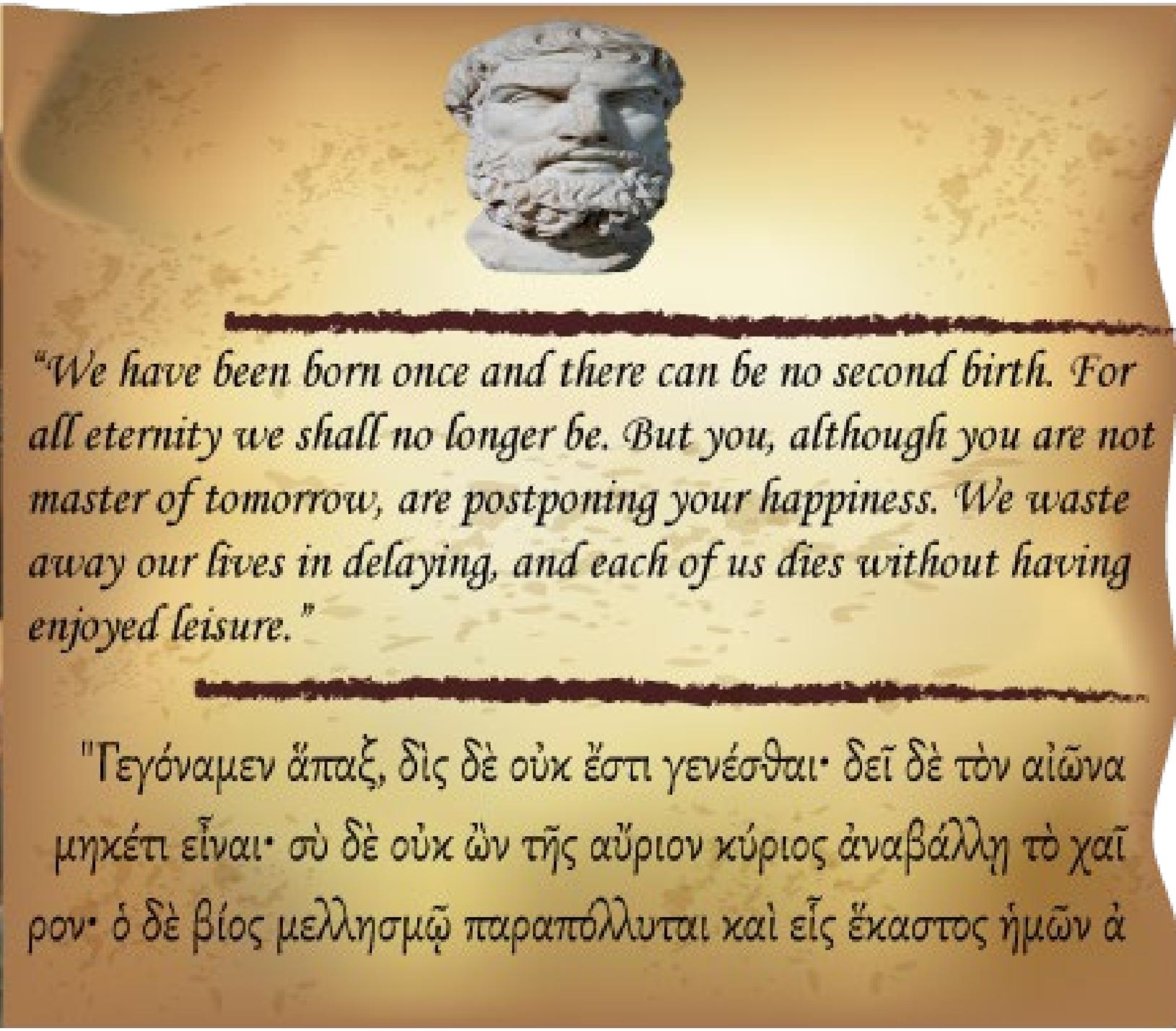


EPICURUS *& the pleasant life*

LIVING BY
THE PHILOSOPHY OF NATURE



HARIS
DIMITRIADIS



"We have been born once and there can be no second birth. For all eternity we shall no longer be. But you, although you are not master of tomorrow, are postponing your happiness. We waste away our lives in delaying, and each of us dies without having enjoyed leisure."

"Γεγόναμεν ἅπαξ, δις δὲ οὐκ ἔστι γενέσθαι· δεῖ δὲ τὸν αἰῶνα μηκέτι εἶναι· σὺ δὲ οὐκ ὢν τῆς αὔριον κύριος ἀναβάλλῃ τὸ χαῖρον· ὁ δὲ βίος μελλησιμῶ παραπόλλυται καὶ εἷς ἕκαστος ἡμῶν ἄ

**MY ARGUMENT AGAINST GOD WAS THAT
THE UNIVERSE SEEMED SO CRUEL AND
UNJUST. BUT HOW HAD I GOT THIS IDEA OF JUST
AND UNJUST? A MAN DOES NOT CALL A LINE
CROOKED UNLESS HE HAS SOME IDEA OF A
STRAIGHT LINE. WHAT WAS I COMPARING THIS
UNIVERSE WITH WHEN I CALLED IT UNJUST?**

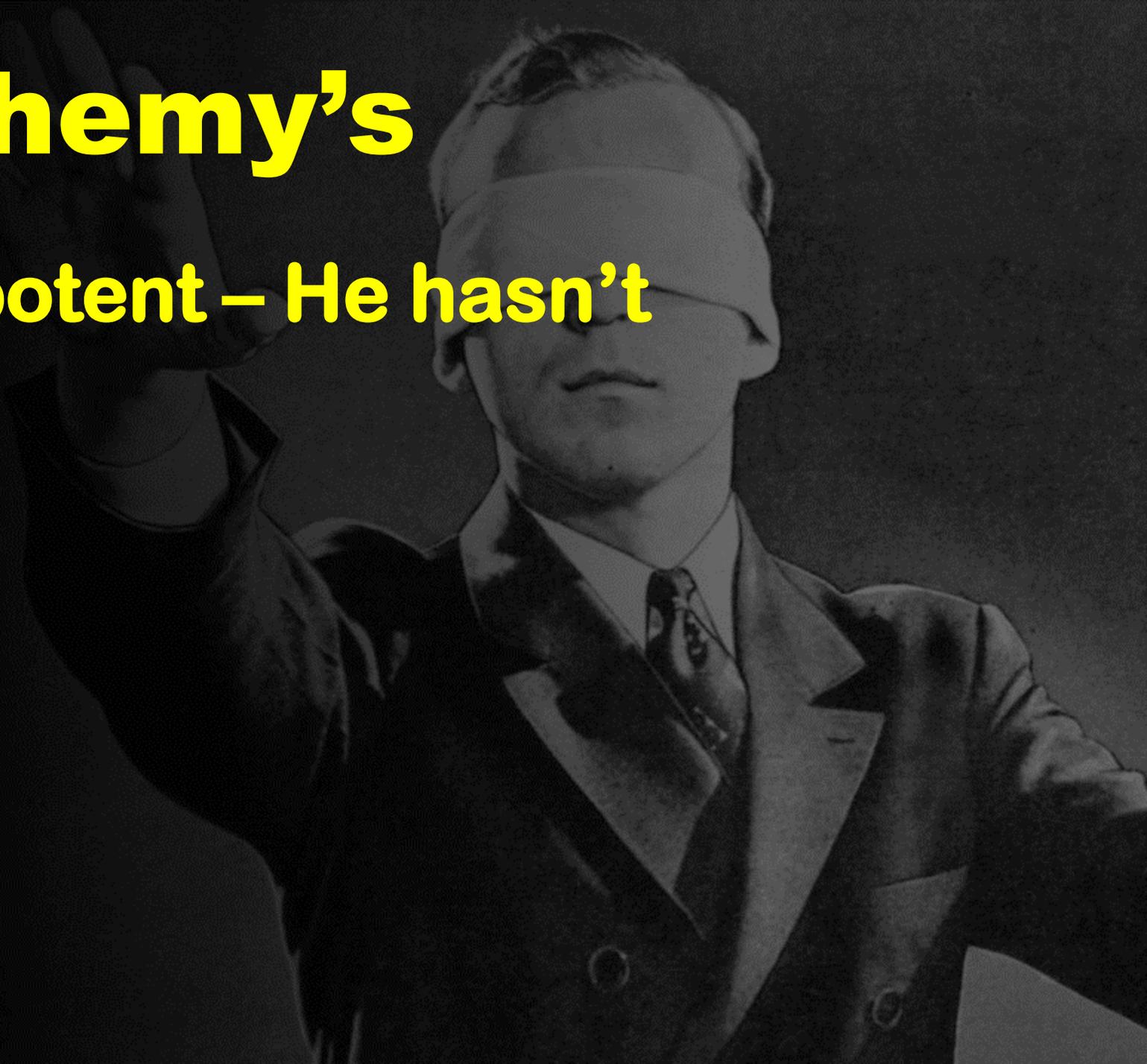
*C. S. Lewis,
Mere Christianity*

The Blasphemy's

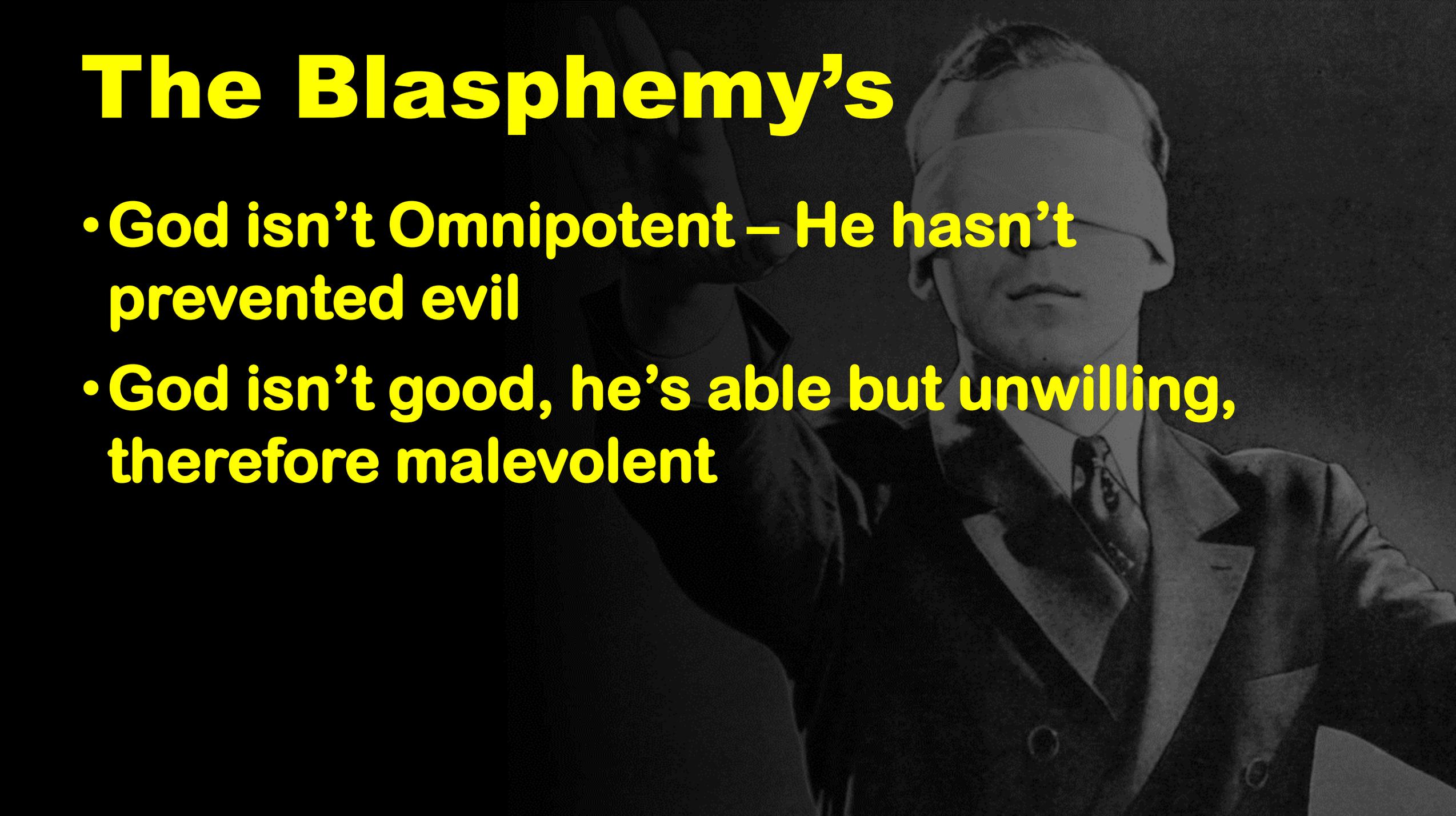


The Blasphemy's

- **God isn't Omnipotent – He hasn't prevented evil**

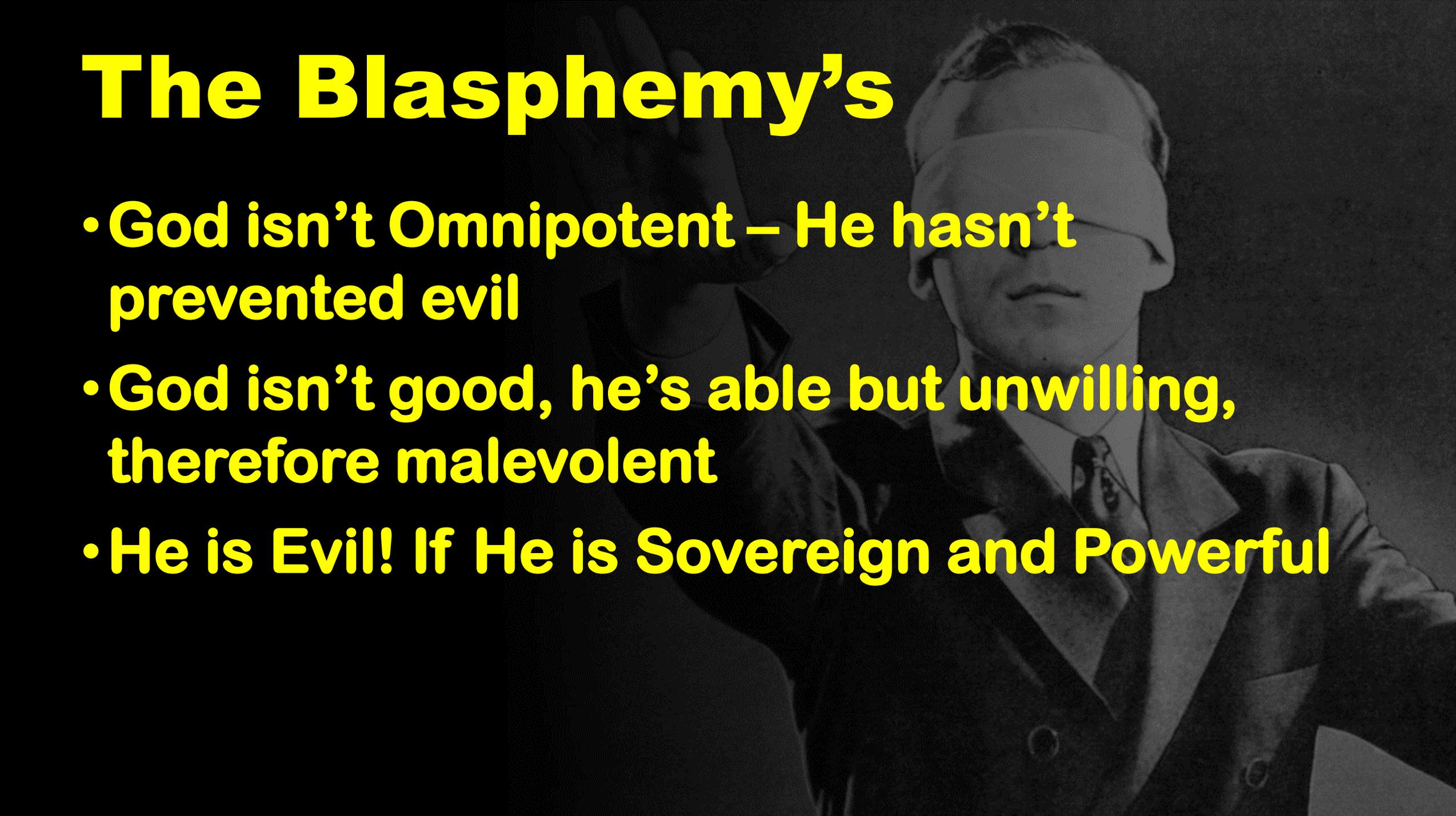


The Blasphemy's

A grayscale photograph of a man in a suit and tie, blindfolded with a white cloth. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is dark and out of focus.

- **God isn't Omnipotent – He hasn't prevented evil**
- **God isn't good, he's able but unwilling, therefore malevolent**

The Blasphemy's

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- God isn't Omnipotent – He hasn't prevented evil**
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- He is Evil! If He is Sovereign and Powerful**

The Blasphemy's

- **God isn't good, he's able but unwilling, therefore malevolent**
- **He is Evil! If He is Sovereign and Powerful**
- **Therefore, I wont worship Him**

**JOB NEVER SAW
WHY HE
SUFFERED,
BUT HE SAW GOD,
AND THAT WAS
ENOUGH.**

TIM KELLER

Wrong presuppositions

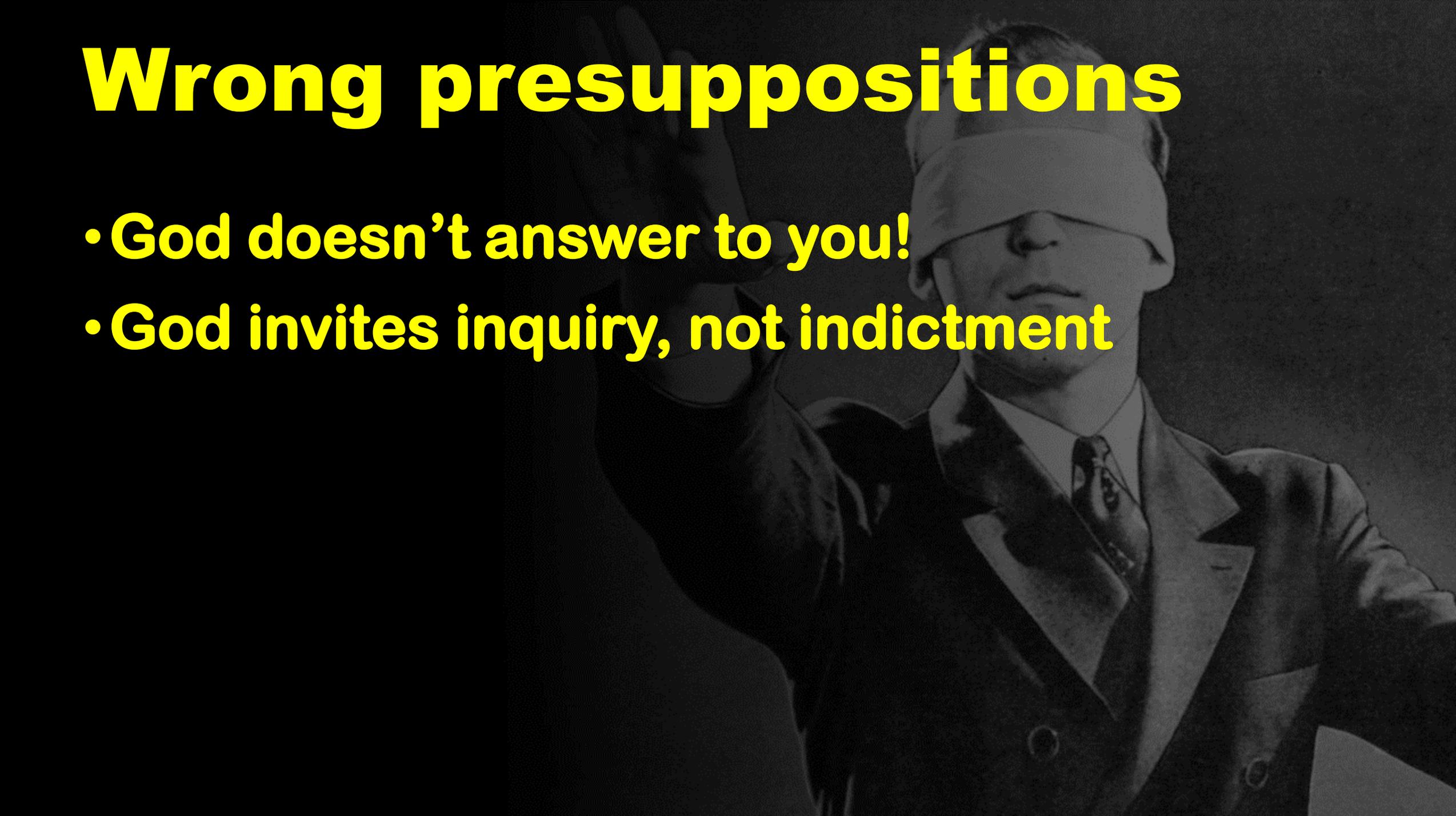


Wrong presuppositions

- **God doesn't answer to you!**

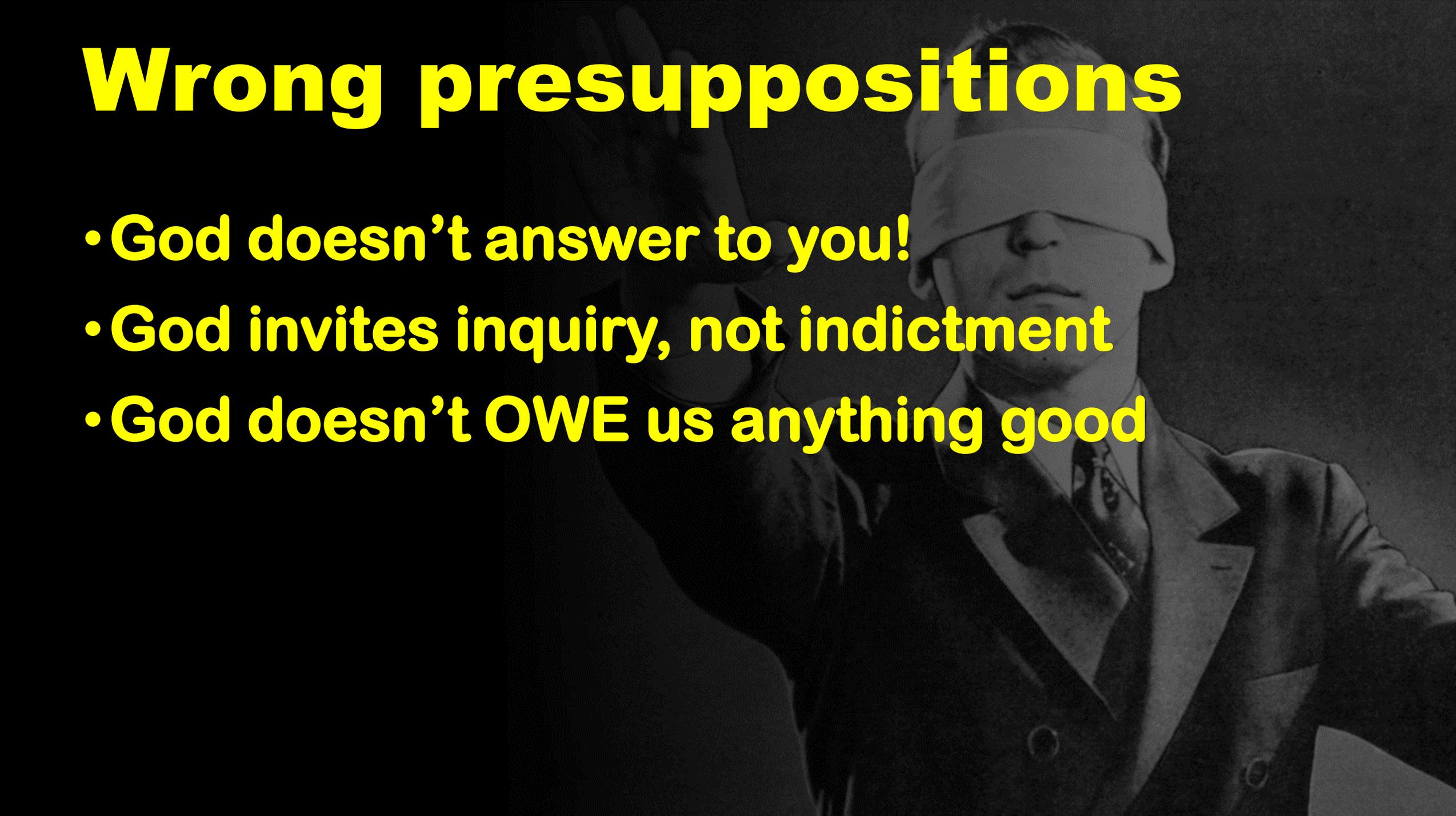


Wrong presuppositions

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- **God doesn't answer to you!**
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- **Assumes Epicurus is THE Moral authority!
Epicurus judged God!**

Wrong presuppositions

- **God doesn't OWE us anything good**
- **Assumes Epicurus is THE Moral authority!
Epicurus judged God!**
- **Epicurus' question doesn't resolve the
problem of Evil!! It only criticizes God!
Excuses hedonism**



Poor God, how often He is blamed
for all the suffering in the world.
It's like praising Satan for allowing
all the good that happens.

E.A. Bucchianeri

quote fancy

I've discovered most Christians don't know what to do with difficult situations because they have bought into the lie that God owes us (for our good behaviour).

The reality of life is that if you live long enough you are going to bleed, cry and hurt. AND God is still God IN that.

Matt Chandler

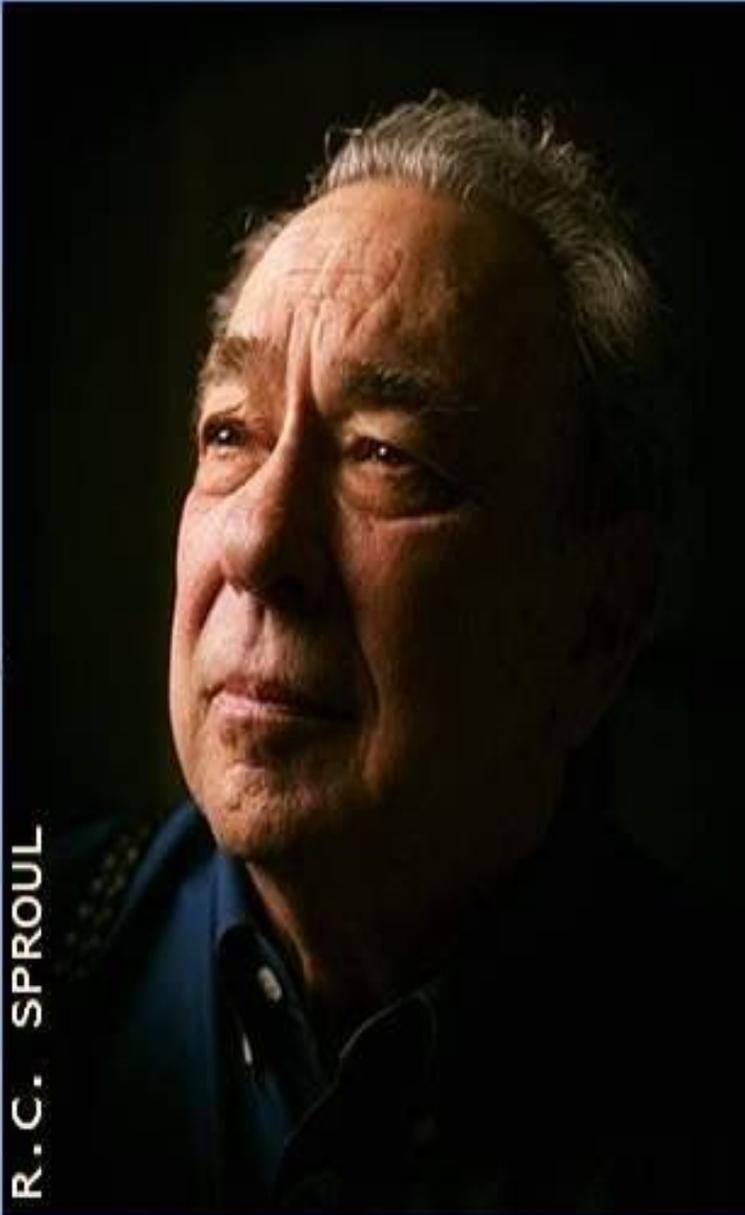
1 Peter 4:12

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you

"We do not desire hell, but we do desire evil.

The problem is that hell is the appointed consequence of evil. We desire evil without hell and heaven without God. This is the quintessential fool's errand. The pursuit of evil is the road to hell. The pursuit of God is the road to heaven."

R. C. SPROUL



Epicurus' other,
sneaky
Presupposition is
that He wants the
fruit of the Spirit
without the
indwelling of God
and the pleasures of
sin without the
interference of God!

**“Why do bad things happen to
good people?**



**That only
happened
once,
and He
volunteered.”**

R.C. SPROUL

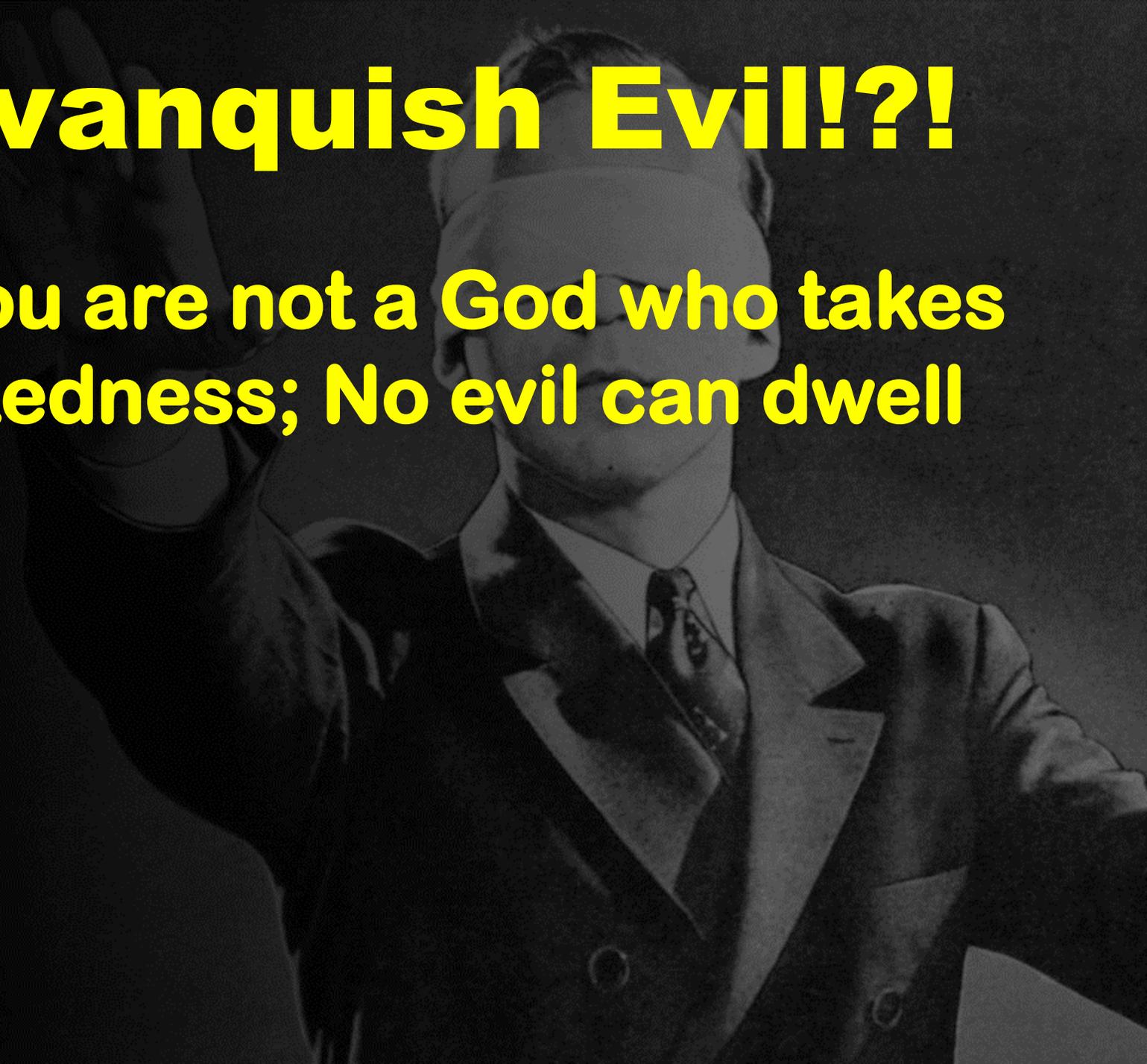
Whenever you
doubt the justice,
goodness, or
Sovereignty of God,
look again to the
cross and thank
Him!

God must vanquish Evil!?!



God must vanquish Evil!?!?

- **Psalm 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil can dwell with You.**



God must vanquish Evil!?!

- **Psalm 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil can dwell with You.**
- **Matthew 7:11 "So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children..."**

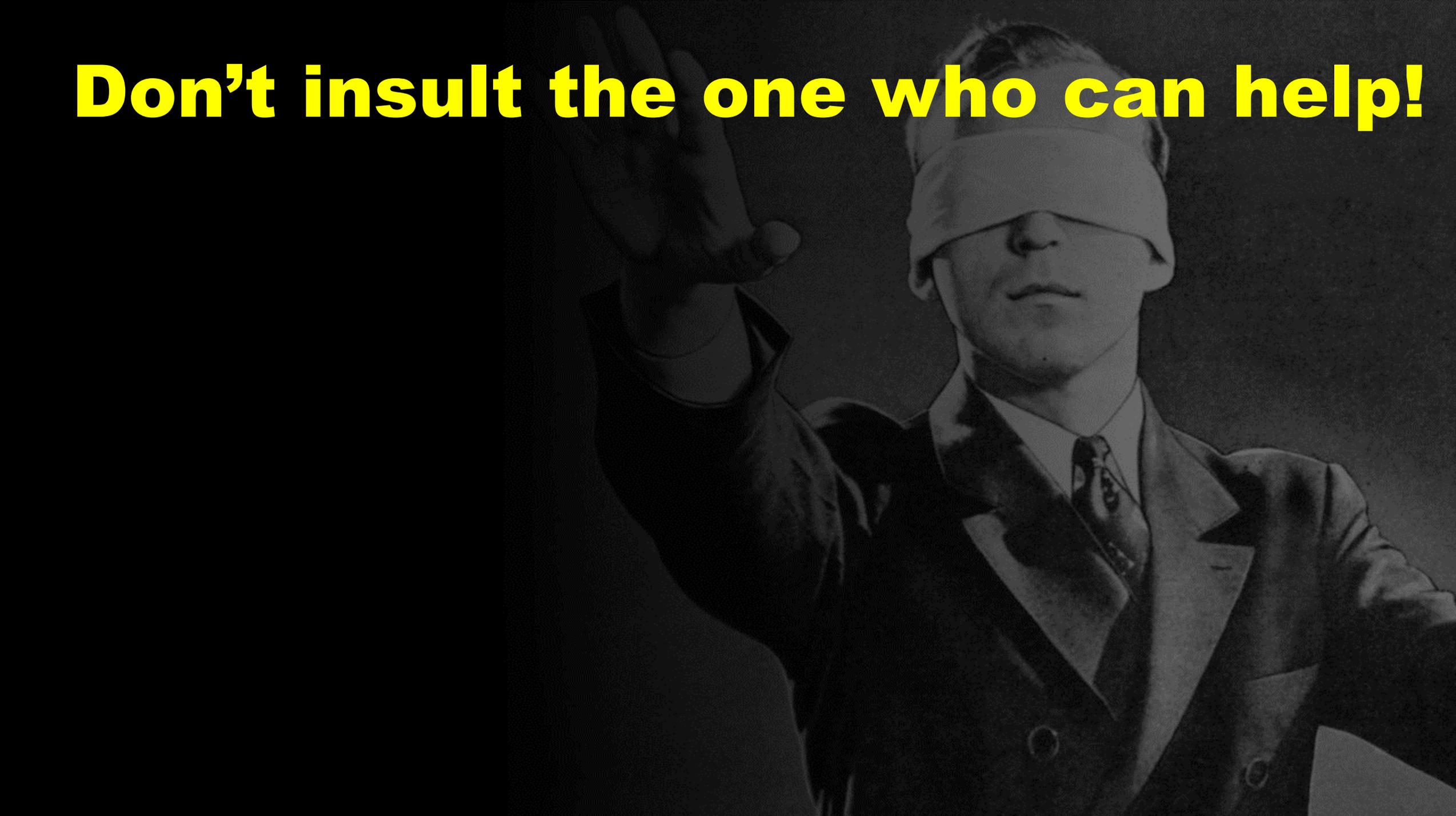
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- **Psalm 5:4 For You are not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness; No evil can dwell with You.**
- **Matthew 7:11 "So if you, despite being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children..."**
- **Man is Evil. The curse of sin - death**

For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13

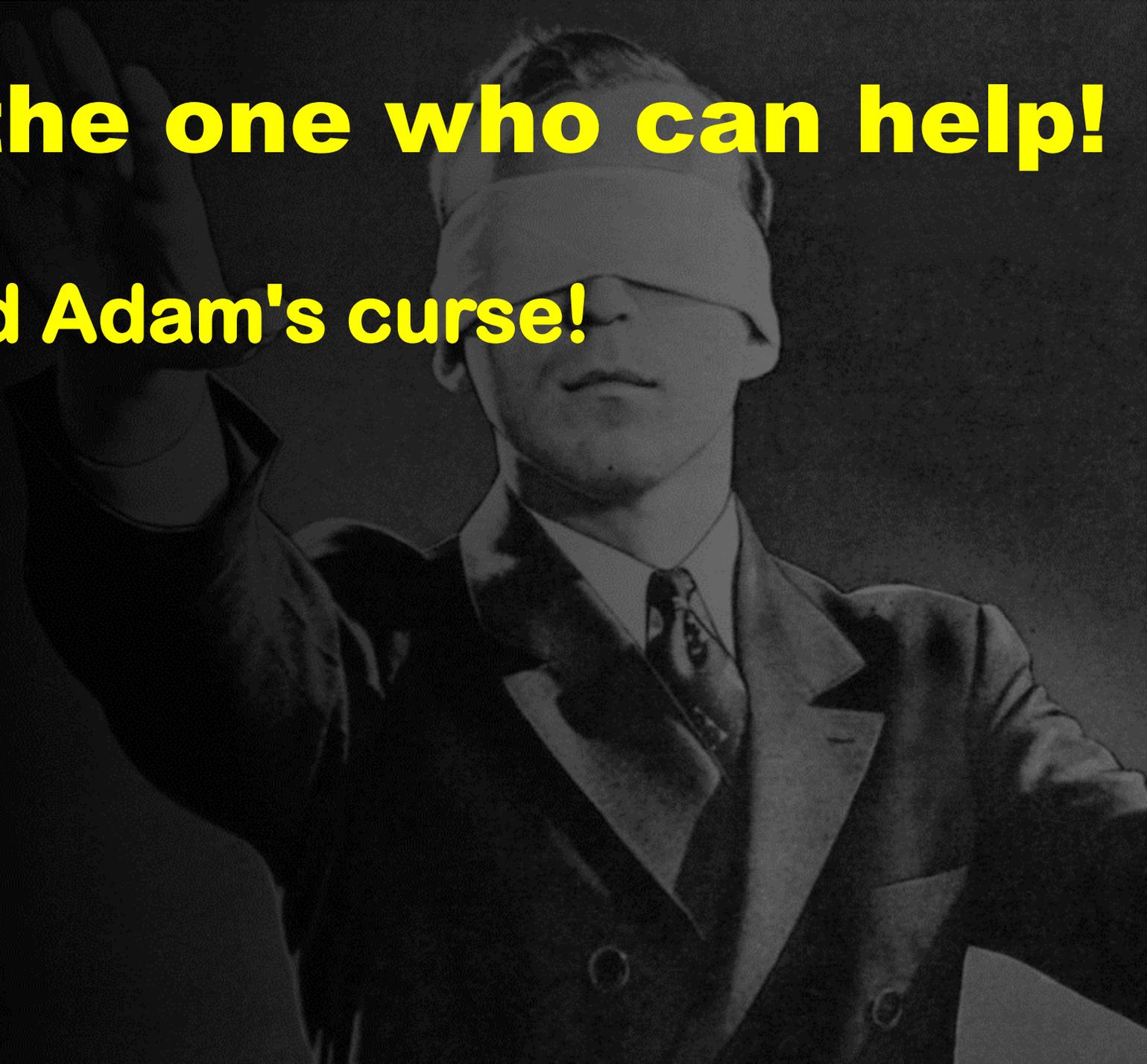
Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the Lord your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord God of hosts. Jeremiah 2:19

Don't insult the one who can help!



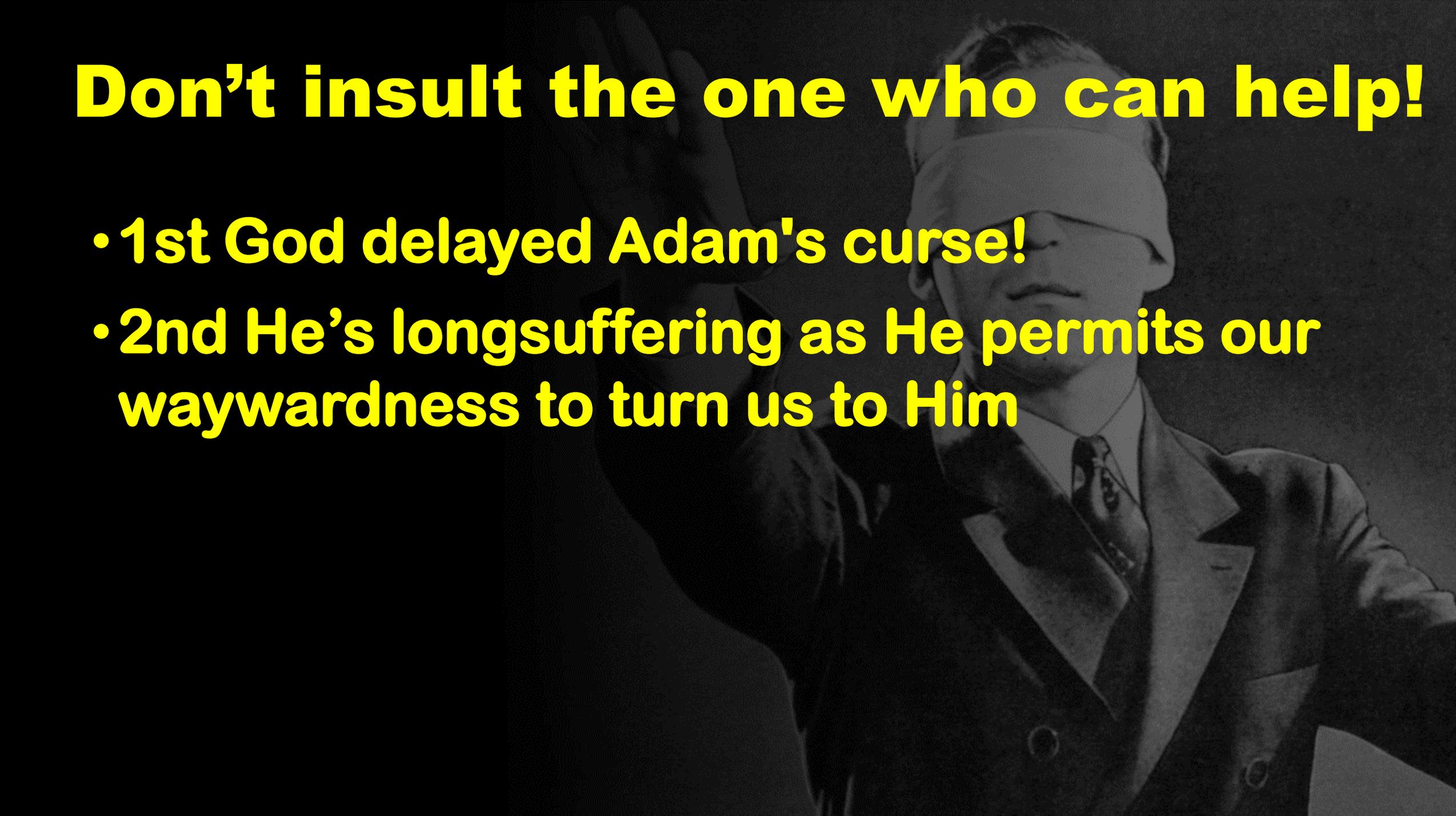
Don't insult the one who can help!

• 1st God delayed Adam's curse!

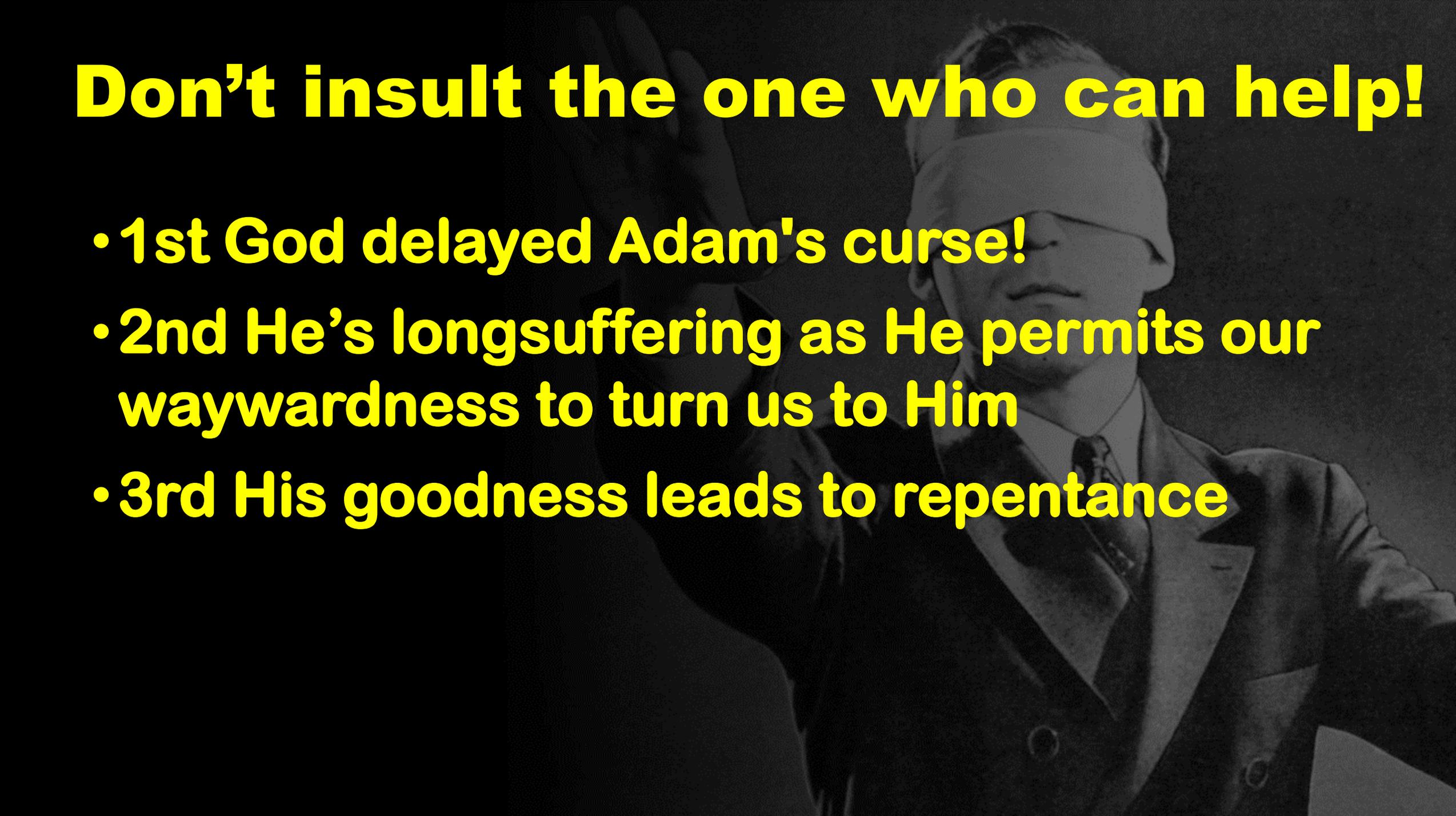


Don't insult the one who can help!

- **1st God delayed Adam's curse!**
- **2nd He's longsuffering as He permits our waywardness to turn us to Him**



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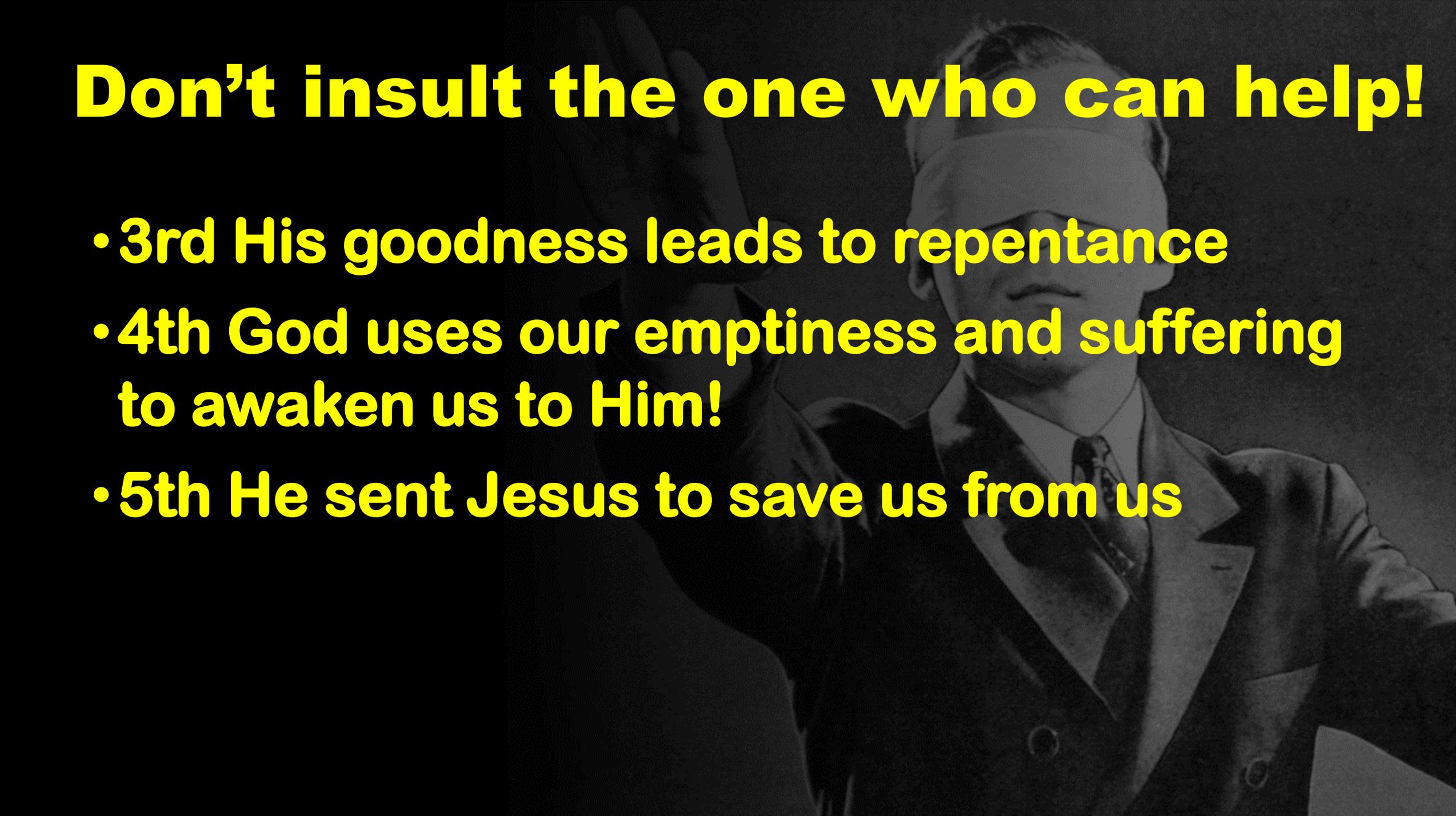
A grayscale image of a man in a suit and tie, blindfolded with a white cloth. He is looking slightly to the right. The background is dark and textured.

- **1st God delayed Adam's curse!**
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- **3rd His goodness leads to repentance**

Don't insult the one who can help!

- 2nd He's longsuffering as He permits our waywardness to turn us to Him
- 3rd His goodness leads to repentance
- 4th God uses our emptiness and suffering to awaken us to Him!

Don't insult the one who can help!

A grayscale image of a man in a suit and tie, blindfolded with a white cloth. He is looking upwards and to the left with a slightly distressed or pleading expression. The image is dark and serves as a background for the text.

- 3rd His goodness leads to repentance
- 4th God uses our emptiness and suffering to awaken us to Him!
- 5th He sent Jesus to save us from us

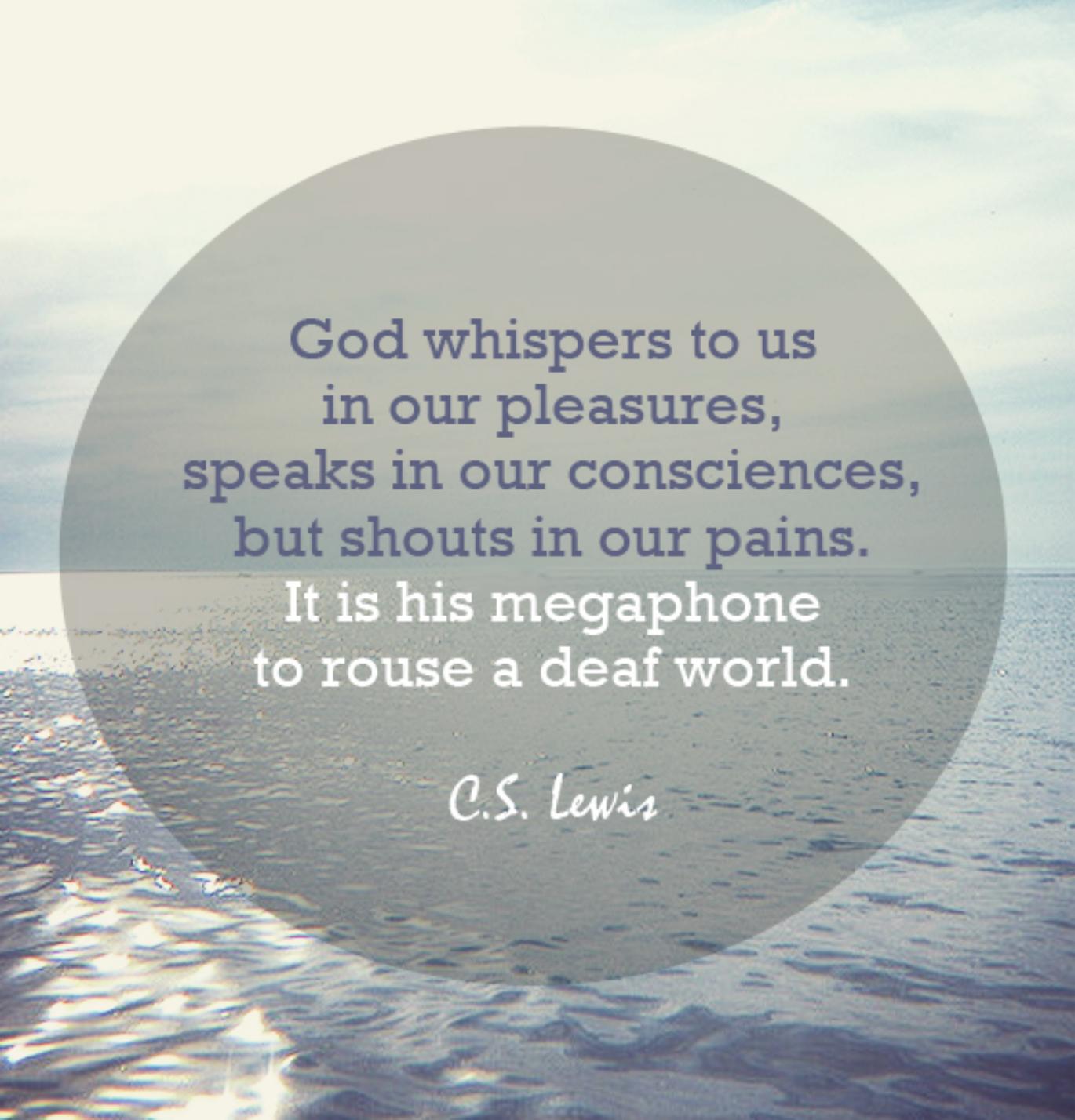
SOMETIMES IT TAKES
A PAINFUL EXPERIENCE
FOR US TO CHANGE OUR WAYS.
AND IN THAT OPPORTUNITY,
GOD IS GIVING US AN
AWAKENING.

— KYLE IDLEMAN



My troubles turned out all for the best -
they forced me to learn from your textbook.

Psalm 119:71



God whispers to us
in our pleasures,
speaks in our consciences,
but shouts in our pains.

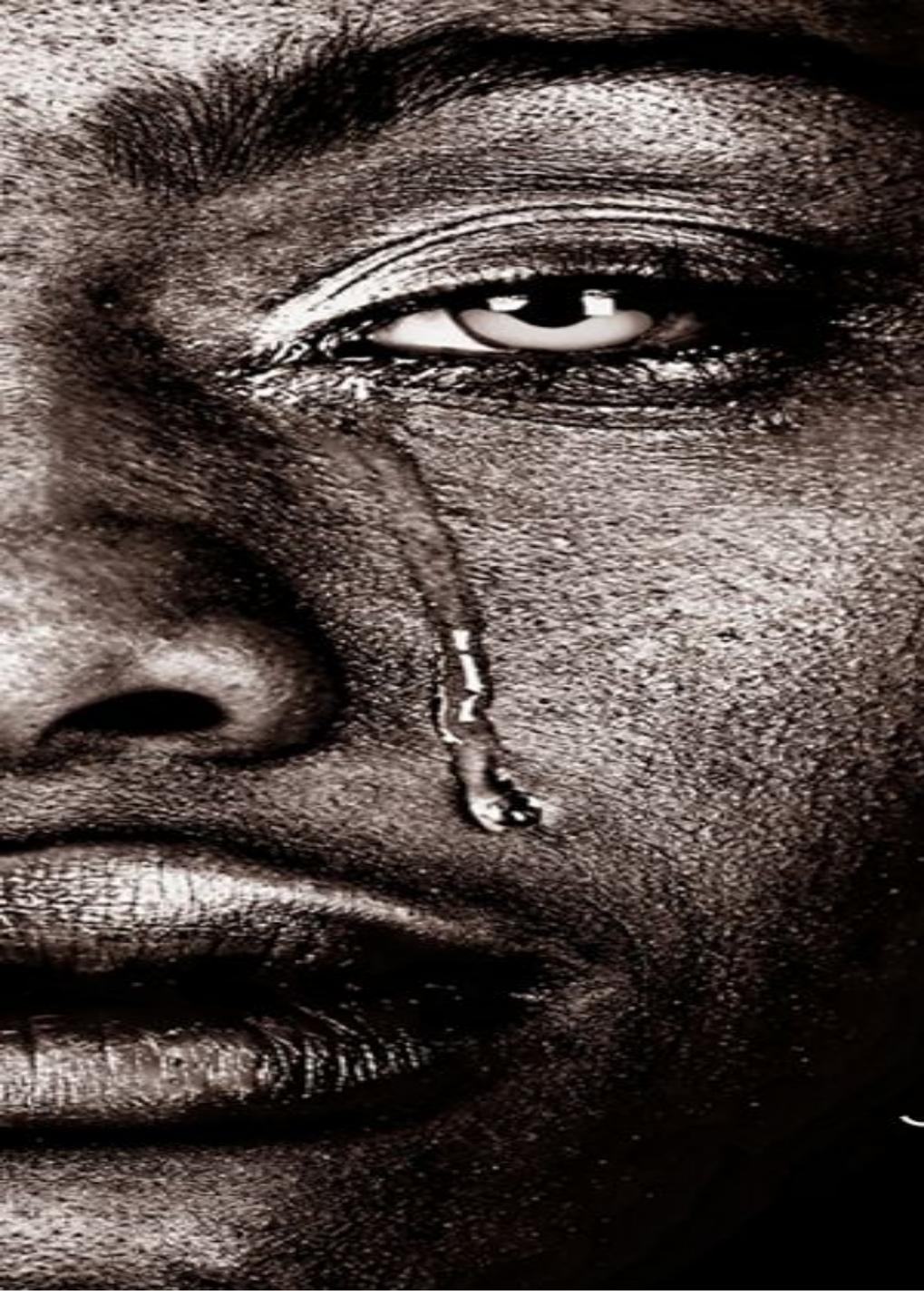
It is his megaphone
to rouse a deaf world.

C.S. Lewis

How many
have come to
Christ out of
suffering and
counted it a
blessing?

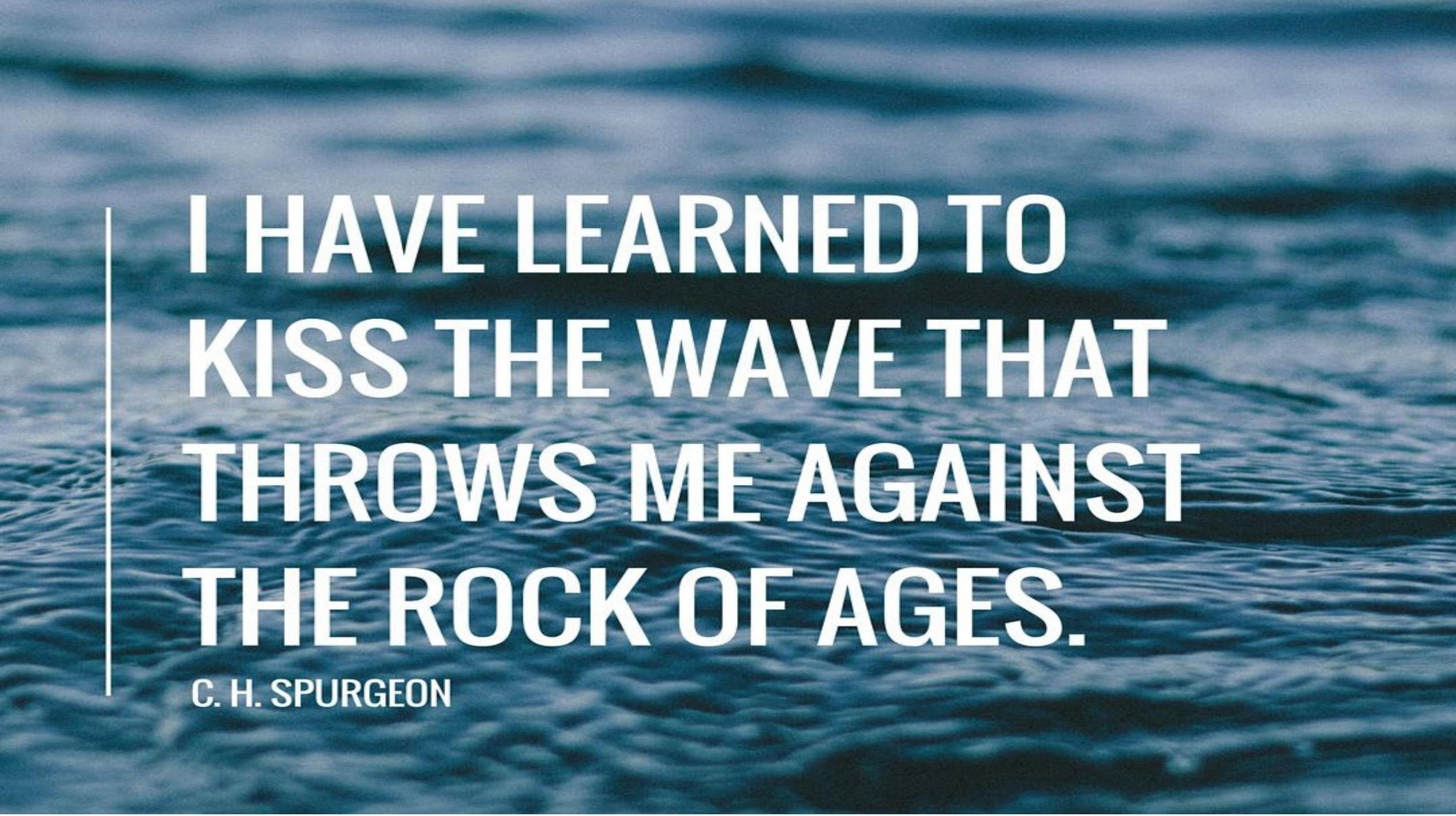
We are puzzled and bewildered whenever we see suffering in this world because we have become accustomed to the mercy and the long-suffering of God. Amazing grace is no longer amazing to us.

R. C. Sproul



**SOMETIMES
GOD
ALLOWS
WHAT HE
HATES TO
ACCOMPLISH
WHAT HE
LOVES.**

JONI EARECKSON TADA



**I HAVE LEARNED TO
KISS THE WAVE THAT
THROWS ME AGAINST
THE ROCK OF AGES.**

C. H. SPURGEON

A dark, snowy forest at night. The trees are heavily laden with snow, and the ground is covered in a thick layer of white. A person is walking away from the camera in the distance, illuminated by a soft light. The overall atmosphere is quiet and somber.

THE QUESTION WE MUST ALWAYS ASK OF SUFFERING IS THIS:

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WORTH IT?

JESUS'S FLABBERGASTING CLAIM IS THAT *HE IS*.

REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN

God cares for the suffering



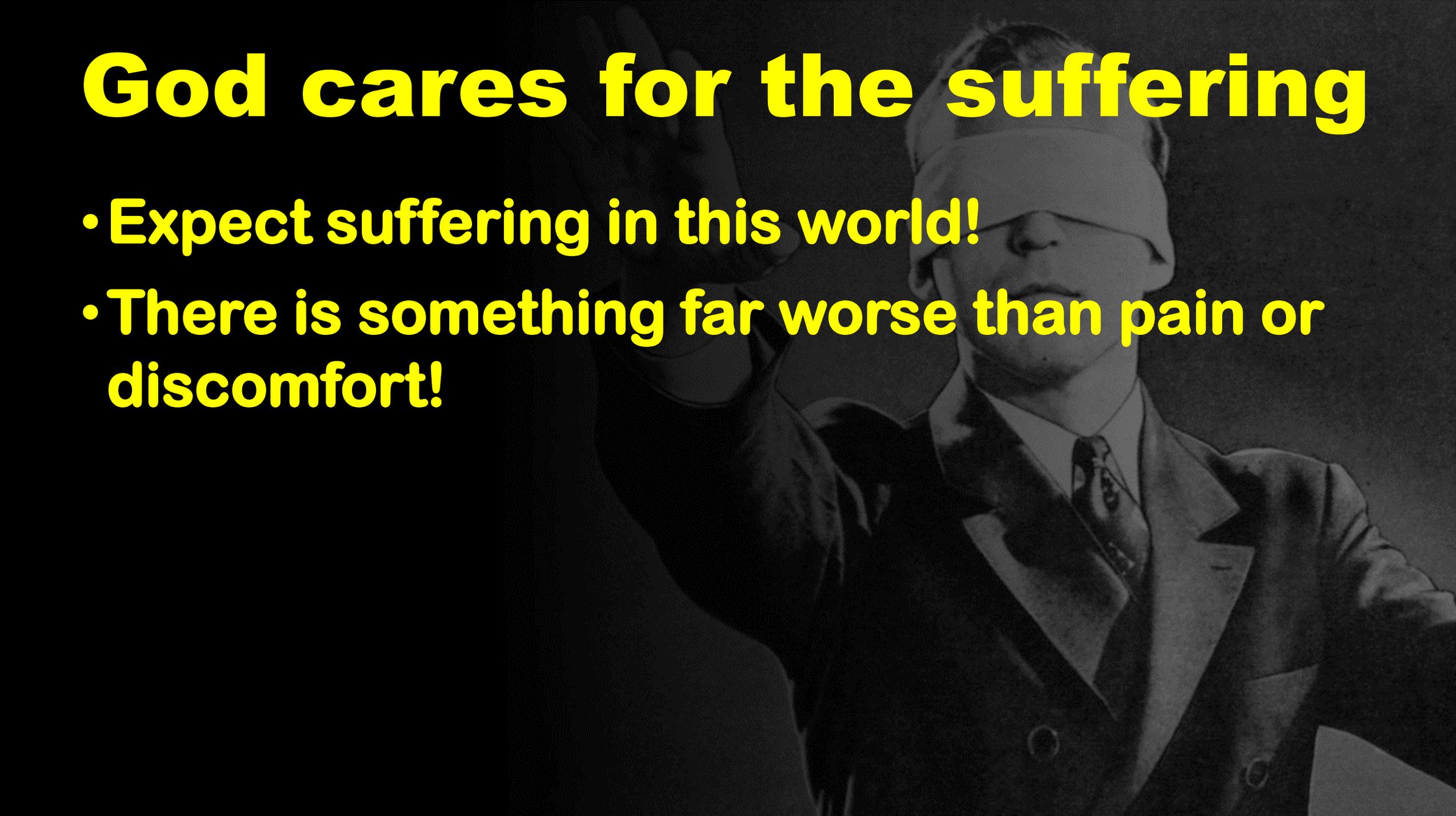
God cares for the suffering

- **Expect suffering in this world!**



God cares for the suffering

- **Expect suffering in this world!**
- **There is something far worse than pain or discomfort!**



God cares for the suffering

- **Expect suffering in this world!**
- **There is something far worse than pain or discomfort!**
- **Only the believer can expect God to use it for our good and one day deliver us from it!**

God cares for the suffering

- **There is something far worse than pain or discomfort!**
- **Only the believer can expect God to use it for our good and one day deliver us from it!**
- **God cares more about our holiness than our happiness!**

**“GOD HAD ONE SON ON EARTH
WITHOUT SIN,
BUT NEVER ONE
WITHOUT
SUFFERING”**

Augustine

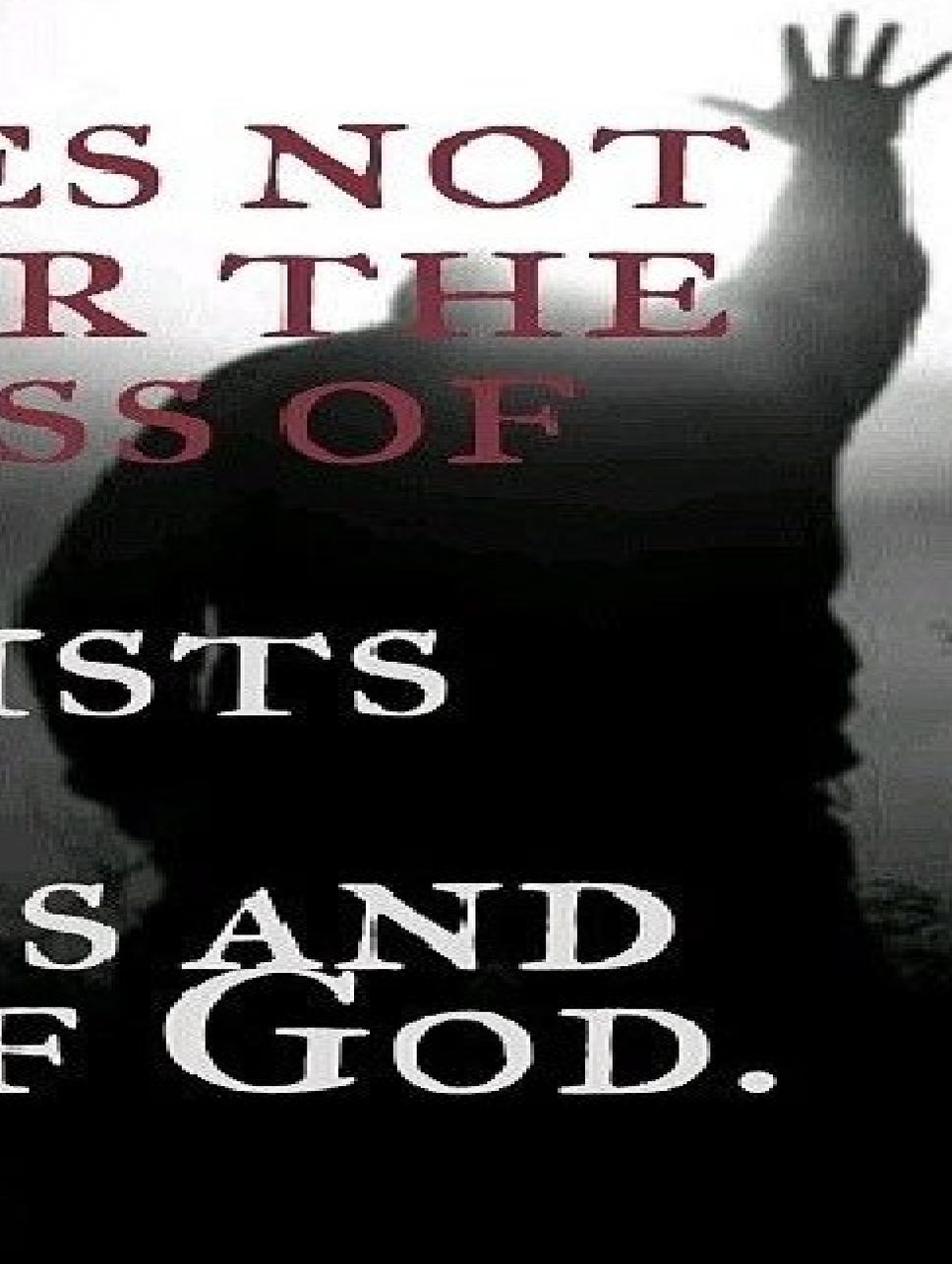


A woman with long, wavy brown hair is sitting on a rocky beach. She is wearing a white, sleeveless, lace-trimmed dress. She is looking out towards the ocean with a thoughtful expression, her hand resting on her head. The background shows a calm sea and distant hills under a soft, overcast sky.

“THE LORD IS NEAR
*to the brokenhearted
and saves the*
CRUSHED IN SPIRIT.”

psalms 34:18 ese

-HEAVEN NOT HARVARD



GOD DOES NOT
EXIST FOR THE
HAPPINESS OF
MAN.

MAN EXISTS
FOR THE
HOLINESS AND
GLORY OF GOD.

ALAN DAVIS

Jesus Christ did not suffer so that
you would not suffer.
He suffered so that when you suffer,
you'll become more like him.
The gospel does not promise you
better life circumstances;
it promises you
a better life.

-Tim Keller



TRIALS ARE INTENDED

to make us think, to wean us
from the world, to send us to the
Bible, to drive us to our knees.

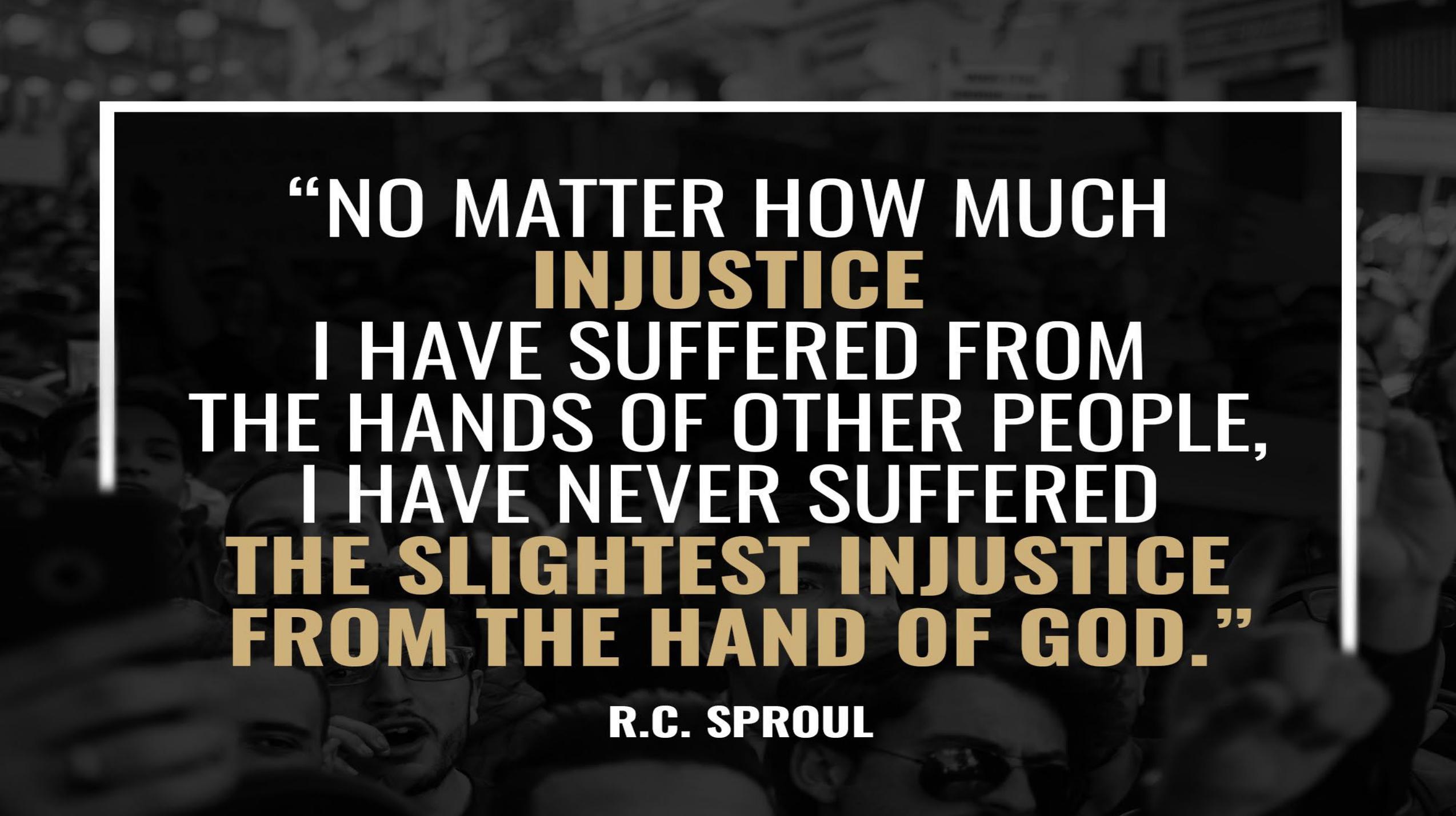
J.C. Ryle

GOD BRINGS MEN

INTO DEEP WATERS

**NOT TO DROWN THEM,
BUT TO CLEANSE THEM**

JAMES H. AUGHEY



**“NO MATTER HOW MUCH
INJUSTICE
I HAVE SUFFERED FROM
THE HANDS OF OTHER PEOPLE,
I HAVE NEVER SUFFERED
THE SLIGHTEST INJUSTICE
FROM THE HAND OF GOD.”**

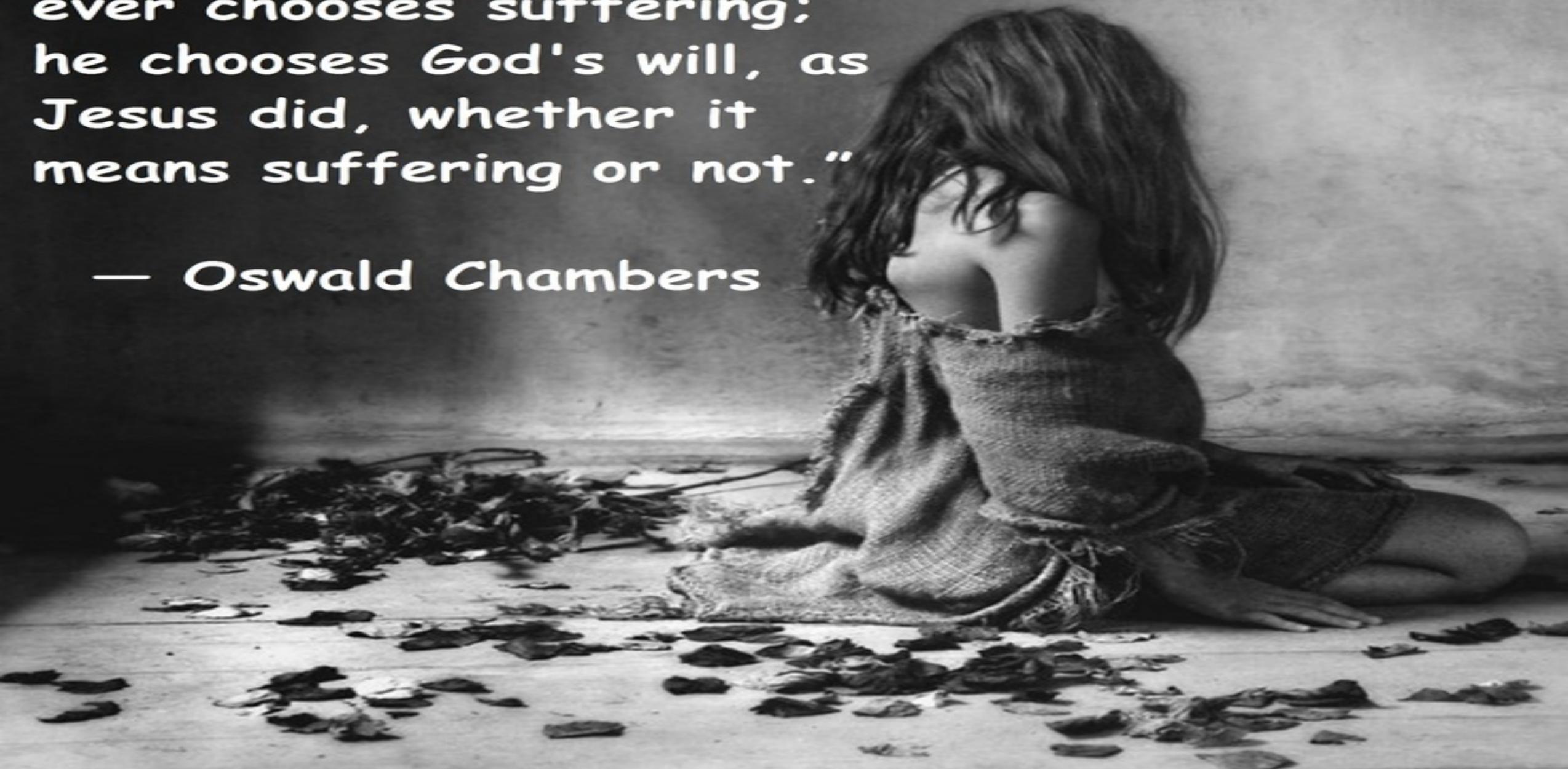
R.C. SPROUL

'There is a purpose to suffering
and if faced rightly
it can drive us like a nail
deep into the love of God
and into more stability and spiritual power
than you can imagine.'

TIMOTHY KELLER

**"No healthy Christian
ever chooses suffering;
he chooses God's will, as
Jesus did, whether it
means suffering or not."**

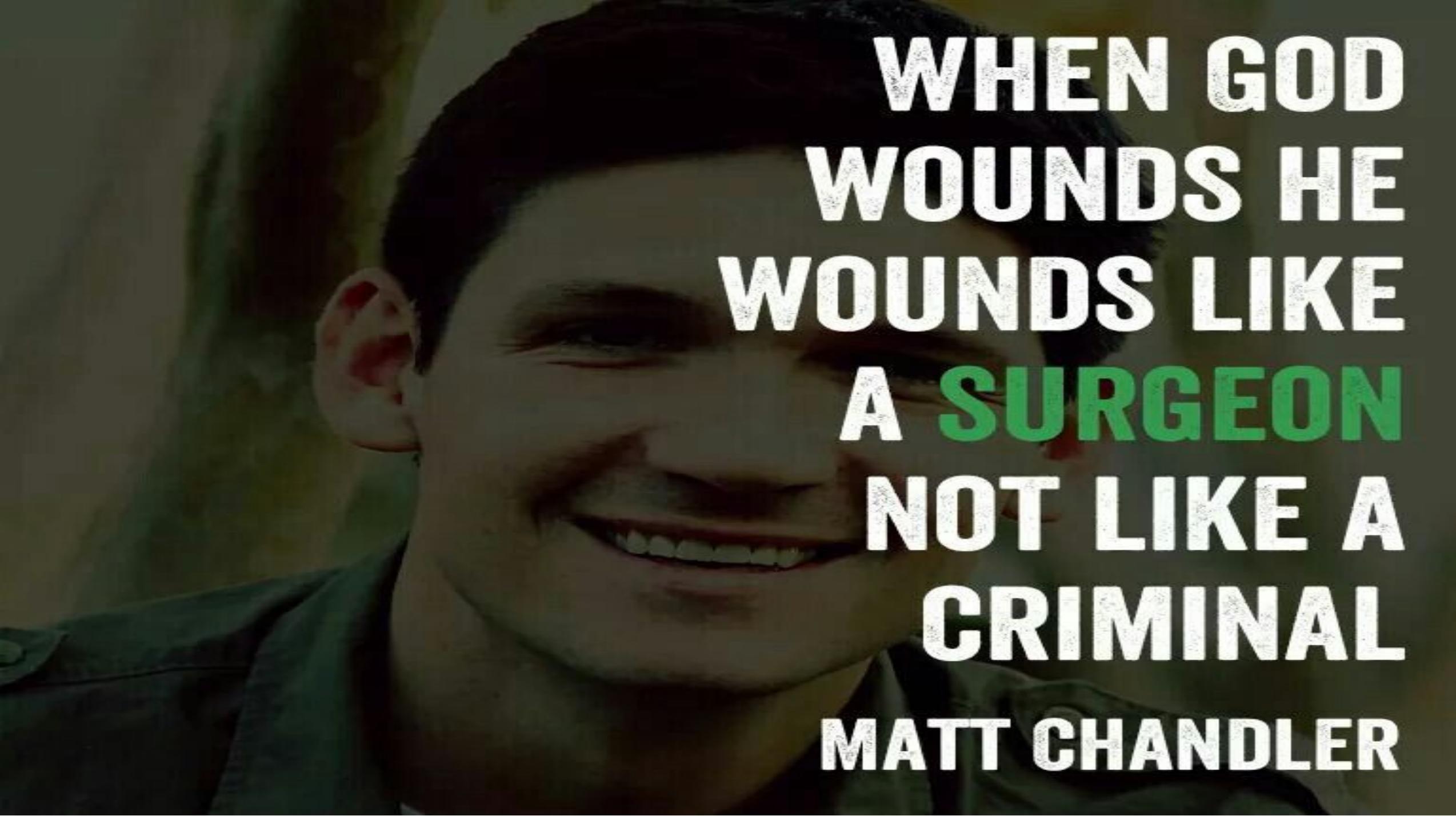
— Oswald Chambers



**"God does not waste suffering; if he
ploughs it is because He purposes a crop."**

- J.O.Sanders -





**WHEN GOD
WOUNDS HE
WOUNDS LIKE**

A SURGEON

NOT LIKE A

CRIMINAL

MATT CHANDLER

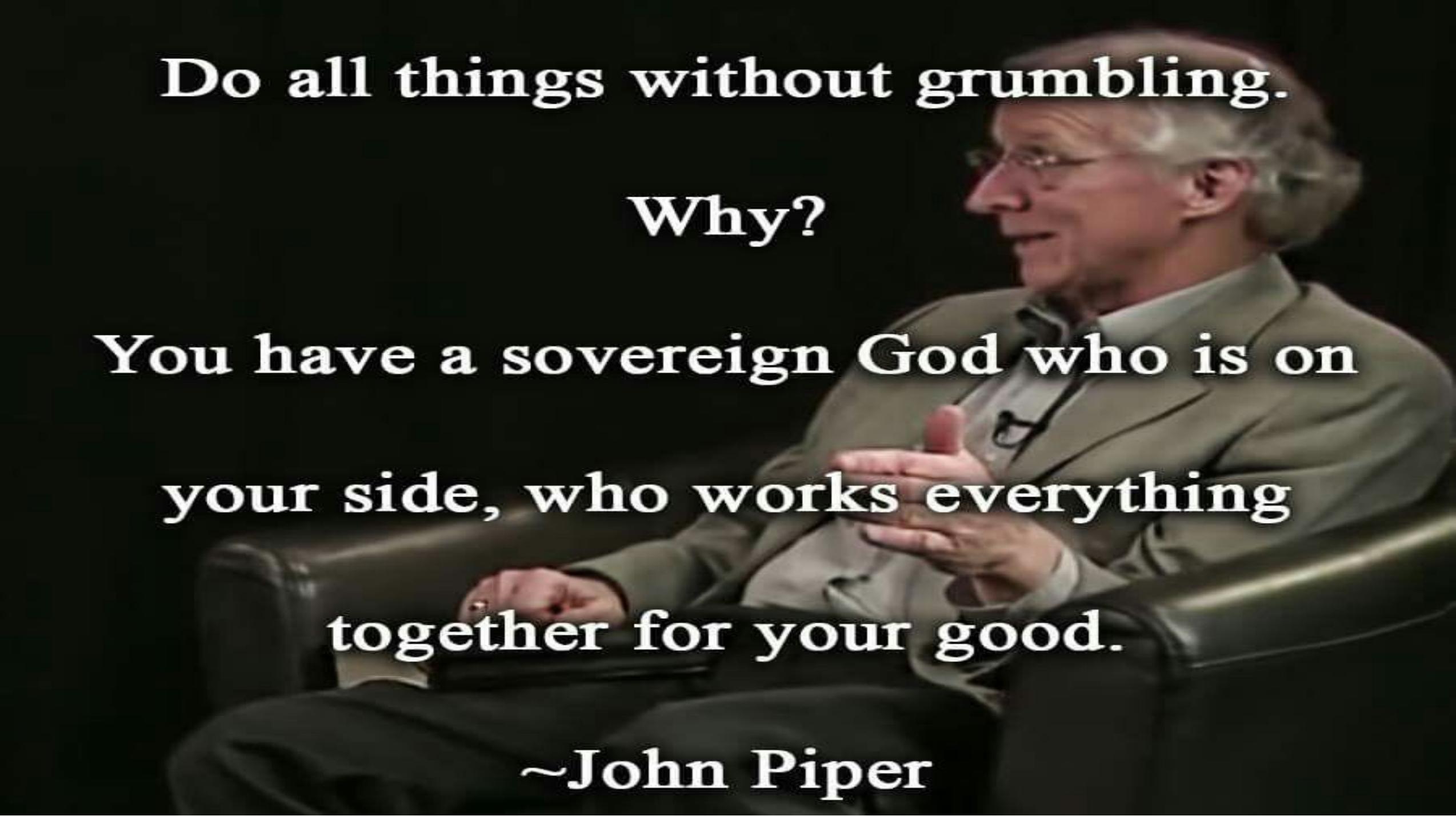
IN THE MIDST OF YOUR TRIAL,
REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT BEING
PUNISHED BY AN ANGRY GOD, BUT
PRUNED AND PURSUED BY A
LOVING GOD.

JEN STULTS
"3 BIBLICAL REASONS
FOR SUFFERING"

A woman with dark hair is looking out of a window at night. The window is dark, and the reflection of her face is visible on the glass. The scene is dimly lit, with a soft light coming from the window. The text is overlaid on the right side of the image.

AFFLICTION DOTTH NOT RISE OUT
OF THE DUST OR COME TO MEN BY CHANCE;
BUT IT IS THE LORD THAT SENDS IT,
AND WE SHOULD OWN AND
REVERENCE HIS HAND IN IT.

Thomas Boston

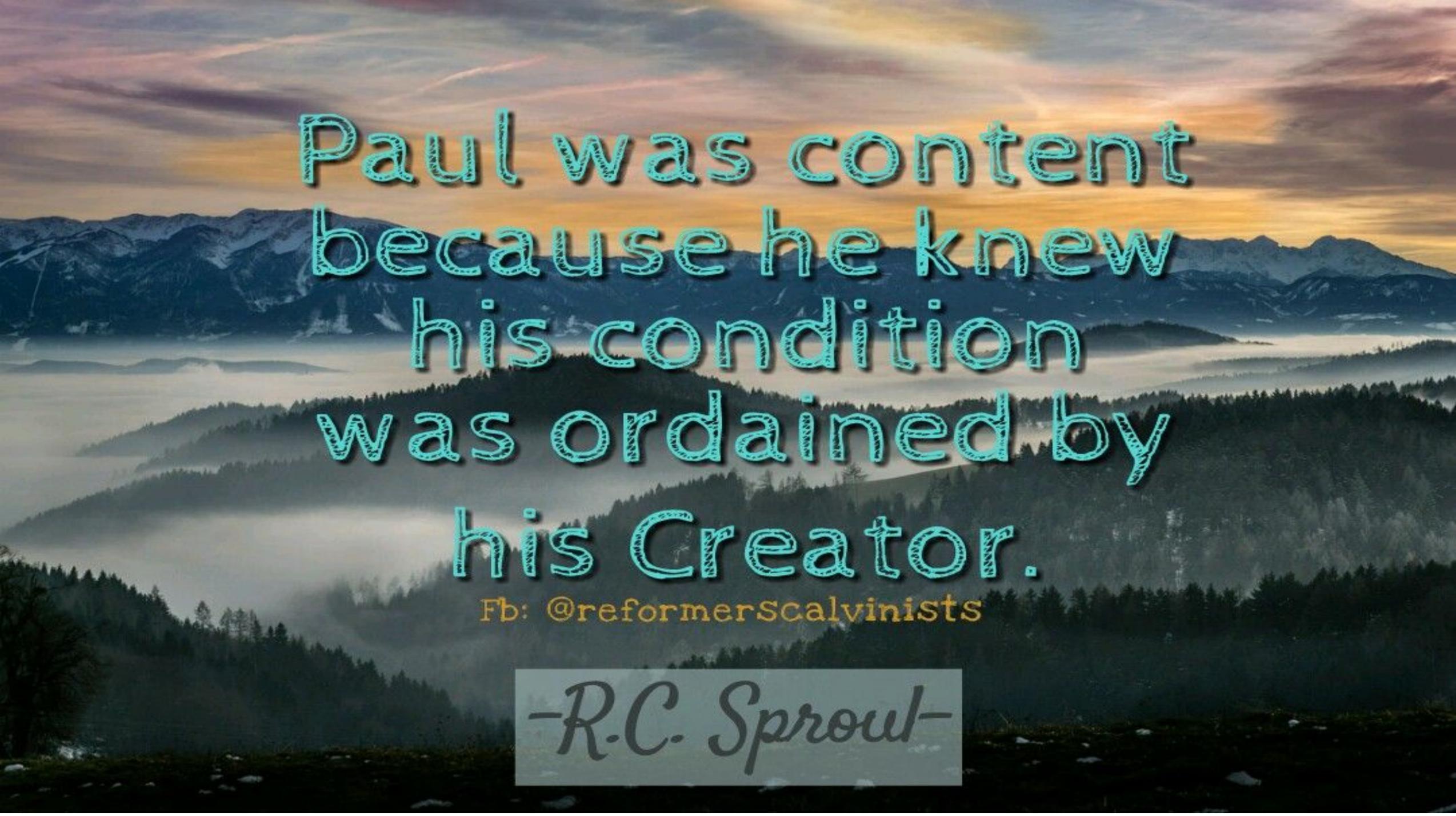
A photograph of John Piper, an older man with glasses, wearing a grey suit jacket and a light-colored shirt. He is sitting in a dark leather chair, gesturing with his hands as if speaking. The background is dark.

Do all things without grumbling.

Why?

**You have a sovereign God who is on
your side, who works everything
together for your good.**

~John Piper



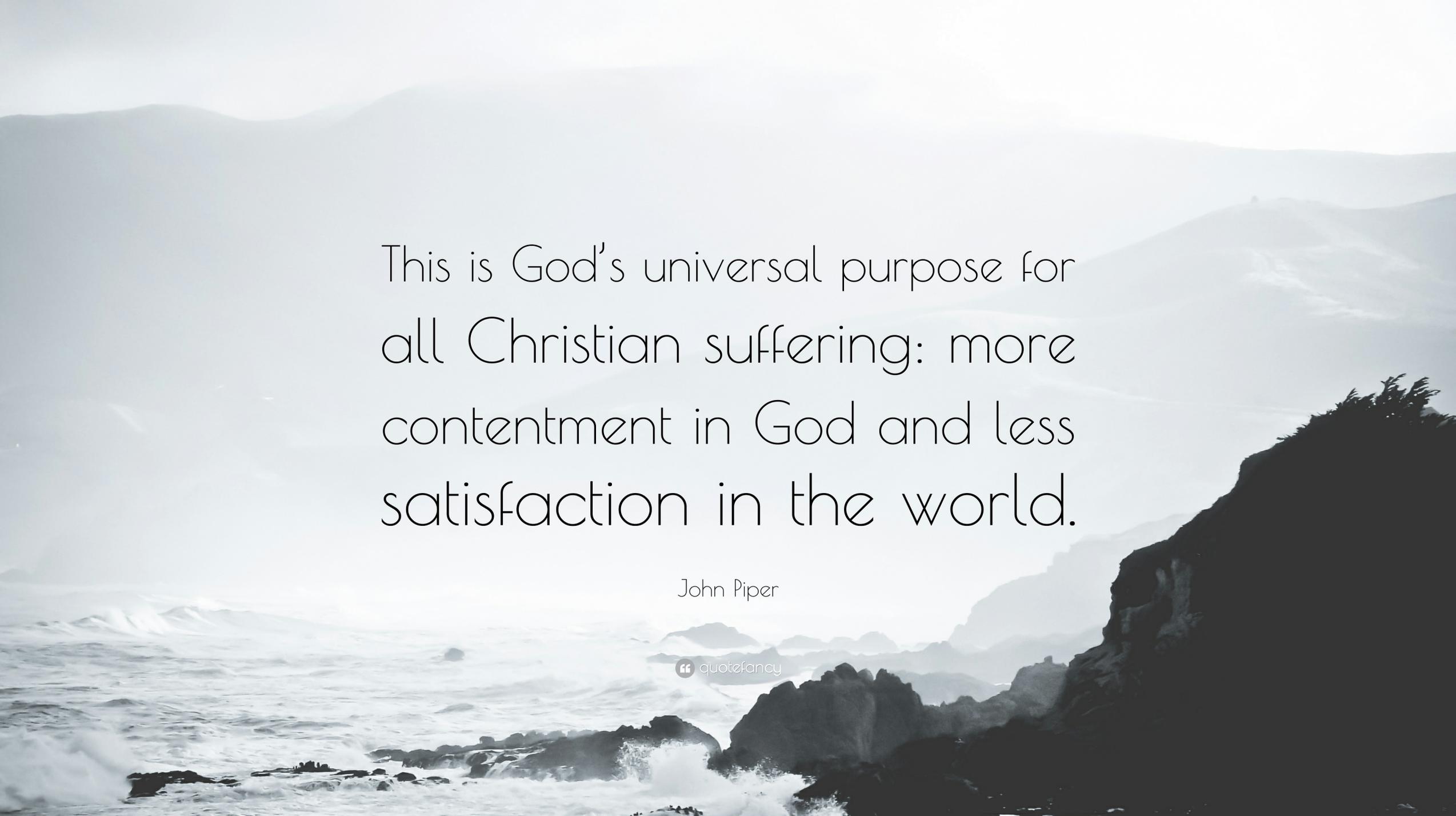
Paul was content
because he knew
his condition
was ordained by
his Creator.

Fb: @reformerScalvinists

-R.C. Sproul-

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

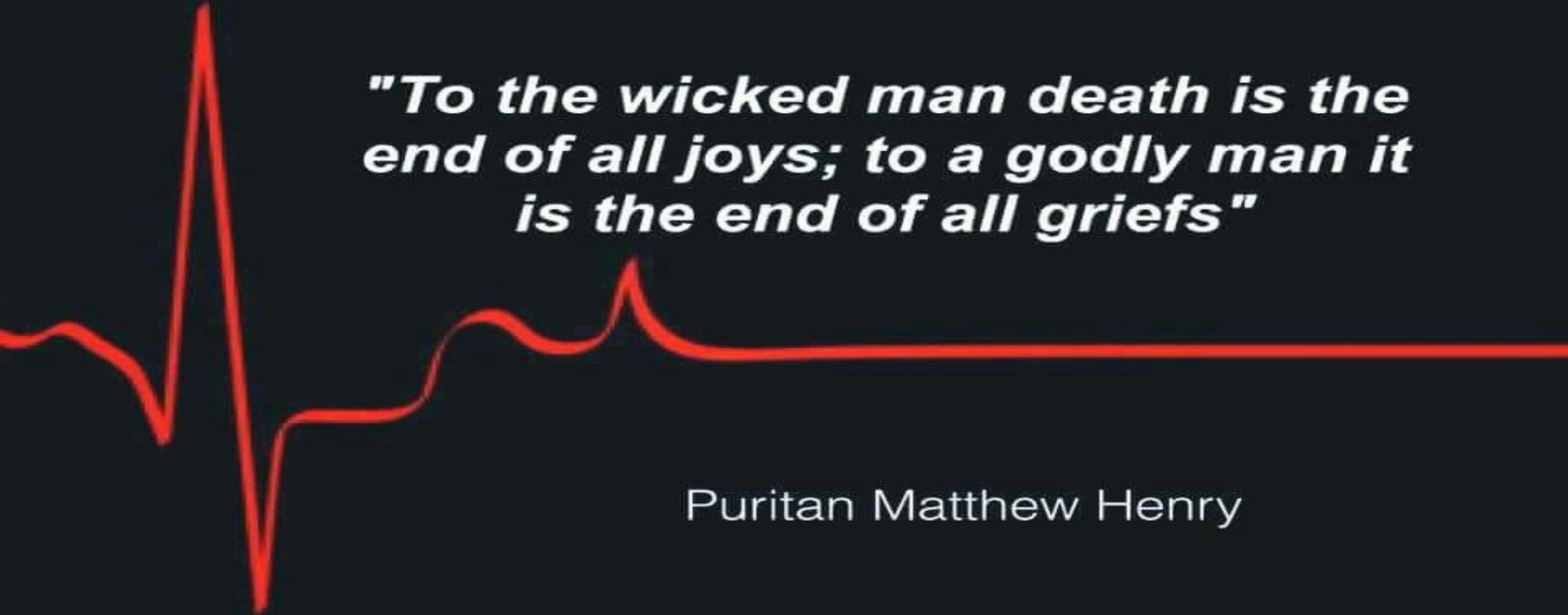
Q U O T E D I A R Y . N E T



This is God's universal purpose for
all Christian suffering: more
contentment in God and less
satisfaction in the world.

John Piper

quote fancy



***"To the wicked man death is the
end of all joys; to a godly man it
is the end of all griefs"***

Puritan Matthew Henry

**I know for certain that
God does not make mistakes,
but he does make miracles.**

**I AM ONE
YOU ARE TOO**

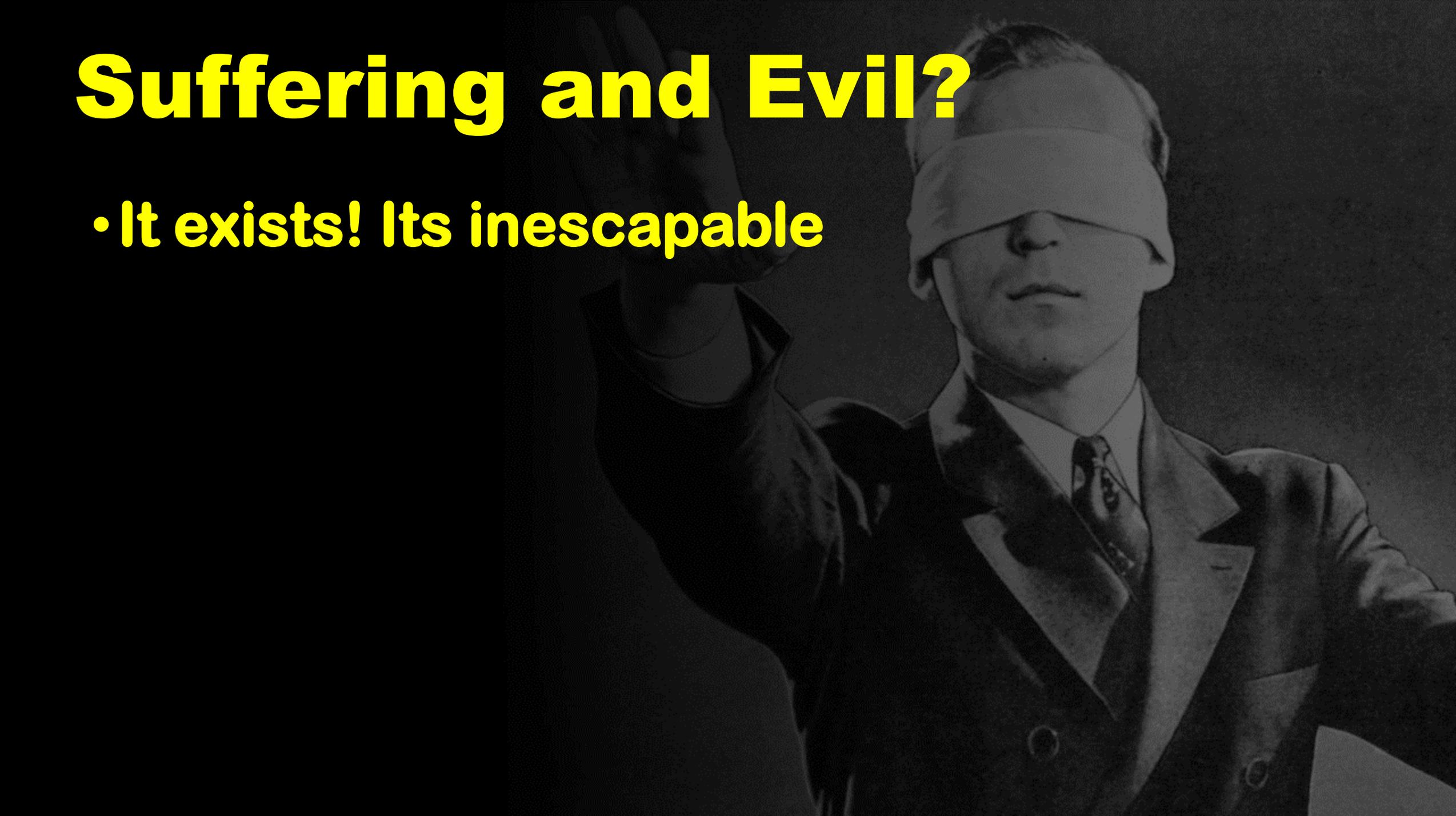


Suffering and Evil?



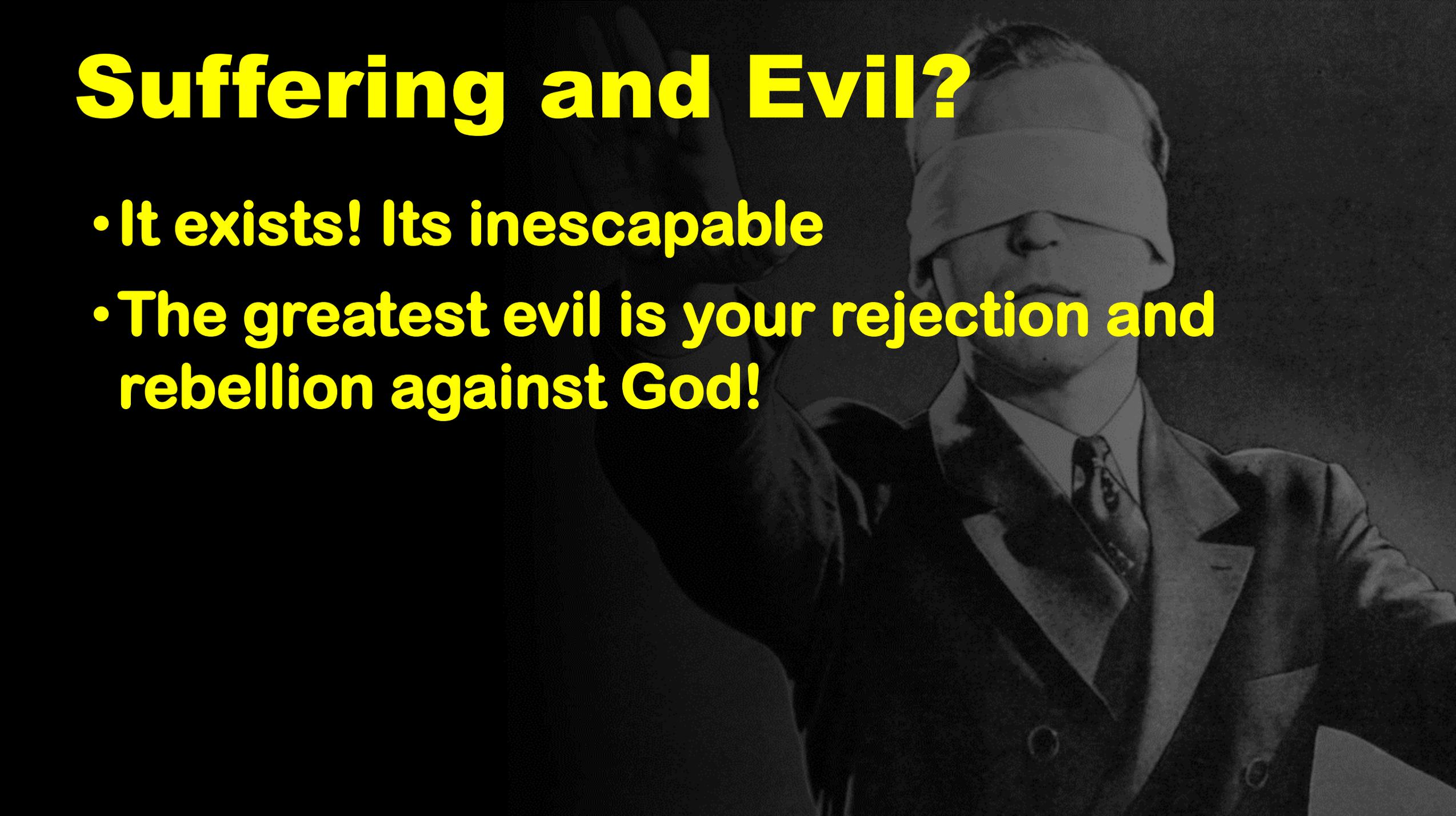
Suffering and Evil?

- **It exists! Its inescapable**

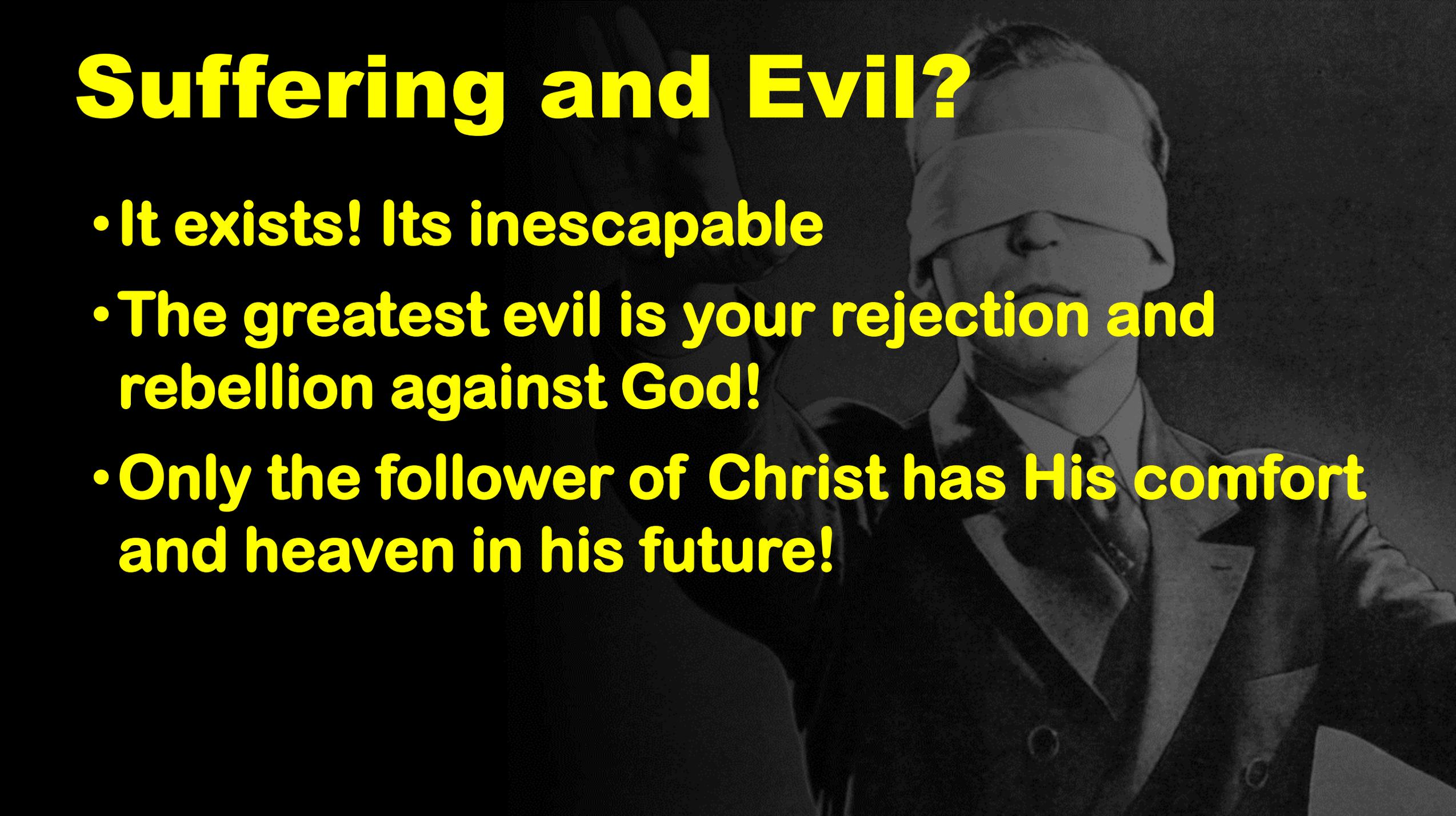


Suffering and Evil?

- **It exists! Its inescapable**
- **The greatest evil is your rejection and rebellion against God!**



Suffering and Evil?

A grayscale photograph of a man in a suit and tie, blindfolded with a white cloth. He is looking forward with a neutral expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

- **It exists! Its inescapable**
- **The greatest evil is your rejection and rebellion against God!**
- **Only the follower of Christ has His comfort and heaven in his future!**

Suffering and Evil?

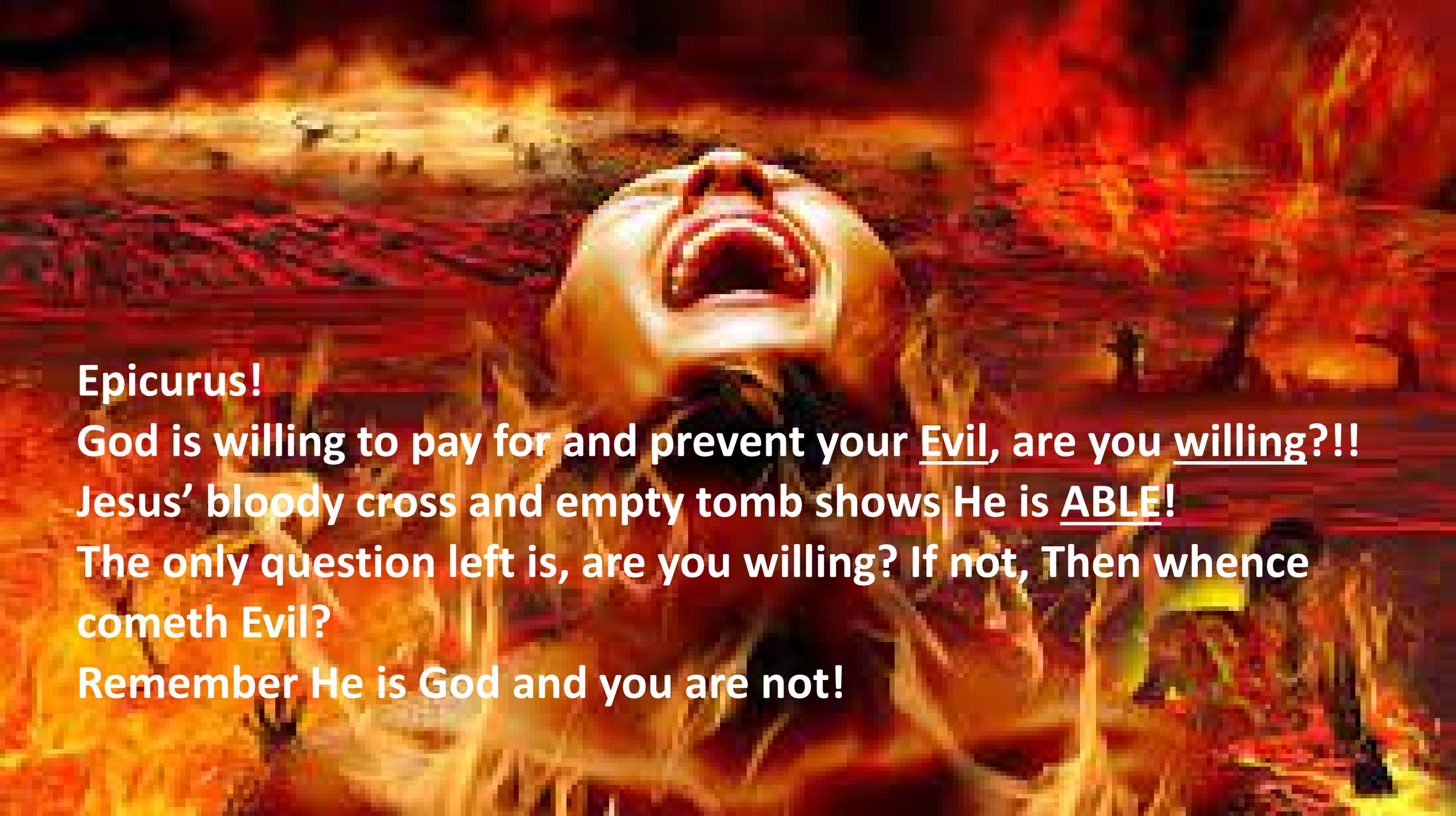
A grayscale photograph of a man in a suit and tie, blindfolded with a white cloth. He is looking downwards with a somber expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

- **The greatest evil is your rejection and rebellion against God!**
- **Only the follower of Christ has His comfort and heaven in his future!**
- **Repent and turn to Christ!**

Suffering and Evil?

A grayscale photograph of a man in a suit and tie, blindfolded with a white cloth. He is looking forward with a neutral expression. The background is dark and out of focus.

- **Only the follower of Christ has His comfort and heaven in his future!**
- **Repent and turn to Christ!**
- **The elect trust He has a purpose!**



Epicurus!

God is willing to pay for and prevent your Evil, are you willing?!!

Jesus' bloody cross and empty tomb shows He is ABLE!

The only question left is, are you willing? If not, Then whence cometh Evil?

Remember He is God and you are not!

**THE SUFFERING THAT YOU
HAVE NOW IS JUST THE
BLACK VELVET UPON WHICH
THE DIAMOND OF GOD'S
GLORY IS GOING TO BE
REVEALED.**

-Spurgeon



SUFFERING
PROVIDES THE
GYM EQUIPMENT
ON WHICH MY
FAITH CAN BE
EXERCISED.

JONI EARECKSON TADA

PATIENCE IS A SUBMISSION TO HIS
SOVEREIGNTY.

TO ENDURE A TRIAL, SIMPLY BECAUSE
WE CANNOT AVOID OR RESIST IT,
IS NOT CHRISTIAN PATIENCE. BUT
TO HUMBLY SUBMIT BECAUSE IT IS
THE WILL OF GOD TO INFLICT THE
TRIAL, TO BE SILENT BECAUSE THE
SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD ORDERS IT
– IS TRUE GODLY PATIENCE.

–Stephen Charnock

EVERY THOUGHT
 CAPTIVE

SUFFERING IS NOT
AN OBSTACLE TO GOD'S
PURPOSE BUT A MEANS
TO ACHIEVING IT.

Sinclair Ferguson

**YOU CANNOT BE EXPOSED
ANY MORE THAN CHRIST
WAS ON THE CROSS AND
HE WENT THERE FOR US.**

JARED C. WILSON



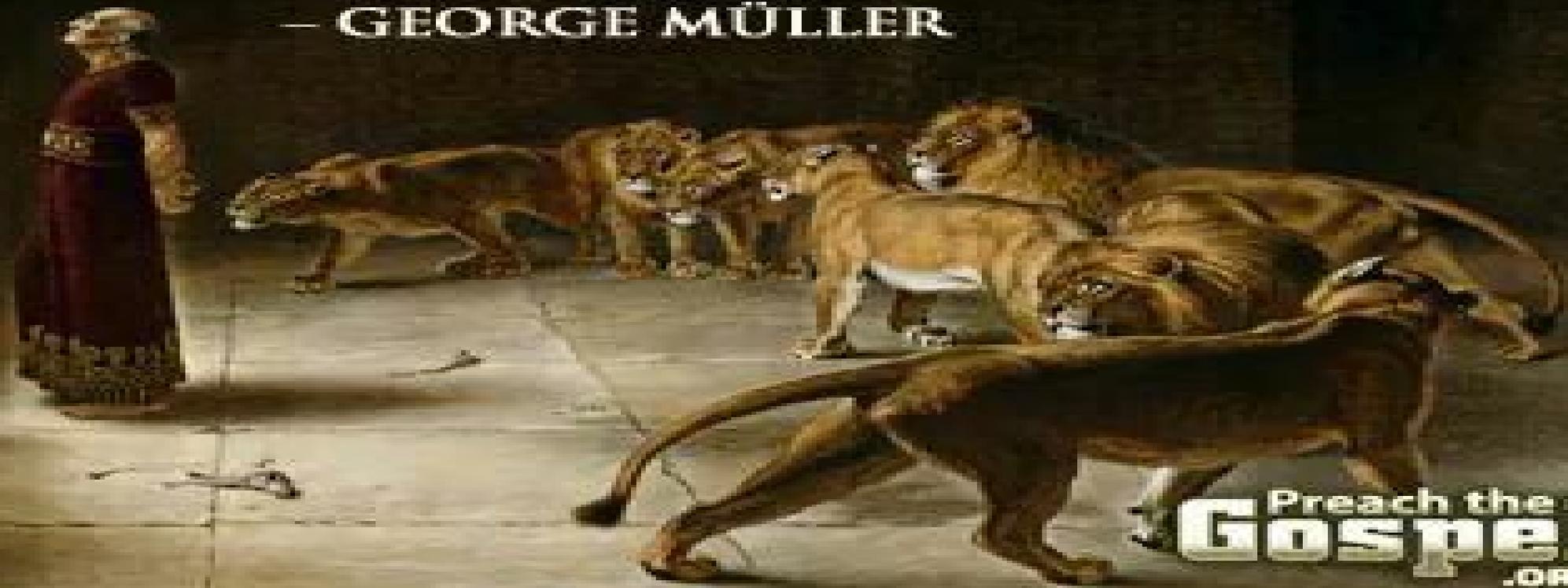
WE ARE TOO PRONE TO ENGRAVE OUR
TRIALS IN MARBLE
AND WRITE OUR
BLESSINGS IN SAND.

— CHARLES H. SPURGEON



“THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN
STRONG FAITH
IS TO ENDURE GREAT TRIALS.
I HAVE LEARNED MY FAITH BY
STANDING FIRM
AMID SEVERE TESTINGS.”

– GEORGE MÜLLER



““ The real problem
is not why some
pious, humble,
believing people
suffer, but why
some do not.

C. S. Lewis

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a purple t-shirt, is sitting in water. She is looking down and to the right. The water is dark blue and has many bubbles. Above the water, the sky is dark with a large, bright, golden-yellow cloud that is partially obscured by a dark, stormy cloud. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

AFFLICTION WILL BE ECLIPSED BY GLORY

2 COR 4:17

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*Things are not as they should be.
Because He's not finished yet.
They will be. Rest assured.*

WhatsMyQuote.com

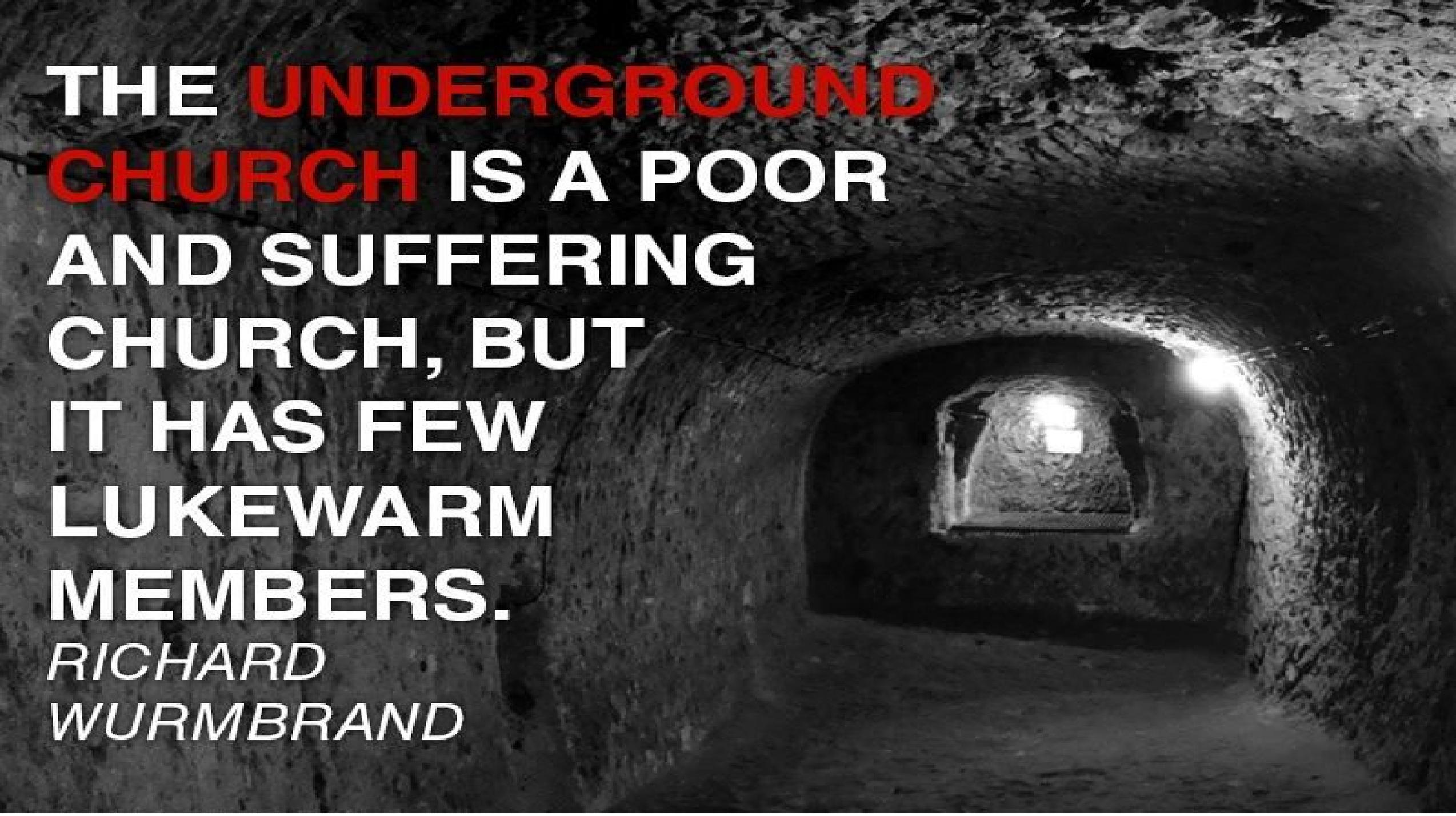


R. C. Sproul, Jr.

JOY IS NOT
NECESSARILY
THE ABSENCE OF
SUFFERING. IT IS THE
PRESENCE OF GOD.

SAM STORMS

ChristianQuotes.info



**THE UNDERGROUND
CHURCH IS A POOR
AND SUFFERING
CHURCH, BUT
IT HAS FEW
LUKEWARM
MEMBERS.**

*RICHARD
WURMBRAND*

If I were to say, "God, why me?" about the bad things, then I should have said, "God, why me?" about the good things that happened in my life.

COME, AND SEE THE VICTORIES OF THE CROSS

Christ's wounds are thy **HEALINGS**

His agonies thy **REPOSE**

His conflicts thy **CONQUESTS**

His groans thy **SONGS**

His pains thine **EASE**

His shame thy **GLORY**

His death thy **LIFE**

His sufferings thy

SALVATION

Matthew
HENRY

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

A CHALLENGE
TO GOD'S
EXISTENCE?



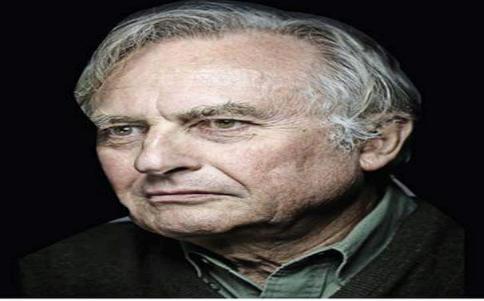
/θi'adɪsi/ - the-od-i-cy

Theodicy

(noun) the branch of theology that defends God's goodness and justice in the face of the existence of evil

Good & Evil don't exist.

“The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, **no evil, no good**, nothing but pitiless indifference.”



[River out of Eden]

Richard Dawkins Anti-theist, Atheist.



Good & Evil do exist.



“I think a case can be made that faith is one of the world's **great evils**, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate.”

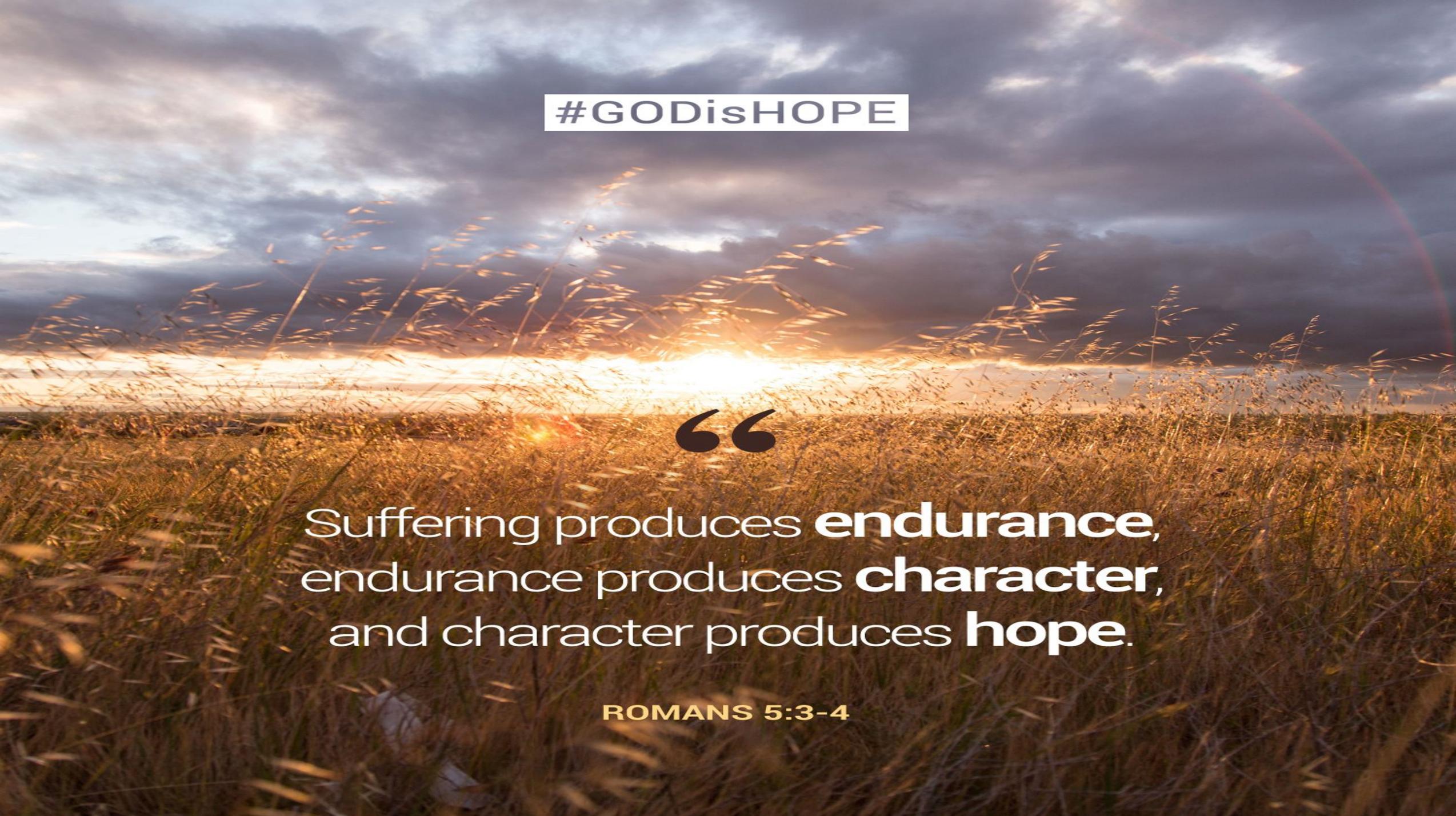
[Is Science a Religion?]

Richard Dawkins Anti-theist, Atheist.

Translation: “Evil does doesn't exist.”

**"LET'S FEAST AND DRINK FOR
TOMORROW WE DIE."
"DON'T BE FOOLED BY THOSE WHO
SAY SUCH THINGS, FOR "BAD
COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD CHARACTER."
THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT IS
RIGHT, AND STOP SINNING. FOR
TO YOUR SHAME I SAY THAT SOME
OF YOU DON'T KNOW GOD AT ALL."
1 CORINTHIANS 15:32-34**



A dramatic landscape featuring a sunset or sunrise over a field of tall, golden-brown grasses. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and a vibrant rainbow arches across the upper right portion of the frame. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow and casting long shadows across the field.

#GODisHOPE

“

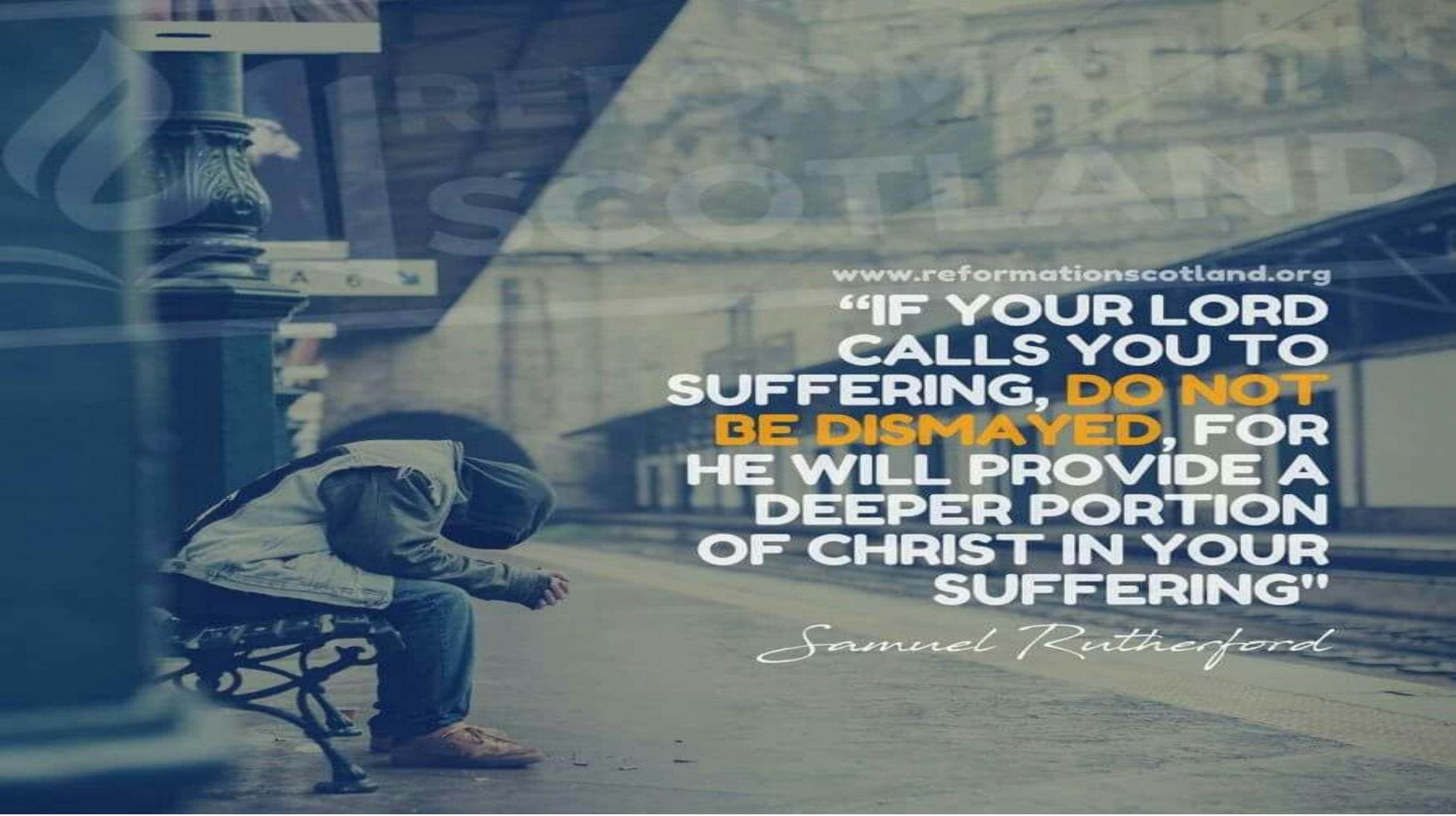
Suffering produces **endurance**,
endurance produces **character**,
and character produces **hope**.

ROMANS 5:3-4

A close-up photograph of two hands shaking in a firm grip. The hands are positioned in the center of the frame, with fingers interlocked. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a crowd of people, suggesting a public or social setting. The lighting is warm and natural, highlighting the texture of the skin and the fabric of the sleeves.

Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved.

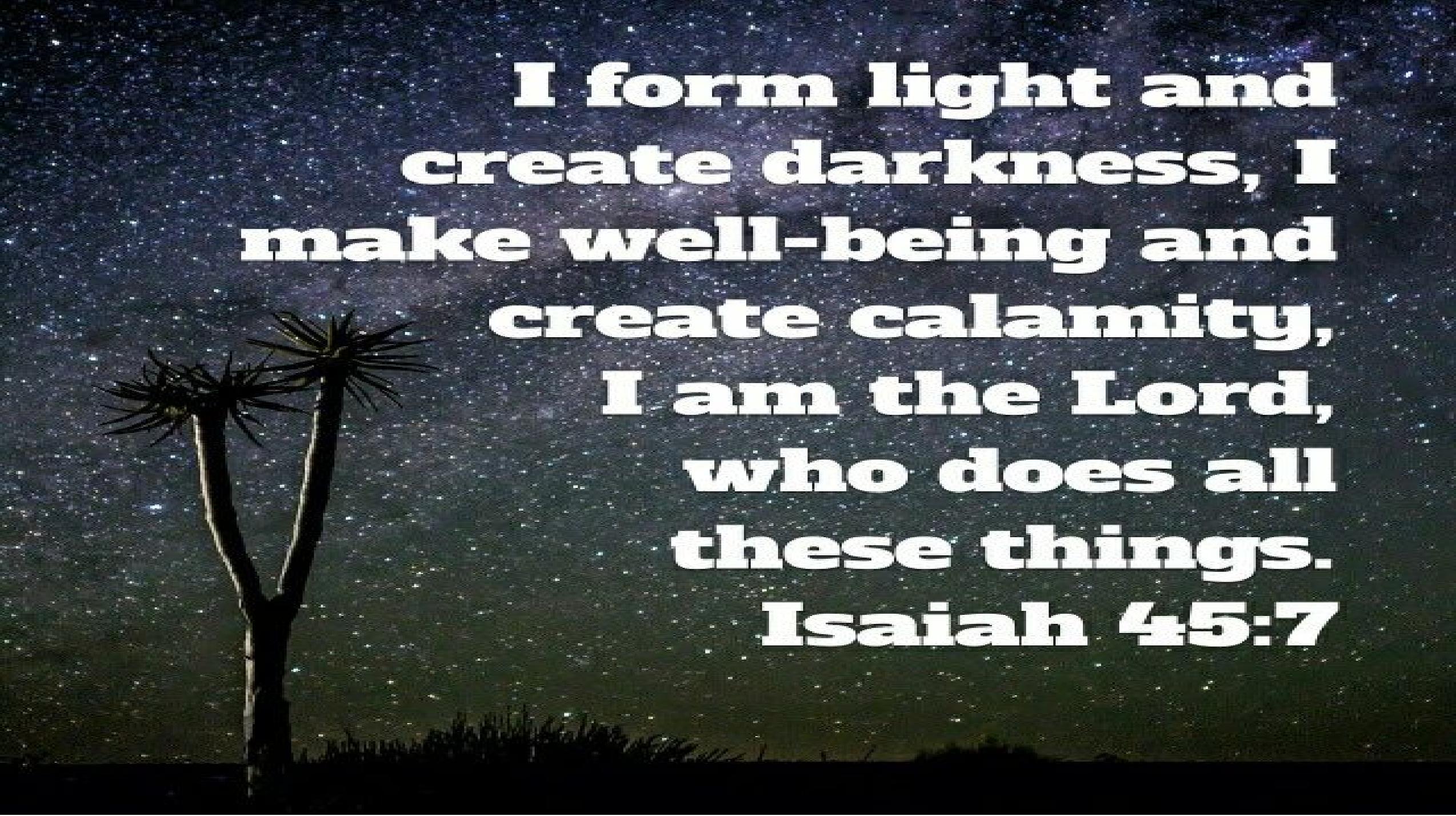
—HELEN KELLER



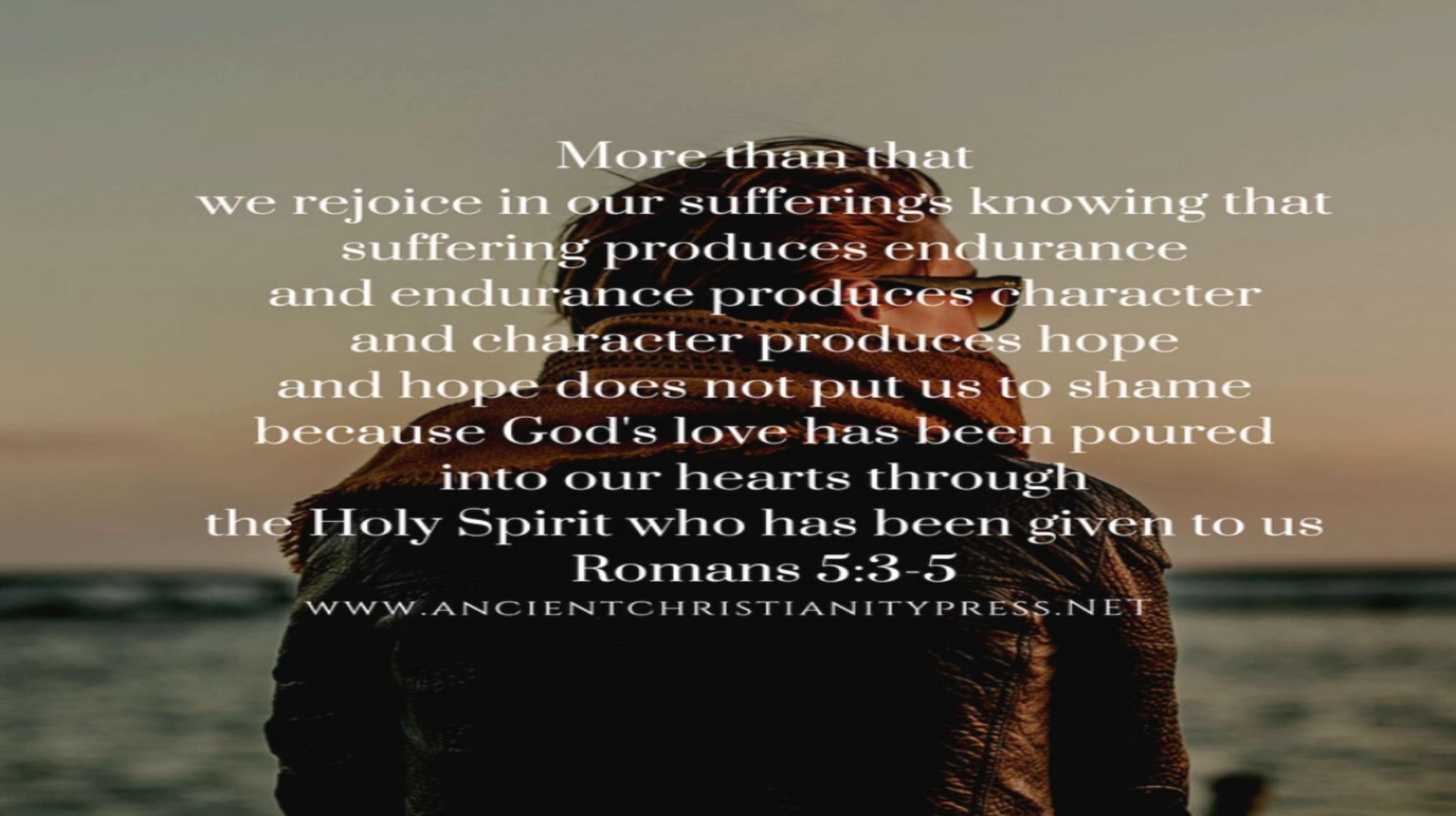
www.reformationscotland.org

**“IF YOUR LORD
CALLS YOU TO
SUFFERING, DO NOT
BE DISMAYED, FOR
HE WILL PROVIDE A
DEEPER PORTION
OF CHRIST IN YOUR
SUFFERING”**

Samuel Rutherford



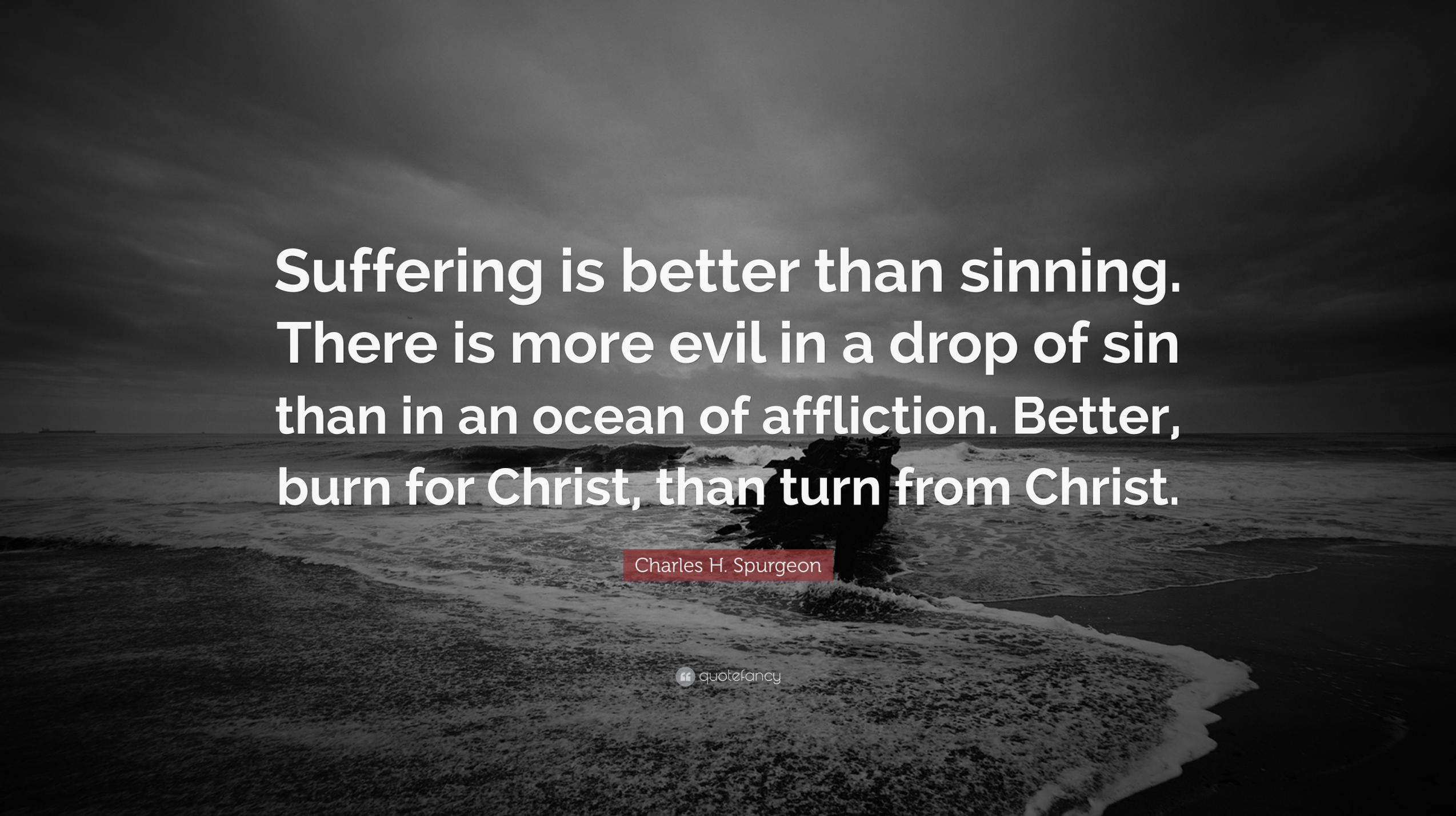
**I form light and
create darkness, I
make well-being and
create calamity,
I am the Lord,
who does all
these things.
Isaiah 45:7**



More than that
we rejoice in our sufferings knowing that
suffering produces endurance
and endurance produces character
and character produces hope
and hope does not put us to shame
because God's love has been poured
into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

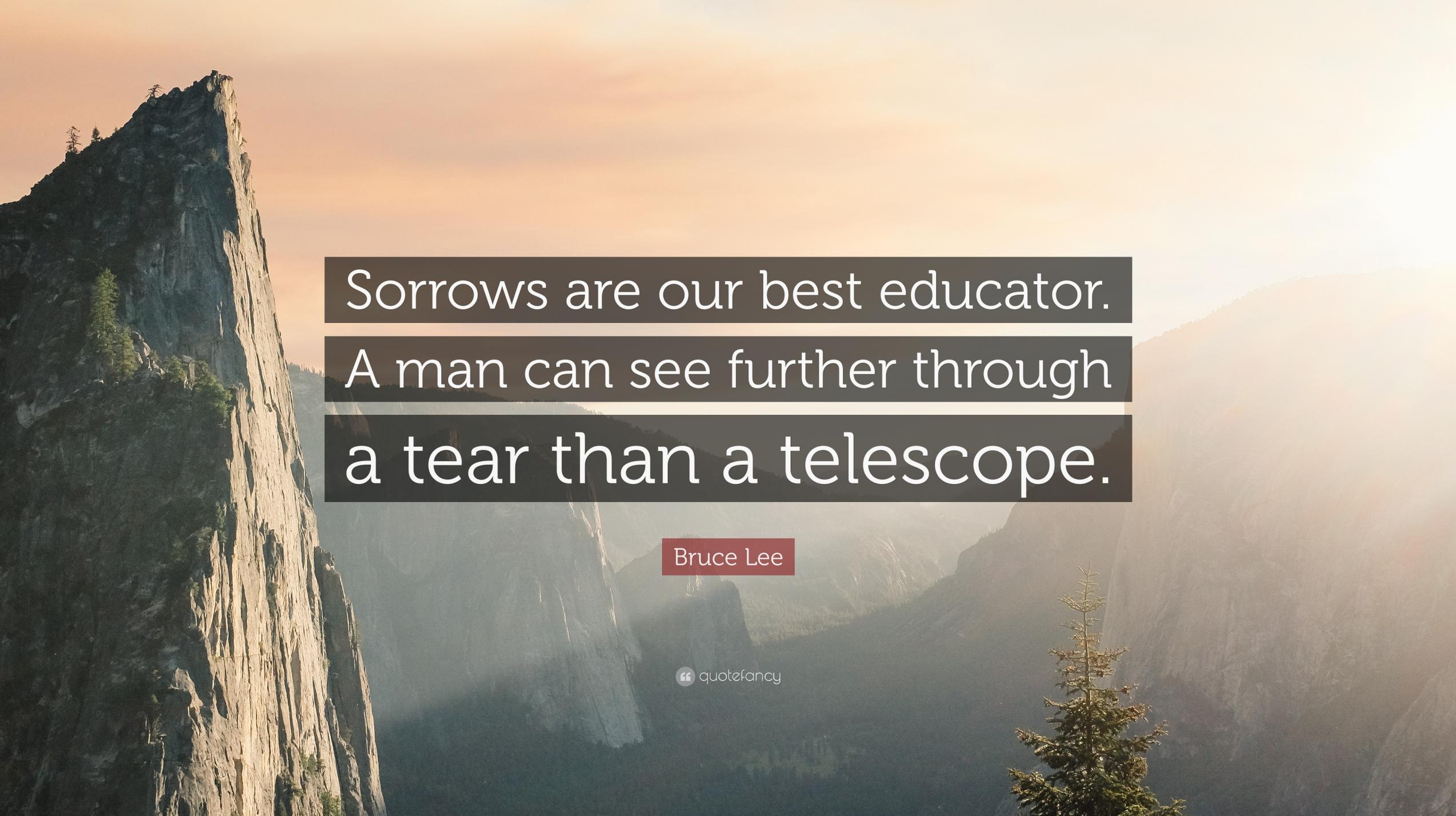
Romans 5:3-5

WWW.ANCIENTCHRISTIANITYPRESS.NET



**Suffering is better than sinning.
There is more evil in a drop of sin
than in an ocean of affliction. Better,
burn for Christ, than turn from Christ.**

Charles H. Spurgeon



Sorrows are our best educator.
A man can see further through
a tear than a telescope.

Bruce Lee

quote fancy

It is a sweet mercy to have to go through the floods,

**IF SOME FILTHINESS MAY
THEREBY BE REMOVED.**

C.H. Spurgeon

©CHALLIES

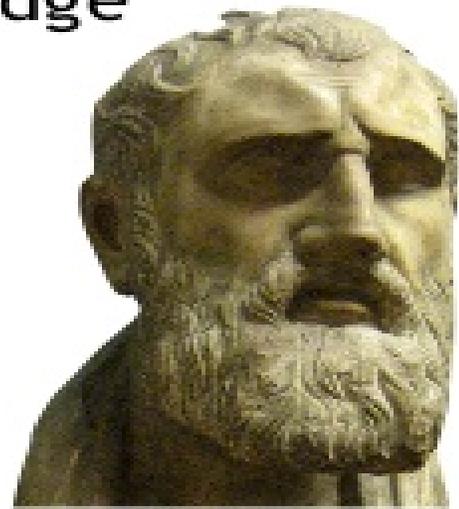
As soon as a baby enters the world, the baby is immediately introduced to pain. It is somewhat symbolic that life begins with a cry.

R. C. Sproul

NEW PHILOSOPHY

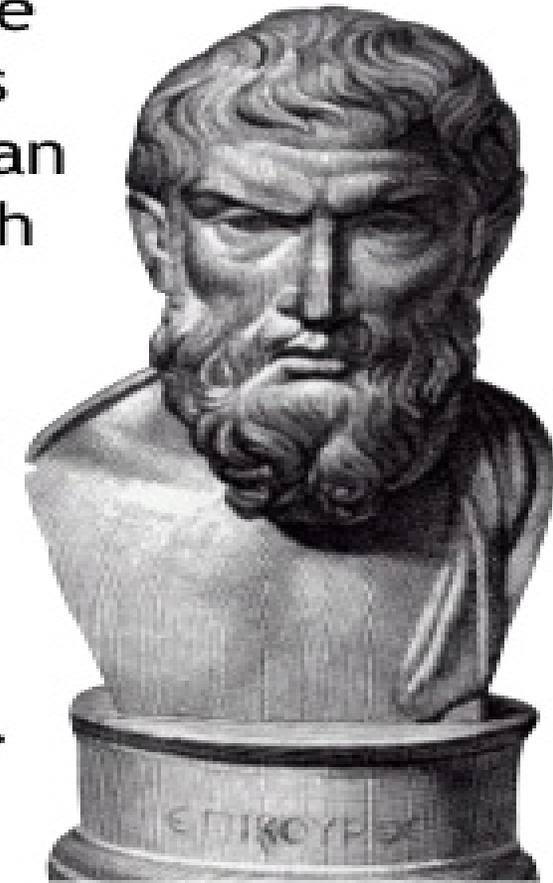
STOICISM

- Founded by Zeno
- Stoic philosophers believe that humans should not pressure desires like power and wealth, because these are dangerous.
- The ultimate good is seeking knowledge and showing no emotion towards pleasure or pain.



EPICUREANISM

- Founded by Epicurus
- Epicurean philosophers believe that the only real things are those we can experience with our 5 senses.
- The ultimate good is seeking pleasure and achieving harmony of body and mind.



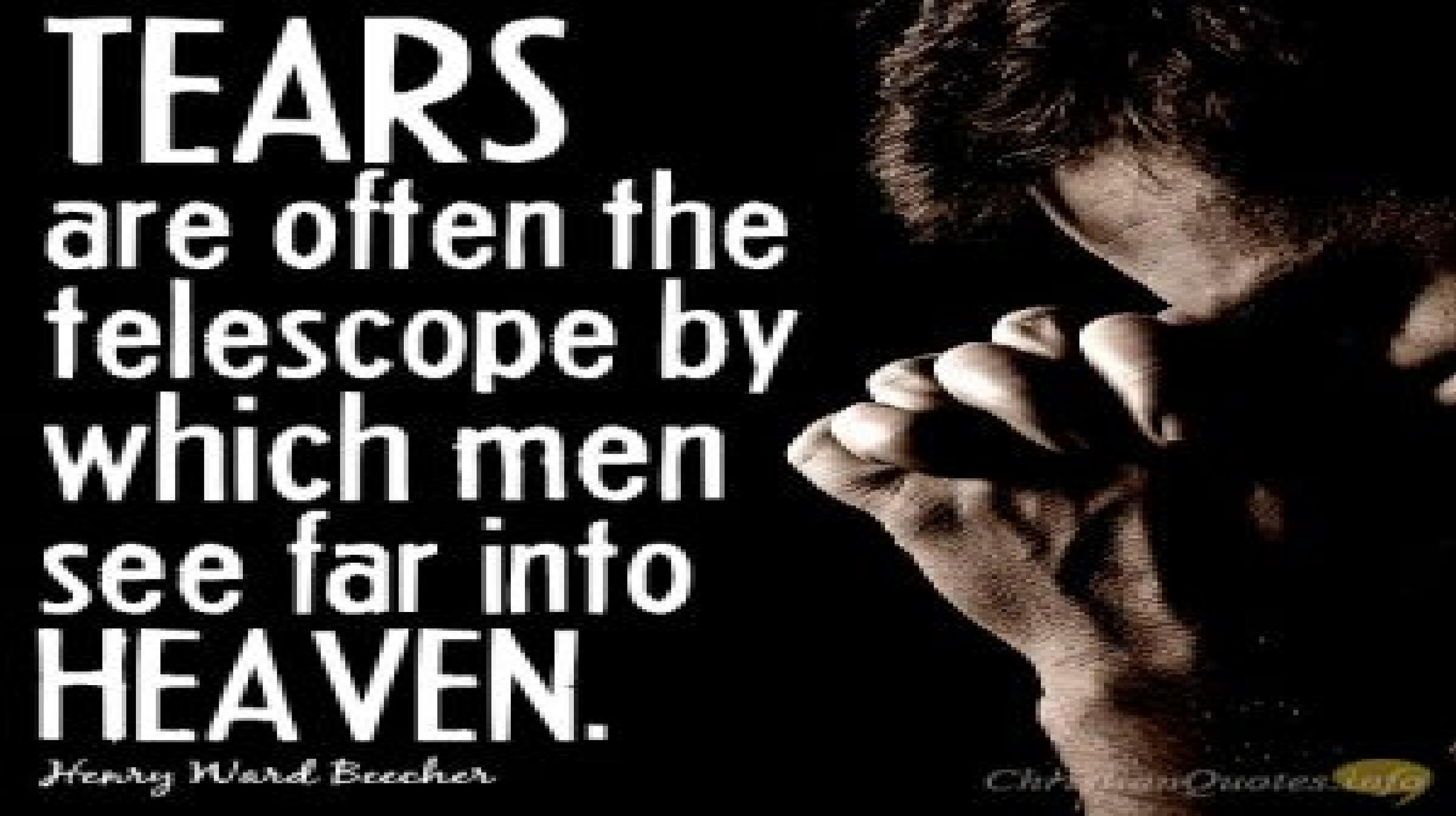
ISAIAH 45:7



“I form the light, and create darkness.
I make peace, and create evil.
I the Lord do all these things.”

DECODED





TEARS
are often the
telescope by
which men
see far into
HEAVEN.

Henry Ward Beecher

ChristianQuotes.com

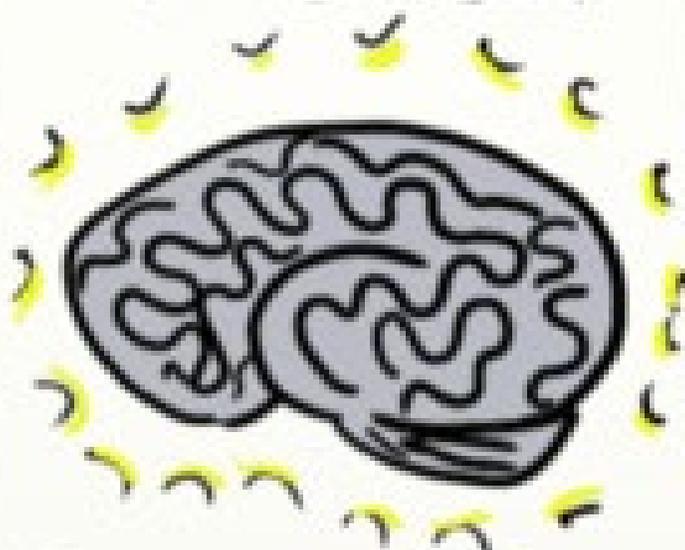
IF GOD EXISTS, HE IS:

OMNIPOTENT



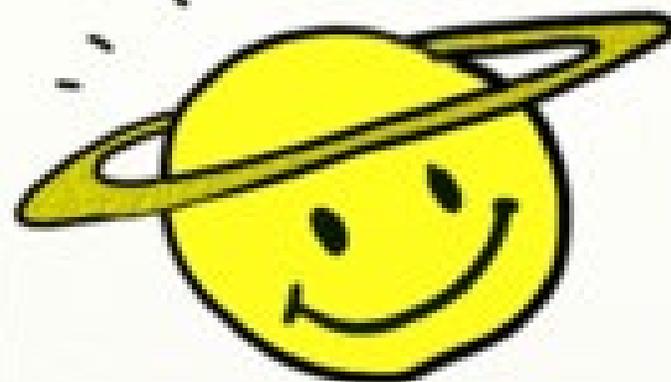
AND CAN STOP
ALL EVIL

OMNISCIENT



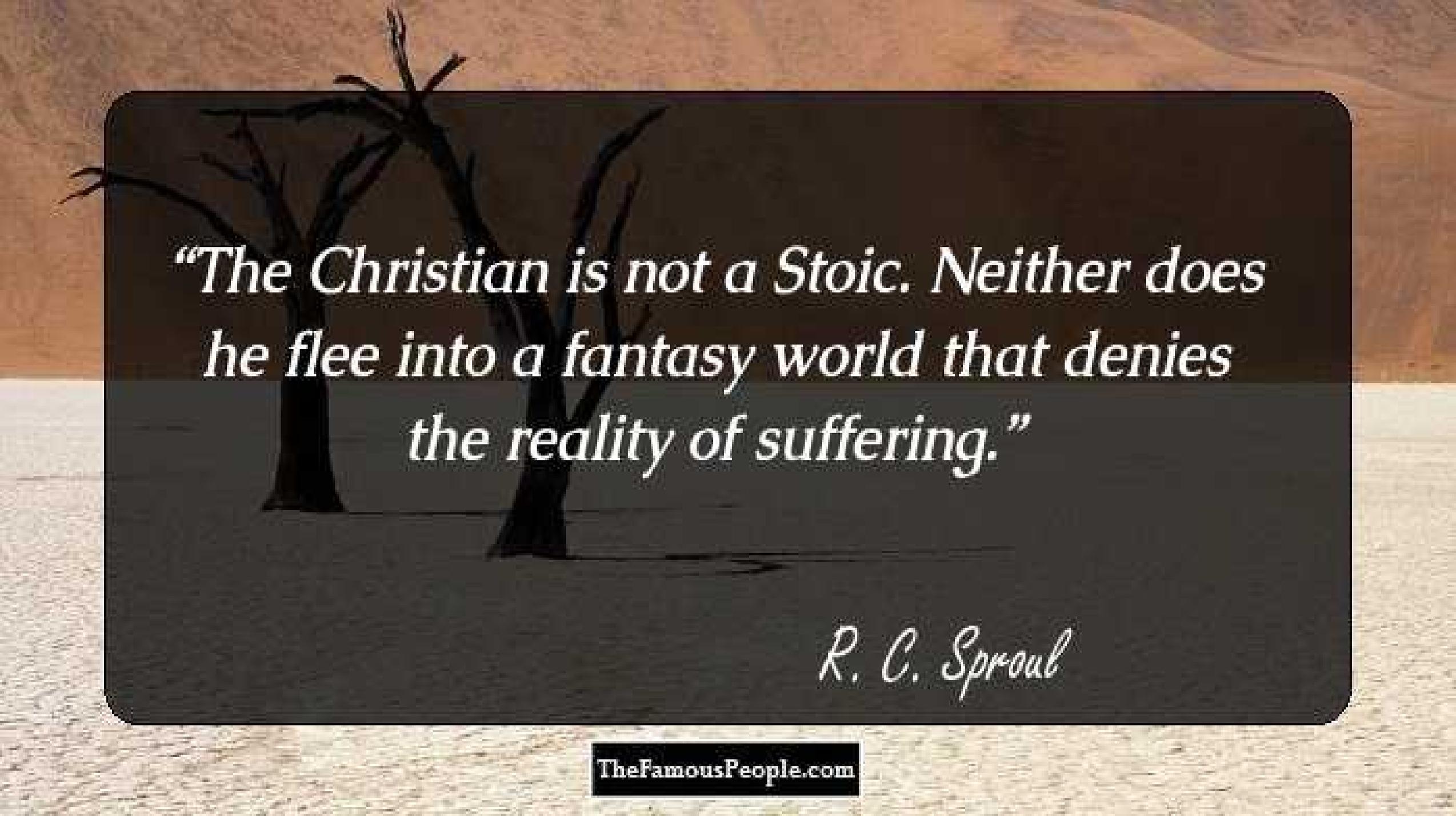
AND KNOWS
HOW TO DO IT

MORALLY PERFECT



AND DESIRES
TO END EVIL

BUT EVIL EXISTS, SO EITHER GOD DOESN'T EXIST,
OR HE IS NOT ALL THREE OF THESE.

The background of the image shows two dark, leafless trees standing in a desolate, dark landscape. The trees are silhouetted against a lighter, textured background that appears to be a wall or a large rock face. The overall mood is somber and reflective.

“The Christian is not a Stoic. Neither does he flee into a fantasy world that denies the reality of suffering.”

R. C. Sproul

IS GOD IS
WILLING TO HE ABLE
PREVENT EVIL BUT NOT
BUT NOT ABLE WILLING
THEN HE IS
IS NOT MALEVOLENT
OMNIPOTENT IS HE BOTH
ABLE AND
WILLING

THEN WHENCE
EVIL COMETH
IS HE
NEITHER
ABLE NOR
WILLING

THEN WHY
CALL HIM
GOD
-EPICURUS

St. Augustine's Theodicy



His theory is a development of the freewill defence.

i.e. Do not quote the free will defence as independent of the Augustine theodicy as they are based on the same belief in the true autonomy (independence) of human beings.

He based his theory on key Biblical passages:

- Genesis 1-3: the story of Adam and Eve and their 'Fall' in the Garden of Eden.
- Romans 5: 12-20: St Paul describes the Christian belief that Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross wipes out the sin committed by Adam and Eve. Jesus' self sacrifice has made available a boundless gift, the gift of righteousness.

He also based it on two assumptions:

1. Evil is not from God - God's creation was faultless and perfect
2. Evil came from within the world.



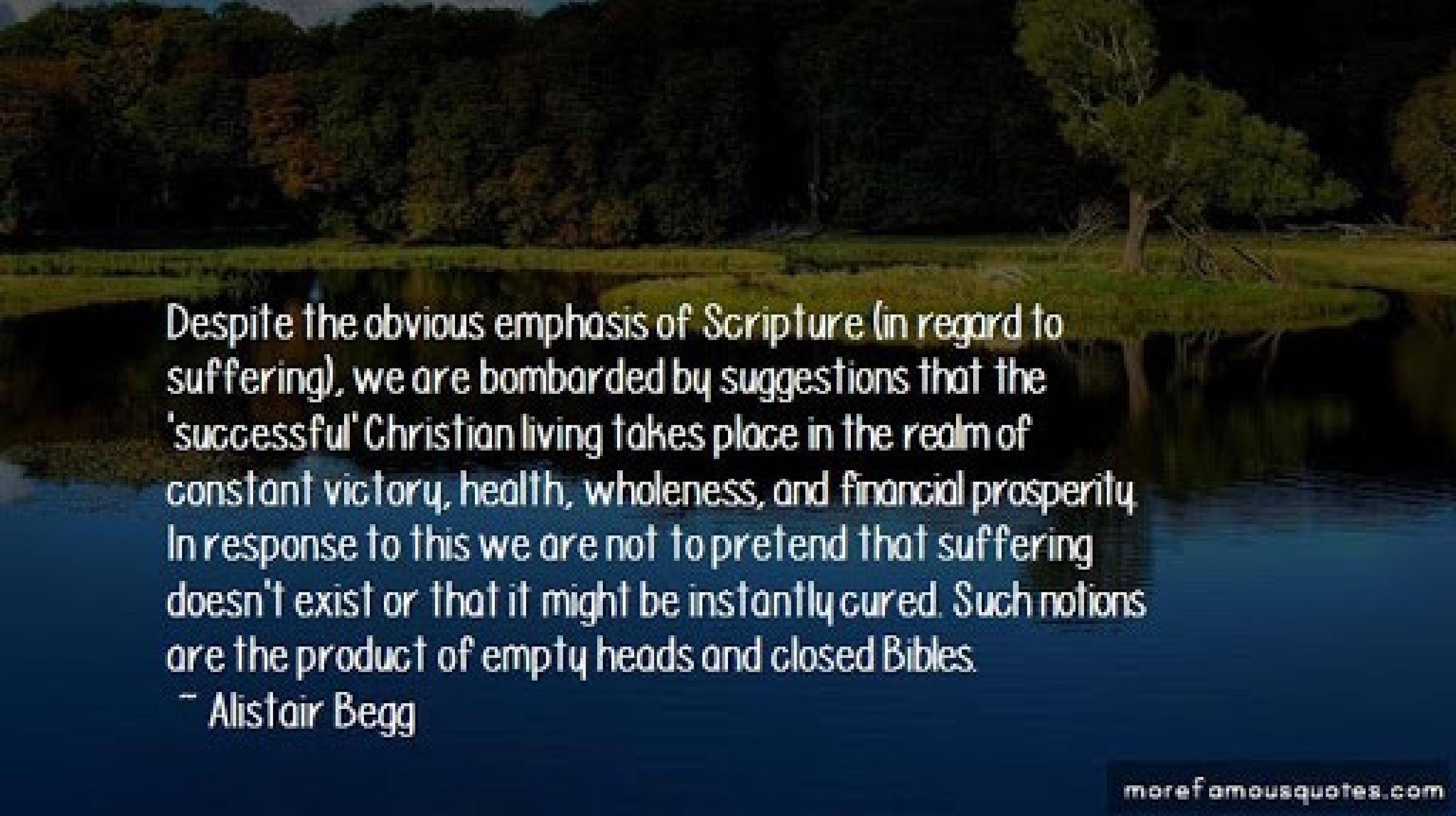
PART 1

SUFFERING & EVIL



The **Logical** Problem



A scenic landscape featuring a river or stream in the foreground, a grassy bank with a large tree on the right, and a dense forest of trees in the background under a clear sky.

Despite the obvious emphasis of Scripture (in regard to suffering), we are bombarded by suggestions that the 'successful' Christian living takes place in the realm of constant victory, health, wholeness, and financial prosperity. In response to this we are not to pretend that suffering doesn't exist or that it might be instantly cured. Such notions are the product of empty heads and closed Bibles.

~ Alistair Begg

"THERE IS NO MORE DEVASTATING BLOW AGAINST EVIL THEN WHEN A HUMAN BEING CHOOSES GOD IN THE FACE OF SUFFERING, DISAPPOINTMENT, UNBELIEF, CHRONIC PAIN, FRUSTRATION, ABANDONMENT BEFORE THE CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE, TO GET UP AND PROCLAIM THAT **GOD IS GOOD** IS A DEVASTATING BLOW TO EVIL."

JOHN ELDREDGE

"If there is a God, he will have to beg
my forgiveness."

-A phrase carved into a concentration camp cell by a Jewish Prisoner

