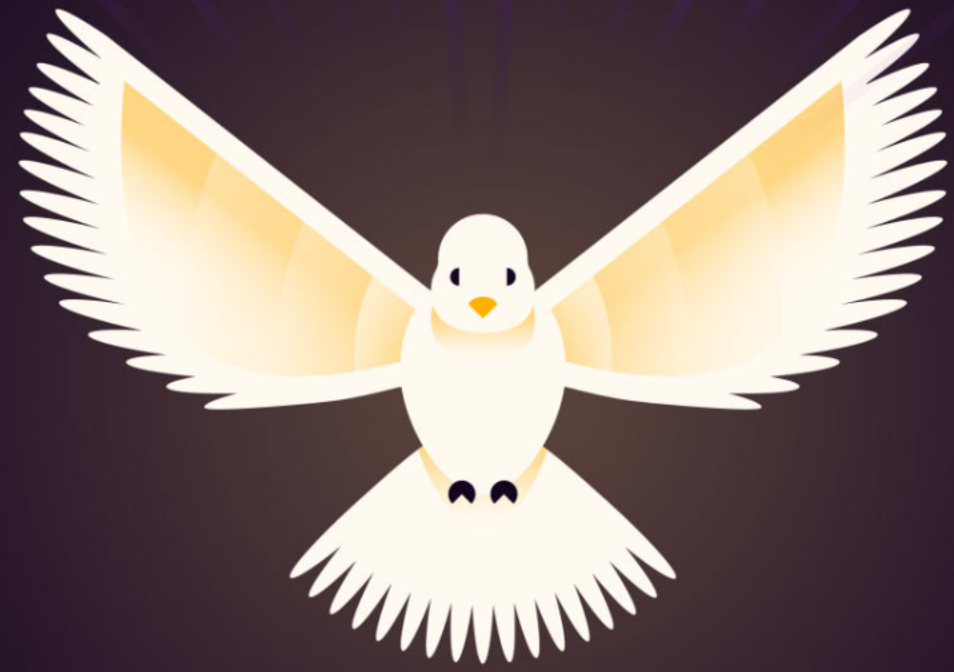




SCRIPTURE READING

JOHN 15:18-16:3

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO



— JOHN —

Key Idea

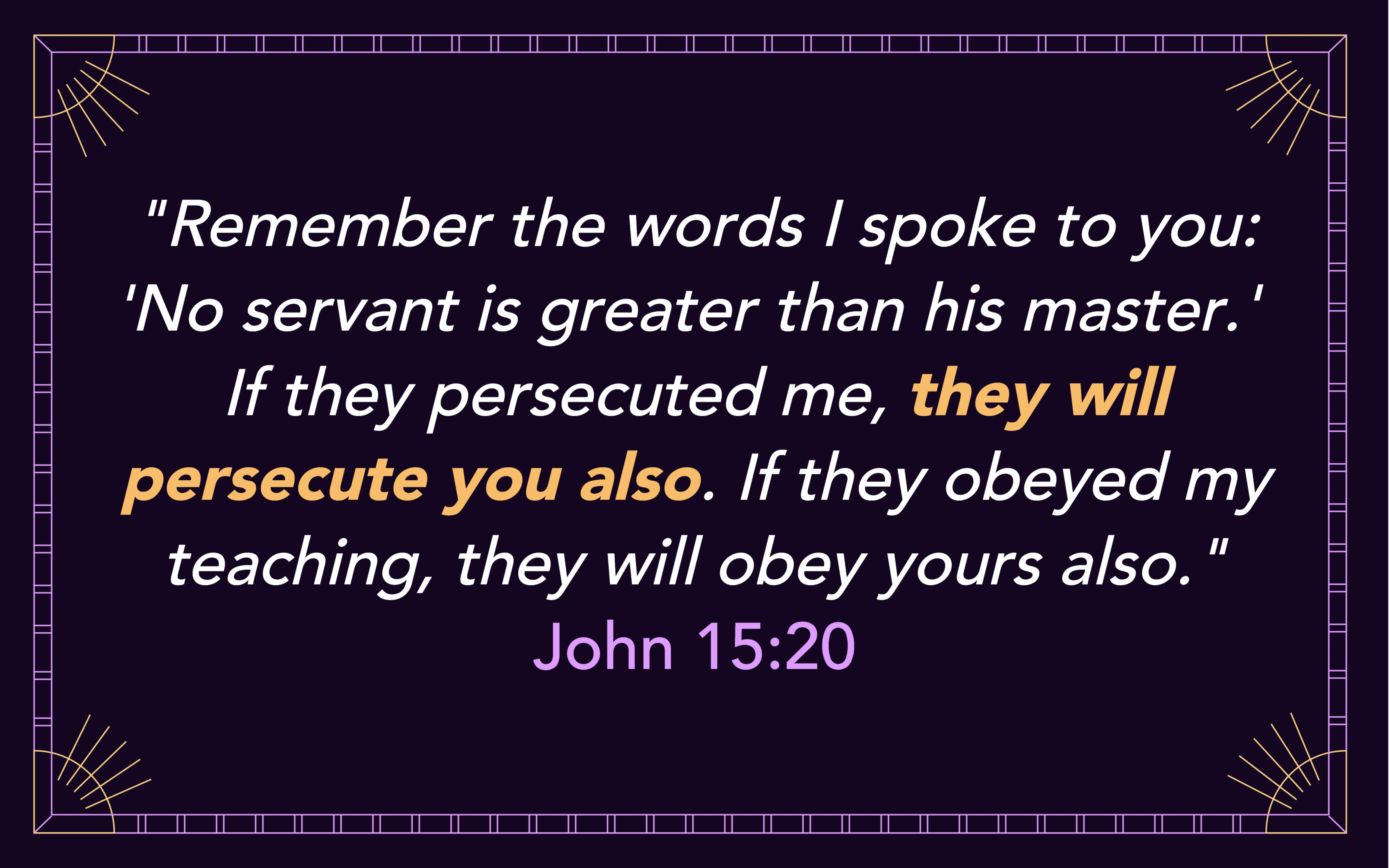
**No servant is greater
than his master**

This includes the non-atoning suffering
of the Master's mission.

P O I N T 1

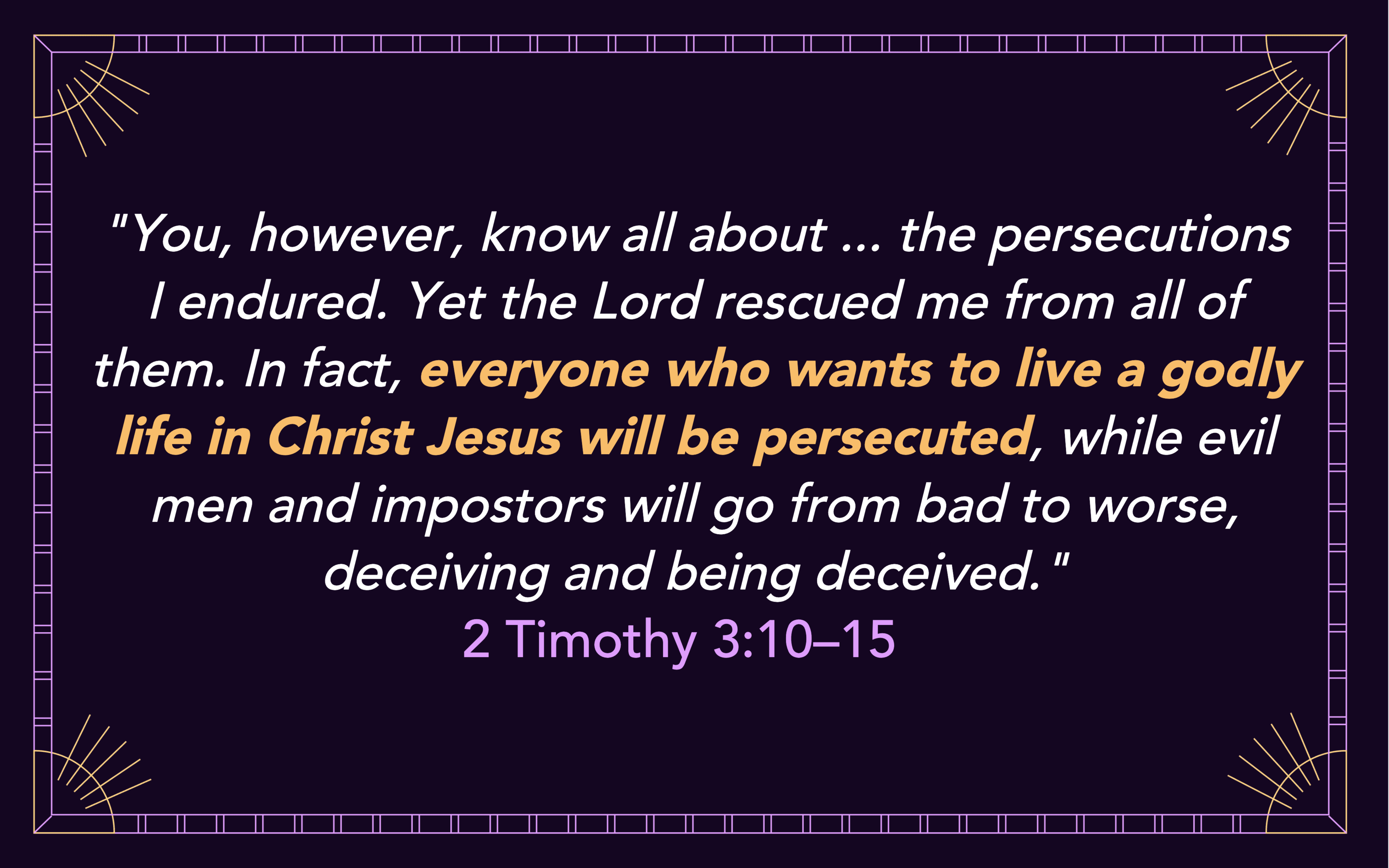
**Persecution is
clarifying in its
certainty**

It burns down idols and sets our hopes.



*"Remember the words I spoke to you:
'No servant is greater than his master.'
If they persecuted me, **they will
persecute you also**. If they obeyed my
teaching, they will obey yours also."*

John 15:20



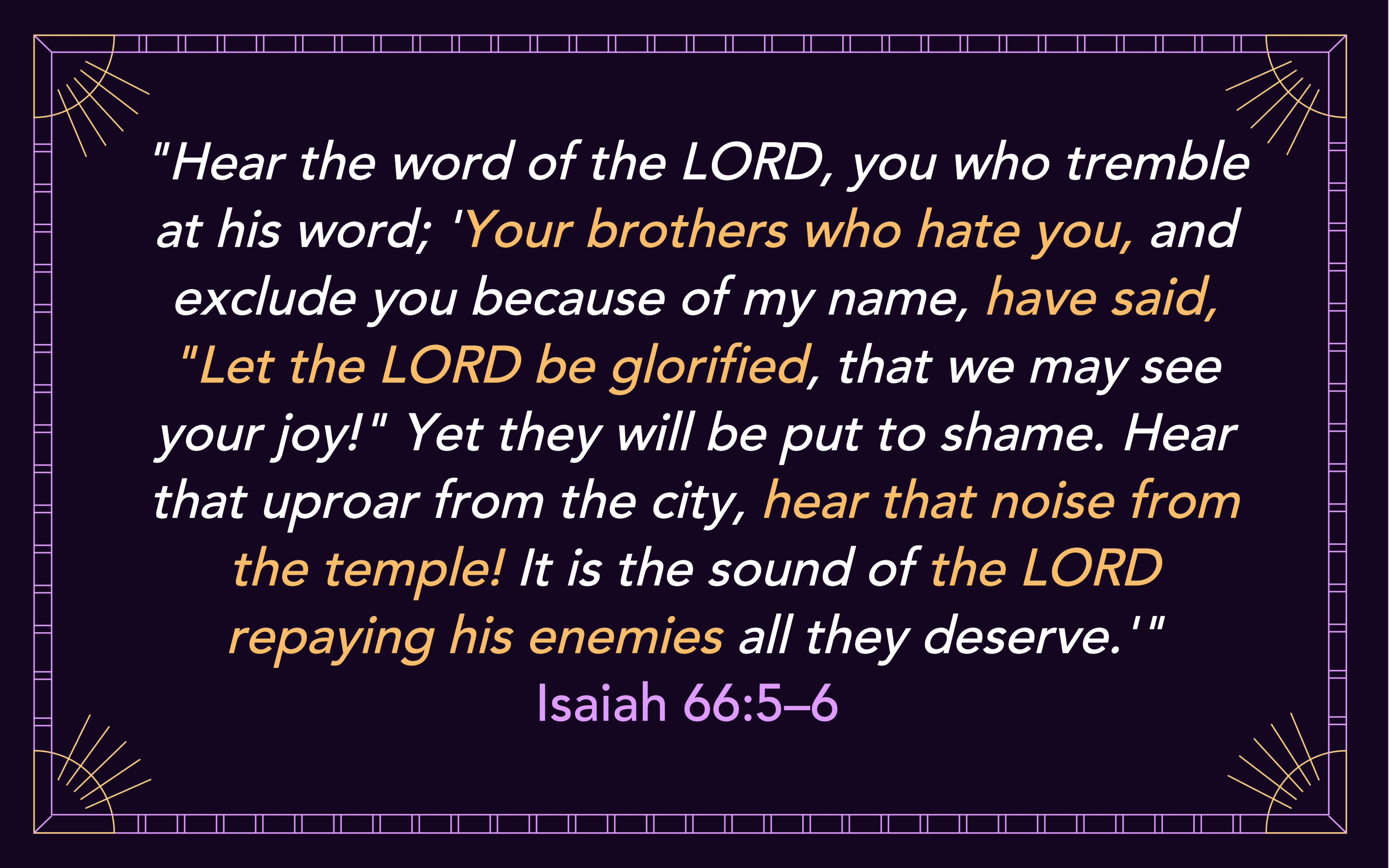
*"You, however, know all about ... the persecutions I endured. Yet the Lord rescued me from all of them. In fact, **everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted**, while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived."*

2 Timothy 3:10–15

Secular version: "Abuse"

Key Persecutions:

1. **Hatred**—open and covert
2. **Mistreatment**—active harm
3. **Ignorance**—ignore, dismiss, mock
4. **Exclusion**—kicked out from the "good" people
5. **Moral Reversal**—"doing God a favor"
6. **Murder**—no limiting principle



"Hear the word of the LORD, you who tremble at his word; 'Your brothers who hate you, and exclude you because of my name, have said, "Let the LORD be glorified, that we may see your joy!" Yet they will be put to shame. Hear that uproar from the city, hear that noise from the temple! It is the sound of the LORD repaying his enemies all they deserve.'"

Isaiah 66:5–6

Secular version: "Be kind" fallacy

Graciousness Fallacy

It is a false and easily manipulated idea to think that **if you are nice enough, people will not hate, hurt, or attack you.**

Jesus showed perfect loving-kindness.
The truth will always threaten those who reject it.
Grace cannot alleviate this.

Jesus: "They hate you because of me."



**Jesus is a threat to sin,
worldliness, the flesh,
and the Devil.**

No servant is greater than his master.

Approval Control Prestige Wealth Safety

Lusts Power Irresponsibility Comfort Security

Self-justification Popularity Ease Success

Sin

Crucifies Idols:

"Good Name"

Jesus: No servant is greater than his master.

Truthful/Good

Raises Hope:

Rewarding/Glorifying

Dignity

Transformation

Be with Jesus

Learn to Love

Done with Sin



Know God

(1 Pet 4:1–5)

P O I N T 2

**Persecution is
meaningful in its
dignity**

**In the terrible participation in salvation
and condemnation**



*"If I had not come and spoken to them, **they would not be guilty of sin**. Now, however, they have no **excuse** for their sin. He who hates me hates my Father as well. *If I had not* done among them what no one else did, **they would not be guilty of sin**. But now they have seen these miracles, and yet they have hated both me and my Father. But this is to fulfil what is written in their Law: 'They hated me without reason'" {Psalms 35:19; 69:4}.*

John 15:22–25



Secondary effect:

The necessary result of the primary intention

Jesus' **primary work** is an offer of everlasting life.
His **secondary effect** is to incriminate wickedness
and destroy moral pretense.

The Spirit's **primary work** in us is an offer of everlasting life.
The **secondary effect** is to incriminate wickedness and
destroy moral pretense.



Universalism isn't love.

Love doesn't finally win if justice loses.

Love also doesn't win if love loses.

Love can't really win by ceasing to be loving.

Only repentance and atonement make God one who *"is just and justifies those who have faith in Jesus."* (Rom. 3:26)

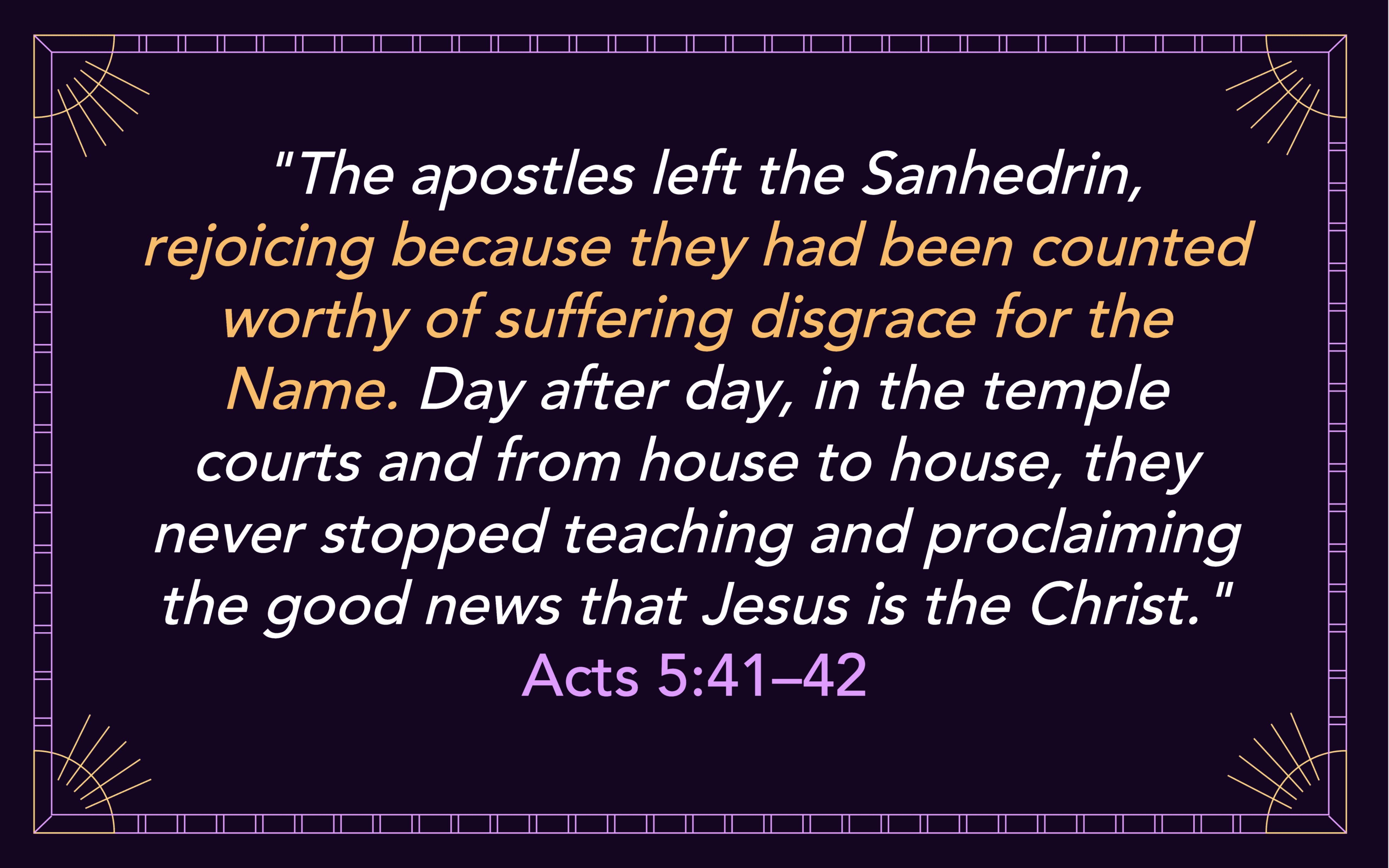
Without acknowledgment and reconciliation, God ultimately destroys wicked aggressors.



P O I N T 3

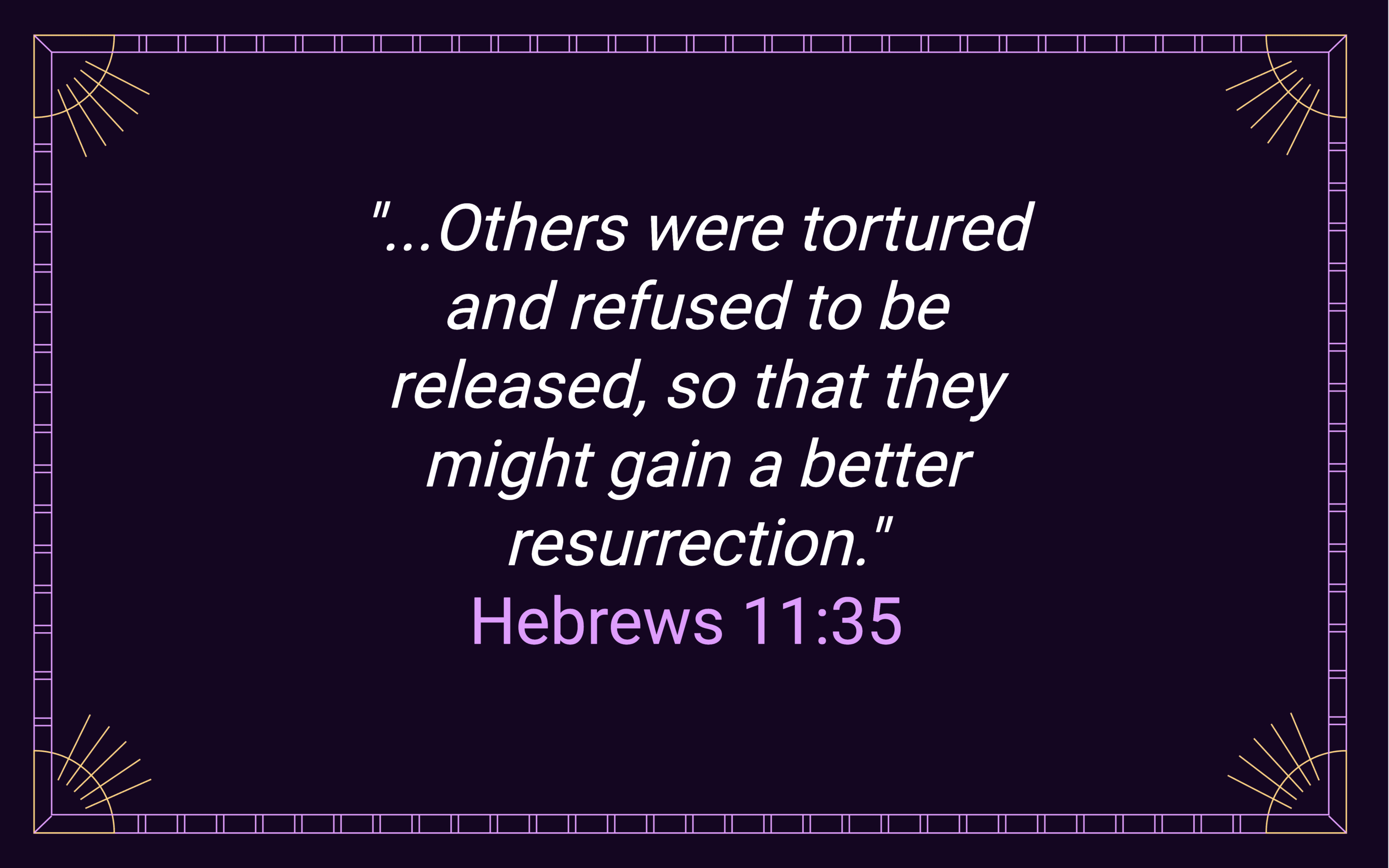
**Persecution is joyful
in its glory**

Servant suffering is a gateway
to joy and glory.




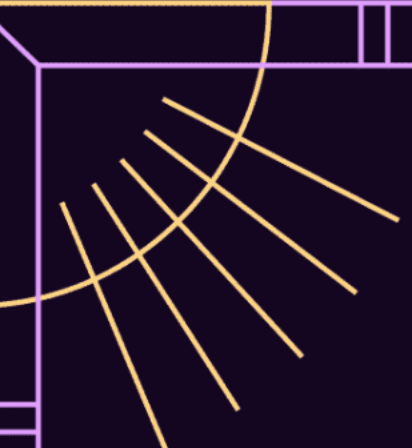
"The apostles left the Sanhedrin, rejoicing because they had been counted worthy of suffering disgrace for the Name. Day after day, in the temple courts and from house to house, they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ."

Acts 5:41–42



*"...Others were tortured
and refused to be
released, so that they
might gain a better
resurrection."*



Hebrews 11:35



"Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

James 1:2–5







*"Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ's afflictions, for the sake of his body, which is the church. I have become its **servant** by the commission God gave me to present to you the word of God in its fullness. ... We proclaim him, admonishing and teaching everyone with all wisdom, **so that we may present everyone perfect in Christ. To this end I labor, struggling with all his energy, which so powerfully works in me."***

Colossians 1:24–25, 28–29

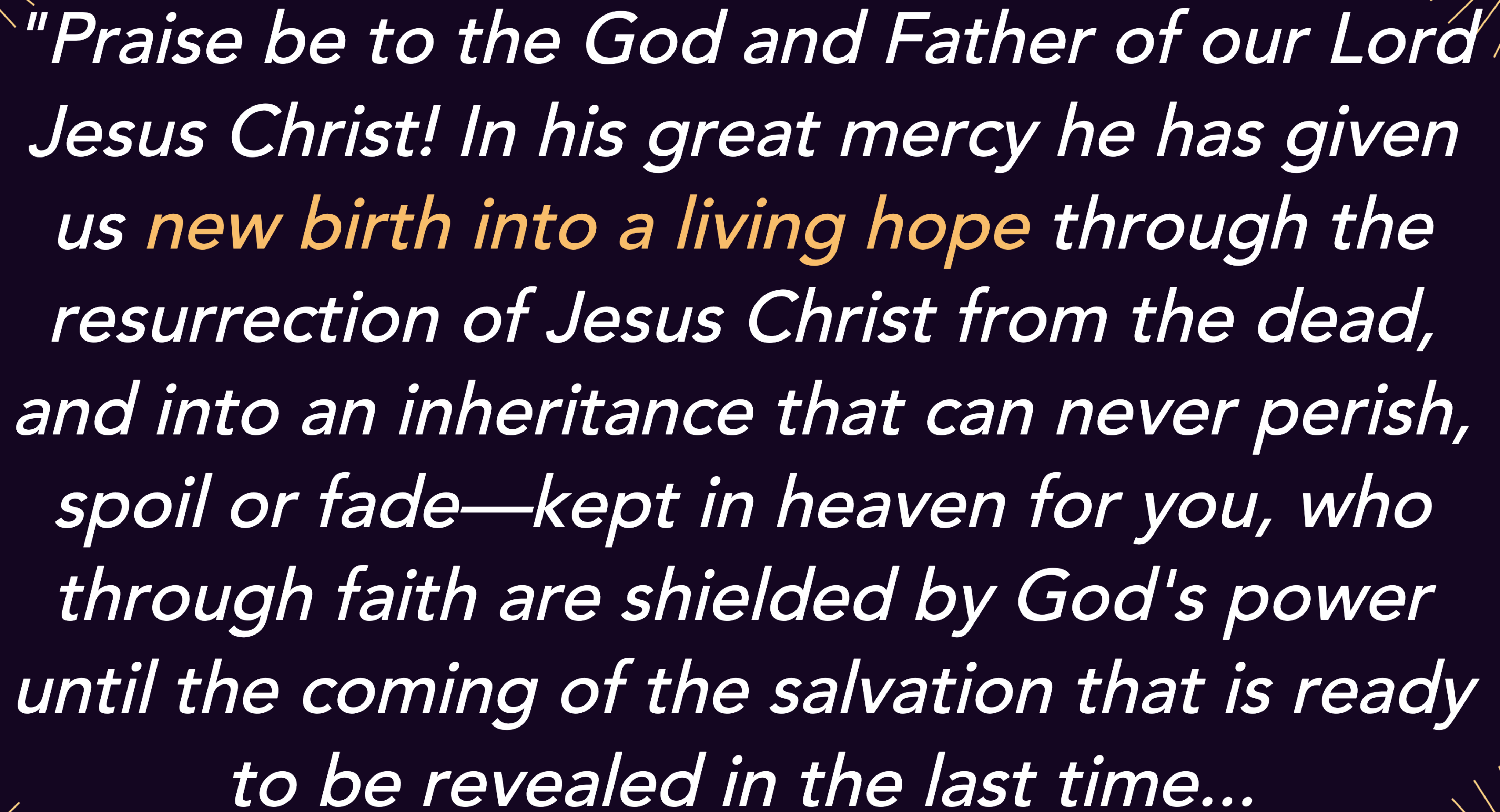




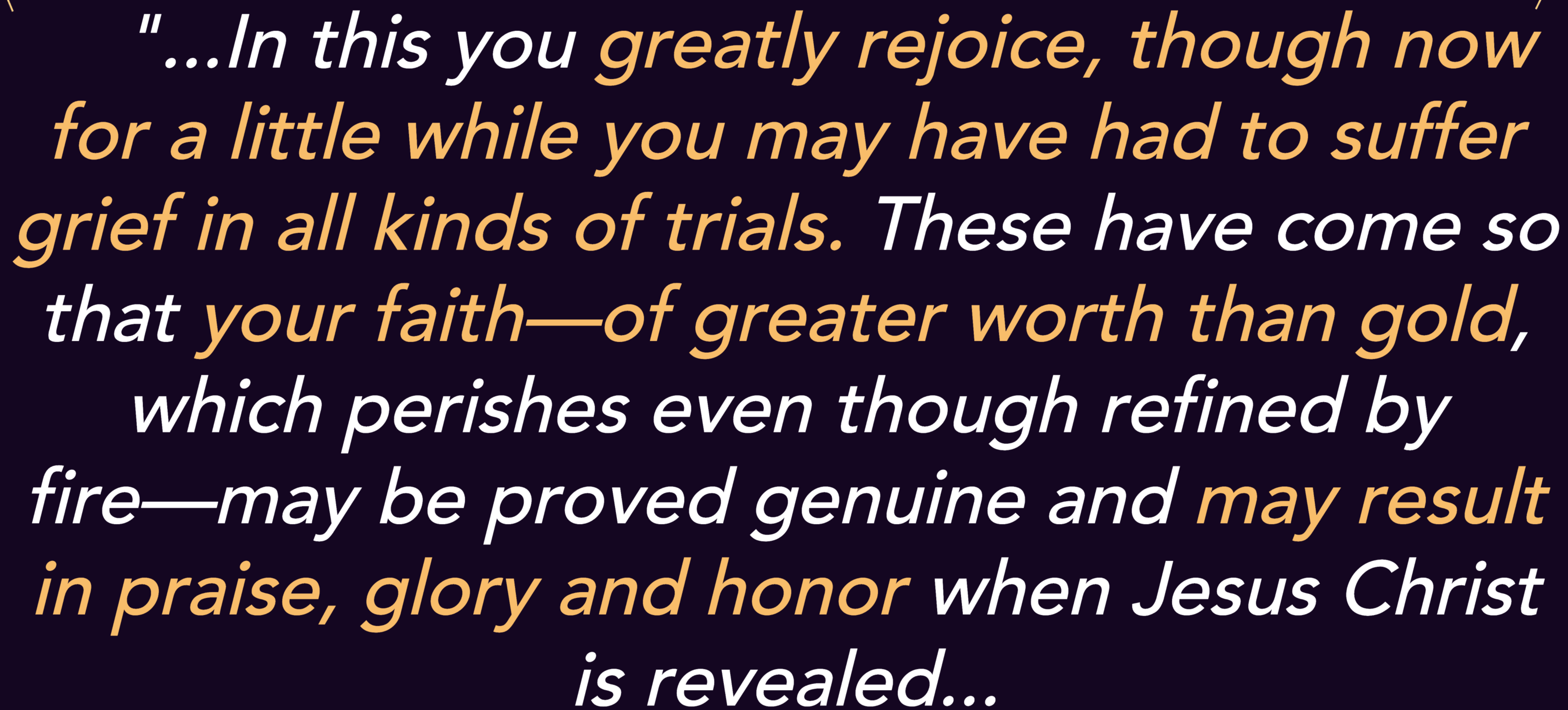
"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matthew 5:9–12

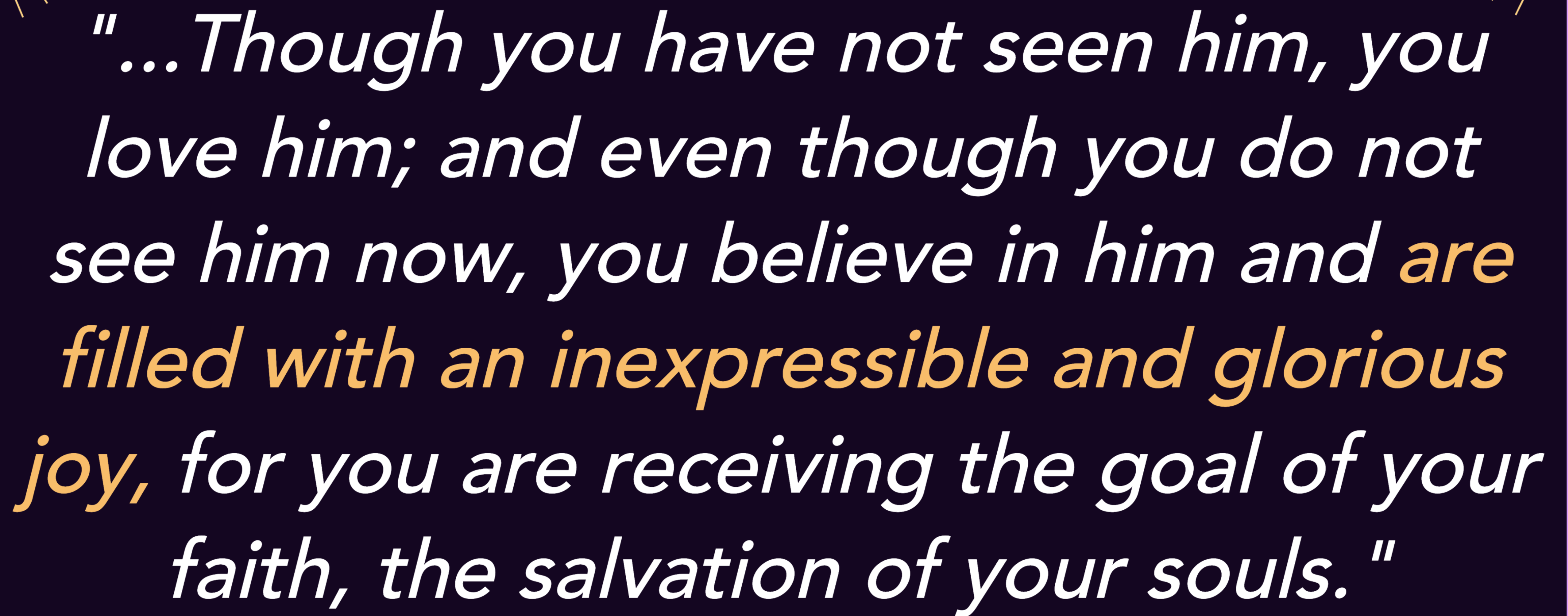




*"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us **new birth into a living hope** through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time..."*

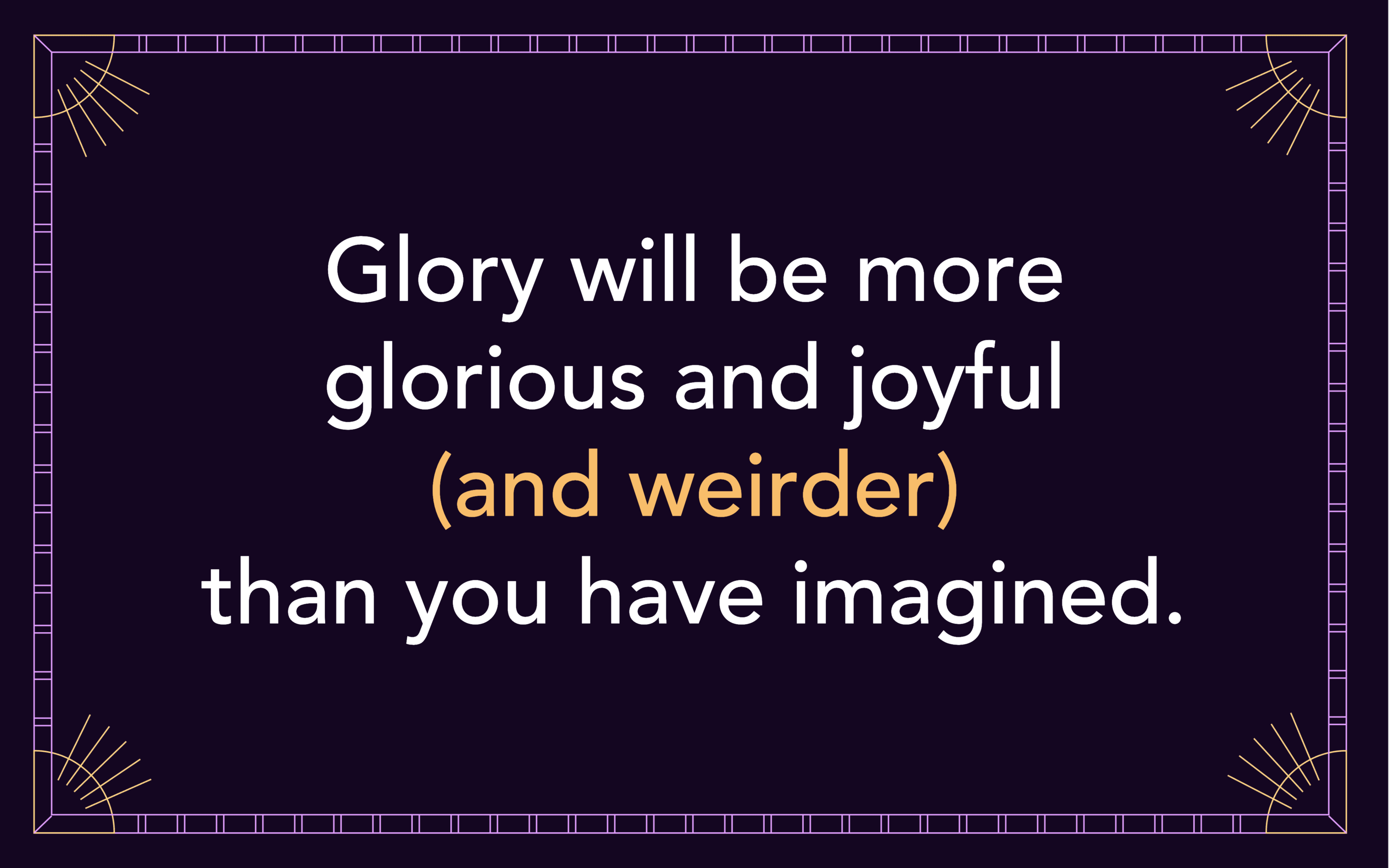


"...In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed..."

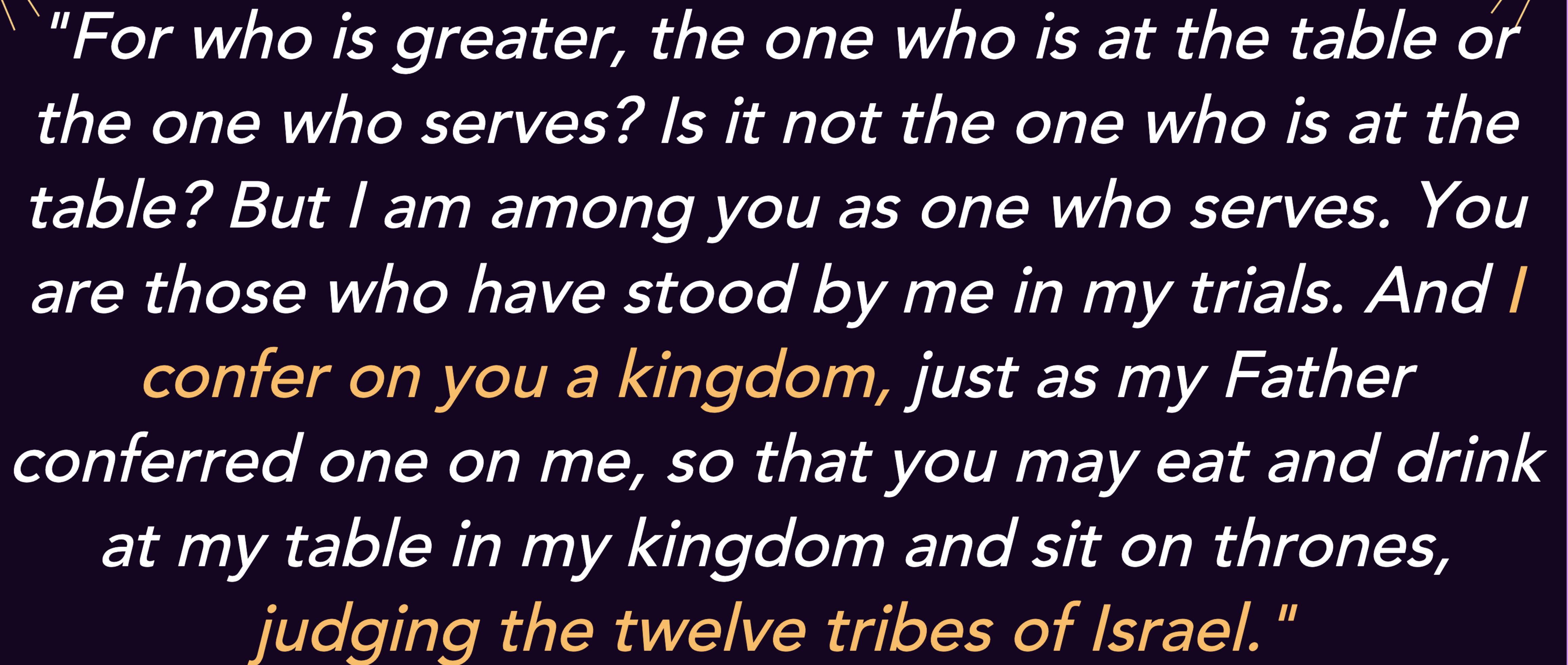


*"...Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and **are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy**, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls."*

1 Peter 1:3–9

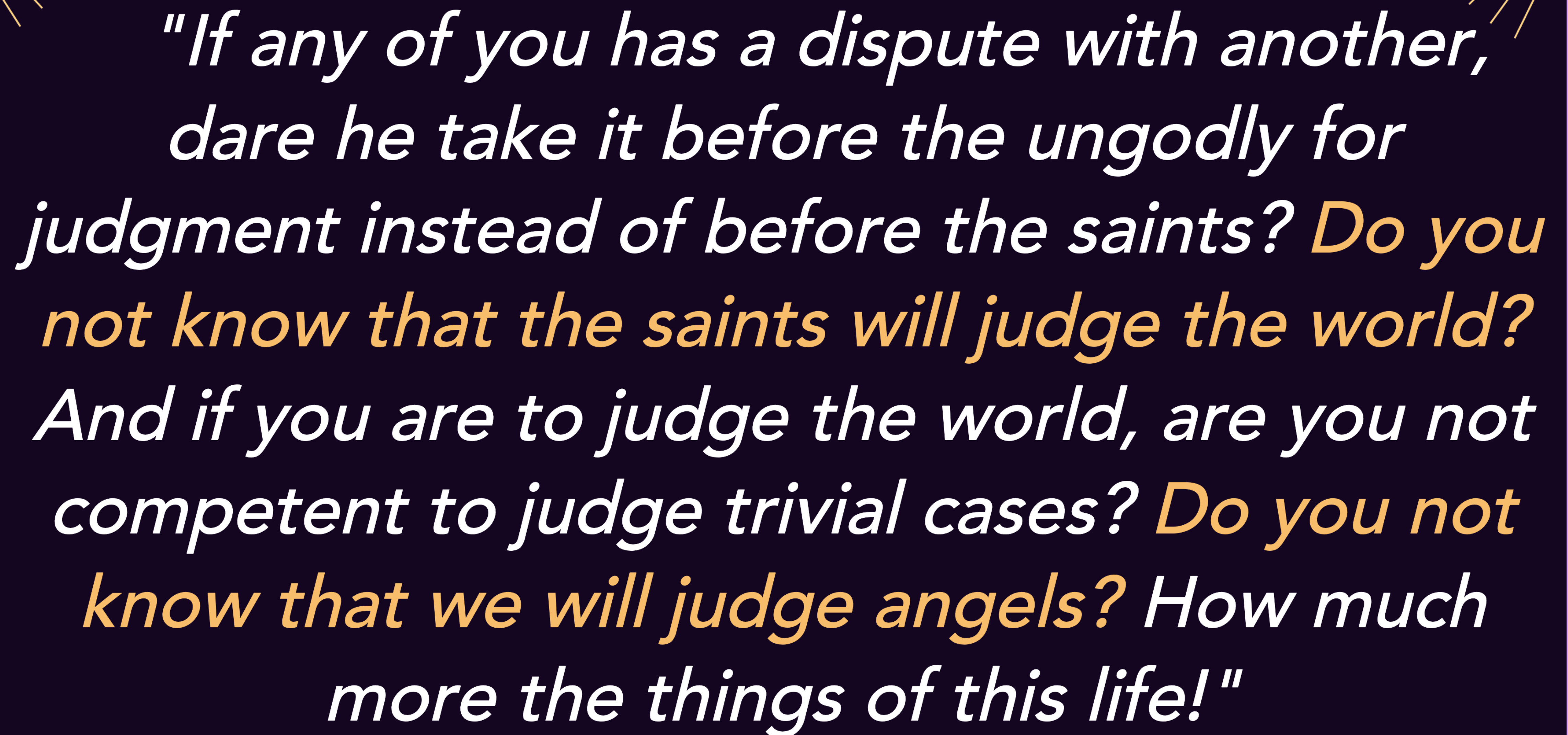


Glory will be more
glorious and joyful
(and weirder)
than you have imagined.



"For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves. You are those who have stood by me in my trials. And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me, so that you may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Luke 22:27–30



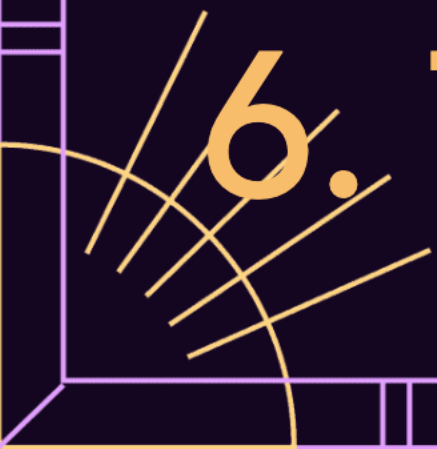
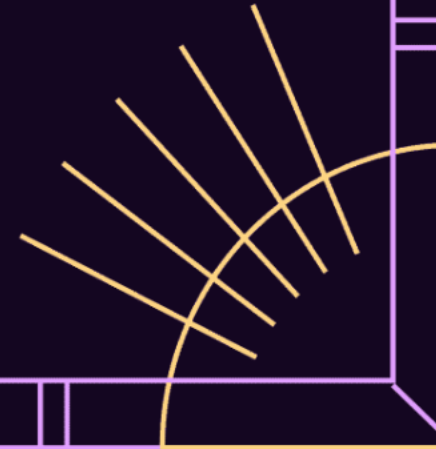
*"If any of you has a dispute with another, dare he take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the saints? **Do you not know that the saints will judge the world?** And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases? **Do you not know that we will judge angels?** How much more the things of this life!"*

1 Corinthians 6:1–5

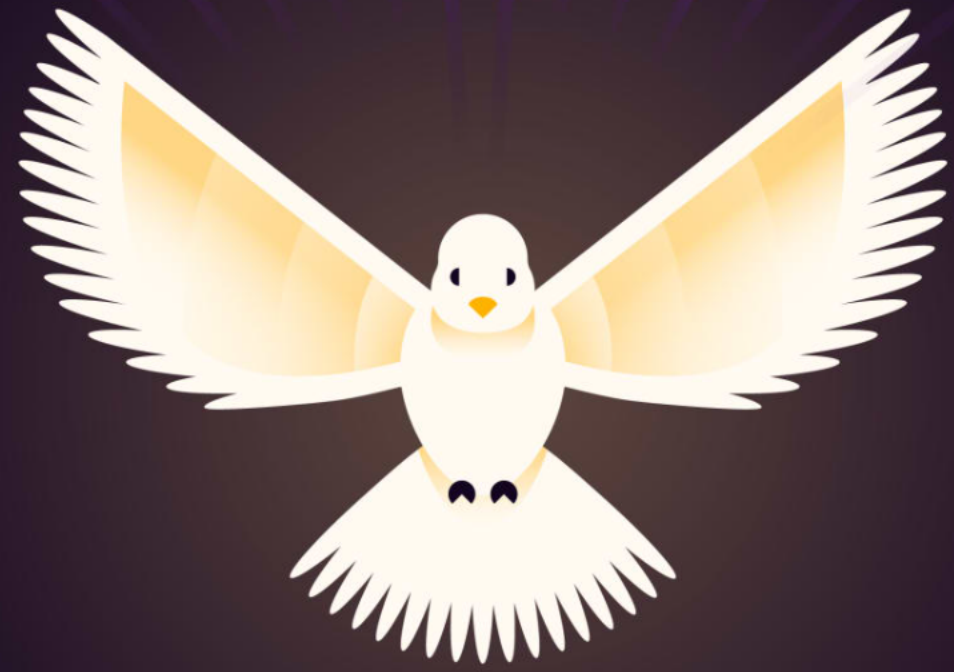


Conclusions:



1. Believe in Jesus unto joy in suffering.
 2. Live as servants in humility, mercy, and repentance.
 3. Don't condemn people; don't justify wickedness.
 4. Expect all forms of persecution, including mind games.
 5. Embrace all trials with clarity, dignity, and joy.
 6. Think about honor and glory.
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