

ROMANS TWELVE

Detour



HEBREWS 5:11–6:12 | PAGE [1867]

**Christian spirituality
requires
perseverance.**

TWO MAIN THEMES

Jesus is a **magnificent salvation tailored precisely** to human needs.

People that receive all the benefits from God **commonly fall away irreparably.**

TWO STORIES

Jesus the magnificent High Priest and apostle who creates the perfect salvation.

The 1st generation of Israel all died in the desert.



Presumption. Laziness. Impatience.

HEBREWS 6:11-12

“**11** We want each of you to show this same **diligence** to the very end, in order to make your hope sure. **12** We do not want you to become **lazy**, but to imitate those who through **faith** and **patience** inherit what has been promised.”

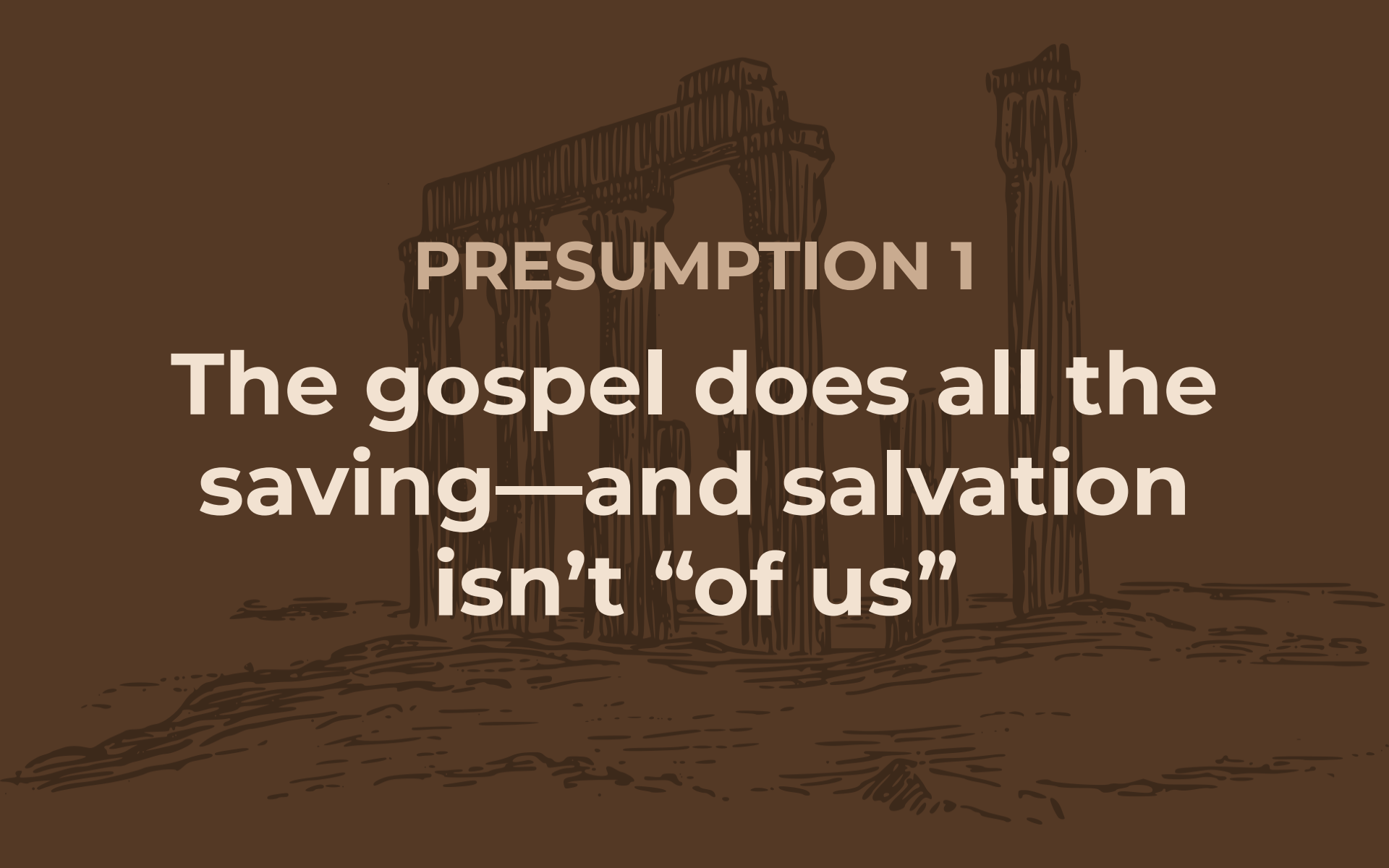
HEBREWS 3:12–14

“12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart **that turns away** from the living God. **13** But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, **so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. 14** We have come to share in Christ **if we hold firmly till the end** the confidence we had at first.”



THREE PRESUMPTIONS

False comfort that kills
diligence and patience



PRESUMPTION 1

**The gospel does all the
saving—and salvation
isn't “of us”**

HEBREWS 6:7–8

“7 Land that drinks in the rain often falling on it and that produces a crop useful to those for whom it is farmed receives the blessing of God. **8** But land that produces thorns and thistles is worthless and is in danger of being cursed. In the end it will be burned.”



PRESUMPTION 2

“I’ve experienced God”

Taking assurance in your spiritual
experience

AN IMPRESSIVE LIST

Been enlightened

Tasted of the heavenly gift

Shared in the Holy Spirit

Tasted of the goodness of the
word of God

Tasted the powers of the
coming age

**These sure sound like the
phenomena of Christian
salvation**

**Yet we all see such people
fail to persevere**

HEBREWS 6:6

“...It is impossible...**6** if they fall away, to be brought back to repentance, because to their loss they are crucifying the Son of God all over again and subjecting him to public disgrace.”

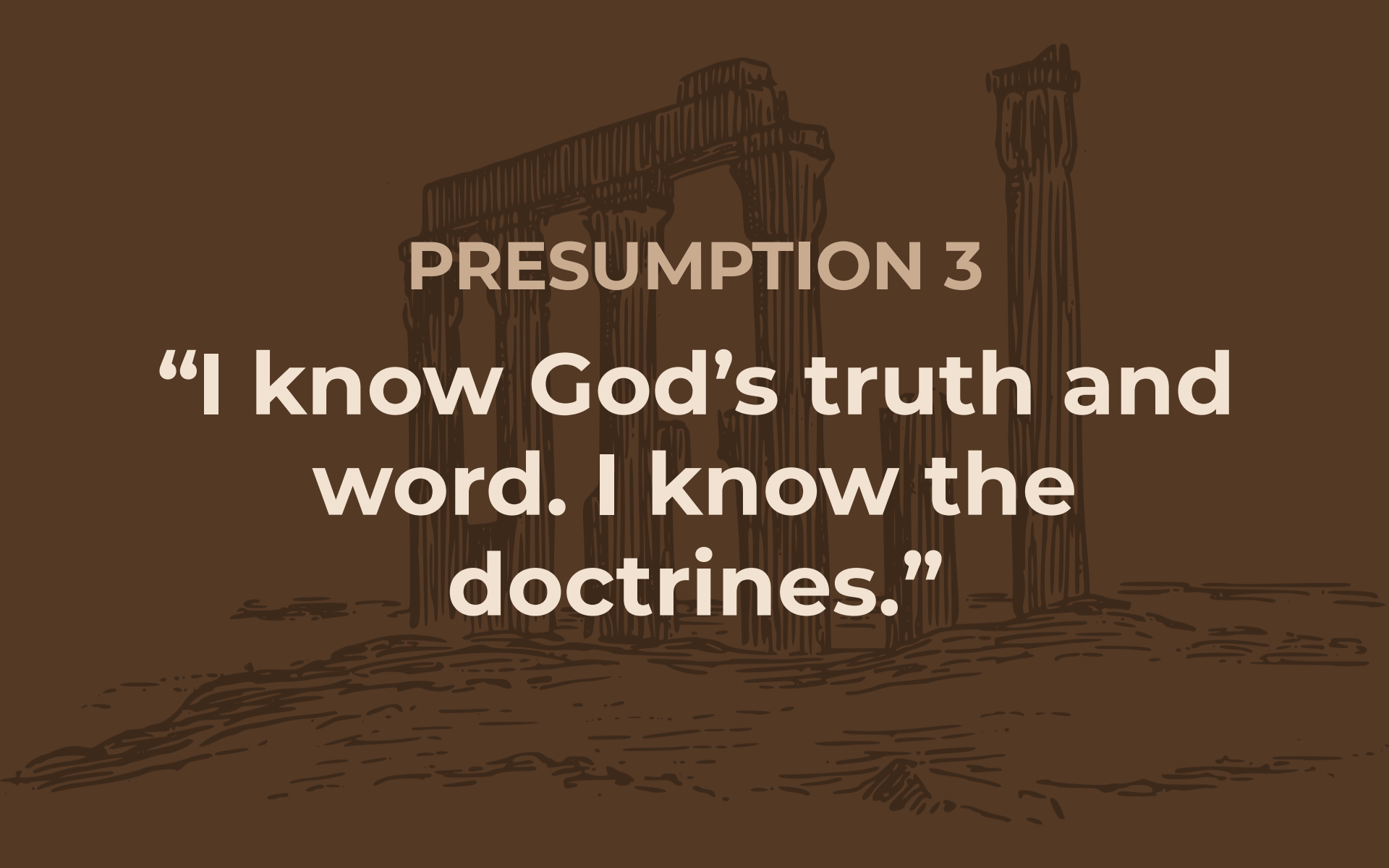
(present tense, not past tense: it IS HAPPENING, not because it DID happen)

NOT THE POINT:

That if you've fallen back, you're doomed and cannot return to God.

THE POINT:

Don't let presumption lead you into sin's deceitfulness—that leads to hardening, and to hardened unbelief.



PRESUMPTION 3

**“I know God’s truth and
word. I know the
doctrines.”**

THE DOCTRINES HE NAMES

Refraining from
sins that directly
lead to death

Believing in God

Instructions
about baptism

Laying on of
hands

The resurrection
of the dead

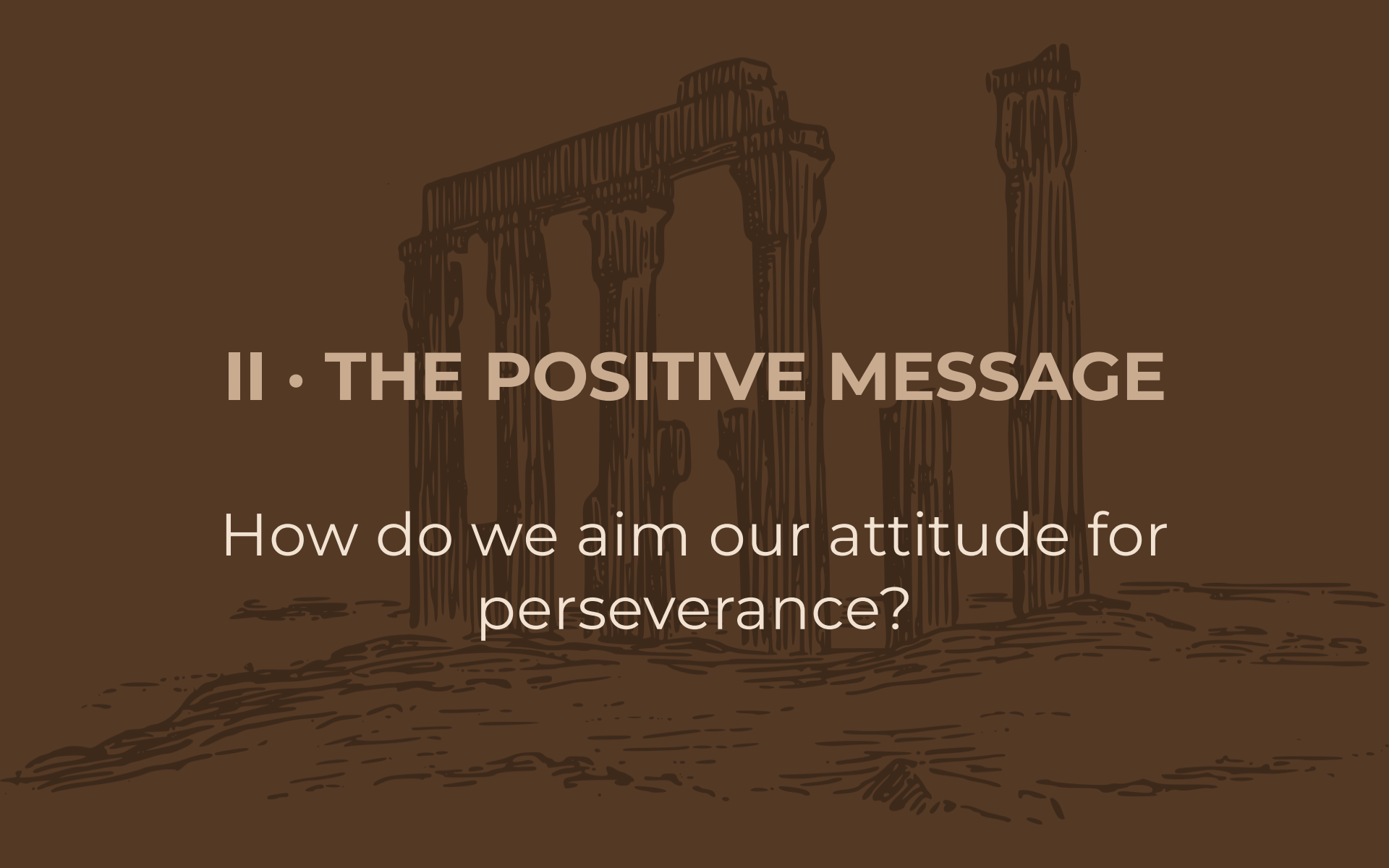
Eternal
judgment

**Like a child needs better food
to grow strong and to mature—
you need more solid spiritual
food designed to strengthen
and nourish your soul to
spiritual maturity.**

HERE IS MY CONCERN:

This describes American
Evangelical and Charismatic
Christianity too well.*

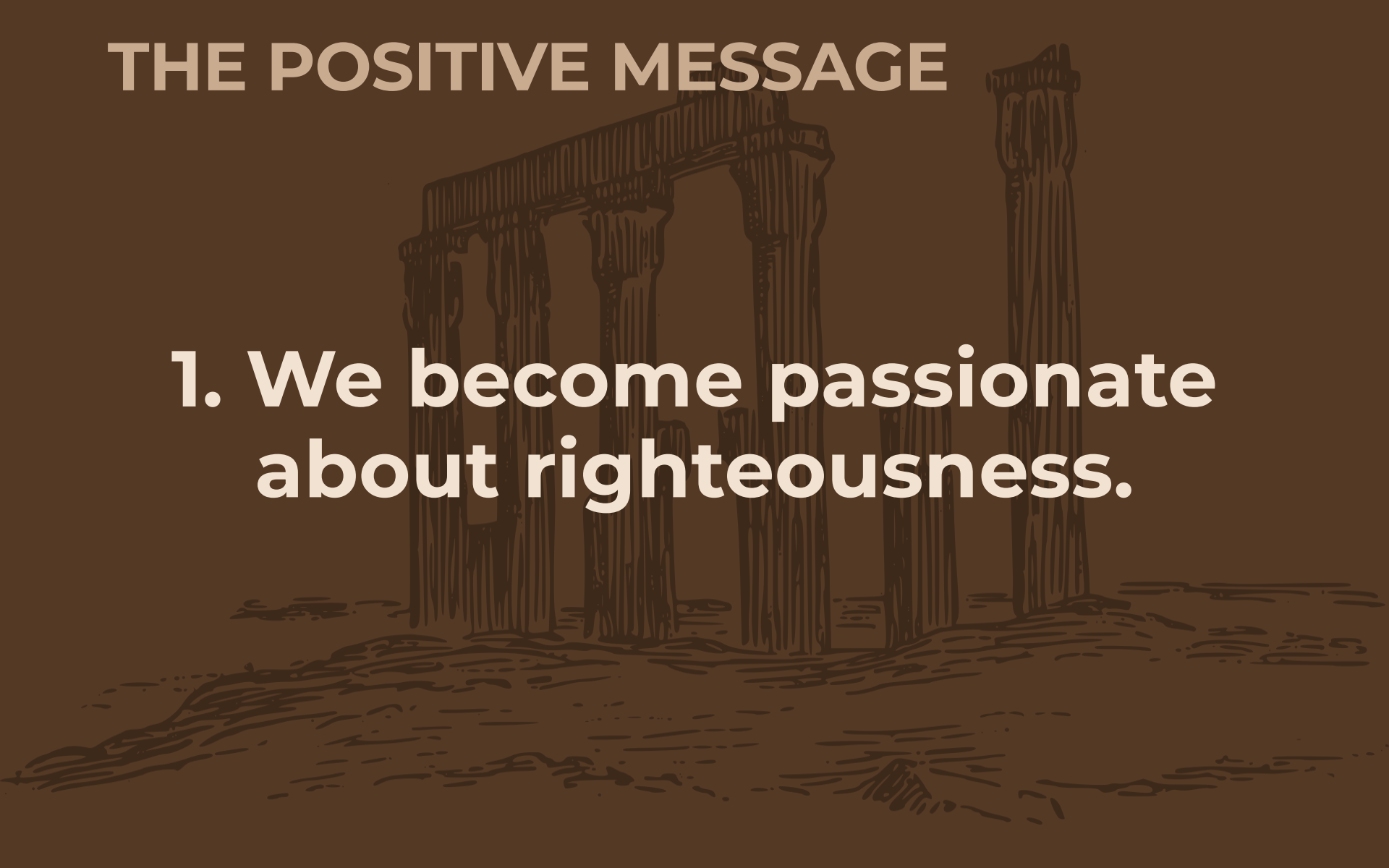
(*and everyone else, too.)



II • THE POSITIVE MESSAGE

How do we aim our attitude for
perseverance?

THE POSITIVE MESSAGE



**1. We become passionate
about righteousness.**

What teaching is truly strengthening and maturing?

“Initiated in the word of righteousness” **5:13**

“By constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil” **5:14**

SOLID FOOD

It draws us to God- His real heart and purposes.

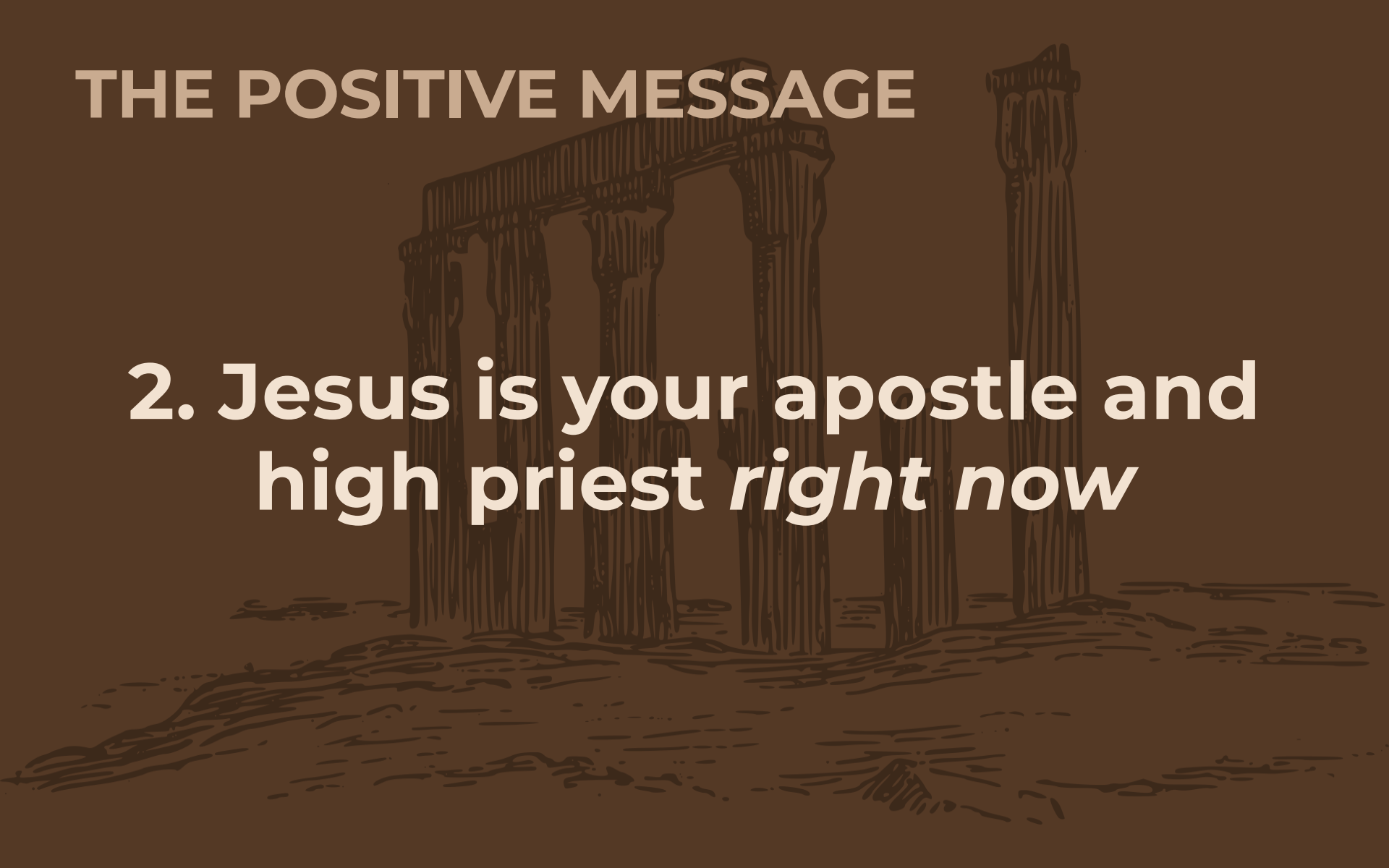
It **focuses us on God in the present**—there is a rest in God's truth "Today"—that trains or hardens our hearts today.

SOLID FOOD

And it **draws us away from “sin’s deceitfulness”**

It **increases our faith**—that God is right and that God is real

THE POSITIVE MESSAGE



**2. Jesus is your apostle and
high priest *right now***

HEBREWS 10:13–14

“Since that time He waits for his enemies to be made his footstool, **14** because by one sacrifice **he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy. 15** The Holy Spirit also testifies to us about this. First he says: **16** “This is the covenant I will make with them after that time, says the Lord. **I will put my laws in their hearts, and I will write them on their minds.”**

HEBREWS 3:1-2

“1 Therefore, holy brothers, who share in the heavenly calling, **fix your thoughts on Jesus, the apostle and high priest whom we confess.** **2** He was faithful to the one who appointed him, just as Moses was faithful in all God’s house.”

**Hebrews depicts Jesus FIRST as
“Apostle and High Priest”**

**Jesus is high priest
Helping you right now**

“Helping you right now”

Helping you do what?

The Order of Melchizedek

וּמֶלֶךְ־צֶדֶק

“Righteousness” “King”



The High Priest of our help
is the King of Righteousness.

His city is Shalom (שָׁלֵם) - “Peace”

He is taking us to his kingdom and fitting us for
his city.

Not just the Passover and the Red Sea
God was WITH THEM in the Desert

He is with you now.
And he is taking you on.